

# ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 43 July 2017

For Avington, Easton, Ichen Abbas and Marby Worby







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# WELCOME to the Valley News



If you were expecting two glamorous blondes to adorn the top of this page - tough. Fi and Lucy had to step down as editors of this edition because of family commitments and yours truly has completed this month's magazine. As you will gather from the flower arrangement adorning the front cover, July brings the annual Valley contest that is the Flower Show. The full schedule and entry form takes up pages 24 to 27 of this issue. Do have a good look through and see what you might be tempted to enter this year. If you are thinking it's all too much to consider, read page 29 and think again! On the very same day as the Flower Show, the Pantaloons Theatre Company visits Avington Park. Always an excellent evening's entertainment, they traditionally start the evening by getting the audience involved with a song about occupations. Asking the public about their jobs and then fitting the answers into rhyming verse is always dangerous, especially with someone like me in the audience. I challenged them to rhyme "hypodermic syringe manufacturer" last year - and possibly for the first time, they admitted defeat! The cries of the peacocks, usually at inopportune moments, add to the general fun and mayhem of the show. Two elections on and we have the same two representatives who served us at the start of 2017. The turnout of 79% in the Winchester parliamentary constituency (way above the national average) and of 51% in the Itchen Valley ward (the highest of all the council seats) reflects the engagement

that we have in local and national politics.

I imagine that you will need to read

Tony Gaster's gardening column to have any chance of identifying the purpose of the mysterious machine illustrated on page 19. Is it the first recorded sighting of an alien spacecraft in the Itchen Valley? Next month's editor will be Tony Gaster himself, if he has been returned to earth in good time by his captors.

Enjoy the magazine - and don't forget your chocolate curls!

Vernon Tottle

## Itchen Valley News

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Please send all contributions for August 2017 by 15th

July. All material is published in good faith and the Valley News cannot be held responsible for any information given or views expressed; neither can it be liable for any loss arising from the use of any information or advertisements contained herein. The Editorial Team reserves the right to refuse or amend articles or advertisements submitted for publication.

Printed by Greenhouse Graphics of Basingstoke.

Cover photo by John Bouldin; other photos from various contributors.



## What's On

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### **Easton Fest**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at Graces Farm  
6.30 pm-midnight**



Music by We Are Robot and Plaitford Common. DJ

Tickets: 779283 or

[eastontickets123@gmail.com](mailto:eastontickets123@gmail.com)

£16.50 for adults, £10 for children under 16, to include Hog Roast

*Sally Stone*

### **Upper Itchen Valley Society walk Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 10am**

Members of the UIVSoc are invited to join a short walk, led by the grazing and reserves officer of the Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust, from Church Lane, Martyr Worthy to Chilland to explain the work that the Trust is doing along the Itchen Valley.

If you would like to come, please let me know on 779632 or [ralphandalimattthews@gmail.com](mailto:ralphandalimattthews@gmail.com), Numbers limited.

*Alison Matthews*

### **The Itchen Valley Flower Show Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

See pages 24 to 27 for the schedule and entry form

### **Boomtown**

Date for next residents' meeting confirmed as Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July from 6.30pm to 8pm in the Lower Meeting Room at the Alresford Recreation Centre, The Avenue, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9EP.

### **Avington Park Open Air Play**

Once again we welcome back The Pantaloons for their version of A Midsummer Night's Dream on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

There will be two performances 2.00pm and 7.00pm – Bring a picnic and something to sit on.



Midsummer night. An enchanted forest. Puck and his musical fairy band told a tale of lovers, mechanicals, and magical mayhem. The critically-acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company tell this timeless comic tale in their own distinctive and anarchic style. "Ingenious... The madness of Shakespeare's Dream came through with such enthusiasm and natural comedy... I can't really offer enough praise." (Northern Echo) "Brilliant" – The Telegraph "Glorious" – The Stage "Inimitable" – The Guardian  
Box Office 01962 840440  
[www.thepantaloons.co.uk](http://www.thepantaloons.co.uk)

### **Alresford Show**

Date: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Venue: Tichborne Park, Alresford,



Opening times: 9am – 6pm  
Tickets: Adults £15, Senior £13 &  
Children 11-16 £5  
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## Boules 2017 - first round results

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The 2017 boules season has been underway since April for some villages and May for others, and the first round of inter-village challenges took place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Last year Itchen Abbas emerged as the winners of the league competition and are the holders of the coveted Dick Hewitt trophy.

This year they were playing Martyr Worthy on their home ground at the IA&A village hall. Both teams had brushed off the winter rustiness and applied their skills well and enthusiastically, but neither could land a killing blow and each won two of the four games.

At the other venue, Easton were adapting well to their attractive terrain at Judy Bishop's new house. While Avington pushed the home teams hard and had chances, they could only win one of the four games, and Easton won three.

So at the end of round 1, the score is Easton 3 points, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy equal on 2 each and Avington just behind with 1.

The next Valley boules event is the Triples on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at Lake House, Avington – this is the knock-out competition between all four villages, competing for the Nigel Graham-Maw cup. Supporters and boules watchers are very welcome.

Ralph Matthews

## Opening Night at the Grange Festival

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On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June the new Grange Festival company presented its much anticipated first production - Monteverdi's early opera *Il Ritorno di Ulisse*. A full house greeted this remarkable piece with enthusiasm and acclaim. A distinguished international cast was led by the mezzo-soprano Anna Bonitatibus as Penelope, who stood out as a great interpreter of Monteverdi, 'fusing text and line into a single expressive unit' as the Guardian critic put it. The singing was generally first class, with Ronald Samm putting on an outstanding turn as the glutton Iro, earning a well-deserved cheer at his curtain call. Equally, the accompaniment from the Academy of Ancient Music was both authentic and extremely well-played - the Festival's Artistic Director Michael Chance directed the band with great expertise. Opinions were mixed, however, when it came to the production. Director Tim Supple chose quirky metaphors

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which some found entertaining, others distracting. The three allegorical figures at the opening (Time, Fortune and Love) are subsequently represented by 'physicalisations' as a lady on a bicycle, a giant circus figure on stilts, and a

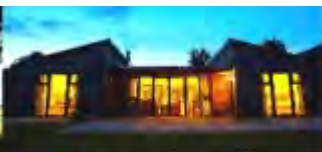




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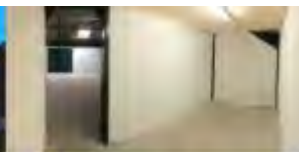
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runner on blades reminiscent of Oscar Pistorius. I still haven't worked out who was which! And I think Monteverdi would have been startled to see the god Neptune in a wetsuit carrying a harpoon, or Jove as a construction worker on an elevated mobile platform. I did enjoy the surtitles projected onto various items of scenery, and much easier to read than in their conventional format. The audience facilities were excellent and served to protect us, as we dined in the marquee, from the unseasonal weather while allowing us to enjoy the rural Hampshire setting looking at its best. At the end, we were all invited to a glass of champagne to celebrate what we hope will be the first of many enjoyable evenings at The Grange.

