

# KITCHEN Valley News

Issue 48 December 2017

For Avington, Easton, Ithaca, Abbas and Martyr Worthy





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# WELCOME to the Valley News



I am delighted to report an issue full of interest, most of which is local for our community that continues to be very active. It really is astonishing to see how much goes on here all year round. I guess when you read this, there will be thoughts of Christmas, parties and presents. It's always a busy time.

And our community is also changing so we welcome more families with children which also creates different priorities. I've had the joy of seeing a lot of far-away places, some exciting ones and yet Hampshire is very special and this place even more so. I am particularly fortunate to be surrounded by good neighbours. It is part of our culture I think to look out for each other. Being an active member of my church reminds me how important that is. Gerry touches on that in his article (page 32)

We have two interesting obituaries in this edition (pages 18 & 25), very different people who have lead interesting lives. In the past month I've visited Florence which makes Winchester seem a quiet backwater, then a Phuket beach with scorching sun where a life with mangos and cashew nuts is made for me. I really enjoy meeting new people and learning about their world and their values.

Alex in his article (page 5) tells of some of the difficulties of the Festive Season. Interestingly what I saw on holiday was most people on the beach, in restaurants and bars glued to a smart phone. Is the art of conversation going to die?

Singing is my thing and I hope you will see many opportunities for carols, followed by popping a few corks and enjoying mince pies. I might also draw attention to those who always need our help and there are articles about the Nightshelter and the Basics Bank (pages 29 & 7).

This is the final Valley News for 2017, what an exciting year it has been. Your editorial team is always looking for new ideas and contributions and we do try hard to make this an informative read. We have a great team here both on the news desk and behind the scenes, so a big thanks to all my colleagues. Charlotte Appleby is the editor for January 2018.

*Tony Gaster*

## Itchen Valley News

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Please send all contributions for January 2018 by Friday 8th December. All material is published in good faith

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Cover photo of Santa with Georgie Patrick by Beccy Clark; other photos from various contributors.

## What's on

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### **Monthly Auction Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Itchen Abbas Village Hall at 2 pm.  
Viewing from 12.30 pm, to include China, Coins, Ephemera, Collectables, Old Toys, Jewellery, small items of Furniture, NOT Household goods, Car Boot Items or modern Electricals  
Drop off 9.00-9.30 am. Sellers booking recommended. Please call Claire 01962 734941 or Bob 01962 733475  
[www.auctionsinaaday.co.uk](http://www.auctionsinaaday.co.uk)

*Bob Leggett*

### **Itchen Valley Choral Society Annual Christmas Concert, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Itchen Abbas Village Hall at 7.45pm.  
Songs from Christmas, Folk and Film interspersed with readings from A Child's Christmas in Wales by Dylan Thomas. Lots of audience participation followed by good food and drink.  
Admission £10.

*Vernon Tottle*

### **Carol Singing In Itchen Abbas Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.**

There has been a long tradition of carol singing in Itchen Abbas started by the Edmonds family who lived in the Old House. Our chosen charity for this year's carol singing is Parkinson's UK (Winchester Branch)

We will be singing on two nights in Itchen Abbas. Please meet at Rodney and Joan Dartnall's home at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. A warm welcome awaits you, young and old, friends and families, so please join us.  
For your Health and Safety we recommend sturdy footwear, warm

clothes, torches / lanterns and a spirit of adventure especially if it is cold !

If you would like us to call, or even if you would prefer us not to call please ring Joan. 779538

[joandartnall@mac.com](mailto:joandartnall@mac.com)

### **A Christmas Carol at Martyr Worthy Village Hall Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

Prepare to be visited by Christmas past, present and future when Proteus Theatre Company return to Martyr Worthy Village Hall with their latest production, based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

It's Christmas Eve in the City and the selfish, greedy Scrooge sits alone in his gilded tower awaiting the ghosts of his past and his future, while the spirits gather in the darkening gloom to take him on a journey to his own salvation. But will he heed the lesson? He has just one night to change his ways or face a terrible fate.....

Proteus bring this story of redemption and enlightenment right up to date with its "fast, funny, highly physical and contemporary" adaptation, featuring some familiar Proteus faces and charming puppetry, a perfect treat to round off the Christmas season.

The show is suitable for all the family aged from 6 and upwards. It starts at 6pm and runs for about 90 minutes plus a short interval. Tickets are £6 per adult and £4 per child and are available from Sara Mason on 779169 or [splmason@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:splmason@hotmail.co.uk). Please book early to avoid disappointment.

All are very welcome although, as space is limited, priority will if necessary be given to those with a Martyr Worthy connection.

Households in the village will find further details enclosed with their copy of the Itchen Valley News.

*Guy Green*

## Family File 7 – Surviving Christmas



It's Christmas round the corner and we are all getting excited, right? There is a huge amount to do: at home - presents to be bought and

wrapped, food to be prepared. The negotiations on who is going where for Christmas Day within the family have probably been conducted months ago. At the office there are deals to be completed before the year end for tax, budgetary and bonus reasons. The shops and TV are holding out images of the perfect Christmas which can, it's implied, be achieved by buying their products.

But then the cold clammy hand of reality grabs your throat... 'what happens if it's like last year... what happens if Uncle Jerome gets drunk and argumentative again or what happens if Aunt Agatha starts telling me again how to bring up my children...?' All that work, all that investment in time, trawling over websites and into shops in the High Street ending in tears and anger. But worse is the shame that you can share with no-one:.... to the January question at the school gate: 'How was your Christmas?' the answer is never actually going to be 'Oh, we had a series of rows and I eventually took refuge in the bathroom with a bottle of wine', it is always going to be 'it was wonderful; how was yours?'

There is no time like Christmas for putting families under pressure. All the relationships are stressed, partly

because of the huge expectations that we all place on the day. The children are all fired up and sibling rivalries can easily break out. Feelings of failure can abound both for husband and wife. For those not married or bereaved there is this terrible feeling that Christmas is all about other people, people who are not alone as they are. The reasons for their loneliness can come into sharp focus. For the young adults there is the fear that someone is going to ask them 'when are you going to get married...?' Mix all this with a large dose of alcohol and there can be a lot of hurt and upset.

The key to surviving Christmas is to remember that it is about relationships first. It is this huge opportunity, at least once a year, not to achieve, but to love. Don't cram too many events into the calendar. Leave time to listen, to talk and to walk. Plan in plenty of time so that you are left with 'nothing to do' in the last couple of weeks of December, so that you can decide to do things spontaneously together. Make sure that you decompress from the office in plenty of time to be fun for those around you.

