

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 30 June 2016 For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Wootton





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WELCOME to the Valley News



We have a wealth of information this month and reports of past events. Our community will be celebrating the Queen's official birthday on June 11th and 12th (see centre spread for village events and the church diary) and we also feature Avington's Fete at the end of the month. The rector's letter also focuses on this theme and the lovely book "The Servant Queen".

There is much to look forward to. Yet this month is also time for perhaps the most important decision of our lives on June 23rd. It all seems so very different from the vote we made in the 70's to join a Common Market. I'm still listening to all the arguments. Is the Itchen Valley CE marked?

I am always hugely impressed by people in this community who give so much time to helping others. So we have notices of different upcoming events supporting charities and people in real need. And some of the big events depend on the IV churches with a large an enthusiastic group of fund-raisers.

As summer looms we also look more to outdoor activities, gardening and barbeques - standing under a dripping umbrella in our wellies. Most of us appreciate the environment of our Valley. In that sense the letter on page 9 indicates not all is well. Indeed the subject of trees has featured frequently in our columns and issues of how we must care for them.

For the energetic we have another interesting walk (pages 10-11). I note a wonderful attempt at book recycling at the Plough (page 15). I always leave my paperbacks in hotel rooms for others.

It appears the mobile library is a casualty of our time.

Gardeners and others will be preparing now for the Flower Show in July and lovers of music for the fabulous Glynde Easton. As always, we are grateful to our contributors, regular and otherwise. If I may just have a small moan this time, would contributors please try and respect our copy deadline. I had to redo the first pages twice because of late copy. Could I also ask that "adobe .pdfs" are avoided as we can't always convert them. We have another fabulous cover thanks to Penny Russell.

Next month Fi McIntosh and Lucy Wolfe will be editing.

Tony Gaster

Itchen Valley News

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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. Cover design Penny Russell. Other photos from various contributors.

What's On

St Mary's Easton Spring Clean

Spring cleaning at Easton church will take place on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th June, between 9am and noon on both days. Yes, I know June isn't Spring any longer, but this is the earliest time we have been able to arrange this and it will be just in time for the two weddings shortly afterwards.

On the Friday we'd like to concentrate on the higher-up areas of the church: windows, ledges etc., in order not to let dust fall on lower areas already cleaned. So we would be grateful for help from volunteers happy with ladders and heights. On the Saturday we'll concentrate on lower areas: pews, floors, panelling etc. and would be grateful for all offers of help.

All cleaning materials and more importantly, refreshments, will be provided. The more people willing to lend a hand, the quicker we will be and the shinier and more resplendent will be the newly cleaned church!

Please contact me for more information and to confirm your willingness to help with this important task.

Sue Kennedy 779601

Auctions In A Day in Itchen Abbas Village Hall on Saturday 4th June.

Auction Starts at 2 pm, viewing from 12.30 pm:

to include China, Coins, Ephemera, Collectables, Old Toys, Jewellery, small items of Furniture, not Household goods, Car Boot Items or modern Electricals, with Cycle Section.

Drop off items to sell 9.00-9.30 am

Sellers booking recommended

Please call *Claire* 01962 734941 or *Bob* 01962 733475

Open Gardens Sun 12th June

Five open gardens in Meonstoke & Exton on Sunday 12th June from 2-5.30pm. £4 entrance covers all gardens. Children are free. Cream teas and homemade cakes at Manor House, Exton SO32 3NU. Parking is in field near Exton church (SO32 3NU) and near Meonstoke School (SO32 3NJ.) All proceeds to Youth Options, a Hampshire based charity for young people. Contact Natalie Lumby at fundraising@youthoptions.co.uk for more info.

Lucy Collis

Queen's Birthday Celebrations

11th and 12th June - see pages 22 and 23 for details.

Glynde Easton

18th June - see page 21 for details.

Avington Fete

In case you missed the front cover advert, 26th June - also on page 36.

Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall AGM

This year's annual general meeting will take place in the Burge Room of the Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd June. Please arrive from 6pm for a 6.30pm start. The business of the meeting will include approval of the minutes from the 2015 AGM, Chair's Report, Treasurer's Report, election of the Trustees for the coming year and AOB. All who live in Itchen Abbas, Avington and the surrounding area are invited to attend.

Sue McIntosh, Secretary

Get ready for the Flower Show

Sunday 17th July 2016.

Come and join us on Sunday 17th July at Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall to celebrate all that is best about our beautiful Itchen Valley.



You can come along on Sunday between 8am and 9.45am and place your entries into the classes you have entered. We are not open the evening before as usual as we will be setting up. The schedule and entry form will be printed in the July edition of the Itchen Valley News. It is free to enter until Wednesday 13th July. Then we charge a late fee of £1.00.

A copy of the schedule and entry form can be downloaded from the Flower Show website at <http://www.itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk> There is prize money for the children and cups for each age group. Cups are also awarded to winners of the adult classes. This year we have purchased a leather bound book to keep a record of all the cup winners so that engraving cups can be optional.

Once the judging has finished and prizes allotted, please come and see the show between 2.30 and 4.30pm. We have a bouncy castle to entertain young children and homemade cakes and tea for the adults. We look forward to seeing you there.

Flower Show Committee

Curious Arts Festival

Last year I visited the delightful Curious Arts Festival and enjoyed it so much that I want to spread the word. Set in the beautiful Pylewell Park, near

Lymington, the festival mixes literature, music and comedy and has a relaxed family-friendly feel. Nestled between the sea and a gorgeous country house, it's an eccentric but charming garden party.

This year's literary line up includes Michel Faber, ex-M15 Dame Stella Rimington, Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, Deborah Moggach (*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*), Costa winner Andrea Wulf (*Invention of Nature*) and Andrew Miller (*The Crossing*) among others. Led by the lovely Simon Evans from Radio 4, there is comedy from Zoe Lyons, Lucy Porter, Justin Edwards, Chris Martin, Lloyd Griffiths and the amazing stand-up comic for children, James Campbell. Musical offerings range from Opera in the gorgeous gardens on the Thursday night, through to Lucy Rose, Skinny Lister, Gus Robertson (Razorlight) and Billy Bragg.

Horticulturalists can take a tour of the exquisite gardens with landscape architect Wade Graham, hear Thomas Pakenham on *The Company of Trees* and Jackie Bennet's *Shakespeare's Gardens*.

Aspiring novelists can sign up for workshops on how to get published, with DBC Pierre, the Booker Prize-winning author of *Vernon God Little*, and SJ Watson, author of international





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bestseller *Before I Go to Sleep*. There are also journalism workshops for younger writers, with *The Week Junior*. A weekend-long Sonnet-athon and *Shakespeare, Not Stirred* cocktail classes mark the 400 year anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Other curious happenings include life drawing, a silent yoga disco, night time bat walks, authors' cricket and snail racing. Children are well catered for and I found it the perfect, safe, relaxed introduction to festival going for my three little ones. This year, we're going on a Curious Bear Hunt, as well as searching the grounds for the Jabberwocky. In the Children's Tent, there's puppet making, crafts and you can hear famous children's authors and bedtime stories. Whilst we did go on the poetry trail, insect walks and try family yoga, it was also lovely to be in such glorious surroundings soaking up the atmosphere whilst the children ate pizzas and we drank G&Ts.

This year's Curious Arts Festival runs from 21st - 24th July 2016. For more information, visit

www.curiousartsfestival.com

Itchen Abbas Primary School has family tickets to the festival as one of their Summer raffle prizes, admin@itchenabbas.hants.sch.uk.

Sarah Songhurst

Easton WI

Members arrived for our May meeting looking very glamorous in order to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday as well as our AGM.

