

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 26 February 2016 For Avington, Easton, Ichen Abbas and Martyr Worthy.





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WELCOME to the valley news



The end is nigh! For those of you who made the brave commitment to abstain from alcohol for the month of January, good news - you are SO nearly there. 'Dry January' seems to have attracted more subscribers than ever this year. Perhaps from those looking to cling to something that sounds less soaking than the weather. As an American visitor to Easton was overheard saying 'Your countryside is so wet that it's dissolving!' We Trumped that by pointing out America's potential choice of President. One nil to us. Donald duck would have loved our weather!

Roll on February. Although pancakes and Valentines do not make their usual appearance in this issue, we are so highbrow, from our sober quarters, that broadband commentary, church matters and gardening tips are rife.

The cogs were whirring all over the valley as contributions flew in. Thank you, it is a delight to have a bumper issue. And with so much to fit in, I'm afraid there a few regulars who have ended up on the cutting room floor (temporarily). However, Itchen Ramblings, Food Spy and the Book Review will be back in March.



Time was of the essence in our editing suite when our computer failed, clearly exhausted after all of Lucy's Amazon

shopping. Luckily we grabbed the January copy of the IVN and tracked down advertiser Colin from C and S computers who came in haste to sort us out and lend us his PC. Thumbs up

for a reliable, friendly and fast service and it goes to show that advertising in the IVN works. Hopefully, the beautifully crafted ads this month, for an upcoming parish clerk (see page 30) or volunteers to provide input on the Open Spaces Strategy (see page 8) will lead to some helpful responses and suitable applicants.

And to mark the end of 'Dry January', why not try the delicious plum liqueurs featured in our local entrepreneur article or even a cocktail idea from our very own Verity in time for Winchester cocktail week 1- 7 Feb? But...don't get too settled with being sozzled again....you've only got 10 days until that other period of abstinence begins.....Lent!

The March editor is Verity Coleman.
Lucy Wolfe & Fi McIntosh

Itchen Valley News

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Cover photo: Jean Wheeler. Other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Quiz and Fish & Chips Supper - 5th February

The School is holding its annual Quiz Night with Fish and Chip Supper on Friday 5th February at Itchen Abbas

Village Hall. Doors open at 7.45pm. Bring a team of 8 people or join a table when you arrive. It's really good fun and all funds will go to the school to help pay for much needed IT equipment. Tickets are £12.50 each and there will be a cash bar. Please come along and support the school. Tickets are available from the school office - tel: 01962 779310

Email: admin@itchenabbas.hants.sch.uk
Sarah Banks

Lent Course 14th Feb - 13th March

Every year the Itchen Valley Parish runs a course during Lent to enable parishioners to deepen (and have some fun discussing) their faith. For the last few years, we have been following a Diocesan model course. This year's course is entitled 'I Witness'. The clergy team have been to a briefing and it looks really good. Anyway, we are going to enjoy it and we think that you will too! Further details will appear on www.itchenvalleychurches.org.uk. To make sessions easier to attend, rather than running a separate course on a week day evening, we are going to preach on the topics covered by the course on each Sunday morning, and then run the course itself on that Sunday evening, concluding our discussions with the simple and reflective evening Compline service.

Alex Pease

St Swithun's Martyr Worthy Flower Rota 2016

The flowers in the church are very much appreciated by all who come to worship at St Swithun's as well as those passing on brief visits or walking along the Pilgrims Way. So, thank you, to everyone who has given their time and talent so generously over the last 12 months.

The time is fast approaching when I will be drawing up the new rota, and look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to volunteer again this year. We are always keen to welcome new helpers. If you have just moved to the village, or have lived here for a while, and would like to know more, please contact me.

Amanda Seymour 779401
amandacseymour@btinternet.com

St Mary's Church, Easton Flower Arranging Meeting and Coffee, 4th March

How the years go by! With Easter early this year we have to start thinking now about the Flower Rota for St. Mary's

Easton for 2016 / 2017.

In Easton we have the most wonderful team of Flower Arrangers and I cannot thank you all enough for the amazing arrangements you have done, as well as all the help and tremendous support that you give me – I am more than grateful.

We have a few new faces to the team, but it would still be good to have more newcomers to the rota, so please let me know if you are willing to join our "team - the more the merrier – it does not matter if you cannot arrange flowers, as there are always people

willing to help, and we do have fun!!
Gail Mann did a Flower Demonstration last year and if there is enough support, I know that Pauline Lund would be more than willing to put on a demonstration perhaps late Spring or early Summer. More details on this will follow.

I am having a Coffee Morning at 10am on Friday, 4th March at Steeple Cottage Easton to organise the Flower Rota for 2016 / 2017 and do hope that as many people as possible can come along.

Do please bring your children – there are plenty of toys in the upstairs toy cupboard!! If you cannot come, but would like to join the rota, please let me know your preferred two weeks for doing the flowers.

Can you please let me know soonest whether you can come on 4th March in order that I have enough coffee and cakes and biscuits available.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Penelope Kellie

Tel: 01962 779317

E-mail: pkellie@pkworldwide.com

A Call to Action, Everyone Needed! - Saturday 5th March

Itchen Valley Parish Council is proud to support a national campaign to get a million people out and about cleaning up their communities.

Clean for The Queen aims to give the country a tidy-up ahead of the Queen's 90th birthday in April.

The campaign, backed by organisations including the Women's Institute, the National Trust and the RSPB, as well as businesses and anti-litter charities such as Keep Britain Tidy and the Campaign to Protect Rural England, is the biggest

community-led clean-up the country has ever seen.

Itchen Valley Parish Council is delighted to be supporting Clean for The Queen and Patrick Appleby, its chairman, encourages as many groups, individuals and organisations as possible in the Itchen Valley to take part.

He has decided to combine the council's very successful annual litter pick with this national campaign and hopes that people across the Valley will be inspired to do their bit to help

"Clean for the Queen". Patrick hopes that everyone will want to 'do their bit' to help clear up the litter that blights our roads, play areas and countryside.

The main activity will be a litter pick starting at 10am on Saturday 5th March 2016.

Please come along with friends and family to support this community event. Village meeting points and the routes covered will be published next month in The Itchen Valley News.

Clean for The Queen campaign director, Adrian Evans, hopes a million people will join together in a mass litter pick to give our beautiful country the facelift it deserves.

Litter is a problem that councils across

the UK spend the best part of £1 billion clearing up every year. By taking



part in Clean for The Queen and clearing up the country, individuals and communities will not only be giving the Queen a suitably impressive gift to mark her 90th birthday, they will also be giving themselves and their community a present – a clean space in which to live, work and play.