But most importantly, the key to surviving Christmas is to forgive and focus on others. Forgive what happened last year. Resolve to be forgiving about every annoying comment and every act of selfishness shown by members of the family. Focus on others rather than on yourself and encourage your children to do this as well. Make your home a 'forgiveness and focus on others zone' for the whole of the Christmas period. If you have younger children, you might want to sit them down after school when you first read this article and ask them what a 'forgiveness and focus on others zone' for Christmas might look like in





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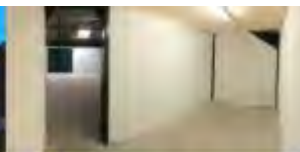
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your family! And if this just seems too difficult to do (and you are saying to yourself 'Alex you just don't understand my situation') then pray every day (and in the moment) to the one who was born on Christmas Day 2000 years ago and He will show you how.

Alex Pease

## Winchester Basics Bank

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After all the local Harvest Festival services had been held this year, two car loads of gifts were taken to the Basics Bank at Bar End. There was a huge variety of tinned foods and packets of pasta etc., and toiletries such as soaps and shampoos. All are immensely appreciated, and the staff would like their thanks passed on to all who contributed. including Itchen Abbas school, Riverbank Nursery and all the many other people who gave so generously.

Christmas offerings are now needed, if possible by early December so they can be distributed in time for December 25th. Small gifts for children, (not all of the chocolate variety!) would be most welcome, also toiletries for both adults and children.

Any contributions can be left in the boxes marked Basics Bank at the back of each of our four churches.

Liz Platt

## Earlier date for contributions next month!

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Because the January 2018 edition will be printed and distributed before the Christmas holiday period, the deadline for contributions has to be brought forward.

The date by which all contributions have to be received will be Friday 8<sup>th</sup>

December, a full week earlier than normal. But please do continue to send in any items you would like included in the magazine – after all, I'm sure you don't want to read 44 blank pages!

Thank you

Vernon Tottle

Editor Itchen Valley News

## Glyndebourne Touring Co.

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Many people know about Glyndebourne, but how many have heard of the Touring Company? Glyndebourne has barely recovered from the long summer Festival season before rehearsals are underway for the eight weeks of the Tour. Three different operas are performed each week. Two are usually revivals of productions from recent Festival seasons, whilst the third might be something quite new, often a try-out for a new summer offering a year or two later. Recent examples of these include Britten's *Turn of the Screw* and Puccini's *Madam Butterfly*. After a three week season at Glyndebourne itself, the company goes on the road to venues stretching from Canterbury to Norwich, from Milton Keynes to Plymouth - the aim is to bring top-flight opera at an affordable price to those who would shrink from the perceived elitism of Glyndebourne itself.



Our nearest venue is now Woking, after the Arts Council forced a move from Southampton in 2000.

Whilst the singers are generally younger and less experienced than their Festival counterparts, the quality of the productions is usually outstanding - we often think they rival Festival standards. Ticket prices are kept as low as possible, a fraction of the price you might expect to pay during the Festival. Wessex Glyndebourne Association ([www.w-g-a.org.uk](http://www.w-g-a.org.uk)) was founded 30 years ago to support the Touring company, and each year 60 or so members go by coach to see two of the productions, one at Glyndebourne itself, the other at Woking. This year the operas chosen were Rossini's *Barber of Seville* and Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*. Each year the Wessex prize (now £2,500) is awarded to a promising member of the chorus, and is presented during the visit to Glyndebourne. Following the Woking performance, the cast joins WGA members for a party before the group returns home.

The Touring company was founded in 1968, and will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. During this time, many aspiring young singers have achieved their first break-through roles - who could forget Kate Royal in 2005 as the Countess in *Marriage of Figaro*? Or Felicity Lott, back in 1976, given the lead role in Richard Strauss' *Capriccio*? In 2018, Verdi's *La Traviata* will be revived from this year's Festival, and a brand new production of Massenet's *Cendrillon* is planned. The performance dates will be announced in April next, so not too long to wait!

Peter McManus

(Photo: credit Bill Cooper)

## Jackie's County Corner Merry Christmas!

Despite the approach of Christmas, this month I have concentrated on transport issues as so many changes are 'in train' (pun intended!).



Many of us commute regularly or use the trains occasionally. South Western Railway are consulting on their proposals to change the train services from 2019, deadline 22nd December 2017.

It seems as if there will be an increased number of trains from Winchester, but an unacceptable reduction in the frequency of trains from rural stations, including Micheldever. You can go online to <https://www.southwesternrailway.com/contact-and-help/timetable-consultation> to respond.

There's a new website to help those of you who travel around on wheels, either through disability or pushed by your Mum or Dad in a buggy. Titled 'A better world for wheels', it enables users to upload information to help others. Launched in September, Google says: 'We're calling on Local Guides, a community of people who contribute their expertise about places on Google Maps, to add more wheelchair accessibility' ...search online for 'a better world for wheels' or go to <https://www.blog.google/products/maps/better-world-wheels-google-maps/>

The main topic at HCC at present is Tt2019, which is the headline for the



Budget reductions at HCC. This is as a result of the Government's squeeze on our local services, which was supported by MP's. You will be kept abreast of cuts to services that will affect the public as each item goes to 'consultation', but it all sounds dire.

One of the victims of this is subsidised public bus transport, and there are cuts proposed in the school bus offer too. For Dial a Ride and other subsidised bus services the proposal is for no bus service to be subsidised by HCC. This will impact on Dial a Ride, Community Bus support, smaller services (e.g. Mervyn) and weekend/evening semi commercial services. Parishes may well be asked to support services through CIL or precept. Another alternative for bus pass holders is to charge 50p per trip, and/or pay for an annual pass, though this isn't currently lawful. The effect on several other services (e.g., library, recycling centres) is serious too; we are told there will be consultation on each service which directly affects the public. Campaign caps on for 2018!

Changes at the Cart and Horses, the crossings at Sutton Scotney and Alresford, closure of Andover Road: many schemes are rolling along, but more slowly as funding is cut. Highways England has announced that the M3 Junction 9 improvements heralded in 2015, will be delayed for several years now too. I have asked for Walk and Cycle routes through, to and from Kings Barton to be on the Barton Farm Forum agenda in the New Year. Please contact me if you are interested in this topic and let me know what council service you value the most!

*Councillor Jackie Porter, T:791054, email [jackie@jackieporter.co.uk](mailto:jackie@jackieporter.co.uk), text 07973 696 085, tweet: @JackieLibDem*

## Pumpkins in Avington

Halloween means pumpkins and in Avington there is the annual Pumpkin Challenge. In the spring the seeds from last year's winning entry had duly been distributed to residents of the village.