Our President, Kyrene Beames, gave her Report on the year's activities, thanking Helen Cox for her excellent choice of Speakers and welcoming Jean Wheeler who will be taking over for

the next year. Vivienne was thanked for keeping our finances in good shape. Members had donated to Denman in memory of Doreen Scatchard who had been a valued member for many years. This year's Resolution would be on encouraging those in the food supply chain to reduce waste. Our WI Adviser, Cathy Winter, organized the voting for our new Committee and answered questions.

Our next Meeting will be on Thursday 9th June 7.15pm when the Speaker will be talking about Gardening for Butterflies.

Sallie Peake

Cricket Club News

Four years ago, we at Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club had an Australian overseas player for the season and we enjoyed the experience so much, it took us this long before we found another one. This year's sporting migrant is Matt Chamberlain and he's already made quite an impression, taking part in the Junior training and improving our 1st XI's run rate beyond all recognition. He comes from just outside of Sydney so being in the Itchen Valley has made him feel quite at home. If you find yourself down at the ground, please make him feel welcome (he is easy to recognise as he's the one with a tan).

Joking aside, Matt has been a tremendous asset to our club this season and we are very glad to have him playing for us. He is a fully qualified coach and is available for coaching sessions if any aspiring cricketers need some help perfecting that reverse sweep or something more conventional.

The other very important addition to our club this year is a Ladies team. I am

sure many of you reading this will know someone involved, or are taking part yourselves. At E&MWCC, we are overjoyed to welcome women to the club and hope that they all thoroughly enjoy themselves and get as much out of playing as do their children and the rest of us. If it wasn't for the sterling work done by Itchen Abbas' own Rachael Ashbee, this would never have happened and as a club we are genuinely grateful to her for this.

Here are the home fixtures for June

1st 1 XI 6.30pm (Pathway Lions)

4th 1 XI 2pm (Bournemouth)

5th U13 9.30am (Hursley Park)

11th 2 XI 2pm (Old Basing)

16th Easton Wanderers 6.30pm
(White Hunters)

18th 1 XI 2pm (Longparish)

24th U15 6.30pm (Trojans B)

25th 2 XI 2pm (Twyford)

Adam Murch, Chairman

Money can't buy you love ...

..... but it can help the Itchen Valley News continue to provide a monthly 44 page magazine delivered to your letterbox. Because the publication is, on principle, free of charge to everyone in the Valley, we don't have a pay-up-or-you-don't-get-it fixed subscription. We do however ask for contributions to help offset the costs.

I am happy to show below the accounts for the magazine for the past two years, produced by our Hon



Treasurer, Andrew Kennedy. They show that 2015 was really much like 2014 in that the comparative income and cost figures were very similar, year on year. Advertising revenue continues to meet a very large part of our printing costs but the publication is dependent on readers' contributions to fund its total expenditure.

	2015 £	2014 £
Advertising revenue	8,011	7,957
Other revenue	<u>351</u>	<u>423</u>
	8,362	8,480
Printing costs	(8,508)	(8,962)
Other costs	<u>(345)</u>	<u>(469)</u>
	(8,853)	(9,431)
Deficit before contributions	(491)	(951)
Contributions from readers	<u>2,499</u>	<u>3,062</u>
Operating surplus	<u>2008</u>	<u>2,011</u>

Clearly there is no point in making a £2,000 surplus every year and that is why the magazine is now printed in full colour on every page. The additional annual cost of doing this is around £2,000 so we are expecting the publication to show a break-even position by the end of 2016.

But this will only happen if you, the readers, assist us financially as kindly as you did last year. To help you do this, we have enclosed an envelope with this month's issue. Please put your donation inside the pre-printed envelope and either give it to your distributor or post it to the treasurer. As an alternative, you can make an online payment direct to the Itchen Valley News, using your address as the reference, to sort code 40 46 39, account number 61856251.

Last year the average donation was over £15 but we welcome whatever you feel able to give. In case it helps, a list of who gave how much last year is printed on page 45.

