

# Valley<sup>ITCHEN</sup> News

Issue 37 January 2017 For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy





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# WELCOME to the Valley News



The January edition of the Valley News is an interesting one, it comes out before Christmas but has to last throughout January, so it is a balance between wishing you Happy Christmas - which I do - and realising that by the time the next one comes out, Christmas will feel a long time ago. I would like to remind you that the season of Christmas (that is, we hope, the season of peace and goodwill!) lasts for 12 days, of which Christmas Day is the FIRST, not, as is often the case in shops and businesses, the last. Please keep celebrating until Twelfth Night (6<sup>th</sup> January), or alternatively (and perhaps more sensibly) join the Dryathlon and raise much needed money for Cancer Research. In these secular days it is somewhat surprising that New Year, and the chance to make a new start, is not made more of. This year the first day of the New Year is a Sunday, so a chance for some peaceful reflection maybe, especially if the various children's sporting activities are taking a break.

Some of the great Valley events are happening while this magazine is at the printers, so look out for photographs of all these colourful affairs in the next edition.

2016 has, as many commentators have already pointed out, and many more will do at the turn of the year, been an extraordinary year. One of the lessons to be learnt is that opinion polls are no longer a reliable guide to the likely outcome of elections, yet strangely, they are still reported with apparent confidence.

The Oxford Dictionaries Word of the

Year 2016 is **post-truth** – an adjective defined as 'relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief'. For old fashioned people like me, especially those with a science background, this seems a tragedy, but no doubt the world will adjust - oh yes we will!

In the meantime, enjoy the Christmas and New Year celebrations. I shall take the advice of this month's Itchen Insight (P25) regarding New Year resolutions, I hope that one of yours will be to contribute to the IVN in 2017. Lucy and Fi are next month's editors.

Best wishes

*Charlotte Appleby*

## Itchen Valley News

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## What's On

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### **Carol Singing 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

You will just have time to come carol singing on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and/or Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Ring 779538 for details.

*Joan Dartnall*

### **Martyr Worthy Children's Christmas Party**

This is a reminder for all children aged 3 to 8 who live in or have a family connection with Martyr Worthy. You are warmly invited to a Children's Christmas party to be held at the Village Hall on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017** from 3 to 5pm. Entertainment by the ever popular *Robbie the Wizard* will be followed by a party tea. Attendance is free but parents/grandparents are asked to bring a plate of food and are, of course, welcome to stay and enjoy the fun. If you haven't already done so, please contact Sara Mason (07787 538306 or [splmason@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:splmason@hotmail.co.uk)) to book your place. We look forward to seeing you all.

*Guy Green*

### **Rotary Quiz**

Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February: tables of six, £10 a head, lasagne and licensed bar. Please contact James Pinniger (eve and weekends) 01962 738788 or [wjrp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wjrp@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Easton & Martyr Worthy Safari Supper 2017**

A date for your diaries. This year's Safari Supper will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Full details and application form in the February edition of the magazine.

*Terry & Anna McGowan 779350*

## Dryathlon for Cancer Research

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It is time for New Year resolutions. Yes, that makes most of us groan. The best suggestion that I have heard recently is that when you give something up you should fill the gap by starting something new and worthwhile, maybe for others. That can help to relieve the loss and bring a new pleasure instead.

Last January I read many articles by people like Rachel Johnson who wrote that she had given up alcohol for January. Ten days into this challenge she was regretting it and thinking of just drinking at weekends instead. I know how easy it is to give up alcohol and how difficult it is, even if you are not addicted to it, to keep off the drink. But then I also read of the Dryathlon challenge to do exactly that and abstain for January. It is one of many fundraising initiatives run by Cancer Research UK and at the last count I have seen had attracted over 200,000 participants, raising several million pounds for its lifesaving research work.

What a way to take the sting out of abstinence by doing something so important for others.

And on the way, joining up to a Dryathlon challenge could well relieve the Christmas hangover. Think how much the family and friends could also enjoy a break from the mood swings and self-centred ways that come, albeit much denied, with over indulgence in drink. The children could even have a second and real season of goodwill. Why not look up Dryathlon and join one of their fundraising challenges this New Year?

*Nick Owen*



# Martyr Worthy Lecture Series 2016/17

in aid of the four churches in Itchen Valley Parish

at Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, SO21 1BQ  
from 7.00pm for a complimentary glass of wine and canapés

Lectures will be an hour, starting at 7.45pm



Thursday 26th January 2017

## THE WORLD IN CONFLICT – John Andrews

*(Author, journalist, former Foreign Correspondent of The Economist)*

Tuesday 28th February 2017

## A TALE OF TWO CITIES: OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE – John Davies

Tickets are £15 from: [martyrworthylectures@gmail.com](mailto:martyrworthylectures@gmail.com)

or by phone to Liz Platt 779298

Gilly Greenwood 779540

Joanna Lang 734209

Verity Coleman 882800



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## Winchester Theatre Royal

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Join us for our traditional panto, the magical tale of **Cinderella**. With its catchy tunes, audience participation, wickedly funny script and **real-life ponies**, Cinderella is the perfect seasonal treat for you and your loved ones.

Did we mention there will be real adorable ponies live on the stage? Oh yes we did!

*Why is Cinderella so bad at sports?*

*Because she has a pumpkin for a coach, and she runs away from the ball.*

This Christmas is your time to boo the Ugly Sisters, cheer the Fairy Godmother and laugh with Buttons as Prince Charming falls in love with Cinderella.

This year we are also providing two relaxed performances of Cinderella to help those with learning difficulties and dementia enjoy the excitement of live pantomime. Relaxed performances provide a supportive environment for people with learning disabilities, special needs, Autistic Spectrum Condition or dementia. We are also offering a Touch Tour to accompany this year's pantomime. The Touch Tour will be an opportunity for those who are visually impaired to experience the stage, and feel the set and costumes to enhance their enjoyment of the show  
*Winchester Theatre Royal*

## Pub Spy – The Plough

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Over the past ten years, the Itchen Abbas village pub has had four different managers/owners with varying degrees of success. It's also changed its name from The Plough, to The Trout and back again. A much needed face lift was given about four years ago which provided for separate restaurant and bar areas. There have also been many improvements outside including a larger summer seating area and better parking.

Our weekday visit on the lead up to Christmas for lunch proved to be very good. We had specifically asked for a table in the bar area so we could bring our dog. On arrival we had a warm welcome and that included the dog being provided with a water bowl and a biscuit! It was surprisingly not that busy and the three young staff were well able to meet the needs of diners and drinkers alike.