Over the summer months the growing plants had been tended with various levels of love, care and attention with a view to entering, and hopefully winning, the 2017 competition. Now the day had arrived.

This year the event was kindly hosted by Colleen Parry in The Row. Villagers had taken their pumpkins round in the daylight and then returned later in the evening bringing food and drink. Everybody mingled for an hour or so, swapping stories of summer holidays or sporting activities, catching up on local events or even risking discussions on national politics.

There were 16 pumpkins and they had been attractively laid outside on the garden steps. When it was dark they were brought indoors to be weighed. Silence fell when the counting finished - everyone eagerly waiting the outcome. Contestants were rightly concerned to ensure that their entry would be accurately measured. However bathroom scales are not the best



one-stone (14 lbs) marking on the scales. However there was no doubting which one was the heaviest because the 16th and final pumpkin comfortably passed the 2-stone mark and was a runaway winner at 32 lbs. The proud grower was Penny Russell and to much applause she was duly presented with the pewter tankard to have her name inscribed on it as the 2017 victor.

*Ralph Matthews*

## **Avington Park Golf Club**

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The Ladies' and Seniors' section of The Avington Park Golf Club were delighted to present a cheque for the amazing sum of £3,830 to Robert Taylor from Sebastian's Action Trust. This sum was raised over the year in a variety of raffles, golf competitions and the very popular coffee morning, where we welcomed ladies from local clubs.

Sebastian's Action Trust has created the UK's only purpose-built facility that offers respite holidays to very sick children and their families, enabling precious time to be spent together. The Bluebells, has been built in the pretty Hampshire village of North Waltham. It opened in July 2011. Nothing like this previously existed in the UK, making The Bluebells the first of its kind. The Trust continues to develop this local facility and we have been privileged to be invited to visit and see the wonderful care that is being provided.

*Tricia Griffith*

## **Valley Volunteers – Barrie Dawson**

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Ace fundraiser Barrie Dawson had been featured in the Itchen Valley News before now, acting as compere

appliance for giving the precision needed in the competitive atmosphere of the challenge, so the weights announced by the weighing judge had to be regarded as approximate. The first 10 entries all fell within the range of 1 to 4 lbs, and therefore being imprecise on the true weight would not affect their chance of winning. Then there were 4 items weighing somewhere between 5 and 10 lbs and, although contenders preferred to know exactly how or in what order they fared, the judge felt it safer to accept that the bathroom scales were not sufficiently definitive on this aspect and hoped the competitors would not be offended by being a little vague on the correct ranking. In any event there was a significant gap before coming to the 15th pumpkin, grown by Helen Wayne, which tripped just over the



for the Jubilee and Royal Wedding parties at the IA&A Village Hall and with his bike, about to cycle to Paris – and, as he reminded me when we met, more importantly – back again. In the 15 years since he was successfully treated for thyroid cancer at the Royal Marsden and he has raised over £70k for the Oracle Cancer Trust which is the UK's leading charity funding pioneering research into finding newer and kinder treatments for head and neck cancer patients. Still on the fundraising tack, he is also a Lord's Taverner. He is clearly a bit of a fitness fanatic, going to the gym four times a week, cycling, walking with his best mate Georgie every day, swimming at Winchester College and playing golf regularly – not to mention being a member of the Itchen Abbas boules team.

He is a valued long serving member of the IA&A Village Hall committee, putting his commercial experience to the service of the Hall and, as many readers will know, as Master of Ceremonies he ensured that the many Royal Celebrations went with a swing.

We discussed the possibility of Prince Harry's wedding providing an opportunity for another party – who knows?

His latest venture is offering a mentoring service to local young people and adults, along the lines of what he has done for many years for the Prince's Trust, working with disadvantaged young people. In 2014 he was honoured with the award for the most successful mentor in the Prince's Trust Southern Region. He can help with motivation and confidence building as well as interview techniques, all immensely important even to the high achieving young, especially in these days of over-supply of graduates. He charges a modest fee, on the basis that people generally appreciate things more if they have paid for them, and makes a donation to Oracle. It is the particular ability to motivate people to make the best of themselves, that his daughter Georgina felt should be more widely known and put at the service of more people, so she contacted the Valley News. Her own high flying career is a testimonial to its effectiveness. The website is [www.bpmotivation.com](http://www.bpmotivation.com).  
*Charlotte Appleby*

## Itchen Abbas School Fair

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Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November saw the Itchen Abbas School Christmas Fair take place. Organised each year by The Friends of Itchen Abbas School, it raises much needed funds to support the teachers in their excellent work. Despite a heavy downpour in the Valley, we enjoyed a great turn out as the festive spirits of young and old refused to be dampened by the rain. The children enjoyed having a visit from Father Christmas himself, with many of the children having their very

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own audience with him and their first Christmas present of the season. For the second year running, we had a burgeoning stall of homemade goodies such as jams, jellies, juice and chutneys much of which was harvested from the many lovely kitchen gardens and vegetable patches in the valley. The apple juice in particular was a great hit and felt like a good use of valley resources: donated and collected by generous locals, it was pressed by the Rotary Club at the apple day in Alresford, with some of the juice donated to help local charities, and finally sold at the Itchen Abbas School



Christmas Fair. All in all, a great use of apples that could've easily rotted on a tree. Thank you to all those who kindly donated apples.

Aimee Dear, the school's Head Teacher, was there to welcome people into the fair and provided some positive encouragement to the assembled crowd. She also led us all at 11 am for a two minute silence for Remembrance Day, which was dutifully and movingly observed, even by the



very young.

The cafe, selling delicious and much-needed hot coffee and bacon rolls, was very popular, as was the impressive array of beautiful cakes, all made and donated by the talented parents of Itchen Abbas School. The amazing cakes would have made Prue Leith herself smile!

This year we trialled a new idea of a juice bar, where children (and adults) could quench their thirst after trying one of the many fun and festive games, such as throwing 'snowballs' at one of the teachers (thank you Mr Bogan!). We also had a nail bar, a glitter tattoo





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stand, a biscuit-decorating stall, a chocolate raffle, a tombola and the ever popular face painting.

In these times of ever full and busy lives it was a good reminder (especially to those of us with young children) that not only are we raising money for a good cause, we are also building a community.



We raised an enormous £2761 for the school, but we also raised spirits and made our children feel part of a wonderful community. So a huge thank you to everyone who helped by donating their time, effort, apples, cakes, biscuits or toys! And of course thank you to everyone who braved the rain to attend on the day.

It was a heart-warming day in Itchen Abbas Village Hall and a lovely start to the festive season, which is right around the corner!