*Peter McManus*

## Ladies Parish Supper

On a gloriously warm summer's evening, a group of thirty Itchen Valley ladies congregated at Martyr Worthy Manor for a delicious supper kindly hosted, for the second time, by Isobel Pinder. With a glass of refreshing white wine in hand, we circulated outside in the gardens, which were looking spectacular with beautiful roses and herbaceous perennials in flower. After an excellent and very moving talk



by Lucy Pease on how she became a Christian, and Grace from the Rector, we were treated to a first class buffet supper provided by all those attending. Delicious, interesting savouries and salads were followed by wonderful puddings ranging from Sticky Meringues, chilled Warden Pears and Chocolate Roulade. Some of us enjoyed sitting outside for our savoury course, discussing recent local events such as the Safari Supper and the Rogers & Hammerstein concert at the Grange. The evening was a great success and all those present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you Isobel for your kind hospitality.

*Arminel Tottle*

## Itchen Insight

*Name:* Lee Jacobs

*Age:* 37

*Occupation:* Art Director

*How many years you've lived in the Valley:* 2

*Your life in 140 characters:* Happiest on two wheels or in the water, inspired by my beautiful wife and in wonder of my children. Perhaps hip in Shoreditch, certainly happy in the Valley.

*Valley moment:* The day we moved here. Our daughter was born the day the removal was booked which left my family to do the heavy lifting. After intrigued neighbours learned we'd be spending an extended period in hospital, flowers, gifts, food parcels and new friends arrived on our doorstep. I have never before so instantly felt part





of a community.

*Champagne moment:* In March this year, I was awarded a BAFTA in the 'Titles & Graphic Identity' category for my work on the Channel 4 opening title sequence for the Rio Paralympics. A passion project, inspired by my daughter and driven by a need to create something incredible to represent the exceptional talent of our Paralympians and build on Channel 4's groundbreaking work on the perception of disability in their 2012 Paralympics campaign.

*Surprising snippet:* If offered earth baked fruit bat, do not accept.

*Passion:* Cycling. I'll be riding the South Downs Way in 2 days this July, wish me luck and clear skies!

*Favourite place in Hampshire:* The various Beech Woods and their hidden secrets.

*Best thing about the Valley:* Incredible beauty and community.

*Worst thing about the Valley:* The Cart & Horses Junction and the poor upkeep of our footpaths and bridleways, especially in the summer.

*Favourite Book or Film:* Sorry, I'm no good with favourites

*Best one-liner or favourite quote:* "Any fool can be uncomfortable"

## Easton WI

---

Members were on an owl learning-curve when Kim Boog-Penman from the Hampshire Barn Owl Project and Bird of Prey Hospital visited us, accompanied by "Wisdom" her barn owl. Lots of us did not realise that a barn owl can turn its head through 270 degrees, has a pectinate talon used for combing its feathers, can squeeze through a 2" cavity and that it nests in its own waste products. Owlets only have a 30% chance of survival and the



loss of habitat for their preferred diet of field voles has resulted in declining numbers. The Project erects nesting boxes but these have to be sited in areas where the delicious voles and other small mammals are found. Kim showed us a skeleton which perfectly illustrated the owl's tiny bone structure not at first apparent because of the barn owl's magnificent plumage.

In July we shall be visited by Howard Tissiman who will tell us about the History of Headbourne Worthy. Please come and join us to hear what I am sure will be a fascinating lecture, coffee and a chat. You will be most welcome.

*Pauline Tovell*

## Letter from the Rectory

---

I wonder what you think about prayer? Do you pray? I have found myself thinking a lot about prayer in recent weeks. Lots of people do pray and in many, many different ways, but often it



is hidden and few people are aware of it. Even fewer people are aware of the power of prayer.



The prayer that most people know is the Lord's prayer. The disciples of Jesus asked him to teach them how to pray and the Lord's prayer is the template he gave them. It is a bit like a scaffold on which you can build your own prayers to God. Each line of the prayer is like a heading and gives us an opportunity to pause and pray about what is on our heart. In recent weeks here in Itchen Valley we have been focussing on one line of the prayer when Jesus taught us to pray, 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.' This line of the prayer is to ask God to make things right in our world in accordance with his love and purposes. What does that look like in practice? It's asking God to pour out his blessings on our communities. To restore broken relationships. To bring health and wholeness in every area of our lives, our minds and our bodies. The Archbishop of Canterbury asked all churches to join in praying this prayer across the country for the nine days leading up to 4<sup>th</sup> June (Pentecost). Here in Itchen Valley we organised four prayer walks - one around each of our villages. A prayer walk is not very complicated. It simply means you walk around the village and pray for the people, the homes, the businesses, the schools and every area of life in our communities. If you live or work in one of our villages, we have prayed for God's blessing on you.

I am writing this article in mid June in the aftermath of the fire in a tower block in North Kensington. The fire is

still smouldering as I write. It is an area that is very close to where we used to live in West London. Amidst all the grief and pain and suffering there has been an extraordinary outpouring of kindness as people rally around to give clothes, food and shelter to the hundreds of people made homeless by the fire. At the heart of this response have been the local churches. They have provided practical support and comfort, but they have also prayed. They have prayed for the people waiting to hear news of loved ones. They have prayed for courage for the emergency services. They have prayed for accommodation to be found for those made homeless.

All this prayer - why do we pray? The main reason Christians pray is that we are joining in with a conversation with the God who loves us and cares for us. We listen to him speak to us in many different ways and we respond to him. We thank him for his provision for us, his goodness, his kindness and we ask him to provide for our needs and the needs of our world. In some extraordinary way the bible teaches us that God uses our prayers to release his power in the world. God doesn't need our prayers, but he delights to work with us. When we pray for God's provision for the families made homeless by the fire in West Kensington, we know that in some mysterious way he will use our prayers to release his blessing in that community. When we pray for God's blessing on the people of Itchen Valley, we know we are joining in with God's purpose for our community.

If you do pray or if you would like to begin praying but haven't done so for a while, I'd encourage you to have a go at praying the Lord's prayer in a different way. Try using it as a scaffold



to build your own prayers on and see how you get on.

*Amanda Denniss*

*Rector Itchen Valley Churches*

## Tribute to Iris Gray

---

Iris was born in Wolverhampton in 1925. Her family moved to Alloa in Scotland where she was educated. Subsequently they returned to the West Midlands, from where the family was evacuated during WW2. By the late 1940s Iris and her family were living in Southgate Street, Winchester. Her father was an executive in the fledgling oil industry and regularly travelled to the Middle East, returning home with accounts of the exotic nomadic lives of bedouins and sheiks.

Iris's mother ran a millinery boutique selling expensive hats to ladies attending society events.

Iris met Harry at Winchester Rugby Club. He was known to visit the boutique on market days wearing his wellies which must have caused some consternation! Following their marriage in 1950, they took over the tenancy of Graces Farm which had been acquired by Harry's father in 1911. Iris was not a typical farmer's wife, she loved socialising and had interests such as tennis, golf and bridge. She was an excellent cook and consummate hostess. Together they had a vibrant circle of friends, mostly



from the farming industry.

Until the arrival of a farm secretary, Iris was responsible for the farm's bookkeeping and she supported Harry in all his activities allied to agriculture. She played golf until her early 80's and was Lady Captain at Hockley Golf Club.