We were given the regular menu which had changed a bit since our previous visit. There was also a festive menu and sandwiches which we did not investigate. As a beer drinker, I have been particularly pleased with the range and regular change of guest beers, which in past years has been lacking. There is also a reasonable wine list.

Service was relaxed and friendly. Starters are served on a slate, bit quirky, but we both had smoked salmon which was difficult to fault. For main, I chose beef bourguignon which was served with rice. It was hot, well-cooked but for my pallet could have had more seasoning, portion size was just right. Our two desserts, from the small selection, were perfect though I had always imagined Eton mess to be meringue based and this was not.

Pubs have a lot of competition these days. We expect a nice atmosphere, decent food at a reasonable price and friendly service. We ticked all the boxes. £30 a head (including a tip) seems realistic. It's good to be able to walk to your "local". The current team are doing a good job and we shall certainly go again in the near future.  
*Pub Spy*



## School News

We had another fantastic turnout at our Christmas Fair this year. Lots of fabulously festive stalls awaited visitors, offering an abundance of festive goodies and gifts. Refreshments were also on hand in the café where we sold a record number of 76 mince pies! Santa was kind enough to visit again this year and lots of our children got the chance to meet him in his grotto and receive a gift.

The raffle included many fantastic prizes, generously donated by local businesses. The home produce stall offered everything from homemade jams to freshly squeezed apple juice using home grown apples from the

Itchen Valley.

Otters class teacher, Mr. Bogan, kindly (perhaps foolishly!) offered to be subjected to having 'snowballs' thrown at him for the duration of the fair. This proved immediately popular with a large queue forming from the start with one child paying more than £10 to knock off his antlers and his bright red nose!

Lots of people have told us how much they enjoy the fair each year. We all enjoy organising this popular event and it couldn't happen without the help and generosity of our parents, our teachers and the local community who support us by donating gifts and their time.

This year we made a staggering £3,236







for the school. This is an incredible amount that will benefit our children tremendously. A big thank you to all and Merry Christmas!

*Sarah Banks*

*The Friends of Itchen Abbas School*

## More News from Itchen Abbas School

Two pupils from Itchen Abbas School have been presented with the very first Mayor's Awards for endeavour and consistent performance, as part of a new initiative aimed at primary schools in the Winchester District.

Robert Tilwach from year 6 and Scarlett Ashbee from year 4 were selected by their head teacher, Aimée Dear, to receive the awards, which were presented to them by the Mayor, Councillor Jane Rutter, when she visited the school on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Robert's award celebrated his progress throughout the last

term and particularly his huge growth in confidence and hard work in class. Scarlett was recognised for her positive attitude towards life and school, her great sense of humour, hard work, her care for everyone and for being a consistent outstanding role model to the whole school community.

Both children were presented with a pin badge, a certificate and a book token.

The Mayor's awards were introduced in September and are awarded to children who have made the most progress in the past term in any area of endeavour – academic progress, music, sport, behaviour or something as simple as attendance. The second and equal award recognises consistent good performance, again in any area of school life.

Cllr Jane Rutter said:

"I was delighted to visit the lovely primary school in Itchen Abbas, to meet all the wonderful children and to present Robert and Scarlett with the very first Mayor's Awards for primary schools. It was clear to me that their progress, attitude and endeavour made them very worthy winners and that the

whole school community was proud of their achievements. I am pleased that local schools have embraced this new Mayor's Award scheme enthusiastically, and I am looking forward to visiting more primary schools in our District to meet children who have made their teachers, parents and fellow pupils proud."

*From the WCC website - Ed*



## John Duncan Harris

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When the actor David Garrick died, Dr Johnson mourned what he memorably described as "that stroke of death that has eclipsed the gaiety of nations and impoverished the public stock of harmless pleasure." John Harris was original, whimsical, articulate, eccentric, often hysterically funny, but never unkind.

He was born in Doncaster in 1945: a resilient and very independent boy, he was always happiest

when out of the reach of parental scrutiny, and often up to no good. He memorably sat O-level maths five times (and then become an accountant!). He went to Oxford University, having applied to each college to read a different subject, and was accepted to read Ancient Chinese. As random as this sounds, it did come in useful later in life when, sitting silently through meetings in China where it was presumed that he could only speak English, he would stand up to thank them for their time in fluent Mandarin.

He was incredibly proud of his 4<sup>th</sup> class honours degree – one of the last to be awarded – but he was fully occupied at Oxford with the University's Air Squadron, which led to a passion for aircraft and aviation. He met his first wife Theresa at Oxford, and owned and ran a shop there (and then started a construction company) while she completed her studies. He then turned his hand to accountancy, and qualified with Arthur Andersen – auditing

satisfying his natural curiosity.

He moved to Citibank, running the Construction Group, and then after a couple of glorious years in Canada he returned to London, heading up Chase Manhattan's Project Finance Group, where the constant travelling meant he was able to use his seven languages. He and Judi moved to Saudi Arabia, where John was setting up a new merchant bank, within days of marrying in 1978 and moved to Hong Kong a year later where they spent ten very happy years whilst John worked for three different banks.

Timothy, Nicholas and Victoria were all born there, but tragically Nicholas developed acute leukaemia. The family returned to the UK, where Nicholas died in 1991, and he is buried in Easton churchyard.

John then moved to Standard Chartered for a few years, before deciding that, since the first Gulf War had just finished, Kuwait would be an ideal place to work; he spent

three years there as CEO of Gulf Bank. He joined an Austrian bank, running their operations in various Eastern European countries, and finally worked for the Aga Khan, running his banking operations in Kenya, Pakistan and India. Once he retired he joined the Parish Council, helped set up the Winchester Credit Union, worked on finance for Hampshire Youth Options, and ran the Poppy Appeal in the Valley. Most important, however, retirement gave him a chance to utilise his air miles – for example his annual trip to the States where this year he visited nine states – plus a trip to Barbados for



lunch – because it made the flights cheaper. One of his proudest achievements was being awarded an Honorary lifetime Gold card from British Airways.

When he fell ill, he faced his prognosis incredibly bravely and very philosophically with as he put it, ‘a great three score years and ten, plus one’. His range and depth of knowledge on a huge number of topics was vast and interesting. More than that, he was a man of substance and morals. Humility, integrity and honesty were incredibly important to him, both in business and personally – and he will be missed on the bus into Winchester – or scything those dandelions .