TV presenter and fervent anti-litter campaigner Kirstie Allsopp really hopes



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that as many people as possible will join in with this fantastic campaign. She litter-picks with her family regularly and thinks it really can be good fun. Her children have started to understand the impact litter has on our environment and the harm it can do. Save the date now! 10.00am on Saturday 5th March 2016. Let's all do our bit for the Queen.

Yvette Riley

Can you help with hearty home-cooked meals for the homeless at Winchester Churches Nightshelter?

Members of the Itchen Valley Churches and of the Valley have been cooking and delivering one meal per month to the night shelter for the past five years if not longer.

I am working on a new rota and am always looking for some more willing hands to cook for me. I provide the containers, it involves cooking very simple food for 20, whether it be a stew, shepherds pie or pudding. By having more people on my list it means we might be able to take more than one meal a month into the night shelter. Jude's Icecream will reimburse any expenses incurred.

Please contact Judith Mezger on 07834831450 or jude@judes.co.uk

Easton and Martyr Worthy Safari Supper - Saturday 5th March

Full details and an application form can be found on page 22.

*Terry and Anna McGowan 779350,
Hilary Castle 779572*

Itchen Abbas and Avington Safari Supper - Saturday 7th May 2016

The 'other' Safari supper, for Itchen Abbas and Avington as well as Chilland

and Chillandham Lanes, will be held on Saturday 7th May. We do it later in the year because the lighter evenings in May make it pleasant for those who are able to walk between venues – some years we have been very lucky with the weather, other years less so. All are welcome: singles, couples, old and young. If you cannot host we can still fit you in since some people can host 8 or 10. Conversely, if you can't find a baby-sitter and would therefore like to host the whole evening we can provide a succession of guests to entertain you.

The usual format is that we gather somewhere for pre-prandial drinks and canapés (volunteer host needed!). We then separate to go to one house for starters, on to another for a main course, a third for pudding / cheese and those with the energy then gather together

again for coffee and liqueurs (another host needed). The cost is £15 a head and the hosts get £3 a head for food and wine for both the starter and pudding courses and £5 for the main, leaving £4 for the pre and post prandial gatherings. We do not include a charity donation but in previous years many people have donated their food and drink hosting 'head money' to the Winchester Night Shelter, which seems an appropriate cause to remember while celebrating and enjoying our own and our neighbours' lovely homes in the Valley. There will be an application form in the Itchen Valley News in April, but please make a note in your diaries now. For more information please contact me, or any of the previous participants – ask your neighbours!

Charlotte Appleby 779778

Save the Date!

Glynde Easton, Saturday 18th June

Our biennial open-air opera evening in the lovely grounds of Dymoke House, Church Lane, Easton returns this year performed by 'Opera Danube'.

With many thanks to Sara and Frits Janssen. In aid of Itchen Valley Churches. Please make up a party of friends to come. Tickets £25.

Anna Burness

Avington Village Fete, Sunday 26th June



Avington Fete will be held this year on 26th of June from 12pm -

4pm. Put the date in your diary and get ready for a carnival atmosphere at Avington Park. Olympic sports festivities, Brazilian cocktails, Samba sampling and all round Latin American fun. We will also be running an 'Auction of promises'. If you think you can donate a few hours of your time, a dinner party for 6, Pimms and a tennis court, cricket coaching for children, all ideas are welcome, then please get in touch with me. *Judy Thomas*
judypower.thomas@gmail.com.



Tiddler Joke of the Month

Q. What cheese is not yours?
A. Nacho Cheese.....

Bryn Compton, 8yrs

Open Spaces Strategy - Can you help?

Are you interested in...

- The local Play Areas
- The range and type of play equipment available for local children
- How the sports pitches are used and could be used in the future
- Allotments
- Natural and informal green spaces

Then please get in touch as the Parish Council is keen to hear thoughts on how we can develop a long term plan to improve and enhance these areas in the valley. Please email Yvette Riley if you are interested in helping develop our plan. Children, parents, grandparents, everyone please let us know what you think.
yvetteriley@btinternet.com or call on 779177.

Valley Happenings

Easton Pantomime Review

Expectations were high after last year but once again Denise Rosewell and her team triumphed and the panto did not disappoint! *Sleeping Beauty*, written by Alan Frayn, was cleverly adapted by Denise to include local banter and humour, the bus stops and politicians featuring in the script! A bus stop even sneaked an appearance on the beautiful

scenery by Judy Bishop.

Humour abounded in the battle between Good Fairy Lilac, played beautifully by Sonia Cragg, and Bad Witch Hazel characterised with such ruthless evil and cape swirling drama by Anna Burness that children were quaking in her path in the interval. The battle of the cleavage between Bad Witch Hazel, a 32EE, and Nurse Dottie, a 40GG, and played by Iain Macleod in his first (and suspiciously confident) dame role was brilliant, and clearly won by Bad Witch Hazel. Queen Marigold (Anna McGowan) did a fantastic job of keeping her King (Christopher Burness) and court in order throughout. Muddles, played by Stan Poore, gave good old fashioned comedy and audience participation but he will need to keep sharp to ward off the talents of Mathew Millen in future. He is a wonder of comic timing who together with Ruby Smyth as Fetch and Carrie showed brilliant and mature comedic talent for 11 year olds.



Matthew Millen and Ruby Smyth (as Fetch & Carrie



From Left to Right: Christopher Burness, Geoffrey Burnand, Anna McGowan, Iain MacLeod, Elloise Clarke



Sonia Cragg as Fairy Lilac (centre), accompanied by Hannah Millen, Jessica Cragg, Jessica Duke, Elize Duke as Rainbow Fairies

Likewise Elloise Clarke in her second starring role as the 16 year old Princess Rose was poised, elegant and sang and acted fantastically with Andy Tan as the Prince. She even survived the worst attempt at resuscitation by a nurse without giggling. She will have Daisy Macleod who played her younger self biting at her heels for more starring roles after a brilliant solo.

It is hard to remember when watching in the village hall that this show is an amateur production. The forest scene with shadow lighting and sword fighting was amazing. The technical aspects are slick and hi-tech (Chris Ellis on sound, Iain Gordon and Shirley Howe on lights) with the added bonus of impressive pyrotechnics this year (Robert Hall) and as ever strong musical accompaniment from John Purver and Chris Kennedy. The costumes were once again spectacularly designed and coordinated as well as sourced or made by Jill Croft and Helen Smyth. Their highlight this year were the fairies who were elegant and shimmering in contrasting colours.

The numerous props were organised and created by the talented Lizzie Dixon.