St Swithun's Church was beautifully decorated with spring flowers for her Thanksgiving Service. The family is very grateful for all the kind messages of condolence and for the support of Rev. Alex Pease following the deaths of both Harry and Iris in the last 16 months.

*The Gray family*

## Volunteer needed for the Itchen Valley News

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The magazine's long-serving advertising team is stepping down soon and we need a new crew in place for next autumn. The job involves inviting existing customers to renew their advertisements for another year, finding new clients to fill any gaps, sending out invoices and encouraging prompt payment. At the peak season of October and November this takes about four hours each week but very little time the rest of the year.

The income from advertising is crucial in keeping the magazine going so this is an important role. It is a voluntary position and could be filled by one person or by a team of two or more. If you are interested in helping the magazine fulfil its place in the community, please do get in touch with me.

*Vernon Tottle*

*Editor Itchen Valley News*

*01962 779611 or*

*vernontottle@gmail.com*



## Family File 4 – Communication by Revd. Alex Pease

---

*The scene is  
marriage preparation  
at a Rectory*

Vicar:

“Communication is  
very important in a  
marriage”

Groom: “We have  
no problem with  
that: both of us are very good at saying  
what we want”

Bride (with a puzzled look): “Umm...’  
I have so often heard people say, when  
you mention that Marriage Preparation  
is a good thing to do before getting  
married, ‘oh it’s all about  
communication isn’t it’ with the heavy  
hint ‘I know all about that, I don’t need  
to hear about it from you’.....

But communication isn’t necessarily  
easy within a marriage or a committed  
relationship. It’s for this reason that  
Nicky and Sila Lee dedicate a whole  
session to it on the Marriage Course  
that they lead based at Holy Trinity  
Brompton Church in London (and  
which Lucy and I ran in the Itchen  
Valley a few years ago) and a whole  
section of their book called ‘The  
Marriage Book’ on this subject.

I don’t propose to cover everything  
that they say on the subject, but I do  
recommend that you read the book or  
attend the course!

But I want to emphasize a couple of  
points:

**Communication involves talking  
about our feelings** – it involves  
talking about what we are worried and  
frightened about and whatever we are  
excited and thrilled about – about why



we are angry and why we are sad. It’s  
difficult, I know, to talk about our  
feelings and to listen to talk about our  
feelings, but unless we are able to talk  
together about our inner most secret  
emotions, there is a danger that we  
build a wall between each other, which  
leaves us vulnerable when someone  
more emotionally intelligent comes  
along. We have got to be brave about  
this. And when one of us is willing to  
do this – perhaps for the first time in  
many years – the other of us needs to  
be able to listen.

**Listening isn’t just pausing to take  
breath between sentences** –

sometimes those who think that they  
are great communicators (in that they  
are very good at saying what they  
want) are not very good listeners.  
Listening does not mean just being  
silent waiting for your opportunity to  
say what **you** think. It does **not**  
involve interrupting, problem solving,  
rationalizing or deflecting or even  
reassuring. It involves giving our  
**whole focus** to the other person and  
being able to feed back to them what  
they have said, without critiquing it. So  
the wife, for example, might say ‘there  
is something very important I need to  
discuss with you...’ and then explain it  
at length. But she only *knows* that what  
has been said has been heard and  
understood, if it is summarized back to  
her in the husband’s own words  
**without** comment or putting across  
his own point of view. Miraculously,  
sometimes “being heard” can solve  
problems just by itself, without any  
other action needing to be taken. It is  
worth trying....

But, of course, it’s difficult in the wide  
ranging discussions that we have, and  
the rough and tumble of family life, to  
know whose point was being discussed,  
when the conversation started. A



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practical tip: hold a handkerchief if it is you who is telling your spouse what the problem is and who needs to be feeding back to whom.

One final thought, now that the holiday season is upon us: If you are travelling alone as a couple for the first time in years (perhaps the children have left home) you may be a bit worried about what you are going to talk about for a whole week. Lucy and I have discovered a brilliant way of enjoying the place that we are visiting and having endless conversations which can lead to hugely important chats about life issues: read a book together which is set in the place that you are visiting – a novel is best. Take it with you when you visit the local sites and coffee bars. And take turns in reading it aloud to each other. If you have chosen a 'who dunnit?' then you can spend endless hours enjoyably speculating on where the author is going to take you next. Doing this surrounded by the scenes that the author describes makes a holiday come alive at a totally different level.

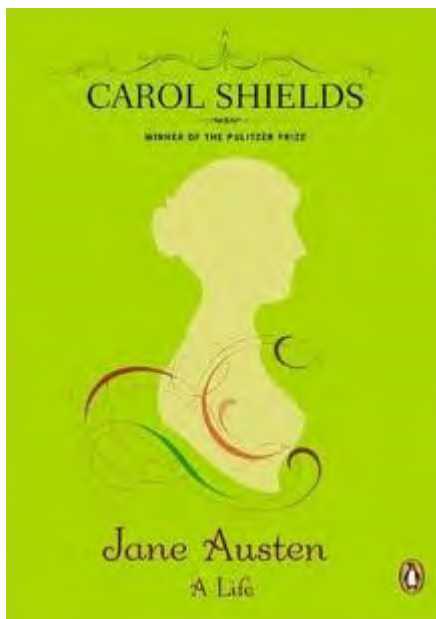
Have a great holiday season with your families

Alex Pease

## 'Jane Austen' by Carol Shields

There must have been hundreds of books written about Jane Austen during the two hundred years since she died in College Street. This particular biography is especially interesting as it is by a novelist, sometimes referred to as the Jane Austen of our time, who is writing about one of the first novelists to raise the standing of this particular literary form.

Carol Shields approaches the life of her subject through her novels. She writes that "traditionally, Jane Austen's



biographers have nailed together the established facts of her life.....and clothed this rickety skeleton with speculation gleaned from the novels." Having given a brief resume of Jane's birth and early life at home with her unorthodox mother who believed in breastfeeding her own babies, Shields moves on to suggest that the subsequent fostering out of Jane was the first of the many shifts to 'alien households' that figure so much in so many of the novels. Home at Steventon was the place where the young Jane most wanted to be, with all the same enjoyments that Catherine Morland had in 'Northanger Abbey' and where she had free range of her father's eclectic library. So many of the female characters in the six great novels are searching for Home in its broadest sense, and in Jane Austen's time that home was necessarily with a husband; a spinster, especially a rather poor one, had no place to call her own. Mrs Bennet's concerns, however



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tiresome to her husband, were ones that he would have done better to take seriously.

This is a brief biography packed with interesting observations and infused with Shields' obvious love of her subject. An example of this is her reaction to a letter written fifty years after Jane's death by Fanny, Jane's favourite niece. In this letter Fanny states 'it is very true that Aunt Jane .....was not so *refined* as she ought to have been from her *talent*' and that Jane and Cassandra were 'very much much below par as to good society and its ways'. Shields' response is so very personal and sensitive and sums up so much that we readers feel:

"The letter, so cosily couched, stings the heart. It is a measure of the affection in which Jane Austen's readers hold her that they are almost always affected by the tone and contents of this letter. The snobbery, the casual disregard, the disloyalty of a beloved niece - all this seems intolerable....."