On behalf of the many local people who volunteer their time and skills to the magazine, thank you all very much.

Vernon Tottle

Editor, Itchen Valley News

Letter to the editor

Arboreal carnage in Itchen Abbas

Dear Sir

A scene of devastation met the eyes and ears of residents and users of the B3047 on the morning of 26th April.

Two of the magnificent horse chestnut trees that line the road were being felled. I believe that all residents of the Itchen Valley (and further afield) know and cherish these trees which could be a century or more old. Indeed, several visitors in the past couple of weeks from outside the area have asked us why this was done and I certainly remember their beauty and stature when I used to drive regularly along the B3047 forty years ago. These trees provide(d) an important and uplifting arboreal landmark in our village.

The ever invasive horse chestnut tree miner had infected this stand of trees which caused unsightliness on the leaves and possibly induced the trees to drop their leaves early. However, I quote from the RHS website, “research has shown that this has almost no effect on the growth rate or health of trees”.

We believe that these trees were healthy and had many years of safe standing before them and there was no good reason to remove them.

Surely it is important that residents understand that the mature trees on their property do not exist for their

benefit alone but have an “amenity value”, which is defined here, (and again I quote, this time from the Forestry.gov.uk website). *Amenity values of street trees and woodland views can be evaluated from a number of perspectives, including economic, social, historical, health and recreation.*

We are so fortunate to live in this beautiful valley and a huge part of that beauty is the number of mature trees contributing to our unique English landscape. Only for the most serious of reasons should any of those trees be taken down. We understand these trees should have had a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on them but for some reason did not, thus allowing the felling to take place. Those that remain, now do have a TPO on them.

There is nothing we can do to restore these trees but we believe many other residents will mourn their unnecessary loss and we should all go out of our way to ensure that this kind of desecration does not happen again.

Catherine and Erich Hahn

Itchen Insight

Name: Alex Pease

Age: 60

Occupation: Curate (trainee Vicar), formerly lawyer

How many years you've lived in the

Valley: almost one year (but been working as a curate here for 4 years)

Your life in 180 characters:

Adoption,
mother married



x3, away at school, TA commission for 6 years, Oxford, banking lawyer London, Dubai and Tokyo, married Lucy, two daughters, retired at 49, lived Kilmeston 16 years, ordination training.

Champagne moment: Getting married and making partner in the law firm in same year!

Surprising snippet: Once (deliberately) fell out of an upside down glider at 4000 feet

Passion: Telling people about Jesus

Favourite place in

Hampshire: Itchen Valley

Best thing about the Valley: The people

Worst thing about the

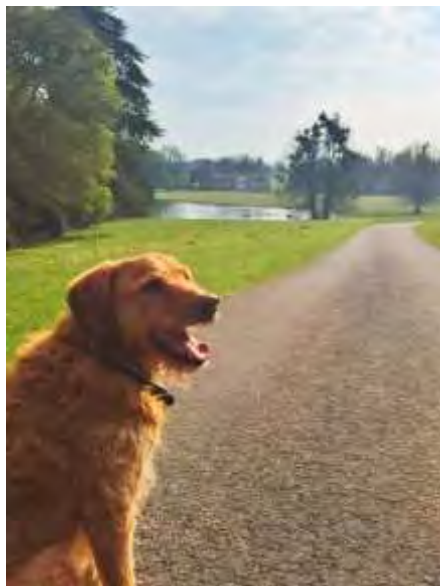
Valley: Lack of time/busyness

Favourite Book or Film: The Bible – in particular, anything by St Paul

Best one-liner or favourite quote: 1 Peter 3:16 'Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that you have'

Itchen Ramblings – A 'refreshing' Valley walk!