What struck me this year, spending more time back stage, was the camaraderie and in particular the support given to making the experience fun and rewarding for all, especially children in the cast. There are many unsung heroes I have not mentioned who make this possible each year. Congratulations and thanks to each and every one of you for a spectacular show and if you didn't come this year, put it in your diary for next Christmas!
Christine Wheatley

Little Red and the Wolves

Martyr Worthy Village Hall 2016

The night of 9th January was wild and windy and the Werewolves were at large luckily confined to Martyr Worthy Village Hall, as we had chosen to walk there by torchlight with our four young, very excited grandchildren. Even the cows in Texas field added to the atmosphere by mooing at us over the fence as we walked down Church

Lane!

The show itselfwell a very different version of Little Red Riding Hood, cleverly performed by four actors of the Proteus Company and an almost life-size puppet, Little Red herself. The small cast acted, sang, performed acrobatics and kept us all very intrigued and entertained, with a clever plot involving bad wolves wanting to take over a town but being defeated in the end by the good. Clever dialogue, with the performers all playing several roles so plenty of costume changes all in a confined space with minimal props. Some more audience participation might have been welcomed by the many children present, but then it wasn't a traditional Pantomime and the Werewolves kept the young audience very engrossed. A most enjoyable evening, watching a clever and talented small touring company and very much appreciated by a full house.

Liz Platt



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Easton WI Update

Our January meeting was well attended and members remembered Doreen Scatchard who had been a valuable member for many years.

Kryrene displayed a wall hanging that had been stitched by members of W.I.'s in the valley around the time of the planned M3 depicting all the villages and members hope this could be put on permanent display in one of the local buildings.

We learnt that W.I. House in Gordon Road has now been sold, and the new County Headquarters are now in Eastleigh. All our usual activities are continuing and plans for future events in the year were discussed, including a party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Our Speaker was Jackie James, who gave a lucky member a relaxing foot massage, while explaining how areas on our feet connect to our body, and the pressure applied can relieve pain, help relaxation and relieve stress.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 11th February 7.15 pm at Easton Village Hall when our challenge will be 'Preparing a meal for £1 per head'.

Sallie Peake

Making Faster Rural Broadband happen in Easton and Itchen Abbas / Martyr Worthy

On Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th January, Harry Eastman, Chris Ellis and Jackie Porter hosted two meetings for residents of Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy.

We held two meetings because the solutions are different for the two communities, but we had interested



parties from Avington and Itchen Stoke too.

The aims of the meetings were:-

1. To make sure all those who attended knew why they hadn't got superfast broadband yet.
2. To inform everyone about the timetable for future work by BT. We are in the programme here until Jan-Sept 2018!!
3. To outline the options for us all.
4. To see what level of interest there is in any of these options, and take contact details so we can keep in touch and work out which options to take forward for the community.

So, what are the options?

- Do nothing and wait until 2018 and still find that our homes are the last 4% of homes that won't be connected (there are an estimated 23,000 homes in Hampshire in this position).

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- Club together to purchase a self funded solution of a new cabinet for all those affected (around £30K for Easton and £50K for Itchen Abbas/Martyr Worthy). These would take approximately 12-15 months to achieve, and need to be tackled separately. Fibre to the cabinet would bring real improvements in speed as anyone who is less than 1000m (as the wire goes, not the bird flies) would benefit from the change. This would benefit Easton as a whole village, but presents problems in Itchen Abbas/Martyr Worthy.

- Try out an alternative: 4G, Satellite, or wireless. This could take a few months to achieve, according to your choice of option. If you can be connected to one of these options, this will improve your speeds wherever you are.

We had a lot of interest from residents interested in seeking a quick alternative solution for themselves *and* funding a community solution for everyone.

Tom Ashbee, (who kindly hosts the Itchen List) and his Gigabeam business partner, Dudley Rees came along to tell us about their new wireless solution. Alan and David, Chilcomb residents and David, Itchen Abbas resident, described how they have been using the technology experimentally for some months and

were impressed.

On Saturday, I went with Alan and David to visit the site where Tom and Dudley have been working, which will 'broadcast' the wireless solution to residents. Just one small wire with so much power!

Two things to check for yourself:-

Check availability - to see if superfast broadband is available for your home or business visit

www.dslchecker.bt.com You will put in your home phone number, and it tells you a) which exchange you are on and b) what maximum speeds can be achieved. If you are confused by what you see, contact one of us, so we can explain what you see!

Contact me on

Jackie@jackieporter.co.uk (both communities) or Harry (for Itchen Abbas/Martyr Worthy)

harry@blackpiste.co.uk or Chris (for Easton) chrisellis99@gmail.com

so we know you are interested. We'll keep in touch and work out in which direction to go.

We will need to do more investigation for Avington and other residents further out, and inform you of your best options. It looks likely that a wireless solution would be the best for you at this stage.

So, if you are interested in faster broadband for your home or business, and didn't come to the meeting, please get in touch with us.

And if you need more explanation, we are happy to come and see you.

So, please, consider which options you prefer and contact us! We want to make faster rural broadband happen here too.

Jackie Porter

The Easton Perspective

The Easton broadband meeting was



well attended considering the weather with well over 50 people in the hall and many sending apologies but expressing interest. The session was introduced by Jackie Porter and then the situation as reported last month was presented and reviewed.

The three options available for most Easton Households are:

- Wait until late 2018 when the Hampshire Superfast Broadband project may deliver a by then adequate 24 Mbps download speed to most households who order it.

- Club together in some way to raise about £25,000 to pay BT direct to have the service installed quicker, probably in about 12 months

- Find an alternative supplier who is either satellite (TooWay) or wireless (Gigabeam) based.

Two residents from Chilcomb then came and talked about their experience with trying to obtain a quotation from BT Openreach (it never came), and their initial experience with a wireless trial. Both reported a reliable wireless service with very few caveats. Then David Leeming, a local landowner, was introduced who explained that he had been getting good service to the North of Itchen Abbas again from a wireless service such that he had cancelled his BT landline and now made all his telephone calls using a Voice Over IP service, something normally only considered in urban areas. Gigabeam, a fledgling provider of Wireless Broadband who provided both of the services discussed, presented its plans and intentions to provide a service which will commence in Chilcomb in February before moving on to Easton, Martyr Worthy and Chilland in the first quarter of 2016.

Finally, after some questions and answers, attendees were invited to

leave their email address if interested in further developments and opportunities, not least exploring raising funds to bring provision of adequate broadband to the community. Including villagers unable to attend, a mailing list of over 50 out of a possible 139 connections has been created which, with adjustment for households with business lines, is approaching 50% of the connected community. An excellent start.