*Adapted from a tribute by Tim Harris*

## Royal British legion Poppy Appeal

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The amount collected in this year’s Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday church collection was a magnificent £3372.17 compared to last year’s £2828. I am so very grateful to all those who contributed and especially to those who made house to house rounds, and for the willingness of our local schools, pubs, hotels and businesses to keep trays and collecting boxes during Remembrancetide. The money has been forwarded to the Royal British Legion for their benevolent activities. No words however can pay adequate tribute to our Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser, the late John Harris, who very sadly died the day before Remembrance Sunday. His contribution to the success of this year’s appeal cannot be overstated and I know I speak on behalf of everyone in acknowledging the part he played in ensuring the success of this year’s collection. We

send our greatest sympathies to his family at this sad time.

*John Lang,*

*President , RBL Itchen Valley Branch*

## Cut and paste isn’t what it used to be

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About twenty years ago, Dick Hewitt went on holiday. That won’t mean much to most readers of the Itchen Valley News but Dick was at that time the editor of the Itchen Abbas and Avington Village News. For some reason, he asked Arminel and me to prepare the issue of the magazine that was due to be published while he was away.

We are talking about pre computer, pre almost anything electronic days. In order to produce the magazine we had to type up all the hand-written contributions that had been submitted, cut them out (with scissors) and paste them (with actual glue) onto blank sheets of paper such that in the end they amounted to a half-decent four page newsletter. These drafts were photocopied, Tippex was used to delete any shadow marks around the pasted snippets, and then photocopied again (just talking black and white print here, with no photos) to make the monthly magazine.

These days you, our readers, expect more. Because the technology exists to produce glossy, all-singing, all-dancing publications, you expect us to use it. At a talk recently on local magazines, I saw many examples of what is done in other parishes. Some still adhere to the photocopied couple of sheets of A4 written by the vicar with times of church services and a short homily. Others have been more adventurous and, like the Itchen Valley

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News, have embraced information technology and its associated developments in desktop publishing. They have each developed their own style of magazine with articles, photos (not necessarily all in colour like ours), stories and adverts that in some cases surpass our best efforts. Nevertheless, I hope that we manage to produce a monthly magazine that you find eye-catching, interesting, informative and useful.

All this is of course not possible without a team of volunteers (and I stress the word volunteer – nobody gets paid for their time working for the Itchen Valley News) behind the scenes. From the monthly editors deciding what to put where, to the ladies who persuade our advertisers to use us, the distributors who deliver the magazine through your door, and the treasurer who makes sure that we can pay the printer on time every month. But before all this happens, we rely on our readers to put pen to paper and to send us snippets and longer pieces that residents of the valley will be interested in reading. Thank you all for whatever you have done this year and I hope you will continue to assist us during 2017.

Mind you, the editors have it really easy these days. Cut and paste to them means a two clicks of a mouse. OK, a couple of days of doing just that, but they haven't used Tippex for years!

*Vernon Tottle*

*Editor Itchen Valley News*

### Postscript

When he retired from editing the Village News, Dick Hewitt asked me to take over, but with three children and a job I did not think I could manage it, so I am very glad to be one of the team now, sharing the workload and the responsibility with a great group of

people - our monthly meetings are hugely fun and friendly. As Vernon rightly says, technology has made the job much easier, although sometimes very frustrating. About 50 years ago I helped my mother turn the handle on a stencil machine - no hope of using Tippex (which probably hadn't been invented), if she made a mistake on the stencil that was it! Do any readers have memories of past Village Newses, here or elsewhere?

*Charlotte Appleby (Ed of the month)*

## Recipe for Snowdon Pudding

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We are not great fans of rich Christmas puddings and I discovered this recipe in an old Mrs Beeton book. I made a few modifications, it's easy to make and needs no maturing.

Ingredients:

25g glace cherries halved  
100g raisins  
100g white bread crumbs  
100g shredded suet  
25g ground rice  
100g caster sugar  
Pinch of salt, ginger  
and mixed spice  
2 eggs beaten  
75ml milk

Lemon juice

2 tbsps marmalade

Mix all the dry ingredients together in a large bowl, then add the cherries and raisins, then the liquid ingredients together and finally the marmalade. I make this when I have some left over bread, easy to grind up in a liquidiser, same with the rice. The original recipe called for the grated rind of a lemon but I find some juice gives the same result without a left over lemon! A small amount of spice gives a bit more bite. I also cheat by adding some



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brandy. Put the whole mix into a greased bowl. The quantities given provide enough for 4, easy to add 50% to make for 6 people. Cover the bowl with the usual greaseproof paper and foil tied down. 2 hours in the steamer is enough. For a festive touch serve with brandy cream or butter.

Tony Gaster

*The internet makes clear that the name is geographical (hence the picture) rather than indicating that it should be sprinkled with icing sugar before serving - although at Christmas time that might be a good idea. Ed*

## Jackie's County Corner

January is often the coldest month of the year and it's especially hard to manage in the long month after Christmas. If you are aware of anyone struggling to keep warm and well then please contact Hitting the Cold Spots- call 0800 804 8601 from 9-5pm (local number 02380 33 6172 for landline rates) or email [staywarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:staywarm@environmentcentre.com) for advice and help. The team can organise a home visit, support you with heaters and give grant support to help with your fuel bills.



New developments are happening right across the division and I joined fellow councillors to see the progress at Barton Farm which will be called Kings Barton. The marketing suite is open already. The first houses are well underway and residents should be moving in by April 2017. The first phase includes affordable homes for rent too. The school is scheduled to be open September 2018.

So many of you took the trouble to attend the Gypsy and Traveller meetings in the division in December – thank you. I endeavoured to distil your views into my reply to Winchester council – you can see my response on my website [www.jackieporter.co.uk](http://www.jackieporter.co.uk), search 'Gypsy & Traveller Site Proposals'.

Happy New Year – hoping it is a healthy one for you and your family.

I have read the Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) for the NHS, but Richard Samuel, the lead officer for the STP plan at the NHS brought it to life when he gave County Councillors a presentation on the Strategic Outcomes that the plan hopes to address. I have placed a summary of the aims on my website, but as I write this, there is still no agreement or verdict on which hospitals will operate in this area. One interesting point is the use of anonymised data to target preventive health screening for specific groups, in specific areas or for particular age groups, to fight disease early to keep us all well. Already phone companies use the speed of phones moving along our roads to determine traffic speeds –so is the use of our own data so very different? And if it means the NHS is affordable, shouldn't we all be welcoming this? The use of informed data is a key part of the STP for Hampshire. If you have a positive or negative view on this, please let me know.