*Leila Alabaster, Chair, Friends of Itchen Abbas School.*

## Easton W.I.

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Next year will be Hampshire W.I.'s centenary, and plans are being discussed for various celebrations to include BBC's Gardeners' Question Time at Sparsholt, a concert at the Anvil, afternoon tea on board the Princess Caroline, a "Beatles" picnic at Hillier's Arboretum and in September, Hampshire members have the opportunity of attending Denman (the W.I.'s residential education college near Abingdon) for a range of courses from World Street Food to Silver Jewellery. A book is planned as a repeat of one written 100 years ago on *Hampshire – Its Villages and Communities*, so it is hoped our members will contribute. Members greatly enjoyed a visit from Gemma Giles who showed us how to keep strong and active in our Third Age. With ways to improve core stability and balance, she encouraged us to keep active and build up our exercise routine to increase stamina.

Our next meeting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December will be our Christmas Party. *Sallie Peake*

## Martyr Worthy fundraising

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As it has been decided not to hold a Christmas Fair this year, plans are in hand to have a different event in June 2018. This will be in the form of combined Open Gardens and Village Hall teas, a very popular event in the past. Plans are also progressing for a fourth series of the popular Martyr Worthy Lecture series 2018/19. To complete a busy programme there is a firm diary date for the bi-annual Martyr Worthy Plant Sale to be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018. Watch for further updates! *Liz Platt*

## Book review: “Belle” by Paula Byrne

Sarah Hunt has recently introduced me to another wonderful biography of Jane Austen. This is ‘The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things’ by Paula Byrne. In this book the author writes at length about the numerous wealthy English owners of sugar plantations in the West Indies and their involvement in the slave trade. In particular she discusses the link between ‘Mansfield Park’ and the great and influential Lord Chief Justice Mansfield of whom Jane Austen would have known. Behind all the grandeur and glamour of life in Mansfield Park lie the shadows of all the slaves who make the lives of the members of the Bertram family so comfortable.

‘Belle’ is the biography of Dido Belle, a girl whose mother was an African slave and whose father, a naval captain, was the nephew of Lord Mansfield. It is an unusual biography as Paula Byrne was prompted to write it by the producer of the film ‘Belle’. It is as much about the slave trade and those who fought for its abolition as it is about the remarkable life of Dido. The biography begins with a description of a wonderful portrait of two young women, one fair and one dark skinned - an unusual pair in eighteenth century England. Paula Byrne explains how this double portrait probably came to be painted and how very unlikely it was that any man, at that time, should parade any illegitimate family member in this way.



From here, she goes on to explain that it was not until the 1980s that the life of Dido Belle, the black woman in the portrait, was finally pieced together and that for a fuller understanding of her life we need to see it in the context of slavery and abolition.

Dido's mother, Maria, was a slave on a foreign ship that was captured by a Captain Lindsay and it is possible that the daughter he fathered was even born at sea, a relatively common occurrence in the 1760s. The uncommon aspect of this story is that, instead of hiding this child or ignoring her existence, he placed her in the

loving and visible care of his uncle, Lord Mansfield. Dido lived with him and Lady Mansfield in their beautiful home, Kenwood. She was clearly very dear to her great-uncle, a fact which seems to be reflected in his judgements about the laws, or lack of them, concerning the lives of slaves who had been brought to England.

Although the abolition of the slave trade was still a long way off, Mansfield

played a part in it by confirming that no one who lived in England could be a slave.

There were other heroes of the fight against the slave trade and their stories are worked into the piecing together of this life of one slave's child. Also there are awful examples of the appalling treatment and conditions of those slaves who worked on the sugar plantations.

This is a book which is sometimes painful to read but nonetheless compelling.

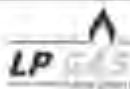
Clare Gaster



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## Olive Alexandra Fullick

---

Olive was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1928, in Doncaster – yes, she was a South Yorkshire lass, although you would have never have known it; listening to her speak, she sounded like a quintessential Hampshire hog. She was the baby of the Davis family, the youngest of a family of thirteen children, two of whom died before she was born. Her mum and dad, Charles and Flora, were itinerant hired hands (originally from the London area) who wandered the length and breadth of the country in the years following the Great Depression. As you may know, they were trying times back then; out of necessity, the family had to go to wherever there was work to be had – whether it was in the coal mines of County Durham or the (one would imagine) more ‘forgiving’ hop farms of Kent. They would travel by foot or by buggy and bed down at night in whatever places were available to them, often at short notice - barns, sheds, abandoned houses - any place that could offer them a temporary shelter from the elements.

To supplement their income, Flora would perform as a highland sword dancer at pubs, clubs and music halls. Where this Scottish aspect came from is anyone’s guess, but it no doubt added an eccentric flourish to what otherwise would have been a hard, hand-to-mouth existence.

Olive’s first job was at the Beacon’s Brush Factory in Bletchley,

Buckinghamshire. After a while, she moved to Lincolnshire to join her sister, Auntie Annie, to work ‘on the land’ thereabouts.

The family was reunited when Olive moved to Hampshire, and settled in Couch Green. It was then that she began working for Harry Gray, down at Graces Farm, as a dairymaid. It was here that she caught the eye of a young farm boy, Harold (nickname Toby), who admired her awhile from afar.

Toby was too shy to ask Flora, directly, for permission to court her daughter, so he enlisted the help of his seven-year old nephew, Derick, to ask her for him. This cost Toby tuppence, a meagre sum that paid off a huge dividend when he eventually got the nod from Mum.

From that moment, Olive and Toby were virtually inseparable. They were married at the Winchester registry

office in 1946 and set about their wedded life together at Graces Farm Cottages under the thatched roof of her in-laws, Albert and Alice Rose. However, they were parted for much of the following year while Toby did his National Service with the Army Service Corps, in Italy. When he was demobbed, the young couple moved into their own house. Not that they had far to go, mind - little further than the garden fence, to number 3. Literally, next door. And it was in this tiny house that they lived out their days until Toby passed away in 1999.

For thirty years, Olive worked as a cook and kitchen manager in Currys, at





Worthy Park. I remember how she seemed completely in her element there, in her pinafore dress, surrounded by good friends and good company. Those were years she cherished. However, this paled and was eclipsed by her role as a devoted mother to her only daughter, Jenny (on whom both she and Toby doted).

After retiring from Worthy Park, Olive worked as a Cleaner, down at the bottom pub, in The Chestnut Horse. I remember her on her moped, heading off down to Easton Corner as if it were yesterday.