Initial planned actions are to obtain a formal quotation from BT Openreach and determine a village institution able and willing to act as Financial Trustee and contracting party to order and manage the work. Meanwhile the progress of Gigabeam in making a wireless service will be closely monitored. Importantly if you would like to be on the Easton Broadband Interest Group List and/or you would like to be talked through copies of the presentations, please email chrise@synchronizm.co.uk

Chris Ellis

Itchen Abbas Carol Singing

We are pleased to report that as a result of two nights of carol singing we were able to donate £310 to the children's charity Barnardos.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to sing carols around Itchen Abbas. We received such a warm welcome, and kind hospitality and the wonderful folk of Little Hayes deserve a medal for standing in the rain waiting for us to arrive.

Joan & Rodney Dartnall



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RIP Harry Gray 1923 – 2015



Until recent years Harry was a familiar sight driving through the villages of the Itchen Valley often with one or two dogs perched precariously on the tailboard of his Land Rover.

Harry was born at Grace's Farm along with his two brothers and one sister. His father was not from a farming family. He arrived here from Devon in 1911 and took on the farm tenancy. By the outbreak of WW2 he also held the tenancy of Bridget's farm.

Harry recalled a world of Shire horses, working in teams of three, corn ricks assembled from shocks created by a reaper/binder, which awaited the annual visit of a steam powered threshing machine. Shorthorn cows were hand milked from two dairies, one at Grace's and one in Martyr Worthy. Sheep, pigs, laying hens, cereal crops were sold and fodder crops grown for the farm's livestock. Produce was taken by horse and cart to Itchen Abbas train station or to Winchester Market

on a Monday. Livestock would be moved by foot along the roads for quite long distances. There was no electricity at Grace's Farm, but they did have a telephone.

Harry enjoyed academia and attended Dauntsey's Boarding School. He left aged 16 following the premature death of his father. His brother John, aged just 19, took over the farm tenancies and Harry worked as an 'apprentice' in the farming industry in neighbouring counties and for his uncle Percy Edmond's agricultural engineering company in Itchen Abbas.

He took on the Grace's Farm tenancy in 1950, following his marriage to Iris. Over the years they managed to purchase the freeholds of Grace's, Easton Farm and part of Burntwood Farm. In 2011 the family celebrated 100 years of the Grays farming Grace's Farm.

Harry was a progressive and forward thinking farmer who embraced change, even in his latter years. He believed that as time moves on, we must move with it.

He took pride in being dependable and a 'man of his word'. A well liked employer, many of his staff remained with him for most of their working lives.

In the 1960s he became County Chairman of the National Farmers' Union and was subsequently elected onto the boards of various farming organisations. He became an employers' representative for industrial tribunals. Harry was instrumental in setting up Hampshire Grain and was its first Chairman.

Locally, Harry was a Vice President of Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club and Winchester Rugby Club. He was Chairman of the Itchen Valley Parish Council for some years, where it

seems meetings always finished at 9.30pm prompt, even if someone was in mid sentence! He was always happy to support local activities and functions and preferred our villages to be dynamic communities, rather than relics of a bygone age!

In later life he and Iris were able to take holidays and very much enjoyed travelling, often with friends from the farming community.

Harry loved his family, his farm and the Itchen Valley and rarely expressed any regrets, feeling fortunate to have led a full and interesting life.

The family would like to thank everyone in the Itchen valley who helped with the church, flowers and car parking. They are very grateful for all the lovely messages of condolences received.

Contributed

RIP Doreen Scatchard 1933 - 2016



As read at Doreen's funeral

Today should be one of the saddest in my life but it isn't. It is one of pride, love and celebration that my mum, our mum, was Doreen Scatchard.

She wore many hats in her 82 years – sister, policeman's wife, aunt, mother, pantomime fairy, Brown Owl, nursing home cook and carer, MS Society

member, Trefoil, W.I and Friendship Club member. And an infamous babysitter throughout the Itchen Valley.

Life for Doreen started on 6th December 1933 when she arrived as the second child of Arthur and May Punter. She was a sister for Ray and the family eventually settled in Winchester as Arthur's police career developed. Ray left for National Service and eventually settled to family life in New Zealand but the strong family bonds grew and they were always in each other's thoughts as the years passed.

In September 1956 Doreen married a policeman, some fellow called Tom Scatchard. Married life started on St James's Terrace in Winchester. A posting to Itchen Abbas in 1963 saw the beginning of a life in the Itchen Valley that lasted for 52 years. By 1967 all three children had arrived: Kay in 1962, Jill in 1964 and finally Bryan. Life settled to the routine and challenges of being in a police family. To make the situation even more complicated, she took on the Martyr Worthy Brownie Pack, becoming Brown Owl and continuing on from her childhood guiding experiences which Ray assures me were considerably more organised and disciplined than the absolute shower of ambling miscreants that called themselves scouts. She was at the heart of all the usual brownie and guide antics of pack holidays, revels, a trip to Switzerland and numerous good works for the Itchen Valley and the wider community.

In the early 1970s Doreen had been told that she would cross water to live. This indeed was the case as the family crossed the Itchen to live in Easton when Tom retired from the police. Doreen resumed her performance

Itchen Valley Church Services



Sunday 7th February

8am	BCP Holy Communion	Avington
10am	All Age Service	Easton
11am	Matins	Martyr Worthy
6pm	Healing and Wholeness	Itchen Abbas

Sunday 14th February

8am	BCP Holy Communion	Easton
10am	Parish Communion	Itchen Abbas
6pm	Lent Course Compline	Martyr Worthy

Sunday 21st February

8am	BCP Holy Communion	Martyr Worthy
10am	Parish Communion	Easton
6pm	Lent Course Compline	Avington

Sunday 28th February

8am	BCP Holy Communion	Itchen Abbas
10am	Parish Communion	Martyr Worthy
6pm	Lent Course Compline	Easton

Ministry Team

Rector

Rev Amanda Denniss 779832 amandadenniss@gmail.com

Curates

Rev Alex Pease 791010 rev@ampease.co.uk
Rev Rebecca Fardell 809264 rebecca.itchenvalley@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mr Tony Gaster 779110 tonygaster@btinternet.com
Mr Gerry Stacey 620263 gstacey@easynet.co.uk

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

Itchen Valley Churchwardens

St Mary's Easton: Anna Burness 779993, Theo Mezger 07775 908014
St John's Itchen Abbas: Charlotte Appleby 779778, Tony Gaster 779110
St Swithun's Martyr Worthy: Andrew Impey 779645, Robin Greenwood 779540

appearances in the Easton Village Pantomime, thus building on her time in the Winchester Amateur Operatic Society.

Tom was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis which would become a significant part of family life. Both Tom and Doreen became heavily involved in the MS Society and she was proud of what she achieved and the strength of the friendships that she made. She faced this challenge with the same fortitude, resilience, courage, humour and sheer will that would serve her well in the latter years.