Finally, if your child is 3 or 4, and you work 16 hours a week, you are entitled to an annual 1140 hours a year free childcare (max 10 hours a day between 6am and 8pm, throughout the year) from September. You can go onto the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) websites to check your eligibility.

Good Luck!

Contact me Cllr Jackie Porter

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## From the Parish Council

Once again it is pleasing to write that the Parish Council is back to full strength. Stephen Andrews, who lives in Itchen Abbas, will be joining us in January.



On the planning front, we have been looking at two long term issues. The first is a proposal to turn the chippings site in Northington into one for Gipsies, Travellers and Showmen. Although this site is outside our parish boundary, it is a case of only just and therefore if it goes ahead it will affect us. Legislation means that sites have to be provided to cater for those who have an itinerant lifestyle but they should, as far as is possible, be put in the most suitable locations for all concerned. Without going into full detail, it is quite clear that for a number of reasons such as damage to wild life, lack of facilities and infrastructure, the chippings site is not suitable. Therefore we have given our support to Northington's objection to this proposal.

Last year the South Downs National Park put out its draft plan which, when its final version is adopted, is due to last until 2032. For the Parish Council that raised two issues. First we felt that the proposals were unrealistic and made a submission asking for them to look at other options. Secondly, as you may have read more than once

over the past year, we have been discussing whether to create and adopt one or more of the options following on from the Parish Plan of 2014. On the first issue two of our members attended a meeting to see the revised draft proposals. It is disappointing to have to report that there has been little change and once again we have the feeling that local views do not carry much weight. However, not to be discouraged, we have made the point again. That does leave the second issue of a follow on to the Parish Plan with all the work, difficulty and cost involved. Therefore it has been decided that for at least the next six months, after which the situation might become clearer, we will be leaving this issue in abeyance.

The changing facilities at Couch Green have become very dilapidated and unusable. The cost of upgrading them is much higher than expected. The question therefore is what to do. One option is to remove and not replace them. At the other end of the spectrum is to replace them with up-to-date facilities, possibly along with improvements to the playing fields, as has been done in some other villages not so far away. That of course would raise the whole question of funding. Please let us know what you think.

We are now into winter and the chance of snow and ice. There are many grit bins around the valley. If they are less than two thirds full you can ask for them to be topped up using the link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/severeweather/salting>

Please do this direct and not via the Parish Council. Please also note there are rules and advice about using the salt and grit provided. You can find them in detail using the link above.





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Please read them. Two most important are do not use it on private drives (it is illegal) and use it sparingly. According to the website one tablespoon full is enough to cover one square metre of road or path.



Driving round the valley it can be seen that a great deal of essential work has been carried out cutting back the hedgerows that line many of the roads. This is a reminder to all of us who have hedges that border verges and pavements that it is our responsibility to see that they are sufficiently cut back to allow safe passage for pedestrians. Last year having come inside immediately after cutting the hedge in front of our house I received an e-mail from an observant, concerned and public spirited neighbour that he had just seen a dubious looking individual taking holly from our front hedge. I had to reply that if the person concerned was dressed in a yellow jacket and green hat then that dubious character was me!

Moving forward you may remember last March we held a highly successful litter pick under the title "Clean for The Queen". This year we are hoping to repeat that success as part of the National campaign "The Great British Spring Clean". The most likely

date is Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March so please put it in your diaries for 2017.

Happy Christmas and New Year Everyone,  
*Patrick Appleby,*  
*Parish Council Chairman*



## From our MP

All MPs welcome groups of students to Westminster but I've made it my mission to host every constituency school, college and university during this Parliament.

The run up to Christmas saw the Westgate School visit, several primary schools and over fifty A-level politics students from Peter Symonds College. It's one of the best parts of the job; I really enjoy the questions and hearing young people's reflections on the fabulous Palace of Westminster and our current political scene. People used to say there's no difference between the two parties, no point in voting because "you're all the same". They don't say that anymore and it's great.

In this area, Itchen Abbas Primary School visited during the last Parliament and I'd love to have them back between now and 2020. To-date none of the Alresford schools have made the trip but they'd be more than welcome so get in touch via [www.stevebrine.com/visitingwestminster](http://www.stevebrine.com/visitingwestminster) and I can connect you with Westminster's brilliant Education Service.

My constituents know that local train services, especially the busy commuter route into London, are right at the top of my priority list. From campaigning to improve facilities at Winchester Railway Station to national campaigns



*Photo shows Steve with students from the University of Winchester in Parliament's stunning new Education Centre recently*

deal of potential change coming to our local NHS in the years ahead now something called the Service & Transformation Plan is published. I remain as committed as ever to seeing we have access to the best services and receive treatment that is world-class. To this end, my next ASKtheNHS event takes place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Winchester. See [www.stevebrine.com/](http://www.stevebrine.com/)

around issues such as part-time season tickets, I've a long record in this area but we've a way to go. Very shortly we will learn who will win the new South Western franchise – South West Trains or FirstGroup – and, whoever wins, we will get a new generation of trains serving this area.

I recently met with Siemens to learn all about the new £210m fleet of Class 707 trains they're producing with increased space, improved accessibility and upgraded on-board facilities such as free WiFi that actually works. It's promising but it all must go hand-in-hand with major infrastructure investment courtesy of Network Rail and Government. I continue to work with Ministers and a wide array of neighbouring MPs on the major capacity issues we face; you can catch-up on all my work in this area via [www.stevebrine.com/trains](http://www.stevebrine.com/trains)

Secondly, I said since day one that the NHS would be my priority and I hope I have stayed true to my word. As I have written about many times - in this column, on my website and in the Hampshire Chronicle - there's a great

[asktheseries](http://asktheseries) for more details and to register.

Finally, events in our community around the A33 Cart & Horses junction literally keep me awake at night and my prayers remain with the family of the young man who lost his life there last month. I have said since day one, and don't intend to change now, that this junction needs a fundamental road layout change PLUS a hefty speed reduction. I think that means a roundabout but neither I nor our local councillors are traffic engineers or hold the purse. What we need now are hard facts from the police investigation and cool heads. I am speaking with the Roads Minister in the wake of the Autumn Statement and will, as always, work with anyone cross-party to do what's needed for we cannot go on like this. [www.stevebrine.com/A33](http://www.stevebrine.com/A33)

I hope all readers had a peaceful Christmas and can look forward with promise and hope to 2017.