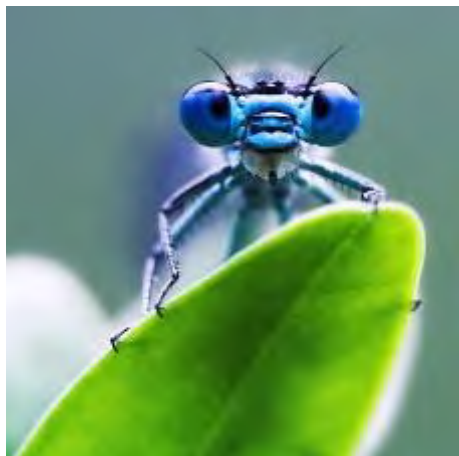
What Carol Shields describes and underlines is that "Her men and women speak their needs and define the barriers that separate them from peace and satisfaction. They are as alive today in their longings as they were two hundred years ago, when she first gave them breath."

*Claire Gaster*

## Our Wild Valley: Damselflies

---

If you have the odd puddle about in your garden, keep it topped up for the birds and insects like damselflies who seem to mooch about in this warm weather over hedges and paddling pools. The damselflies are more delicate than dragonflies and common ones range in beautiful blues and reds (males are the colourful ones) zipping



around while looking for food such as small flies. They have plenty of predators themselves; spiders, whirligig beetles and water skaters may attack the females as they lay their eggs under water. The female damselflies will submerge down a plant up to a metre to lay eggs, taking air down with her under her wings as she may stay there for even an hour. To get out again she can surface but then needs to crawl back up vegetation to break the surface tension or a male may hover over her and pull her out. The dragonfly society ([british-dragonflies.org.uk](http://british-dragonflies.org.uk)) has all sorts of conservation ideas, an 'i record' app and stresses that still so little is known about this prehistoric family and its complex life cycle. Their larvae are those that hide in the intricate small cylinders that you find pond dipping and are voracious hunters themselves. Damselflies need diverse wetlands to survive but we don't know what else they need. Populations have diminished as habitat is lost. Maybe over your puddle or pool you can observe their behaviour from males fighting over females, mating or waiting to ambush their next meal.

*Sophie Rogers*



## Itchen Valley News – reminder about money!

---

You will have read the article in last month's magazine appealing for funds to keep the publication running. Hopefully by now you will have returned your donation in the envelope supplied or done a bank transfer. If not, it's never too late. Please give your donation to your distributor, send it by post to our treasurer at West Hill, Easton, SO21 1ER or online to sort code 40 46 39, account number 61856251, using your address as the reference.

Many thanks.

*Vernon Tottle, Editor IVN*

## Mark Chetwynd Godson 1943-2017

---

Mark was born on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1943; the eldest of Pat and Dorothy's three boys. His early childhood was spent at the family home in Milford, Surrey. Dad was educated at Woodcote House and Charterhouse where he made a number of life-long friends. We have relished some time reading his old school reports, from which it is abundantly clear that his preference was to channel his energies on the sports field! Daddy's love of sport followed him throughout his life; his absolute passion was for cricket. He joined the MCC as a playing member shortly after leaving school. He relished playing cricket at any opportunity, especially if it involved a tour. As a family we spent many a lazy Saturday afternoon watching Daddy play in matches for various teams – we have fond memories of picnics, summer-pudding aka foot-pudding, dachshunds on leads (or often not!), Mummy doing

a tapestry and us girls playing with a car load of toys taken along to keep us entertained. Mummy learnt how to keep the score, so could often be found in the box – no doubt a great place to find a few hours peace and quiet!

Daddy and Mummy spent their first two years living in London then 45 years ago they made the big move from London to Martyr Worthy. As a family we just love Martyr Worthy, the Itchen Valley and the beautiful walks along our idyllic river.

Times have not always been straight forward – Daddy battled with and overcame his alcohol addiction; we were so proud to receive his 36<sup>th</sup> Birthday card from his AA friends only a few weeks ago: what an amazing achievement! We are eternally grateful to Dad's family and friends who







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persuaded him that treatment was the right path to getting him back on the straight and narrow. His strength and determination to overcome alcoholism gave him an overwhelming sense of purpose, which led to him quietly reaching out and supporting others facing similar demons. Wherever he was, every Monday evening he volunteered to be at the end of the AA support line. We frequently forgot the Monday slot and would phone for a blether – realising immediately when he answered that he was on duty. Occasionally I would mischievously respond with “Hi, it’s pissed from Penicuik or muddled from Monchengladbach!”

Daddy thrived in all the organisations he was part of – they gave him great love, friendship and support. He was a volunteer at Winchester Cathedral helping in the kitchen with the lunches, a “listening ear” for the girls of Godolphin School, a reliable member of the Witness Service team at Winchester Crown Court for 15 years and more recently a volunteer driver for Alresford surgery.

Mark Godson is so many things to so many different people, he really is the sum of all the parts: Church Warden and key holder; Village Hall treasurer; tennis partner; golf buddy; shepherd, poulterer, car park provider, supporter; helper; listener, confidant, friend and mentor.

Dad, you faced life with clear eyes, an open heart and passed on hard won wisdom. You are greatly loved by so many and will be sorely missed, but thank you for leaving so many wonderful memories.

*Jane Strudwick,*

*Mark Godson’s eldest (of 4) daughter*

## From the Parish Council

---

Now having had meetings with both sets of cyclists coming through the Valley, a few details as a reminder. The first group, on 9<sup>th</sup> July, will be riding



from the A31 on to Lovington Lane and heading west through Avington and Easton then returning to the A31 via Easton Lane and Long Walk. The second on 16<sup>th</sup> July will be coming into Easton at the corner by the Cricketers Pub and taking an anti-clockwise circuit round the Valley through Easton, Avington, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy, then returning via Easton Lane to the Cricketers corner and back the way they came to Winchester. The first event is run by a commercial organisation and will have their own marshals. The second is part of a triathlon event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to be marshals for this event. It is anticipated that each event will have several hundred participants and will be coming through the Valley from about 9am onwards. We have asked, apart from issues of safety, that participants do not shout to each other when going through the villages and on the entire route do not drop litter. If there are problems on the days concerned please let us know, with photographic evidence if possible.

While walking round the valley it is sad to say that there is a problem with a small number of dog owners who do not clear up their dog’s mess, or if they do, leave the bag with it anywhere they like. Please, if you see this happening and feel it safe to do so, speak to the



dog walker concerned. If a car is involved try to note the number and let us know. We have to look after the valley and the more it is abused, the less likely it will be available to walkers, with or without a dog. Recently there have been several planning applications where the orange notice has not been put up or has been obscured. It is the responsibility of the applicant or the agent making the application to see that the orange notice is put up and is clearly visible. When the Parish Council (or its planning committee) is considering a response to the Planning Authority, if no notice has been posted we are likely to report the fact in our comments to them.

Once again a reminder: although we try to keep an eye on postings on the Itchen List, it cannot be guaranteed. If you want to raise a matter please look at our website and contact the appropriate councillor or our Clerk. That way it will be properly recorded, discussed and, where necessary and possible, some action taken.