In time, the family grew ever more. I turned up on the scene. Then six years later, Sarah was born, thus giving her a complete set of grandchildren to dote on – as was her wont. Fast forward: in the fullness of time, yet another generation would emerge. I consider Toby, Farley and Freya to be fortunate; one and all, they were blessed to have this loving and temperate soul in their young lives – albeit for a short while.

Olive was one of those people whose needs and wants were always placed on the back burner, so to speak. While this selflessness may be detrimental to some, it was genuinely a way that Olive found fulfilment in her life. Her love was a verb. It was a doing thing, demonstrable, shown. When Olive loved you, you felt it spades. You just knew.

Her home was a happy one, full of good food and laughter. It was at her feet that I had some of my own more memorable experiences in life. Lying there on the carpet, snuggling with her black Labrador, Caine, are some of my earliest and most cherished memories. And it was through her that I first developed a love of the cinema. We would watch the Friday night horror

movies together while Toby was down the Cricketers. The Mummy, the Wolfman and Count Dracula were scary, but it was all rather manageable, as I felt so loved and safe, there, in front of the fire.

Olive, has now gone to join her beloved Toby along with the rest of her clan - Charlie, Hughe, Billy, Arthur, Eddy, Dorrell, Vera, Annie to mention but a few. I love you Granny, you will remain in our hearts forever.

*Neil Westlake (from the Itchen Valley Churches website)*

## Joan Aldred

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At the end of the Summer term Mrs Joan Aldred retired from her role as Admin Officer and Governor of Itchen Abbas Primary School. Joan had worked at the school since 1989 and has been a big part of many families school lives - over the years she will have seen a lot of changes but in her role she has made it her mission to know and care for every child and family that has passed through the school and for that we will all be very grateful.

We were delighted to be able to take



the opportunity to thank her for the dedication she has given to the school by presenting her with a bouquet and gift voucher at the Christmas Fair; this was also a lovely opportunity for parents to thank her in person for the help she has given them.

We wish you a very long and happy retirement Joan.

*Beccy Clark*

## Pheasant Casserole

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Hampshire is awash with game birds at this time of year, and they are cheap to buy from the butcher or farmers' market and delicious to eat. This is a rather old fashioned easy recipe for casseroled pheasant, so it's a good place to start even if you are not yet used to cooking game birds. It will freeze well to cater for the Christmas rush, and makes a great base for a pie with a bought puff pastry crust.

2 Tbsp. oil and 50g butter

2 pheasants (check inside the cavity to make sure they are properly cleaned; if not wash thoroughly)

100g chopped streaky bacon or pancetta

A large onion, chopped

300ml each of red wine and stock (a beef or chicken stock cube is fine)

2 Tbsp. fruit jelly, bramble or redcurrant

1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

Thyme, salt and pepper.

Heat the oil and butter in a cast iron casserole, and brown the pheasants on all sides (it's probably easiest to do them one at a time). Set aside. Add the chopped onion to the pan and fry for a minute or two, then add the bacon or pancetta and cook until the onion is softened and lightly brown. Remove from the pan and add to the pheasant. Stir the flour into the fat in the pan and



cook until it is lightly coloured. Blend in the wine and stock and stir until thickened. Add the jelly, Worcestershire sauce, thyme and salt and pepper.

Return the pheasants to the casserole, bring back to a simmer and put into a very low oven (120°C) for two hours or until the birds are very tender. Let the casserole cool until you can remove all the meat from the bones without burning yourself. Return the meat to the sauce and check the seasoning. You could add a few fried mushrooms if you like, or a handful of chestnuts. Reheat now or refrigerate and reheat later.

Delicious with mashed or dauphinoise potatoes and a green vegetable.

*Verity Coleman*

## The Itchen Valley remembers

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A sunny, if chilly, morning on 12<sup>th</sup> November, Remembrance Sunday 2017, saw the traditional quartet of observance services at the four village war memorials followed by the formal Service of Remembrance in Easton church.

Opposite are photos of the assemblies at Itchen Abbas and Easton.



# Itchen Valley Choral Society Annual Christmas Concert

7.45 pm Wednesday 6th December 2017  
in Itchen Abbas Village Hall

Music of film, folk and Christmas to accompany  
**A Child's Christmas in Wales**  
by Dylan Thomas



Audience participation! Refreshments.  
Admission £10 at the door



## Tiddler joke:

Q: Why were the witches wearing name tags?

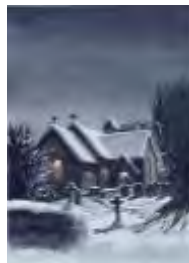
A: So they could tell which witch was which!

*Rafferty Alabaster*



## Itchen valley church services

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### Sunday 3rd December

8am	BCP Holy Communion	Avington
11am	Matins	Martyr Worthy
4pm	Christingle	Itchen Abbas

### Sunday 10th December

8am	BCP Holy Communion	Easton
10am	Parish Communion	Itchen Abbas
6pm	Evensong	Martyr Worthy

### Sunday 17th December

8am	BCP Holy Communion	Martyr Worthy
10am	Parish Communion	Easton
4pm	Carols in the Barn	Graces Farm

### Sunday 24th December

4pm	Crib and Carol Service	Easton
11.30 pm	First Communion of Christmas	Itchen Abbas

### Monday 25th December

8am	BCP Holy Communion	Avington
10am	Traditional Communion	Martyr Worthy
10am	Family Communion	Easton

### Sunday 31st December

10am	Parish Communion	Martyr Worthy
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### 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;

## Roman Catholic church services over Christmas

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Saturday 16th December

11am Family Penitential Service, St. Peter's Church

Monday 18th December

7.30pm Parish Penitential Service, St. Peter's Church

Sunday 24th December

5.30pm First Mass of Christmas, St. Peter's Church

5.30pm First Mass of Christmas, St. Stephen's Church

8.30pm Midnight Mass with carols, St. Gregory's Church

10.30pm Midnight Mass with carols (carols at 10pm), St. Peter's Church

Monday 25th December

8.00am The Nativity of the Lord, St. Peter's Church

9.00am St. Thomas More's Church

9.15am St. Stephen's Church

10.30am St. Peter's Church

11.00am St. Gregory's Church

Tuesday 26th December

10.00am St. Stephen's Day Mass, St. Stephen's Church

### Special services in the Itchen Valley

The Christingle service marks support for the work of the Children's Society and features the giving of an orange representing the world, with fruit representing creation, a red tape for God's love and a candle for the light of Christ.

Carols in the Barn, this year at Graces Farm on the main road, with lots of parking, provides an opportunity to sing carols in an informal atmosphere with a nativity scene.