Steve Brine  
MP for Winchester, Alresford & Itchen Valley

# Itchen Valley Church Services



## Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

4pm	Crib and Carols	Easton
11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas	Avington

## Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

8am	Holy Communion	Itchen Abbas
10am	Family Communion	Easton
10am	Traditional Communion	Martyr Worthy

## Sunday 1st January

10am	Parish Communion	Martyr Worthy
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## Sunday 8th January

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

## Sunday 15th January

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

## Sunday 22nd January

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

## Sunday 29nd January

8am	Holy Communion	Itchen Abbas
10am	Parish Communion	Avington

## Rector

Rev Amanda Denniss	779832	amandadenniss@gmail.com
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## Assistant Priest

Rev Alex Pease	791010	rev@ampease.co.uk
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## Curate

Rev Rebecca Fardell	809264	rebecca.itchenvalley@gmail.com
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## Licensed Lay Minister

Mr Gerry Stacey	620263	gstacey@easynet.co.uk
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**Parish website:** <http://itchenvalleychurches.org.uk/>

## Itchen Valley Churchwardens

Robin Greenwood 779540; Andrew Impey 779645;

Theo Mezger 07775 908014; Vanessa Rosewell 841182



## Letter from the Rectory

January for me is the birthday month. It's the month of my birthday and my husband Oliver's birthday and my mother in law's birthday. I could go



on. One of the most difficult things is thinking of presents. We have just had Christmas and by the time January comes, I've run out of ideas. It's so wonderful to be able to give a gift that someone really wants, something carefully chosen and showing how much you love and value the person. As I've been pondering the present question looming this January, my thoughts turned to the gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus on Jesus' birthday.

Traditionally the church has always celebrated the visit of the Magi in January although in our children's nativity plays we see the shepherds and the Magi arriving at Bethlehem within a few minutes of each other. So much legend has built up around the visit of the Magi but there is no indication in the bible that there were three of them, that they were kings or that we know their names. What we do know from the bible is that these men were so impressed by something that they saw in the stars at night in their own country in the East that they travelled to Judea in search of a baby who was born to be a king. They stopped off in Jerusalem to ask King Herod if he knew where the baby had been born and after consulting the clergy of the day, he directed them to Bethlehem. On their arrival at Bethlehem they bowed down and worshipped the baby Jesus. They then gave him their carefully

chosen precious gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

Each of these gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh points to something of immense importance in our understanding of who Jesus is. Gold is a gift for a king and this baby in poor and humble surroundings was to be later revealed as a king. Frankincense was used by the priests in the temple and Jesus was to be the priest who would bring reconciliation between humankind and God. Myrrh was the spice used to embalm the dead. This gift points to the greatest and most precious gift of all. The gift that this baby would one day grow up to give. Jesus would one day give his own life as he died on the cross. He would give his life because of his love for us. His death on the cross would open the way for all who trusted in him to become part of God's family.

The Magi probably didn't know the full significance of the presents that they gave to the baby Jesus. What they did know is that they were giving him presents that were fit for a king. Their gifts were carefully chosen and gave Jesus honour.

As I ponder once again the present question for my family this Christmas and January, I know that whatever I choose, the most important thing is the message behind the gift. I want the gift to show how much I love and value my family.

*Amanda Denniss*

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## The Chestnut Horse

We would like to thank Karen Wells for her 10 years of service as a cherished Business Partner of Hall and Woodhouse. Karen took the Chestnut Horse from strength to strength and even gave back to the local community

by introducing a village shop onsite. The Chestnut Horse, of which we own the freehold, will much very remain a Business Partnership of Hall and Woodhouse.  
*Hall and Woodhouse*

## New Silverstone race track for Itchen Abbas

Lewis Hamilton visited St John's church recently to inaugurate the new high speed all weather



car park circuit. As the lead driver for Mercedes he was able to demonstrate the track in a vehicle very similar to those owned by many of our readers. Known for his rapid acceleration and last minute braking on corners, Lewis was easily able to replicate the behaviour of many church visitors. Fortunately his skilled driving meant that he didn't damage a single blade of grass, he left no muddy tyre tracks and the car park looked just the same when he left as it had done when he arrived. Lewis suggested that perhaps all people using the car park who didn't possess his very advanced driving techniques should drive gently over the grass, brake as gradually as possible when parking and move off slowly to avoid churning up the mud.

Indeed.

*Vernon Tottle*

*Itchen Abbas church car park attendant*



## Our Wild Valley :

Berries as Baubles !

Joining the holly tree with its bright berries are other garden bushes such as snowberry or a variety of other evergreens whose names escaped me while wreath making last week! Birds love the berries in winter, butterflies and other insects love their flowers and pollen, and we love them as decoration in our homes! We are lucky to have such fresh and clean air reflected in the tonnes of mistletoe dotted in our tall lime trees and others throughout the valley. Not only is mistletoe a parasite but it is spread on the feet of birds, probably stuck on with their poo! Or it travels as we pick it and use it, people such as my sister who shoved some berries in the bark of our old apple tree, and demonstrated how prolifically it can grow!



In olden days, it was thought to bring good luck to a family for December if brought into the house, and to ward off the devil. Mistletoe was a symbol of love and friendship in Norse mythology

and many people use it to have an excuse to stop for a kiss in the festive season. You are meant to pick off a berry for each kiss, so when the berries run out there are no kisses left!

Butchers broom is another evergreen plant that has red berries, but they form a bit earlier in September but can still brighten up our woodlands in winter. It appears as a prickly low growing bush (sometimes it is called knee holly as it is just at that height). A member of the lily family, it does not look like a normal lily, and has leaves that are not leaves but modified stems (cladodes). The flowers appear in spring right in the middle of the modified stem and look very distinctive.



I hope the weather is encouraging for us all to enjoy our clean air and beautiful valley with friends and family over the festive season and I really wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful New Year!  
*Sophie Rogers*

## The Practical Gardener

---

I'm having a spat over motorised garden tools, specifically of the 2-stroke variety. What I am told is they don't like unleaded fuel; it's been around for a while so I wonder why engines have not been adapted. Well the latest spat involved fitting of a simple gasket to a fuel tank and ended up with a bill for £83. So I've bought two new tools, a leaf blower and



hedge trimmer both using a 36v lithium battery. No problems to start and light to use. So girls no excuses there but seriously as I get older the weight of small tools becomes an issue. Do they work as well? Well the blower is not bad, not as powerful as the 2-stroke. The hedge trimmer is just 100%. The batteries are very expensive so not to be left in sheds.