Doreen achieved one of her greatest ambitions in 1994 when she travelled to New Zealand to visit Ray, his wife Norah and their family. She spent 10 days under canvas on the Coromandel Peninsula, fishing with her brother and spending time with the families of Sarah, Graham and Claire.

The arrival of grandchildren in Rebecca in 1988 and Sophie in 1993 provided her with a new focus. The death of Tom in 1996 gave a new chapter to her life of babysitting, housesitting and a greater involvement in Valley life.

Tom's death marked a waypoint in Doreen's continued willingness in stepping up and rendering loving care and practical assistance to family and friends who suffered from the ravages of ill-health and old age.

Doreen crossed the water once more, moving back to Itchen Abbas and Hazeldene Gardens where she welcomed old and new friends alike. The arrival of two more grandchildren in Martha and Harriet saw her re-energised as she skilfully managed their little ways.

The latter years of her life were dogged by increasingly severe ill-health yet she remained resilient, courageous and of good humour in the face of very

difficult circumstances. Those who cared for her on a daily basis were always impressed by her fortitude and ability to keep calm and carry on. When the end came she was ready to go and was, in her words, "waiting for the call" – a sign of the strength of her faith. Her death was quiet, peaceful and dignified.

Doreen Scatchard was one of a kind – a generous, humorous, blunt, practical, loving and courageous woman who didn't shirk from what life threw at her. She was our mum, granny, granny Scatchard, granny Handbag, granny Scatch. An aunt, sister and friend. We will miss her.

Bryan Scatchard

Itchen Valley News distribution queries



A few of our readers may have received their copy of the January 2016 edition a little later than

usual. For this I apologise and I can only blame the busy nature of the Christmas season.

If you do not receive your copy of the magazine by the end of the month, please contact us. If you do not know who your own local distributor is, the phone numbers of our village distributors, Mima White and Jane Chichester, are shown in the small print of page 3. You will of course need to keep the previous month's issue to get the phone number to query any non-delivery of this month's edition

Vernon Tottle

Editor Itchen Valley News

Easton & Martyr Worthy
Safari Supper – Saturday 5th
March 2016

This year's Safari Supper for Easton and Martyr Worthy residents will be held on Saturday 5th March. We really hope that new arrivals to our villages and people who have not attended before will come and join us as it is a great way to get to know your neighbours. Whilst enjoying a gastronomic evening we shall be raising funds for Easton Village Hall and St Mary's Church. Please use the application form within this issue to make your booking and send it with a cheque made payable to T McGowan to Wincroft, Easton, Winchester, SO21 1ER. The last date

for applications to be received will be **Friday 26th February 2016.** For those who don't know, the idea of the Safari Supper is that participants travel from house to house for three separate courses, meeting different people at each course. We shall then all meet up together for the grand finale at The Farmyard, the home of Theo & Judith Mezger who have kindly agreed to welcome us at the end of the evening. For the event to work most people need to host a course although first timers are usually exempt! The donation price is £25 again this year and at least £12 of this will be divided between Easton Village Hall and St Mary's Church. For those who cater the reimbursement for each person will be: Starter Course £3: Main

EASTON & MARTYR WORTHY SAFARI SUPPER
SATURDAY 5th MARCH 2016

If you would like to take part in the Safari Supper please fill in this form and post/deliver it to T. McGowan at Wincroft, Easton, Winchester, SO21 1ER

Name (s)

Address.....
.....

Tel No

I/We wish to take part and are willing to cater for people (including ourselves)

We are prepared to offer one of the following courses:
Starter / Main course / Sweet and Cheese – (please delete any you would rather not provide)

I enclose a donation of £.....for persons at £25 per head (cheques payable to T. McGowan)

I/We accept full legal liability for our actions and absolve the organisers from any responsibility.

CLOSING DATE FRIDAY 26th FEBRUARY

Course £4: Dessert Course: £3: The remaining £3 will go towards postage, administration and for the cost of the finale.

We hope to make this a truly worthwhile fundraiser for local causes and a super evening for everyone who attends so please come along and join us. If you would like any further information please phone one of the organisers below.

Terry and Anna McGowan Tel 779350

Hilary Castle Tel 779572

RIP Robert Bickerdike 1919 - 2015



As a very small boy, the first wedding I attended was of Robert and Joan. He was my father's youngest first cousin. Both our families came from the

Blackburn area in Lancashire. His father ran a chemical manufacturing company. Robert went as a boarder to Dauntseys School in Wiltshire and as the only relative living in the South my father used to take him out when there was an exeat Sunday. Somewhere I have a photograph from that time of Robert in shorts climbing a tree.

Despite some somewhat lax teaching at school he won a place at Caius College, Cambridge and it was here he developed an interest in metallurgy.

His holidays were spent in the North on the Solway Firth and in the Lake District. It was from these places that he gained a love of the outdoors.

On graduating from Cambridge, Robert

received a telegram asking him to report to the scientists working at The Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. He started work on counter measures to the weapons developed by the Nazi regime but with the arrival of the jet engine moved onto developing new alloys needed for the high temperatures at which these machines operated. Work was interrupted when, as war ended, he was sent with other scientists to Europe to discover scientific advances made by the Germans and their allies. He once remarked "that the Americans may have got the rocket scientists but we got the aircraft engineers". Not many people know that.

On returning to Farnborough he continued his work on metal alloys and for a time led the research team on titanium. The French awarded him and his team the Lavoisier Medal for this work. Further work ranged from nuclear reactors for Harwell to the spark machining of turbine blades. This and other work led in 1971 to the presentation by Sir Barnes Wallis of a Royal Society of Arts prize. Later work went on into research and development of aluminium alloys for high speed aircraft and in 1975 Robert was presented by the Duke of Kent with the Royal Aeronautical Society Bronze Medal.

He handed his role onto others in 1981 but continued as a consultant for another two years.

Robert and Joan first lived in Farnham but on seeing an advert in the Observer bought an aging and isolated farm house in East Woldham. In summer it was surrounded by acres of wheat and barley fields as well as open country. This gave much enjoyment watching

the wild life that surrounded them. It also led to a lot of renovation and d-i-y work for which Robert developed quite a talent. Something that came in useful when they went on to buy first a holiday cottage in France and later one in Scotland. Finally almost thirty years ago they came to Itchen Abbas.

Although trained as a scientist, Robert took great interest in many things. He was an accomplished artist, always pleased when he sold a painting and was especially chuffed when three of his pictures were accepted by the Royal Institute of Oil Painters for their annual exhibition at the Mall Galleries. He wrote poetry. His grand children read some of them at his memorial service and you can read them on the church web site.