*Patrick Appleby*

*Parish Council Chairman.*

## The Practical Gardener

There's a lot happening at this time of year and I'm happy to share experiences.

I've bought a new toy. Well it's a mechanical sifter. I have a garden bed full of stones and it's so tedious using a hand sieve. Then I always sift my compost which is 30-40 buckets every 3 months. So this month I have tried out the new machine. First impressions are good, no back ache. But it doesn't handle wet material too well. Actually the first challenge was the assembly. Being a German machine (why can't we



make anything in this country?) the instructions were just so and I was a bolt short. Anyway I had six wheelbarrows of good compost to spread around the garden without much effort.

I am fed-up with whitefly. They like my garden, especially the greenhouse. None of the sprays really works and whitefly are a serious problem for tomatoes. So I have invested in some nematodes. Time will tell how effective these are. I still have the yellow sticky cards but the chemical sprays are to be left alone.

I also have a new strimmer, Bosch (German again but made in Mexico) with a 36v battery. This is a really good tool. No more arm ache from the non-starting 2-strokes. It does the job, is lighter and much quieter. I can't recommend battery tools more highly. BUT a warning. The batteries are very expensive as is the charging system. So look around before buying. What you don't want is 3 different tools with 3 batteries and separate chargers – too



expensive. And another advantage is that the tools are lighter meaning more unisex, if you get my meaning, I don't consider myself green but I do look at saving utilities. Many of us in the Valley are on septic tanks. Should you ever change, get a bio-digester then like me, you can recycle your water.

My front lawn is looking good. The firm who did the work, Trugreen, seem to know what they are about and any query leads to an immediate response. It's needed a lot of water in the recent dry weather, with the hose running 4 hours every day. Free water as it's recycled and free electricity from the solar panels. Not bad.

I think this year many plants are earlier than usual. I started picking cucumbers and courgettes at the end of May. I am sure the tomatoes will ripen this month in quantity. The broad beans have bigger pods. And now mid-June we are picking gooseberries and raspberries. If you have a greenhouse don't go



away! We had a week in Devon when there was no rain. The auto watering system was very inadequate and although various folk came and tended, the results were not good. Also when you have 40 pots in the garden, there's no hope of watering except by manual methods. So Valley people, maybe we need a sort of child-minder for the garden to help each other. I wonder what others do. In the flower garden, this year will be fabulous for roses. I'm a great believer in dead heading to keep the blooms coming. But this is probably true for all flowers.

I've had a debate with a friend who claims to be an organic gardener. What about NPK? I asked. What's that? came the reply. So here's the debate. All plants need nitrogen, phosphate and potassium and you don't get much of this from compost. So I always use a balanced fertiliser and discovered just what I need at Moles in 25kg bags for less than £10 – bargain. But I also use liquid feeds, tomato fertiliser and seaweed. Shop around, sometimes even Tesco can have what you need.

Happy gardening.  
*Tony Gaster.*





## Valley Volunteer

---

Sarah Hunt has lived in the Itchen Valley on and off for nearly 50 years! She has divided her time between Scotland, Sussex and Hampshire and has raised two boys during term time in Itchen Abbas.

### **How long have you been volunteering for and for which charities?**

Sarah trained as a Cathedral guide during the 80s which she really enjoyed. Very impressively Sarah even guided French tourists with only a few misunderstandings! Sarah was enjoying Evensong on Remembrance Day, listening to the wonderful John Tavener's music in the Nave after which she saw the vacancy in the information leaflet for Friends of Cathedral Music (FCM). This seemed like a sign to Sarah so she contacted the charity and is now the Diocesan Representative for Winchester!

### **What's your role and what does it involve?**

Sarah's role is not to fundraise for the

charity but to encourage new members to join. She does this by distributing leaflets. If she wants to leave a leaflet in a church, permission must be granted by the churchwarden. Sarah is also responsible for writing a newsletter once or twice a year. I read the last one and was it was both interesting and bursting with information about up and coming events, some of which many of the residents of the Itchen valley would be interested in. Please do email her at: [sarah@logiehunt.co.uk](mailto:sarah@logiehunt.co.uk) if you would like a copy. Sarah also is trying to raise the profile of the charity by visiting other areas where there may be interest in becoming a member of FCM.

### **Why did you choose this charity/ how did you get involved?**

Sarah chose this charity because the timing was right and also because she loves music and supporting a wonderful tradition of music in some of our beautiful churches and cathedrals.

### **Brief description/history of the organisation**

The charity was set up in 1956. It is a national, international and ecumenical charity and celebrated its 60th jubilee last year with some fabulous events. FCM aims to provide much needed additional finance to supplement the high cost of continuing the tradition of daily church music in cathedrals across the United Kingdom. This financial assistance enables FCM to continue high standards in choral and organ music. The charity asks members to make a contribution of at least £20 per year, which seems amazing value! For their donation members receive twice yearly a magazine called Cathedral Music and a full colour journal, Cathedral Voice. They also get the opportunity to attend national and local gatherings at magnificent





## Itchen valley church services

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### Sunday 2nd July

8am	BCP Holy Communion
10am	All Age Service
11am	Matins

Avington  
Martyr Worthy  
Easton

### Sunday 9th July

8am	BCP Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
6pm	Evensong

Easton  
Itchen Abbas  
Martyr Worthy

### Sunday 16th July

8am	BCP Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
6pm	Patronal Evensong

Martyr Worthy  
Easton  
Martyr Worthy

### Sunday 23th July

8am	BCP Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
6pm	Taize

Itchen Abbas  
Martyr Worthy  
Easton

### Sunday 30th July

8am	BCP Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion

Easton  
Martyr Worthy

### Rector

Rev Amanda Denniss      779832      [amandadenniss@gmail.com](mailto:amandadenniss@gmail.com)

### Assistant Priest

Rev Alex Pease      791010      [rev@ampease.co.uk](mailto:rev@ampease.co.uk)

### Licensed Lay Minister

Mr Gerry Stacey      620263      [gstacey@easynet.co.uk](mailto:gstacey@easynet.co.uk)

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

### Itchen Valley Churchwardens

Robin Greenwood 779540; Andrew Impey 779645;

Theo Mezger 07775 908014; Vanessa Rosewell 841182;

Tony Gaster 779110;



cathedrals and meet others with a shared interest in cathedral music. There are also interesting talks, master classes in choral and organ performances and even the opportunity to watch choirs rehearsing. The Winchester gathering this May included a cathedral tour, with talks on the history of the cathedral and musical foundation and an open rehearsal for evensong.

**What would you say are the main challenges facing charities and in particular the charity you help with today?**

The main challenge is that choral traditions will be taken for granted. We need to appreciate that we in this country are greatly blessed to have the opportunity to enjoy music in such historical and beautiful surroundings.

**What do you get out of volunteering/why do you do it?**

Sarah finds that volunteering for FCM has enhanced her faith and she has enjoyed meeting new people with similar interests. For Sarah volunteering has been time consuming in a positive way. She has stretched herself by improving her IT skills and by writing the informative and friendly newsletter.