On Christmas Eve, there is the popular carol service in Easton when we decorate the crib.

Dates and times shown opposite. All are suitable for children and people of all ages. We look forward to seeing you there.



## From the Parish Council.

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It's gone! The old container once used for changing rooms at the King George Playing Field in Martyr Worthy has been taken to a new

home. It was no longer fit for purpose as changing rooms, and in such poor state that refurbishment was too costly to be worthwhile. However someone wanted it for a store, responded to our advertisement on the Itchen List and has taken it away. We have taped off the concrete pad on which it stood to meet with the usual demands of health and safety. Please keep off it.

That now leaves the question of what next. In the short term we have to provide temporary storage for The Worthys Football Club who use the field on a regular basis, as part of their programme for children. So in the not too distant future you will see a small store facility there. In the long term we are looking at how the playing field and its facilities might be improved and developed to meet sporting needs. That also leads to how such aspirations might be achieved. Ideas are welcome, so if you have any please let us know.

For once we have had a lull in planning applications. However that does not mean that there has been nothing to do on the planning front. By the time this has been read we will have made our submission to the final consultation on the South Downs National Park Strategic Plan. To that end our County Councillor, one of our City Councillors and three

members of the Parish Council have been to meet with three members of the SDNP Authority team who are involved in producing the plan. It was an interesting discussion, we found out some more about their thinking and how their proposals for the Itchen Valley were formulated. We also made our case as to where we thought the plan was wrong and how it might be improved. Our main concerns are over the number of houses allocated to be built in the Valley up to 2032, where they would be sited and the lack of attention given to the need for homes for those people with strong and essential ties to our community who are not able to afford the high cost of housing in the area. What the result of our discussion and our submission may finally be, only time can tell.

Now for two pieces of good news. You may have seen that the area round the bus stop in Itchen Abbas has been cleared and that the ditch behind has been dug out. This was done by HCC Highways and hopefully will reduce the danger of flooding in that area. However please remember that, as mentioned in the Valley News earlier this year, owners of land adjacent to the highway have a duty to keep ditches clear. The second is that, having had to suffer the inconvenience of the B3047 being closed, the bank just west of Itchen Stoke has finally been repaired. It does look a little urban at present but we have been told that a hedge is due to be planted so all being well, in time, the rural look will be restored. While the road was closed, we managed, at rather short notice, to ask the Highways Department if the section of road between Itchen Abbas and Itchen Stoke could be repaired. It made sense for patching and hole filling that was needed, to take place at the

same time. It was good to see that our plea was heard and despite the short notice, there was some joined up thinking which resulted in the work being done.

And finally on that bit of good news from all the Parish Council have a good run up to and a Happy Christmas.

*Patrick Appleby, Parish Council Chairman.*

## Multiple casualties in the Village Hall

---

Itchen Abbas Village Hall had bodies lying everywhere! It took an ex-Army officer to keep the 'victims' and their First Aiders under control, as over 50 people were instructed in how to perform CPR on a casualty, as well as deal with life-threatening incidents such as choking, strokes, heart attacks and bleeding. It was organised by Tessa Love on behalf of Youth Options, a local charity committed to improving the life opportunities of children and young people and giving them encouragement and support to realise their potential whatever their life circumstances.

Remarkably, the photograph shows one of her sons, Marcus, who was chosen by the instructor to be a 'casualty'. Up spoke his brother Adrian



who only a week earlier had to perform first aid on Marcus who had been knocked unconscious from his bike, fortunately with no lasting damage. It certainly sharpened the sense of urgency to know more about what to do in terrifying circumstances. We were also left in no doubt that every village needs an AED machine (an Automated External Defibrillator) which can be accessed and used by amateurs – expensive but lifesaving. We all left with some idea of what to do, being prepared to take charge of the situation without panicking seems to be the first priority, and the morning raised over £1,500 for Youth Options.

*Verity Coleman*

## Tribute to Robert “Joe” Urquhart 8<sup>th</sup> April 1943 – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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After a long and debilitating illness, Robert “Joe” Urquhart, one of the Valley’s longer standing residents, died peacefully in the Countess Mountbatten Hospice on September 27<sup>th</sup> September. He leaves a widow, Felicity, three married children and five grandchildren to whom we offer our most heartfelt sympathy.

Christened Robert at birth, he acquired the nickname of “Joe” while at prep school and thereafter it was the name by which he was known by his friends, if not his family.

Joe was born in Port of Spain in Trinidad and spent his early years there before travelling to England aged 10 to find that bare feet were not acceptable at his Sussex prep school. He continued his education at the Oratory near Reading where he demonstrated an aptitude for both cricket and rugby and, on two occasions, played for his

school at Lords.

On leaving the Oratory he went to the Ecole Supérieure at Neuchatel, Switzerland where he graduated in business and law after being examined in French. He joined De Pinna & John Venn, a London firm of notaries as an Articled Clerk in 1965 and qualified as a Scrivener Notary (a lawyer-linguist) five years later having also worked with a leading firm of notaries and lawyers in Paris.

Thereafter his professional life went from strength to strength. He was made a Freeman and Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Scriveners, and eventually Master from 1983-1984, and Chairman of the Society of Public Notaries of London. He was appointed a Member of the Paris Bar in 1994.

He became one of the leading notaries in the City of London and advised UK based clients on French Law transactions concerning property, investment, tax planning, the Concorde Production Agreement, acquisitions and disposals, company formations and commercial law in French law transactions. He was also in demand as a speaker and lecturer on Anglo-French legal and taxation matters and a member of the Editorial Board of



Notarius International. Of all the honours and awards bestowed upon him the one with which he was most proud was being awarded the Order of Notarial Merit by the Latin Notariats. To this day he is thought to be the only British subject to have been awarded it. In 1972 he met, and subsequently married, Felicity. They had three children and came to live

in the Itchen Valley in 1979. Their first home was at the bottom of Chilland Lane in Martyr Worthy where they were wonderful hosts to their many friends. They subsequently moved to Little Hayes Lane in Itchen Abbas.



Until his illness curtailed his many interests, he took great pleasure in watching cricket, travelling overseas with his beloved family, trying every new gadget to come on the market, exotic food, Mount Gay Rum and, just

occasionally, ice cream. He took a keen interest in naval matters and was instrumental in forming an affiliation between the Scriveners Company and the then brand new Frigate, HMS Beaver in 1984.

He fought his last illness with typical bravery but, in the end, it defeated him. He is not only very much missed by his family but also by his many friends in the Valley.