A keen gardener with a love of many plants but especially roses. When we decided to have rose bed in the front garden, he went into action and rapidly produced a list of those most likely to survive in our conditions. As well as his own garden, he tended the churchyard for a number of years, a great relief to a certain church warden at one time. Robert was a great reader, preferring books to television. The range was wide but his love above all in literature was for the classics delighting in the elegance of the prose.

His grandfather (my great grandfather) had been an enthusiastic traveller and he must have inherited the gene. There are pictures of him as a young man (again taken by my father) on family skiing holidays before the second world war. Don't forget you had to walk up the hills in those days as well as slide down them. He later took his own family skiing as well as camping in the summer but eventually the tent was replaced by the cottage in the Dordogne and more renovation work.

In retirement, travel continued not only in Europe but to the USA and Russia. At the age of eighty he travelled to India and Pakistan and at ninety back in Europe to Italy. He would usually try to plan his holidays around gardens, art galleries and operas. He loved music, so when Grange Park Opera opened its doors he promptly signed up as a Founder Member.

More could be told but pages are limited and few in the Itchen Valley can have known all of what is written above about this quiet spoken gentleman who was a true polymath.

Patrick Appleby

Itchen Insight



Name: Rebecca Fardell

Age: older than I was yesterday and younger than I will be tomorrow

Occupation: Curate

How many years you've lived in the Valley: I've been working in the Valley for 2 and a half years (I actually live in Winchester)

Your life in 140 characters: born in Winchester; grew up on the Island; went to University where my life was transformed by becoming a committed Christian; a long journey from curator to curate.

Champagne moment: being ordained in Winchester Cathedral

Surprising snippet: I am an award winning tea maker!

Passion: helping people to grow in their relationship with Jesus

Favourite place in Hampshire: there are so many lovely places, do I really have

to choose a favourite?

Best thing about the Valley: the warm welcome of the people

Worst thing about the Valley: having to cross the M3 to get to it

Favourite Book or Film: the Bible of course, though I am also a huge fan of Shakespeare and Jane Austen

Best one-liner or favourite quote: Jesus said 'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly' (John 10.10)

Letter to the Editor

Dear 2015 Martyr Worthy Christmas Quizmaster!

OMG this was sooo hard.... and I am afraid we have not a lot to show for it, but the Quiz travelled a fair amount (east and west).

First at the beginning of December Lotti (our 21 year old daughter) took the quiz to Indonesia where she was visiting her boyfriend Dan Geerah at The Little Fireface Project, near Sukabumi, West Java (he is studying Zoology and is out there for his 3rd year placement). They had endless fun solving a few of the



clues whilst tracking, re-collaring slow lorises at night and climbing active volcanos!

Then Glynn and I flew out to Kicking Horse, British Columbia on Christmas Day for our 2 week skiing holiday. The flights and car drives provided plenty of



time to figure out some more clues and as I broke my collarbone on day 4, I had even more time on my hands.

What about a Spring Quiz?

Ina Williams (with Glynn and Lotti Williams & Dan Geerah)

Valley Entrepreneurs

This month in keeping with an end to 'dry' January we salivate over some local liqueurs with the Wessex Wild Plum Company, owned by William Parry and Sophie Jackson from Martyr Worthy.

Tell us a little about your drinks company.

The company was established in 2011 to continue the passionate work of a retired gentleman who was then in his nineties who, over 30 years, had planted and cultivated an orchard of old English plum trees. He produced niche traditional alcoholic drinks, applying knowledge gleaned from his lifelong career with Courage Breweries. We took on his orchards, production equipment and processes and, most importantly, recipes. The Wessex Wild Plum Company undertakes every stage of the growing, harvesting and production processes, and currently produces

five distinct plum liqueurs using five different varieties of plums.

What led you to set up the business?

We immediately loved the two drinks we tried that he had perfected, but which he was soon going to cease producing. We were encouraged to take up the reins by the loyal customer group who had enjoyed and relied



upon the drinks over many years.

Tell us a little about the early months and what did you need to learn?

The business needed modernising and the best way to achieve this was to establish a new company and introduce some new energy. With no previous experience in the drink sector there was, and indeed remains, a huge amount for us to learn; plumpox, hydrometers, 50µ sieves and bottling machinery to name but a few!

What do you most enjoy about running your own business?

There is always too much to do, but there is great variety and satisfaction in producing a niche product. It is joyful to see our shelves full of all of our different, multi coloured drinks, and hearing all the comments made about our drinks is always fun. The balancing act of having to focus on very different aspects of a business - operational matters one day, customers the next, is

much more often rewarding than not.

What has been the highlight so far for you?

Being invited to speak to a horticultural society about growing plums, and becoming a supplier to Fortnum & Mason as part of their 2015 Christmas festive drinks range.

What has been your most unusual order?

Dispatching a case of our Golden Bullace plum liqueur to a customer in upstate New York in the USA, making use of his private plane to transport it to guarantee that it arrived intact and on time.

Where can people find you and your drinks locally?

Karen kindly stocks our drinks in the village shop at the Chestnut Horse in Easton, and we also supply the Good Life Farm Shop in Headbourne Worthy.

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

We have just moved to new premises at Newhouse Farm in Northington where we are planting over 2,000 plum trees this year. We are very much looking forward to incorporating many varieties of our Hampshire grown plums into our drinks in the years ahead.

Dionne Saunders & Lucy de Laszlo

Alresford Surgery News

Pneumonia Clinics

Patients who will be 65 on March 31st 2016 are invited to receive the pneumonia vaccination and will have received a letter from us.

Shingles Vaccinations

We have recently sent letters to all patients who qualify for this

Richard Steel



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vaccination.

Anyone aged 70 can have the shingles vaccine on the NHS. You become eligible for the vaccine from the first day of September after your 70th birthday for the following year.

Anyone aged 80 and over is unsuitable to have the shingles vaccination on the NHS because it seems to be less effective in this age group. The programme is designed to offer immunisation to all patients aged between 70 and 80, over the next few years.

Wessex Healthier Together

The 'Wessex Healthier Together' project is exploring how parents, carers & community services might be better supported and integrated with hospital based services so that children are able to access the 'right care at the right time from the right person'.

The Wessex Healthier Together website is being developed to provide useful resources for parents, carers and young people (via information leaflets, self-care advice, and guidance on when and how to access appropriate local healthcare services).

www.healthiertogetherwessex.nhs.uk

Telephone: 01962 732345

Website: www.alresfordsurgery.co.uk

The Practical Gardener

It's been very wet recently and that has probably deterred us from venturing out into our gardens. As I write it's now frosty, just how winter should be, so let's hope for a dry, cold and sunny month. But now is the time for planning and preparation. It's time to start sowing.