**What is the Charity's current project?**

To mark the charity's 60th anniversary in 2016, the Friends of Cathedral Music is looking to raise £10 million for a new Diamond Fund for Choristers to relieve hardship, with targeted grants and to fund chorister bursaries and provide other support to choristers to help them develop and flourish. "I owe so much of my life to being a cathedral chorister" Jon Snow, Channel 4 News. There is also The Southern Cathedrals Festival in Winchester from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2017 which has a fabulous array

of concerts, lectures and recitals, including a talk by Professor Michael Wheeler looking at the enduring relationship between Jane Austen and Winchester. If you are interested in becoming a member of Friends of Cathedral Music, please contact Sarah on [sarah@logiehunt.co.uk](mailto:sarah@logiehunt.co.uk) or for more information visit: [www.fcm.org](http://www.fcm.org)  
*Sarah talked to Ronnie Johns*

## Revd. Jonathan Cruickshank RIP

Many of our readers will remember Jonathan Cruickshank, a former Rector of the Itchen Valley, who died on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 after a short illness. He was at that time vicar of a benefice in the Wyre Forest,



Worcestershire, having moved there from the Itchen Valley via Devon and Kent.

Jonathan was incumbent here from 2001 to 2009 and amongst other achievements he will be remembered for combining the four separate churches successfully into one parish.  
*Vernon Tottle Editor IVN*

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## Itchen Valley Flower Show Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017 Schedule and Entry Form



Free to enter for all (until Wednesday 12th July, then late entry fee applies)

All entry forms (on the reverse of this form) and fees must be sent to either Sara Mason 14 Bridgetts Lane Martyr Worthy SO21 1AR 01962 779169, Gail Kennedy No 4, The Row, Avington or Sue Germon, 7 Little Hayes Lane, Itchen Abbas. Email entries to [splmason@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:splmason@hotmail.co.uk)

LATE ENTRIES will only be accepted up to 9am on SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JULY  
Late entries £1.00 per item (both adult and children's classes) to be delivered to Gail Kennedy

All entries to be staged by 9.45am on the day of the show  
Hall open from 8.00am - 9.45am on Sunday 16th July

### Cake Recipe for Chocolate Victoria Sandwich – Category 44

#### Cake

8oz/225 g butter or margarine  
8oz/225 g caster sugar  
6oz/170 g self-raising flour  
2oz/50g cocoa powder  
Quarter of a teaspoon of baking powder  
4 eggs

#### Butter icing

4oz/110g butter (salted or low/no salt)  
8oz/225g icing sugar sifted  
Cocoa powder sifted to taste

#### Method

Cream fat and sugar together until pale and creamy and then beat in eggs. Fold in sieved flour, baking powder and cocoa powder, add a couple of table spoons of water to make a softer consistency. Divide into 2 x 8-inch (20cm) sponge tins and bake at 160 degrees (fan oven) in oven until springy to the touch (about 25 minutes)

#### Topping

Cream together the butter and icing sugar and sieve in cocoa powder (enough to give a good strong taste). Add a little warm water or milk to lighten the mix. Spread on top and middle of sponge, decorate with chocolate curls.



## SECTION A FRUIT & VEGETABLES

- 7 FIVE Broad Beans
- 8 SEVEN French Beans
- 9 FIVE Runner Beans
- 10 FIVE Long Carrots
- 11 FIVE Mangetout
- 12 TWO Lettuces with washed roots
- 13 TWO Cucumbers
- 14 FIVE Pea pods
- 15 THREE Onions
- 16 THREE Globe Beetroot
- 17 THREE Potatoes
- 18 THREE Garlic Bulbs
- 19 THREE Courgettes (max. length 6" or 15 cm)
- 20 FIVE Ordinary Tomatoes (same variety)
- 21 Mixed bunch of Culinary Herbs - maximum of FIVE varieties
- 22 ELEVEN Raspberries with stems
- 23 Collection of soft fruit - any THREE kinds on a plate (Fruits must have stems attached)
- 24 Funniest vegetable

## SECTION B FLOWERS

- 25 Vase of Flowering Shrubs - THREE stems of ONE kind (excluding Hydrangeas)
- 26 Vase of Mixed Herbaceous Perennials
- 27 Vase of Mixed or one variety of Annuals - at least THREE kinds (excluding classes 35,36 and 37)
- 28 ONE Flowering Pot Plant - max 7" pot (18 cm)
- 29 ONE Foliage Plant, cactus or succulent - max 7" pot (18 cm)
- 30 ONE Fuchsia Plant - in a pot
- 31 Vase of THREE Dahlias stems
- 32 Vase of FIVE Annual Sweet Peas - SINGLE COLOUR
- 33 Vase of FIVE Annual Sweet Peas - MIXED COLOURS
- 34 Vase of FIVE Pansies
- 35 BEST ROSE of the Show with the name of variety (if possible) and one leaf attached
- 36 Vase of Floribunda or Patio Roses - THREE stems
- 37 Vase of Hydrangeas - THREE stems
- 38 Vase of THREE stems of flowering bulbous plants (except Dahlias)
- 39 ONE summer planted container or hanging basket



### SECTION C - FLOWER ARRANGING

- 40 A Miniature Arrangement of flowers in an egg cup maximum size 4" (10 cm) overall
- 41 An Arrangement of flowers incorporating a teacup and saucer, for all round visual effect, Max 20" (50 cm) overall
- 42 An Arrangement of foliage and natural materials, for all round visual effect Any size

### SECTION D - COOKERY

- 43 Six eggs hen, bantam or water fowl but not mixed
- 44 Chocolate Victoria Sandwich see set recipe on front page
- 45 Four flapjacks
- 46 Toffee apple pie
- 47 Four Chelsea buns
- 48 Six cheese straws
- 49 Four meringue halves
- 50 SIX truffles

### SECTION E - PRESERVES with date

- 51 Jar of marmalade
- 52 Jar of Honey
- 53 Jar of fruit jam or jelly
- 54 1 bottle of homemade cordial or wine
- 55 Jar of chutney

### SECTION F - CRAFT Please specify if craft work has been created from a kit

- 56 Any Article of Knitting or crochet
- 57 An item of Tapestry
- 58 Any article of jewellery or a piece of beading.
- 59 An item of Embroidery (not on canvas)

- 60 An item of patchwork or quilting
- 61 A small piece of craft, including woodwork, not included in classes 56-60
- 62 A Colour Photograph of a famous building, no larger than 7 x 5 inches (18 x 13 cm)
- 63 A Black and White Photograph of curves, no larger than 7 x 5 inches (18 x 13 cm)

### THE CHILDREN'S SECTION - G

#### Prize Money

First £1.00 Second 70p  
Third 50p

#### Class 1 Marzipan fruits (four)

- 1a 4 - 7 yrs 1b 8 - 11 yrs  
1c 12 - 15 yrs

#### Class 2 Make a model of something you have been learning about MAX 50cm ht.

- 2a 4 - 7 yrs 2b 8 - 11 yrs  
2c 12 - 15 yrs

#### Class 3 Miniature garden in a half seed tray

- 3a 4 - 7 yrs 3b 8 - 11 yrs  
3c 12 - 15 yrs

#### Class 4 Flower arrangement in a jam jar

- 4a 4 - 7 yrs 4b 8 - 11 yrs  
4c 12 - 15 yrs

#### Class 5 A photograph - playing with water

- 5a 4 - 7 yrs 5b 8 - 11 yrs  
5c 12 - 15 yrs

#### Class 6 Decorated piece of handwriting - poem of your choice

- 6a 4-7 yrs 6b 8-11 yrs  
6c 12-15 yrs





## Itchen Valley Flower Show 2017 Entry Form

**FREE TO ENTER FOR ALL**

Please circle the classes you wish to enter

### Section A – Fruit and Vegetables

7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		

### Section B – Flowers

25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37	38	39					

### Section C – Flower Arranging

40	41	42
----	----	----

### Section D – Cookery

43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
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### Section E – Preserves

51	52	53	54	55
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### Section F – Craft

56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
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Name .....