I think now is a good time to prune roses, especially in a warmish period. I am not that careful because my objective is just to cut down and get rid of shoots growing in the wrong direction. Come April, I do the

serious bit looking for outward facing buds. We are also strongly advised to clear up the leaves and if there are signs of fungal disease like blackspot, they should be burnt. Black spot seems to affect just some varieties but it can lead to complete defoliation so needs to be taken seriously.

I also work through the perennial beds cutting down this year's growth and clearing the ground. I'm now much more careful about composting material

so I sort out woody shoots for the bonfire. I'm not good at keeping dahlias but this year they have all been dug up and



are drying in the greenhouse. When dry I'm told to put them in sand but that has to be dry too, no good just going to buy a bag from the builders' merchants, although you can get kiln dried sand for a premium. Interestingly when comparing some tubers bought this year, they are 10 times the size of the originals – must be very strong. Did you remember to take photos of the garden? Winter is the time to move things around so I always look to see if I have plants in the wrong place or that could be divided.

Happy gardening.

Tony Gaster.

Sorry, I couldn't resist filling up the page with dahlias I was given by the Bickerdikes

- Ed

## Book Review

The Itchen Valley Book Club (well one of them) recommends *Baking Cakes in Kigali* by Gaile Parkin.

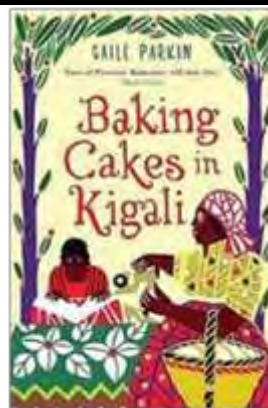
The book is set in the capital of Rwanda in the years following the civil war

and genocide. The main character is the kind and wise Angel Tungazara who runs her own cake making business. She inadvertently counsels an array of people through her ritual of serving tea to her potential customers while finding out what kind of cake they require her to bake. Her clients open up to her and reveal various heartbreaking stories.

The book gives you a peek through the window of meaty topics such as the genocide, female genital mutilation (FGM) and child soldiers. However, despite such heavy topics, the book still manages to be a positive and heartwarming read. As with all good books, the story is carried by the believable and lovable characters. Everyone should have an 'Angel' in their life. She manages to solve many of her clients' problems in a gentle, non-judgemental, emotionally intelligent and unassuming way. The reader feels that even in such a troubled land, there is great hope, unity and positivity. And the truly healing power of goodness is revealed.

We would give this book 4 out of 5 stars.

Ronnie Johns





## Itchen Insight

Nick may only play a small part on stage in the Southwood

Players productions - the butler perhaps - but he is the prime organiser. We also have him and Lavinia to thank for the



recent intimate performance of Don Giovanni. The fact that St John's Church is now used for so many activities apart from Church services is entirely due to the brilliant re-ordering that he masterminded and for which he raised the funds.

**Name:** Nick Owen

**Age:** 76

**Occupation:** Semi-retired; Developer of Crematoria

**How many years you've lived in the Valley:** 13

**Your Life in 180 characters:**

Successful business career, school governor, arts sponsor, churchwarden, recovering alcoholic – what next? Time for family, their music, writing and acting, and to enjoy stretching our fantastic marriage beyond its 52 years – but slower.

**Champagne moment:** Hearing that parliament had approved a scheme that I had instigated to convert a charity to repair roads into a youth one now distributing over ten million pounds annually.

**Surprising snippet:** My first job - carrying a spanner for the only Jamaican in a Merseyside oil refinery – what a learning curve.

**Passion:** Listening

**Favourite place in Hampshire:** My bedroom window looking at the setting sun across the Valley

**Best thing about the Valley:** Free

to Be and CAMEO as symptoms of a caring community.

**Worst thing about the Valley:**

Communication and networks

**Best one-liner or favourite**

**quote:** The best thing to hold onto in life is each other.

**New Year's Resolution?** To take up something worthwhile, without telling everyone.

## Comings and Goings

Lara, Ben, Seb (3 years), Theo (6 months) plus a cat and dog have moved from Winchester into Baytree in Easton.

also

Verity. James and Mia (3 yrs) Greig have moved into Maple House Easton, near the Alresford Rd

*Judith Mezger*

The Hobsons would like to say goodbye and thank you to all our friends in Avington and the Itchen valley as we swap one valley for another and move to the Chalke valley in Wiltshire. We have had a lovely time living here and will always have fond memories of the warm welcome and lovely community there is here.

*Laura, Sam, Archie & Isobel*

## It's rubbish

As is usual over Christmas, the doorstep collection of household waste will be disrupted.

There are no changes until after Christmas. The collection of green bins due on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December will take place on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December. Do leave your bin out the night before as the bin men may arrive very early to finish in time for New Year's Eve celebrations.

The black bin collection due on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January will happen on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> but without emptying any green bags. So don't put them out.

Thereafter normal service will resume.

Christmas trees will be collected for shredding only on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January and on no other day.

Happy waste disposal !

*Vernon Tottle*

## Christmas Quiz

---

How many people can you see walking in the road?



One? Look again.



Yes, there were two there all along but one was wearing invisible all black clothing.

Wear something light at night!

*Vernon Tottle*

## Karen Wells calls time at The Chestnut Horse

---

After more than a decade of dedication, it is with great disappointment that Easton says goodbye to ever smiling and ever cheery Landlady, Karen Wells. Karen first started working at The Chestnut Horse on August Bank Holiday Monday 2000 and ended up taking over the tenancy on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 following Hall & Woodhouse purchasing the freehold on the same day.

16 years on and Karen has much to reflect. "I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside a team whereby we have won a plethora of awards including 'Best Public House' in the Hall & Woodhouse Group and first place in The Winchester BID Customer Service Awards. However, there are more poignant moments: achieving a complete kitchen refurbishment without actually closing the pub for a single day; having a team that 'carried on regardless' and took it upon themselves to trade as normal despite the pub having been ransacked during a burglary and myself not being in the country; and opening the Village Shop in 2012, an amenity used by many for shopping and socialising!!"