*John Lang*

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## Remembrance marked at Prince's Mead

---

Pictured is head boy Finlay Patterson and head girl Rio Gawne Cain. The service was led by Amanda Denniss. *Penelope Kirk, Headmistress*



## Remember, remember....

---

Once again a very successful evening with a big turn out, possibly the biggest so far at our annual Easton Bonfire Night on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> November! We would like to extend a big thank you to the following:  
Michael and his team for building and lighting the Bonfire, Iris & Den for creating yet another interesting Guy, Robert on the mike, the Fireworks team (Glynn, Paul, Chris and William)

for yet another sparkling display, David & Simon on the bucket, Iris, Fiona, Helen, Jill, Alison & Naomi for selling 200 Hot Dogs, Freddy, Chris & Ina for brewing and serving 30 litres of mulled wine, the Cricket Club for supplying all other refreshments (a very welcomed addition!) and finally Lotti & Dan on Glow Sticks (well done for selling in excess of 200 of them!!).

Although the cost of the firework display had increased considerably this year, by about 20% due to a combination of Brexit, increased import costs from China and the \$/£ exchange rate, I am very happy to report that Easton Bonfire Night 2017 was again a great success making a profit of £1650! This year the monies raised will go toward our new storage and alteration project.

So finally a big applause to all of you for all your generous contributions and continued support throughout the year!

Thank You!

*Ina Williams on behalf of Easton Village Hall & Recreation Ground.*

## A Spooktacular Halloween

---

We want to say thank you for the Valley Halloween:

No finer decorations have ever been seen!

We stepped into darkness wearing our scariest clothes,

Valley children and parents walked the lane in their droves,

Such fun and laughter - what a brilliant night,

The pumpkins a-glowing, a magnificent sight.

On doorways, in gardens there were skeletons galore,

Some went for amusing, some went for plain gore,





The treats were abundant, sweets so delicious,  
Mr Claridge's monster was spooky not vicious!  
The children, they loved it. Such a memorable night,  
Of magic and mystery, giggles and fright  
Thank you all for the sweets, treats and effort you made,  
For hosting this wonderful annual charade!

Thank you to all who participated. The children and parents are so grateful!  
*Written by Charlie Gloyn on behalf of the Valley's little monsters*

## Winchester Churches Nightshelter – looking ahead

---

Like every other home at Christmas time, we try and make the Nightshelter a warm, safe and joyful place to be. Residents may not be able to spend the festive season with their own families, but they will be surrounded by an extended family of staff, volunteers and fellow residents, who will together make Christmas at the Nightshelter a cheery affair complete with decorations, tree, a traditional Christmas roast dinner and, of course, present-giving. Every one of the Nightshelter's residents will receive a bundle of gifts,

mostly donated by local individuals and organisations. Each year we ask for donations that will help make life a little easier for those experiencing homelessness, and prepare them for independent living. Popular items are:

- Diaries, notepads, wallets and cheap watches will help residents organise themselves.
- Vouchers for coffee shops or the cinema will provide a real treat (small denominations rather than a single large donation allow us to share gifts in an equitable way).
- Personal items such as small lightweight rucksacks or daybags, lightweight waterproof jackets and men's trainers (sizes 10 and 11 are the most commonly needed.)

The thought and generosity that goes into these gift donations is always so touching, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who thinks of us. There's no need to wrap presents before bringing them to the Nightshelter as we have some lovely volunteers who come in and act as elves. However, if you do wrap your gifts/gift boxes it would be really helpful if you could put a label on the outside saying what it is and whether suitable for a man or woman. We'd be really grateful if any present donations could be dropped at the Nightshelter by no later than Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December, so that our elves (volunteers) can work their magic. Thank you.

*Angela Grobbelar 01962 862050*

## And we welcome

---

Georgina, Vincent and Olivia (3) have moved into Sunny Bank, Itchen Abbas. Sophie and Jamie Reid and their daughter Isla who have moved into Old Station Road from Easton.

*Claire Hunt*

## Easton Village Hall Ina Williams 779465 or evh.booking@googlemail.com

Authentic Pilates	Mon	9 am, 6:30 pm	Fri 9am	Judy	07774 899909
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Sally Stanyard	Tue	4.15 pm - 7.45 pm		Sally	01962 776562
School of Dance	Thu	6.45 pm and	Fri 4 pm		
	Sat	9 am - 2.30 pm			
Moo Music	Wed	9:15 am		Denise	01962 779182
Brew with a View	Wed	3 - 5 pm		Ina	01962 779465
David Michel Yoga	Fri	1 - 2 pm		David	07790 899890
Dionne Yoga	Tue	8.15 pm;		Dionne	07961 888676
	Fri	10.30 and 11.45 am			
Mahjong / U3A	Tue	2 - 5 pm		Anne	01420 563393
Easton Panto	Wed	7 - 10 pm		Jill	01962 779453
rehearsals	Sunday	4.30 pm			

## Martyr Worthy Village Hall

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Ladies Short Tennis	Wed	14.30	Arminel	01962 779611
Pilates	Wed	9.15 & 18.00	Aimee	07546 941489
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## Thought for the month

---

Whatever one's political persuasion, we should all be concerned from a social and welfare position for the recent attitude of the Daily Telegraph this week in branding some politicians as 'mutineers'



This is bullying, pure and simple, in its attempt to threaten or frighten people into keeping quiet about their own firmly held beliefs. This is no different from the attitudes surrounding the Hollywood and Westminster sex scandals. It was bullying attitudes in both cases that prevented people from speaking out, both for themselves and for others, through fear of not being believed or fear of the consequences if they were in terms of their social standing and their career prospects. It's remarkable that in an era noted for its liberality and freedom of speech we seem to be constrained by fear from speaking out so often about what we believe in.

I am reminded of the old story of the 'Emperor's New Clothes' by Hans Christian Andersen. Two weavers promise an emperor a new suit of clothes that they say is invisible to those who are unfit for their positions, stupid, or incompetent. When the Emperor parades before his subjects in his new clothes, no one dares to say that they do not see any suit of clothes on him for fear that they will be seen as "unfit for their positions, stupid, or incompetent". Finally, a child in all innocence cries out, "But he isn't wearing anything at all!"

Too often we seem incapable through fear, shame, embarrassment or just

lack of confidence in seeing the Emperor's New Clothes. Or maybe we need to reclaim the innocence of that child. (*Google Danny Kaye's version - Ed*) In Luke (Chap 4) we learn that when Jesus came to Nazareth he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day as was his custom. He stood up to read and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free".

Despite the 'Whistle Blowers Charter' included in the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 many still see speaking out as being telling tales or sneaking and fear of the consequence still surrounds this.