This is a 'there and back' walk from The Chestnut Horse pub to The Bush pub at Ovington, but with some transport planning (pre parking a car at The Bush) you could make it one way. A to B it takes about an 1hr 30 mins at an average walking pace. Therefore the round trip should take about 3hrs depending on your return walking speed after refreshments at The Bush! And of course, quicker if you just walk back along the road. The terrain is a mixture of road, track, field/water meadow and stony paths with a couple of inclines, the main one being on the road from Easton to Avington. Starting at The Chestnut Horse, turn



left out of the car park and follow the road around several sharp bends and onwards out of Easton along a long straight lane flanked by hedges. You will reach the bottom of a hill with Beech Hill house on your right. Continue on the road up the hill, through the woods, passing Easton Lodge on your left. Head over the cattle grid at the top, taking in the stunning view of Avington Park. Continue along the road winding downwards and then past a car parking area on the left and heading uphill, over another cattle grid and onwards passing Lake House on your left. You will reach a T-junction. Turn left here and head down into Avington and its cluster of pretty cottages and houses. Continue on the road down the hill and round to the right passing Avington Church on your left. Soon after, on the right hand side of the road you'll see a wooden kissing gate with a path running alongside the road ahead. Take this path (with a field on your



right and the road on your left) which continues onwards to Avington Park Golf Course. When you reach the gravel drive, turn right, heading up the stony drive towards the golf course car park (remember to keep quiet so as not to put off the golfers!). Once at the car park turn left along the path on the nearest edge of the car park which turns into a track. You will reach a T-junction with a grass path stretching out in front of you in between the fields. Take this path following yellow signs marking "The Itchen Way". This path continues gently downhill reaching a hedgerow. Turn left here following the footpath sign down the side of the field until you reach a stile on your right. Hop over the stile and bear left down through the field towards the road where you'll reach another stile. Hop over this and

turn right, continuing on the road passing Yavington Farm. You will see the driveway to Black Farm on your left and soon after that a kissing gate on the left and a path leading to open fields. Take this path heading up through one field to a stile and down into another field. You will then head into some trees arriving at a T-junction of paths. Turn left here continuing through the wood and over a bridge spanning the Itchen River. Hop over another stile and into the water meadow (be warned this can be rather wet!). Head onwards and then bear right through a sparse hedgerow aiming for a house bordering the field in the distance with solar panels on its roof. Continue through the field past this house, leaving it on your left and head for the kissing gate next to a metal 5 bar gate and the road. Once on the



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road turn right, down to a bridge crossing back over the river. The path then turns left along the river bank. Walk along enjoying the scenery and then head over another bridge on the right where you will find The Bush....and refreshments!!

Lucy Wolfe & Charlie Gloyne (and Edna!)

Letter from the Rectory

This month in the Itchen Valley we are joining in with the national celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday. I'm really looking forward to being part of the Valley in full celebration mode and joining in with the street party and tea parties in the villages. We are holding a special service to celebrate the Queen's birthday on Sunday 12th June at 10am at St Mary's Easton to which everyone is warmly invited. We will have special activities for the children and a choir has been drawn together for the service. There will be birthday cake and drinks after the service.

As part of the celebrations, the Itchen Valley Churches are planning to give each of the households in the Valley a book called *'The Servant Queen and the King she serves'* by Mark Greene and Catherine Butcher. We hope you will enjoy reading it. The book has been written to celebrate the 90th birthday of our Queen and she has written the foreword. In words and pictures it explores many aspects of her life and gives some fascinating insights. The book is beautifully illustrated. I particularly enjoyed some of the pictures of the Queen as a young woman and a delightful one of her with James Bond and her corgis. The book



gives a wonderful insight into the central role of the Queen's faith in Jesus Christ in shaping her life and work in the good times and in the tough times.

The book's authors write this: 'Certainly there is much more to Elizabeth than her faith in Christ but you cannot understand her without her devotion to him. It shapes everything she does. As broadcaster Jeremy Paxman put it, her religious beliefs are 'quietly held, authentic and well known'.