Address .....

Tel No .....

### Section G – Children's Classes – No Charge

4-7	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a
8-11	1b	2b	3b	4b	5b	6b
12-15	1c	2c	3c	4c	5c	6c

Child 1 – Name ..... Age .....

Child 2 – Name ..... Age .....

Child 3 – Name ..... Age .....



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## How to win first prize at the Flower Show

Anyone who has ever sung in a choir or played in an orchestra will know that the one phrase heard time and time again is: “Watch the conductor!” The same applies to cooking – Follow the Recipe!

Many years ago, indeed back in 1987 (yes, the year of Michael Fish’s great storm) Arminel and I had recently moved to Itchen Abbas. Jane Edmonds, who was the matriarch of the village, kept on and on at me to enter something for the Itchen Valley Flower Show. My lame excuse of having no flowers in the garden was countered by “Well maybe you could bake something.” I had dabbled a little in the dark arts of cooking but would never have called myself a chef. “You don’t need to know anything about cooking” said Jane. “Just follow the recipe and make the set cake. It’s easy this year – it’s a Madeira sponge.”

I did just that and early in the morning of the Flower Show I woke up and assembled all the ingredients. I had a little problem with the rock hard margarine straight from the fridge but, being Flora and not butter, it soon softened up and I forged ahead. I concentrated really hard on the recipe, forsaking all other distractions, and just in time before the doors shut I walked round to the village hall (the old hall that is, now Mayblossom House) holding my pretty-decent-looking-for-a-first-attempt Madeira cake.

The afternoon came and I wandered round to see what the judges thought of my effort. The hall was abuzz with



ladies commenting about the various winners and losers but in particular how on earth the set-recipe cake class could possibly have been won by a man? Men can’t bake, it must have been a labelling mistake! But there was my cake on display, adorned with a red first prize card. “How had I made it?” “What flour had I used?” “What sort of oven did I have?” “Who had taught me how to cook?” All I could say was, “I followed the recipe.”

The Itchen Valley Flower Show set-recipe this year is for a chocolate sponge. I have made it already and can vouch for the instructions (on page 24 of this magazine). Follow the recipe and it will turn out just as you imagine it should. Be aware that it is a **BIG** cake and it will consume a lot of ingredients; make sure you have them all to hand before you start (and get the butter out of the fridge a few hours beforehand). In addition, the very last sentence tells you to decorate the cake with chocolate curls – and they’re not in the list of ingredients! Make sure you either buy some or make them yourself in advance.

**Go on – have a go!** If you’ve never baked a chocolate sponge in your life, this is your chance to “do a Vernon”!

*Vernon Tottle*



## Easton Village Hall

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

**Regular bookings** Only those in blue continue through the summer holidays

Authentic Pilates	Mon	9 am, 6:30 pm	Fri 9am	Judy	07774 899909
Ems Bray Pilates	Tue	8:45 & 10 am	Thu 9am	Emily	07876 033893
Sally Stanyard	Tue	4.15 pm - 7.45 pm		Sally	01962 776562
School of Dance	Thu	6.45 pm and	Fri 4 pm		
	Sat	9 am - 2.30 pm			
Moo Music	Wed	9:15 am, 10.15 am		Denise	01962 779182
Brew with a View	Wed	3 - 5 pm		Ina	01962 779465
Muriele Zumba	Thu	10.30 am		Muriele	07821 545403
David Michel Yoga	Fri	1 - 2 pm		David	07790 899890
Dionne Yoga	Tue	8.15 pm;	Fri 10.30 am	Dionne	07961 888676
Mahjong / U3A	Tue	2 - 5 pm		Anne	01420 563393

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Riverbank	Mon - Wed	8.30am to 3 pm	Babs	01962 621757
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Hall Manager Alex Bellisario or [manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk](mailto:manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk)  
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Rugby Tots	Tues	09.15	Phil	03453 133258
Boules	Tues	18.00	Jenny	01962 779813
Ladies Short Tennis	Wed	14.30	Arminel	01962 779611
Pilates	Wed 9.15 & 18.30		Aimee	07546 941489
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## Arcadia in Hampshire

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"It is a Utopia of gentle harmony with nature." So writes landscape architect Kim Wilkie in an introductory piece to the 2017 programme for the newly established Grange Festival. Note that there is no "Park" in the title. That is all that is missing. This is a truly magnificent transformation from the old and slightly tired Grange Park opera season. The bumpless access road through the woods and the glorious views of the lake are the first indication of a new direction, a new atmosphere.

The story of the rancorous departure of the old company and its trail of devastation to the opera house might itself make a good plot for an opera. Perhaps a pantomime would be more appropriate with its wicked witch and handsome prince. Richard Morrison, in his acerbic review of the opening night of *Tosca* to start off the new Park opera, describes the "concrete bunker in the soggy woods" of West Horsley and says that "if we wanted a really difficult woman in our Brexit negotiation," he would pick Wasfi Kani. Enough of the sad history – this is a story of triumph. I went to the evening when the John Wilson Orchestra and soloists gave us an outstanding entertainment, with songs from the Rogers and Hammerstein shows. The applause was prolonged and there was barely a dry eye in the audience for their closing quartet *When you walk through a storm*. I can't wait for *Carmen* and *Albert Herring*. The programme has widened, not just to reflect Michael Chance's love of early music, but to broaden its appeal and to revive the Hampshire International Singing Competition for young singers. From the moment you walk into the



grounds, the whole atmosphere feels completely different. Gone is the hustle, the naked pursuit of money. The Grange now is relaxed and friendly. Even the young chorus singers whom we have accommodated feel comfortable and wanted. I have been much involved with arts sponsorship in the past and appreciate that sponsors must have good and worthwhile credit for the support that makes it possible to stage these expensive events, but there is a tasteful way of doing this which has now been adopted very successfully. The change is to be embraced. The new team led by Michael Chance and the Baring Estate have to be thanked and congratulated. Theirs is a colossal achievement. We should be very glad to have our local opera festival maintained and enhanced.  
*Nick Owen*

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## Correction to email address

The recruitment advert for readers to join the local U3A Questers group in the June magazine had an incorrect email address. Stuart Gaunt can be contacted at [stuart.gaunt@btinternet.com](mailto:stuart.gaunt@btinternet.com) and not via [start.gaunt@btinternet.com](mailto:start.gaunt@btinternet.com) as stated.  
Apologies  
*Editor*





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## The Valley Gardeners visit Andy McIndoe's garden in Hampshire

---

Many readers will know Andy McIndoe, as he was the Managing Director of Hillier garden centres until recently. In his 40 years of horticultural experience, he won 25 consecutive gold medals for Hillier at the Chelsea Flower show and is general accepted as a larger than life guru in the gardening community. The Valley Gardeners were lucky enough to be able to visit Andy and Ros's glorious garden in Sherfield English on a perfect June day. If Andy wanted a second career, he could easily become a standup comedian as anyone who has heard him talk can attest! His wry sense of humour makes him a lively and amusing host and his hour long guided tour of his garden was a mix of interesting information about the planning and development of the site, a pointing out of plants of particular interest and very helpful gardening

tips, all enhanced by clever asides and funny stories.