Jesus was never afraid of speaking out for the underdog. You will all remember the occasion in Holy Week (Matthew chap 21) when he threw the moneylenders out of the temple because they were exploiting the poor (watch out Bright House!). The Gospels are full of stories about Jesus standing up for people who are suffering, people who are ill, physically and mentally, people who are poor and hungry, people who are oppressed and just not able to speak up for themselves.

Of the widow who came to the Temple and gave a pittance he said: 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury', cutting down the wealthy who gave a lot, but that was only a tiny part of their wealth. In a world where the rich are getting richer by the day, money is seen as power, and a power which gives weight to their words well beyond any wisdom they may contain.



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Finally Jesus said we should love our neighbours as ourselves. If we all lived up to that, if we looked at every other human being as our neighbour and if we stood up and spoke out for them as we would wish people to speak up for us maybe we would all come to see the Emperors New Clothes.

Gerry Stacey LLM

## The Practical Gardener

Now is not the time to put your feet up! It's the time to think of leaf mould, a most marvellous material which enhances soil and comes just from rotting leaves. So I'm out and about collecting up leaves and putting them in a bin (pictured). It always seems a long process but well worth the effort. Also to my mind leaves left on lawns or flower beds can encourage decay and slugs.



We are coming to the end of the bulb planting season. Bulbs always seem to be good value. A minimum of effort is always rewarded by colour in the spring. Many of my bulbs get dug up and have to be replanted. For a really early start, I put some pots in the greenhouse. I find planting wallflowers amongst the bulbs gives some more colour and these are another reliable and easy to grow plant. I often order small plants now and one



supplier I have used for some years is Jersey Plants Direct.

I'm delighted to see the onions and garlic planted last month are looking good, as are many of the brassicas which should produce a crop soon. The first frosts accompanied by lots of damp weather finally put an end to annuals. So it's a great time to look back and see what has worked for you in your garden. My take on gardens is that each one is different, so it's important to look at the good and the bad and indeed location – was it too shady or too sunny?



I have a lot of my own compost, good stuff but it needs sifting and it's very wet. My solution is to spread it out on a plastic sheet in the greenhouse. On sunny days it soon dries enough to be sifted and then it can be used as a mulch for example on the soft fruits. I got my money back for my useless shredder, no arguments. I compliment Lawson HIS for doing this. The replacement, a Viking GE150, has already proved must better. There's so much to shred now as all the perennials are cut back. The shredded material is all composted.

Happy gardening.

*Tony Gaster*

## From our MP

---

First of all, something very local and I am absolutely delighted plans for the Winchester Hospice are now out there. Great credit must be given to the Trust for laying out ambitious plans for a 10-bed hospice supporting patients with life limiting illnesses and their families. For years now people in Winchester have said we are lacking a hospice to care for adults. We have the world-leading Naomi House for children of course but nothing for older patients and that was never sustainable in the long-term. £2.5 million is a lot of money but everything about this feels right and I know my constituents will really put their shoulder to the wheel and help us get over the line so the new facility can open on time in 2019. I will be supporting the project every step of the way. More at: [www.stevebrine.com/hospice](http://www.stevebrine.com/hospice).

Secondly, constituents know I work assiduously on the issue of our train service and stick close to SVR who have of course taken over the local

franchise from South West Trains. They've had a busy start what with the major works at London Waterloo and a (totally unnecessary) strike. One thing they are also embarking on at this time is a major consultation over proposed changes to the timetable and this matters, especially for commuters using Micheldever Station. I would urge constituents to catch-up on all of this, and be sure to have your say, via [www.southwesternrailway.com](http://www.southwesternrailway.com) Now for something more global and Health Ministers from the G7 met in Milan last month and I was there representing the UK. The G7 is a group made up of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States representing the seven largest advanced economies in the world and the 2017 Presidency is held by the Italians. The agenda covered climate variability and its impact on human health, women's and adolescent's health as well as anti-microbial resistance. It was my honour to lead the UK delegation and I told the meeting that the UK was totally committed to the Paris Climate Change Agreement and spoke about action our Government is taking to tackle air pollution which is responsible for some 40,000 early deaths each year. I also addressed fellow Ministers on the subject of women in the developing world having access to the same high



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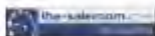
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quality family planning and sexual health services enjoyed in the UK. I said it was time to focus seriously on the issue of perinatal health and the critical importance of the first 1000 days of a child's life. You can see much more from the G7 including the full communiqué, pictures from the 'family' photo and the end of summit press conference at [www.stevebrine.com/SteveatG7](http://www.stevebrine.com/SteveatG7). And finally, my 2017 Christmas Card competition is now complete and it's congratulations to Ruby Richardson of the Itchen Valley who won the Year 5 contest with her lovely design. See all entries, plus the overall winner, at [www.stevebrine.com/christmascard](http://www.stevebrine.com/christmascard). You can find more about my work, locally and in Westminster, via my website and at [www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP](http://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP).

Steve Brine, MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

## The Valley Gardeners welcome a celebrity speaker

The keen gardeners of the Itchen valley enjoyed a real treat on Tuesday November 14th: a talk by leading garden designer/writer/broadcaster James Alexander-Sinclair. In addition to his many talents given above, he is also a compelling, entertaining and informative speaker. The Valley Gardeners were thrilled that James could visit them after their A.G.M., when 14 guests from the Valley joined 86 members to listen to the talk and, for over an hour, James took us on a tour of the gardens he has been designing over the last four years. One could tell from his theatrical delivery and perfect timing that, early in his life, he had trodden the boards....in addition to selling ice cream, insurance and goodness knows what else! But

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once gardening had him in its grip, there was only one route (upwards) and the rest, as they say, is history. There were of course, so many concepts of garden design and tips of the trade that James passed onto us in his talk but perhaps the one which stuck in my mind the most was the way in which the gardens he creates become a part of the landscapes which they inhabit. As you can see from the photographs here, the form and beauty of the gardens melt into the countryside beyond and are in total empathy with the surrounding



horticulture. And that is surely how it should be. Now we are not all lucky enough to have stunning views such as these gardens have but it is a principle which is worth considering if you are starting to design a garden or change your existing one. Speaking of which, James asked us a question. How many of you think your gardens are finished? Not one person put up their hand because of course as any gardener knows, gardening is always a work in progress and never “finished”.  
*Catherine Hahn*

## Local monthly information

### Waste collections in November

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Green bins on Fridays 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. No collection Friday 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Cameo

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### Farmers' Market in Winchester

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

### Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December Itchen Abbas VH

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**School holiday timetable** operates from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December but between Christmas and New Year the service is usually limited to a Saturday timetable.

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

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