One of the things that struck me about the Queen as I read about her life is the way she not only speaks about her Christian faith in her broadcasts, but also puts her faith into practice in her life. The book draws out many examples of this, but the one that particularly spoke to me was on the theme of forgiveness. In her 2011 broadcast the Queen said, 'Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches that we sometimes need saving from ourselves - from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person - neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) - but a Saviour, with the power to forgive. Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.' The Queen has worked hard to help bring peace and reconciliation in many communities including between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland. We all know too how forgiveness can bring restoration and healing to all relationships, perhaps especially in our families.

I really hope that you enjoy reading

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'The Servant Queen and the King she serves' as much as I have. It has given me a fresh appreciation of our Queen and new insights into the Christian faith. It would be wonderful if you could join us for our celebration service on 12th June at St Mary's Easton.

Revd Amanda Denniss

Our Wild Valley - Summer season

Look out for Water Avens, flowering now, a member of the rose family, whose nodding pink heads are easily recognisable in wetter fields by the river. Also, Sedges are flowering with bright yellow pollen falling off dangling long heads from the top of the tussocks, young green reeds will be growing upwards fast as will Hemlock Water Dropwort, a big stout cow-



parsley type plant with toxic sap and white flowers.

In the river itself, the Water Crowfoot with its small white flowers should begin to blanket parts of the water surface and on the edges Fool's Watercress will be looking lush and inviting to pick (but it's not our normal edible watercress)!

At home in our garden a bright yellow fungus has returned on our old apple



tree stump and it seems to grow overnight! It is called 'chicken of the woods' which seems highly appropriate in our garden (see photo!). It is a parasitic mushroom killing and living off live wood but also a 'saprotrophic' one too able to live off dead wood (usually on oak but here on apple). It is called a polypore as it does not have gills but has small pores on its undersides where it sheds its spores. Apparently it is edible and meant to have a lemony meaty taste but I really don't fancy it! Enjoy these summer months by the river, plenty to spot!

Sophie Rogers

The Itchen Valley Book Swap at The Plough is launched !

Ashley at the Plough has kindly loaned some space on a bookshelf for our Itchen valley villages book swap. The idea is to borrow and return or swap.

It's looking a bit basic at the moment with only a few novels but perhaps if you visit the pub you could spare one or two spare novels to help populate



it! Or leave at my house at 15 Little Hayes Lane.

There are some sticky labels printed to use to help people return them on the bookcase in the restaurant area. There will be a separate shelf for children's books.

We will be part of a national scheme called Pub is the Hub (patron Prince Charles) which helps villages and communities keep rural services and foster community spirit <http://www.pubisthehub.org.uk>. Perhaps some more of us in the valley will meet for a pint or latte as a result!!

Kim Adams

Itchen Abbas and Avington Safari Supper

The annual Itchen Abbas and Avington Safari supper came round again and many old and new members of the villages met for drinks and excellent food. We all met on the terrace at

Lake House in Avington in the sunshine of a lovely Spring evening and had sparkling alcoholic and sparkling non alcoholic drinks kindly provided by Alison and Ralph Matthews. We were also served some very scrummy Tottle Hedgehog.

Then we split up and went our different ways, to homes in the two villages, with an hour for each course, where those providing had excelled themselves.

Patrick and Charlotte had done an amazing job, not just in organising it all, but in mixing people up so most people never sat down with the same couples – quite a feat of mathematical puzzling! Almost everyone ended up at the Appleby's for final drinks and a great evening came to an end.

Those of you who are wondering what the hedgehog was will have to come to next year's Safari supper to find out. You will be very welcome.

Oliver Denniss

The tap on the shoulder

It happened in Alresford of all places. Shopping and visiting the library. We had just left the WI market in the Community

Centre. Someone behind tapped me firmly on my shoulder. Had we walked out without paying? I hadn't spotted a policeman – or do they have plain clothes security at these events nowadays?