Lately, the expansion of Karen's business empire to include The Globe and most recently, The Cricketers in Alresford has seen her spending less



Richard Steel



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## Easton Village Hall

Ina Williams 779465 or [evh.booking@googlemail.com](mailto:evh.booking@googlemail.com)

### Regular bookings

Authentic Pilates	Mon	9 am & 6:30 pm	Judy	07774 899909
	Fri	9 am		
Ems Bray Pilates	Tue	8:45 am & 10 am	Emily	07876 033893
	Thur	9 am		
Sally Stanyard	Tue	4 pm - 8:30 pm	Sally	01962 776562
School of Dance	Thur	7 pm, and Fri 4 pm		
	Sat	9 am - 2.30 pm		
Moo Music	Wed	9:15 am, 10.15 am	Denise	01962 779182
Brew with a View	Wed	3 - 5 pm	Ina	01962 779465
Muriele Zumba	Thur and Fri	10.30 am	Muriele	07821 545403

## Martyr Worthy Village Hall

Lucinda Ffennell 779701 or [simon@ffennell.plus.com](mailto:simon@ffennell.plus.com)

Riverbank	Mon - Wed	9am to 3 pm	Babs	01962 621757
Kindergarten	Thu - Fri	9am to 1 pm		
Whist Drive	Thu	7pm		
Children's Party	Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	3 - 5pm		
Village Hall committee	Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	7pm		

## Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

Details of bookings and real time availability are now available on our website.  
[www.iaavillagehall.co.uk](http://www.iaavillagehall.co.uk)

Hall Manager Alex Bellisario or [manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk](mailto:manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk)  
or telephone 07947 191229 Village hall callbox 01962 791021

### Regular Bookings

Montessori	Mon to Fri	08.30	Caroline	01730 829377
Zumba	Mon	18.30	Sue	07947 410394
Rugby Tots	Tues	09.15	Phil	03453 133258
Short Mat Bowls	Tues	18.00	Peter	01962 779285
Yoga / Pilates	Wed	09.00 & 18.30	Jo	01962 791095
Ladies Short Tennis	Wed	14.30	Arminel	01962 779611
Choral Society	Wed	19.45	Gabby	07712 112174
Badminton	Thur	19.30	Mike	07887 503345
Swing It Dancing	Thur & Fri	20.00	Neil	07825 709691



time at The Chestnut Horse but still very much in charge "Many years of blood, sweat and tears have gone into making The Chestnut Horse a successful business. We have survived the smoking ban and the Great Recession of 2008; have overcome the endless 'red tape' that has hindered and been very costly for the business; found solutions when we were presented with endless problems that come 'hand in hand' with a period property, but ultimately we have enjoyed 16 amazing years at The Chestnut Horse. I am truly saddened that my time here has come to an end, but I am determined to move on to new and exciting things with my team." And Karen has many special memories to take with her "We have had some amazing New Year's Eve parties, birthday parties & weddings. My 21st Birthday party will always be a treasured memory alongside the 'off the record lock ins' - EVERYTHING is always more fun when you know you shouldn't be doing it! A huge THANK YOU to each and every one of you who has supported me over the past 16 years. Many of you met me for the first time when I joined The Chestnut Horse team as a part time waitress at the tender age of 18, little did I or you

know what the future was going to hold for me. 16 years later I feel very fortunate to be able to call many of you my friends. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of The Valley, watching it evolve, families grow. We have sadly lost some great characters during my time, but I know that they will be looking down on me with a smile, knowing it was good whilst it lasted!!" At the time of going to press the Itchen Valley News understands that a local couple will take over The Chestnut Horse in January signalling the start of a new era and we look forward to introducing them to you in the February edition.

*Lucy Wolfe*

## Tiddler Joke

Q: Why did the crab blush?

A: Because the sea weed

*Georgie Patrick,  
4 years old*



## Easton Christmas Fayre

Held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the Easton Christmas Fayre offered a great selection of ideas for Christmas. The stalls offered a wide range of gifts from jewellery, handbags, scented candles and fun socks to Christmas puddings, chutney and table decorations. There was a fantastic atmosphere as people enjoyed refreshments and caught up with friends. The star of the event was a visit from Father Christmas who listened to everyone's Christmas wishes.



A really good start to the Christmas Cheer.

*Lyn Russell*



## Christmas Survival Hints

Many of us have been 'doing' Christmas for years and we have our own routines and traditions. But since no one has (yet) shared their thoughts with the News, I offer some thoughts.

**Hunger** is the best sauce – exercise helps with that!

**Arrange** to include as many people as you

can fit in without too much stress

**Pack** leftovers into the fridge quickly, so they keep safely. Don't freeze them until they are cold.

**Proper** Christmas pudding is delicious fried in butter next day. I expect the Snowdon pudding is too if it gets a chance. (P13)

**Yellow** colour (saffron if you are feeling rich, or turmeric if you want

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the health benefits) and stock (home made or not) and bread sauce makes a lovely 'cream of chicken/turkey' soup.

**Carcasses** of Christmas fowl make lovely stock, add some herbs and garlic cloves. If you have a big bird you might need to boil the carcase up in two goes.

**Hold on** to any lovely cheeses you are given (if the use by dates permit), most people don't really want cheese as well as everything else on Christmas Day, but you and those remaining will enjoy it later

**Red cranberry sauce** is great with sausages or left over pigs in blankets

**If you don't enjoy Christmas, ignore it!**

**Soup** can be made from almost anything left over, blend it all together to the texture you prefer – but do give some thought to how the flavours will mix if there is more than a tablespoon of anything 'odd' (a bit of apple pie is fine, I wouldn't put smoked salmon in – but then I wouldn't have any left over).

**Take photos** - each year is unique.

**Marinades** that have sat with raw meat must be thoroughly cooked. The ingredients may be much the same as a salad dressing, but don't reuse it except in gravy or a soup or stew where it will be cooked

**Avoid wasting food.** Children hate being told to think of the starving children in Africa and in these days of obesity forcing them to eat more than they want is not sensible, even if your in-laws say you should, so the answer is to give them small helpings and leave them clamouring for more. Carve extra slices so the children can go and help themselves to seconds from the carving platter without disturbing the unfortunate person who has only just taken their first mouthful – and do as used to be done before children ruled the world (or at least their parents)

and serve the children last. If hungry and happy they will eat faster than the grown-ups who talk too much, so they should start last. If old enough they can be busy bringing in the dishes, or handing round the veg.