I'm a great believer in propagators which consume minimal power but give just enough heat for good germination. Some flower seeds are easy to grow

and for sure perennials can be started now; I will probably be sowing annuals by mid-February. I do believe in experimenting and I've had both good and bad results. For example lupins or delphiniums grow easily but the plants need time to develop. As for annuals, marigolds and asters do really well in our soil. It seems to me a good plan to have some areas in the garden to provide cut flowers and therefore make access easy.

I'm fortunate in having a greenhouse and this really helps with not only keeping tender plants over the winter



(I heat mine to be just frost free) but also for onward growth of young plants. I've lots of sweet peas already



up and will sow more now. They are also great for fragrant cut flowers and easy to grow.

One of the key issues I have found is watering. This is a topic where I do seek advice through my gardening library as there are no universal rules. Most small plants will die if unwatered or over-watered.

The greenhouse was having a difficult time over the holidays. It was very damp and plants were suffering. So I brought in one of my dehumidifiers which extracted about a gallon of water a day until I could lower the setting to keep a reasonable balance. My greenhouse is heated by two tubular heaters operated by thermostat and a backup fan heater which hasn't actually been needed until recent days. Ventilation is difficult but on warmer days, I leave the door open for a few hours. I also have an electric fan, also run by thermostat. As the greenhouse is bubble-wrapped none of the main vents work.

Recent storms have left a lot of debris, much of which needs burning. All shrubs and trees can benefit from pruning and now is a good time as long as it's not frosty. It's also a good time to look at your boundaries and attend to anything which might be causing a problem for your neighbours. Seasons are changing as the climate becomes more extreme. Always a challenge for gardeners!

Tony Gaster

Inflation is not a bad word!



On a recent trip to the USA, I wanted to buy a Ryobi compressor which is far cheaper (45%) than here. Going through security, it and the battery I had bought had to be hand carried. I was anxious about a lithium battery but it

caused no problems. However, the security officer wanted to inspect my new toy. "What does it do?" he asked. I was about to reply "I blow up my tyres with it" when suddenly I had to choose a different word for obvious reasons. "It's an inflator" I said and that was enough.

Tony Gaster

In Vino 'Verity'



Embracing the pre Lent spirit, Verity has kindly provided us with some smashing cocktail ideas....perhaps worth trying at a Safari Supper?

Aperol Spritz

3 measures of prosecco

2 measures of Aperol

1 spritz of soda

Mezcal Marguerita

Instructions: In a cocktail shaker with ice, combine 2 ounces of mezcal, 1 ounce of fresh lime juice, and ½ ounce of agave syrup (light agave dissolved in an equal amount of hot water). Shake that all up, strain it into a cocktail glass and garnish with a lime wheel.

Eds: Thanks Verity. This helped us through our 'computer crisis'

Small Ads

Housekeeper needed (part-time)

Seeking part-time housekeeper in Easton, starting immediately. Hours flexible but could average 4-6 hours per week; role would include cleaning, laundry, occasional childminding and meal preparation. Please contact Simon 01962 791098

Itchen Valley Parish Council

Vacancy For

Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

The Council is seeking a replacement Clerk/RFO. This is a part-time home-based administrative post to include:- planning responses, parish maintenance requirements, administration of the parish council accounts, supporting Parish Councillors in their duties and attending one Full Council a month, one planning meeting a month plus any other meetings as and when required.

The ability to work alone and to be able to take direction is essential as are good administrative and IT skills. Previous parish council experience is an advantage but training to gain CiLCA qualifications can be arranged.

The annual salary will be based on experience at the current NALC recommendations for the size of the Parish.

For further information please contact

**Patrick Appleby (Itchen Valley Parish Council), Shrubs Hill, Main Road,
Itchen Abbas, Winchester, SO21 1AT Tel 01962 779778**

e-mail; pbapps@gmail.com

Closing date for applications:- 20th February 2016

Wilbur Moves In



The timing could have been better - Christmas morning after a late breakfast. Seven members of the Percy

family, six adults and nine month old Juliette, gathered together for the duration. All were in great spirits with the smell of roasting turkey wafting through the house and the sound of champagne corks popping until - gadzooks - the central heating packed up, leaving us with no heating or hot water. This was either going to be pure misery or a family bonding experience. But wait, we have a British Gas Homecare contract. Do they work on Christmas Day? Well, it seems they were not only working but were able to attend within the hour and had us up and running in thirty minutes. Brilliant work!

While we were gratefully plying the

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engineer with coffee and mince pies, he produced a Christmas present with the compliments of British Gas. It was a stuffed toy, a penguin called *Wilbur the Explorer* “lovingly crafted from the finest materials fish can buy”. He came with his own certificate of authenticity and a passport. We were very taken with this corporate largesse. Three cheers for British Gas!

The shine was only slightly taken off this positive experience when the engineer had to return to fix two new problems on Boxing Day and New Year’s Eve. We were not wholly surprised, however, as our resident gremlins tend to get over-excited when there are young people around. Now that it’s just we two old codgers again, all has gone quiet. ‘Til the next time ...
Steve and Alex Percy

Winchester Constituency Update



One of the biggest stories of last year was the migrant crisis facing Europe and, latterly, the UK joining military action in air strikes over Syria. I voted for that (albeit extremely limited) action in the key Commons vote just before Christmas but I only did so, following private discussions with the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister, because I was assured of our wider strategy involving the UN, the Vienna peace process to bring about a post-Assad Government in Syria and a humanitarian policy that

would see Syrians given genuine asylum here in the UK.

To take one thousand before Christmas was a big ask but we did just that and it was my honour on Christmas Eve to meet one family coming to live in Winchester. They were understandably anxious, and the children frightened, but they are safe and being properly looked after by an impressive welcome plan involving Hampshire County and Winchester City Council at their best as well as various third sector agencies. Indeed when we met they were between appointments at the job centre and the school their children would attend and were accompanied by a British Red Cross caseworker and interpreter. The Prime Minister has been very personally involved in this effort and was genuinely touched when I called him after our meeting to let him know another family is here and being given safe haven in the UK. I subsequently raised the issue in the House of Commons on our first day back after the festive recess and made the point that, while there are always those who say we should do more or do it faster, the British welcome to these refugees has been professional, well planned and in the interests of both those seeking asylum and the settled ‘host’ population.