Fortunately it was nothing like that. A reader of the Itchen Valley News wanted to tell me how much she had





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enjoyed a couple of the articles in the magazine. She had been serving in the market, hadn't managed to catch my eye and had to leave her stall and rush out onto the pavement to talk to me.

How very kind of her to bother. The IVN editors are never quite sure if you love or hate what we produce. Do please give us your feedback; without it we can never make the magazine even more useful or relevant to you, our readers.

Email is good, letter or phone is fine – and even that tap on the shoulder.

Honest guy, it wasn't me. Someone must have slipped it into my bag.

Vernon light-fingered Tottle
Editor, Itchen Valley News

The Valley Gardeners: perfect Parham!

The sun came out for the first Valley Gardeners' visit of 2016 which was to Parham House gardens in West Sussex on 19th April. Parham (with a short "a" as in "cab" not as in "car" if you please!) Park is an Elizabethan house in Cootham, between Storrington and Pulborough, West Sussex, and was originally owned by the Monastery of Westminster and then granted to Robert Palmer by King Henry VIII in 1540. It is a jewel of a place, nestling in the South Downs.

As we were not sure how the weather would be in April, we decided to visit the house as well as

the gardens and the treasures in the house were entrancing. Parham House was completely renovated and restored in the 1920s and 30s by the Pearson family and now The Great Hall and the Long Gallery - stunning in their own right - boast a notable collection of Elizabethan portraiture, as well as needlework and embroidery which date back to the 15th and 16th centuries.

After lunch, we moved out to the gardens and were escorted round by the head gardener, Tom Brown. The four acre walled garden was bursting with new growth and despite the recent cold weather, we saw stunning displays of tulips and burgeoning herbaceous borders. The size of the vegetable garden made us gasp in envy and we were amused at the antics of the huge cockerel shepherding his harem of hens around the orchard.

The landscaped Pleasure Grounds, with its lake and many specimen trees, were established during the 18th century. During the early part of the year spring flowers grow here in abundance, replaced by wild orchids in summer that thrive on the sunny banks below the limes. There is even a maze, made of brick and turf, its design is based on the beautiful 16th century embroidery on the Great Bed in the House.

We were sorry to bid farewell to





pieces) in the coconut milk. Enough bread to absorb the liquid but not too much that it remained dry. After about half an hour I added two eggs, two ounces of melted butter and a couple of tablespoons of caster sugar (you

Parham as there is so much to see and we vowed to visit again, in a different season, in order to enjoy another perspective of this amazing house and garden.

Catherine Hahn

Cocos nucifera panis botellus vernonii

Newly discovered in Itchen Abbas a few weeks ago, this edible creation was sparked by finding a tin of coconut milk in the larder. What could I do with it other than making yet another korma curry?

In the bread bin I had half a white loaf, and as readers of my previous recipes will remember, I usually have a selection of dried fruits at my disposal. I needed a dessert for that evening so I decided to invent a coconut bread

pudding. It is customary to make a bread pudding with brown sugar and dark fruit but this version is much lighter in colour. I soaked a few ounces of bread (torn into rough

could add more or less to taste). A shake of mixed spice and a grating of nutmeg was followed by a good beating with a wooden spoon.

I then added my choice of dried fruit. In this case I used a bag of pineapple and papaya mix but many other fruits would have been equally successful. Something that goes well with coconut is probably a good idea. Dried strawberries and chewy banana will probably be my choice next time. I baked my creation in an enamel dish at gas mark 4 for about an hour (you may need to cover the top with foil to prevent burning) and served it with custard.

“Optimum!” as taxonomists used to say.

Vernon Tottle

Tiddler Joke

Q: What did the confused cow say?