**Sit down** and talk to your guests as much as possible, or get the people of the opposite gender to come and help you in the kitchen – or of course get someone else in your household to take the lead.

Now some left-over turkey thoughts: of course salad, risotto, blanquette, sandwiches, mix with white sauce and fold in pancakes or wraps, dot on top of a pizza

(although I think that cooked tomatoes is one of the few things that turkey does not go with – oh, and eggs! but you might disagree.). Christmas cake or Yule log left over? Who is the thinnest person you know? Maybe they would like a visit!

Chocolates? Same answer.

Happy Christmas and best wishes for a very happy and healthy 2017

*Charlotte Appleby*



## Tutored tasting with Jancis Robinson OBE, MW

---

How inspired of a member of the local Cancer Research UK committee to take the opportunity to invite the fabulous Jancis Robinson to speak, and how kind of her to honour the commitment during the week that she was moving house – including a wine cellar with contents weighing **four tons!**

Jancis Robinson qualified as a Master of Wine in 1984, and has been the FT's wine correspondent since 1989. Her skills are not restricted to writing and

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tasting: as someone remarked, it feels as if she could offer a clear explanation of practically anything! The evening got off to a very good start, as Ian Kellett had very kindly supplied everyone with a glass of his excellent and reliable Hambledon Valley NV fizz. Hampshire's chalky soil is very similar to that in Champagne, and he foresees a huge future for Hampshire wines, both in quality and quantity.

Jancis Robinson then, with frequent consultation with Simon Taylor from Stone Vine and Sun who supplied the wine, took us on a world tour with three whites and three reds, all of which were much enjoyed and carefully tasted – before being enthusiastically quaffed with excellent canapés as accompaniment.

The hall was packed and the evening sold out well in advance. With Stone Vine and Sun and P & G Wells Booksellers both making a contribution to the charity from sales on the night, the event was a huge success and raised close to £4,000. Many congratulations to the organising team.

*Verity Coleman*

The photograph below is of Jancis Robinson with Polly Howard. She has been a huge fan of Jancis for twenty years or so since she started studying for her Wine Diploma. Polly is the step-daughter of the late Tom Strafford whose memorial service was held in St. Mary's Easton on 9th Dec.

*Penelope Kellie*



## Are we expecting Noah?

---

There's been a sign on the B3407 for a month now saying "Flood". Clearly the episode has passed. Surely if signs are not removed after an event we will just ignore them next time. That seems to negate any point in having road warning signs.

*Tony Gaster*

If you feel energetic you can go to <https://roadenquiries.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems/highwaydefect/otherroad.aspx> and report it. I did this several weeks ago, and also telephoned them. *Patrick Appleby*

*It disappeared just before going to print. Ed*

## Alresford Surgery Newsletter

---

We will be running pneumonia clinics in the New Year to give pneumonia and shingles vaccinations.

All patients who are eligible will be invited by letter. If you have previously been invited, but have not been vaccinated, you are still welcome to come.

Please note that patients who have previously been invited for the shingles vaccination but have now reached 80 years of age, are no longer eligible and will not be vaccinated.

## A Reminder of Summer

---

The pictures overleaf were taken in Hazeldene Gardens by Vernon Tottle, at the suggestion of Jim Langridge. As you can see, Jim and his neighbours are keen and successful gardeners. Their gardens may not rival some of those the Gardening Club travel miles to visit in size, but they gave a splendidly colourful display last summer and have the advantage of being in the heart of Itchen Abbas. *Ed*



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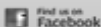
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## Got a New Carpet?

The room is empty, the carpet layers have left and now it's time to get the furniture back in. Oh dear, you know the heavy furniture is going to leave nasty indentations in your lovely new carpet. The DIY stores sell those plastic cups or if you are desperate an upside down jam jar top will do but neither work very well. Here is a better solution.

First do not throw away those off-cuts of new carpet (throwing away anything before you are certain it will have no use is a bad idea). Take a piece of hardboard or better still if you have a piece of thin laminate left over from the back of a kitchen cabinet.

Thickness should be about 6mm (1/4"). Select the size required and number of pieces needed. Size depends upon weight of furniture in question, 150mm x 150mm (6"x 6") for heavy items like a dining table or a sofa, less for lighter



items like a side table. The number

required is simply the number of legs or wheels on the furniture in question. Cut out hardboard or laminate squares of size and number needed. If you have the right tools you can use circles (remember the circles will need to have a larger diameter than the length

of the side of the square if the area is to remain the same). Smooth off the edges with sand paper. Cut out an equivalent number and sizes of carpet from the off-cuts you have saved to match the pieces of wood. A good craft knife is best for that and do be careful.

Now comes the sticky bit. You need a good glue. I use Gorilla Glue.

Following the instructions on the glue pot apply glue to the rough side of the hardboard. Place the hardboard on a flat solid surface with the carpet on top. Place a clean bit of smooth paper on top of that, then a rigid piece of anything flat and finally a good heavy weight. Leave as instructed on the glue pot to set.

When the glue has set, remove the weights and paper

etc. Trim off any excess glue and there you are.

Place the pads carpet side up shiny side down under the legs of the furniture and job done. If the furniture is not on wheels you can generally slide it to where you want it with ease. That's why shiny side

down is important. If there are wheels on the furniture and it has a tendency to slide off the pads use the plastic cups as well. If necessary screw the cups to the pads. Apart from spreading the load better and leaving the carpet unharmed there is the advantage that by using off-cuts which match your new carpet the pads are much less obtrusive than a bit of plastic.

*The d-i-y man*





## A sneak preview

The Easton Pantomime does not start until the IVN has been put to bed, but here is a preview from a rehearsal. I hope it does not give away any secrets. Ed



## And finally – you read it here first

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known as Pulsimers®, rhyming with dulcimers but more up-to-date.

If you don't believe me, you're absolutely right because I dreamt all this just before I woke up this morning. But in a hundred years' time, when someone asks "Where does the word Pulsimer come from?" you read it here first in the Itchen Valley News.

Vernon Tottle Editor IVN

## Local monthly information

### Waste collections in January

Black bins and green bags on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup>. Green bins on Fridays 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Cameo

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

### Farmers' Markets in Winchester

Sundays 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January

### Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January at Easton

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### School term timetable operates from

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January:

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

### Saturday service (same for the whole month)

Towards Winchester:

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

Towards Alresford:

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

### No Sunday or bank holiday service

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas.

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