For me, one reason our country has such a settled integrated migrant population is because we do things, not in-haste to feed a ghastly tabloid (or heaven forbid email campaign) agenda but properly – the British way. Furthermore, our policy of taking genuine asylum seekers direct from the displacement camps in the Middle East is also right in my opinion and being proved ever more wise by events elsewhere in Europe. We will now do what we promised and take the 20,000
Continued on P36

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MONDAY: 9-10am, 6:30-7:30pm

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7-8pm

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4-7:30pm



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Thur 11th 19:00 – 22:00

Sat 13th 14:00 – 18:00

EVH committee meeting

WI meeting

Children's party



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Mon – Fri 9am – 1pm Riverbank
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Thursday – 7 – 9.30pm Whist Drive

Others

Saturday 27th am - Children's party

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Winchester Constituency Update Cont....
refugees as announced. You can see details, and follow the links to watch my exchange with the Prime Minister in the House via www.stevebrine.com/syrianrefugees

Locally, I must mention broadband of course ... turns out I know one half of the Gigabeam team from a former Saturday morning ballet class (it's a long story) so I was delighted to hear of their possible solution and of the positive response to their presentation at last month's meetings in Easton and Itchen Abbas.

Given the statist approach seemingly embodied by BT Openreach (as previously mentioned in my column) it is little surprise that a probable solution comes from the innovation of the competitive private sector. We wish them well and I look forward to introducing them to Ministerial colleagues in due course. As to the rest of the debate in the Valley, so long as we move forward from an informed position and focus on the end result, I think we could have an early gift from 2016 that will change things for the better for many of us.

Finally, I have added a new date to my much in-demand draw for tickets to watch PMQs. If you and a friend would like to be considered for Cameron V Corbyn on Wednesday 13th April 2016, please visit www.stevebrine.com/PMQs to enter.

You can find more information about my other work as your local MP, in Winchester and Westminster, via the website or on 01962 791110.

Steve Brine MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

Steve Brine

steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk

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Jackie's County Corner



Recycling is in the spotlight again as the amount that we recycle has *dropped* from 27 to 22% in Winchester district, but still the County seems determined to take drastic action and

the New Alresford recycling centre is threatened with closure on some days or even *complete closure*.

As I write this, the questions are not published, but I do know the HWRC consultation starts on 25th January for eight weeks. So please, send in your replies and make your feelings well known!

The Watercress Way team have opened a bank account and the trustees are being recommended to the Charity Commission. There are six projects for 2016, which I'll outline in the next County Corner, or you can see them on

www.thewatercressway.org.uk

The flooding threat isn't just in the north of England, we have had a huge amount of rain in Hampshire and some frightening flash floods here. If you have a 'near miss' at your property, please contact me immediately. Residents did just that in Alresford recently when a river of dirty water flowed along Sun Lane. Prompt action by residents saved their homes and the police, and county highways team helped to deal with passing traffic etc. We are now trying to find out why this flood occurred.

Parents recently made a deputation to the County Council about the lack of funds for breastfeeding support. It amazes me how this well used service fails to be funded despite its obvious

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benefits. I helped to fund the Winchester service last year through the County Councillor grant scheme. If you have need of a grant for something for your community, please contact me.

This is the time of year (before the 1st March) to cut your hedges before the birds start nesting again. With global warming, the daffodils are out early - so maybe they will be nesting earlier this year? Better get cutting that hedge!

You can contact me at

Jackie@jackieporter.co.uk by phone 01962 791054 or at our published surgeries.

Letter from the Rectory



All of us at some stage will face one of the storms of life. I'm very aware of this at the moment as two of my closest friends are going through really tough times. One

found out that she had cancer and needed to have a mastectomy just before Christmas. The other is facing financial strains due to long term unemployment.

Life can seem to be going along quite nicely and then a storm hits. There is a story in the bible in Matthew's gospel about Jesus being caught up in a storm. He was crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat with his followers when suddenly a violent storm blew up. The disciples of Jesus were absolutely terrified. It must have been a really bad storm as most of them were seasoned fishermen who were very used to being out in a boat in all sorts of weathers. There are many extraordinary things in this account of Matthew's in the bible, but possibly the most surprising is that

Jesus was sound asleep during the storm. However much the rain lashed down and the wind blew, however big the waves became, Jesus slept soundly on. The disciples rushed to Jesus, woke him up and said, 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!'

Jesus was totally calm. He got up and rebuked the wind and the waves and complete calm was restored.

How could Jesus be so calm in the middle of such a fierce storm? Jesus was completely peaceful. He knew that he was totally secure in the love of God his Father. He also knew that he had power and authority over the storm. Jesus spoke. The storm was stilled. This is one of the stories that points to Jesus being more than just a good person who spoke about how we could lead good lives. The story points to the divinity of Jesus.

All of us will face storms in our lives: illness, difficulties in relationships, bereavement, financial strains. Jesus has power over these storms and we can be like the disciples and cry out to him. The way we do this is in prayer. Sometimes Jesus will answer the prayer by stilling the storm completely, but sometimes he will give us the strength to go through the storm to the other side. This is what has happened to my friend who was diagnosed with breast cancer. I and many others have been praying for her as we ask Jesus for healing and strength. She is wonderfully peaceful and full of joy even as she waits for the result of further tests. This is a wonderful answer to our prayers and to the trust she has put in Jesus in the middle of the storm of cancer.

All of us will face storms. This story of Jesus encourages us to reach out to him in prayer.

Revd Amanda Denniss

From the Parish Council



Firstly, please refer to the separate article on Clean for the Queen. It is a great chance for a community activity which should give a much needed

improvement to our villages and the road verges between them.

Viv Brooks our Parish Clerk has decided to stand down. At our last meeting, the Council thanked Viv for all her hard work and guidance over several years.

We are still investigating criteria needed to comply with the latest transparency requirements. There are some complex questions and professional advice is awaited.

Advice is also awaited on the question as to whether we need a Neighbourhood Development Plan. As the consequences could be far reaching, it is better to take time and gather as much information as possible. Finally with all the wet weather there has been concern expressed about road drainage. In general most of the roads are draining reasonably well given the conditions. There are a number of bad spots which have been highlighted with the County Highways Department. Please remember that priority has to be given to the greatest need and that there are many places that are far worse with real flooding problems. For those with ditches it may well be your responsibility to clear them, and if you can, a little bit of self help can go a long way.

Patrick Appleby
(Parish Council Chairman)

Local monthly information

Waste collections in February

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

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Itchen Abbas 11.15 am Easton 11.45 am

Cameo

On Tuesday 16th February.

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School term timetable operates from Monday 1st to Friday 12th and Monday 22nd to Monday 29th February:

Weekdays to Winchester:

07:53 09:23 11:23 13:23 16:23 17:23

Weekdays to Alresford:

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

School holiday timetable operates from Monday 15th to Friday 19th February:

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 service

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