The garden at Sherfield English was not easy to establish as it is set on light, slightly acidic sandy soil. It is 2 acres in size and set within mature woodland. The planting is naturalistic with a large area of meadow and a wide variety of trees, shrubs and perennials. There are a great many coloured foliage shrubs and trees and the flowering dogwoods were a wonderful sight. There is a delightful sunken terrace surrounded by luscious planting and at the very top of the garden, a folly built by Andy himself.

We were treated to a delicious tea after our tour and the chance to buy a few well-chosen plants to take back to our own gardens.

You too can visit Andy and Ros's garden which is best seen in early summer and again in the autumn.

Visit Andy's website <http://www.andymcindoe.com> to see how to contact him.

*Catherine Hahn*





## From our City Councillor

It won't have escaped the notice of IV News readers that both the two serious parliamentary candidates reside in Itchen Valley – there must be something in the air or water. Needless to say, Steve Brine will continue to be an excellent constituency MP, hopefully for an uninterrupted five years. Jackie Porter's efforts should be applauded too. She was a worthwhile challenger and will continue in public service as the County Councillor. In truth, they were both let down, in different ways, by their respective national Party campaigns, and the inquests are likely to continue for some time – books and TV dramas will no doubt follow. For all the jubilation, the fact is that the Labour Party probably has even more of a conundrum as it is now stuck, at least for the foreseeable future, with a leader who sits at an extreme end of the political spectrum. Yes, Corbyn was a successful campaigner and yes, he was 'genuine', whatever that is actually supposed to mean but, fortunately, the political reality is that extremists will unravel at some point. We can all cope with political parties that hover around the centre ground. There was good reason why Blair and co dragged the Labour Party in that direction. There are good reasons why both China and Russia are taking that journey too, albeit with a few backward steps along the way. For all its faults, and I'll admit that there are plenty, capitalism and basic conservative principles



tempered with a social heart, tends to work.

There are only two upsides I can think of just now. First is that we may get a 'softer Brexit'. I'm not sure what that means except that the perception is that it will be more conciliatory and more acceptable to a greater number of people. The other is that the next scheduled election is not for another year, when the city council cycle rolls around again. In the meantime, there's an Itchen Valley summer to enjoy.

*Kim Gottlieb*



The annual Easton Sixes Cricket tournament runs again this year from 10 am on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July.

If cricket really isn't your thing then come along to the Tug of War the previous evening from 7 pm.

And if you don't like watching a Tug of War then just listen to the excellent band.

Sixties music for the Sixes cricket.



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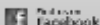
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## Food Spy visits The Alresford Cricketers

---

I put the phone down and wracked my brains... *"Can you recommend a nice pub near Winchester that has a good, safe play area for children?"* my friend had asked. Hmmmmm. Tricky. Surprisingly few options sprang to mind. There is the Woolpack at Totford. The King Alfred in Hyde. What about the Cricketers in Alresford?

We picked a Sunday and met at The Alresford Cricketers for lunch. As soon as we pulled into the car park the children's eyes lit up. An enormous pub garden with play apparatus stretched before us, complete with lawn area and goal posts at either end for an impromptu game of football. Adults lazily sipped drinks at picnic tables, enjoying the sunshine while children played happily. A pizza oven was stood by a pretty pergola, churning out some rather delicious looking stone baked pizzas. We sat in the sunshine sipping our drinks and scanned the Sunday lunch menu while the children shouted their menu choices from the upper ramparts of the wooden play 'castle' (clearly having far too much fun to stop what they were doing).

We went inside to eat. The pub had evidently been recently decorated - it was quite dark but it all looked fresh and very pleasant. There was no sign of Karen that day (previous patron of the Chestnut Horse) but the staff were friendly and beyond helpful as they prepared the children's place settings with colouring books, crayons and bubbles for the garden. Food Spy ordered the Roast Pork (£10), other friends ordered the Roast Beef (£11), Lasagne (£10), Quiche of the day (£10)

and pizzas from the pizza oven (£8). The children's pizzas and fish and chips arrived first after the staff had thoughtfully asked if we would prefer it that way. The Roast Pork arrived with all the trimmings and an impressive side dish of vegetables. Perhaps the roast potatoes could have been crispier and the pork slices were a little on the thin side, but this was a good, sound Sunday roast for £10. Others at the table were happy with their choices. The Quiche of the day looked impressive - a goats cheese and caramelised red onion offering served with a large salad and new potatoes. Food Spy suffered food envy while those that had plumped for the homemade beef lasagne crunched into their smothered garlic bread slices. The children were all happy tucking into their pizzas and busily gobbling chips drowning in gallons of ketchup. And it was in this way that a couple of very pleasant hours were spent on a Sunday afternoon with friends. A sigh of relief that the chaotic and stressful alternative of Food Spy having to cook Sunday lunch had been dodged with no juggling of pans and no washing up. Our meal had been finished with a round of oozy dark chocolate brownies, chocolate sauce and vanilla ice cream, before we staggered to our cars and said our goodbyes, already planning a return trip.

Jacklyns Lane, Alresford, SO24 9LW  
Good value. Relaxed atmosphere.  
Great garden. Happy children.  
*Food Spy*

---

## Poogate

As already referred to on page 18 of this magazine, there appears to be an increasing problem of people leaving their dog mess hanging on the bushes by the stiles on footpaths. An Easton



resident had a clear up a month ago and yet walking the same route this week found a similar, if not worse situation.

And when he was strimming around the stiles to get rid of the nettles and the trimmer wire went through one such bag; use your imagination! Many local paths run through SSI land and we need to protect the birds, wildlife and cattle. They know to leave animal dung for the insects and beetles that thrive on it but a plastic bag hanging on a bush looks like a food offering waiting to be consumed. Cows become seriously unwell if they eat such bags.

Why this craze for bagging something that used to decompose naturally without doing any harm (and actually fertilised the soil)? Can a dog owner in the Valley who does use bags please respond to this for the next edition? The worst local area appears to be the stile by the Easton playground which really is grim as it is so close to where children are playing. Everyone needs to look after the Itchen valley paths as a whole and take pride in our surroundings so we can all enjoy them to the full.

*Editor*



## Local monthly information

### Waste collections in July

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Green bins on Fridays 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Cameo

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

### Farmers' Markets in Winchester

Sundays 9<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July.

### Parish Council Full Meeting

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at Itchen Abbas

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Weekdays to Alresford:

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

**School holiday timetable** operates on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July onwards.

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:

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