A: Oink

Contributed by Peter Dryden-Brownlee aged 5 of Itchen Abbas



Itchen Valley Church Services



Sunday 5th June

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

Sunday 12th June

8am	Holy Communion	Martyr Worthy
10am	HM the Queens's Birthday	Easton

Sunday 19th June

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

Sunday 26th June

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

Rector

Rev Amanda Denniss 779832 amandadenniss@gmail.com

Curates

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

Licensed Lay Ministers

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

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

Itchen Valley Churchwardens

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From our MP

No matter how hard we try, this month it will be near impossible to avoid the EU referendum being held on 23rd June. I am not crisscrossing the country making the case for either side but I did chair a very special debate (some of you may have attended) last month at the Discovery Centre in Jewry Street. It was part of the inaugural Winchester Speakers' Festival and, after making a few calls to some of my friends, I secured a panel including Dan Hannan MEP, Denis MacShane (former Labour MP), Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, Robert Buckland MP and Spectator Political Editor, James Forsyth.

Around 200 constituents heard the arguments. Many got to put their question and I hope we did our bit to further the debate and help those still undecided. One thing I was determined that we would escape at this event, and we did, was a series of apocalyptic visions of the misery we will all be subjected to if the vote goes this way or the other. My belief is that it's as daft to suggest staying in is a golden goose for the British people as it is to say leaving will lead us to a land of milk and



honey. At the end of the day, we all have to make an on-balance judgement and the time for that is (thankfully) almost nigh.

You can read my view, which is a personal one I have chosen to make public, at:

stevebrine.com/2016EUReferendum

Secondly, many of you have spoken to me about the new Education White Paper and in particular, the initial proposal to force all schools to become academies. My view is simple: if schools choose that path in consultation with parents and governors that's fine but compulsion is wrong. I spent a lot of time last month with the Education Secretary and other ministers trying to get across these arguments and those put to me by constituency Head Teachers. We have a situation in Hampshire where 85% of schools are already "good" or "outstanding" (that figure, which includes Itchen Abbas Primary School, rises to 94% in the Winchester District) so I had to challenge the Government which did agree and you can read/watch more at www.stevebrine.com/academies Finally, two rounds of hearty congratulations: To the team that keeps England alive with the annual Easton Duck Race and garden party - you know who you are - and to Cllrs



Lisa Griffiths, Kim Gottlieb and Ernie Jeffs who will ably represent the new Alresford & Itchen Valley ward at Winchester City Council. I look forward to working with them all for the benefit of the town and surrounding villages.

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

Steve Brine MP for Winchester
steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk
www.stevebrine.com

The Practical Gardener

Well, May gave us some really cold nights and I suspect many gardeners were caught out. I had 400 small plants in the greenhouse and as we were going away, I needed to plant out many of them. Interestingly it was only the marigolds that suffered. But for the first time in five years I also had to get the automatic watering system working. Of course it's easy to spray water here and there for a controlled period but it has meant some pots were a bit dry and others too wet. It was clearly a bad time to be away!

But gardens generally are looking lovely. Careful examination of early fruit blossom has shown no real harm from these late frosts. Everything is a



bit later than usual but nature soon adjusts.

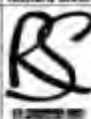
I'm no expert and given to take chances; that's what science calls an experiment. So in the vegetable garden all the early sowings are doing well. Even the spuds, which I earthed-up to avoid frost damage, are looking fine. Brassicas are a magnet for pigeons but also later in the year for the cabbage whites. So I have a new frame and some very close mesh as protection: so far so good. It does make weeding difficult however.

My new technique for growing vegetables seems to be working. I had zero results from sowing direct into the soil. However the new tray has produced carrots, beetroot, parsnips and sweetcorn. Given a slightly dry plug, they lift easily from the tray and given enough water once planted out, growth is good so far. Early peas and beans are now in flower (mid-May) as are the first greenhouse tomatoes. Ah, the asparagus started on 28th April, completely undeterred by the cold nights – absolutely wonderful.

Many people ask about weeding techniques. I have to do all mine kneeling, as I no longer bend. I use four tools: trowel, prong, scraper and scissors. I have a bucket for the weeds



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WEDNESDAY

9:45 – 11:15am Moo Music

THURSDAY

9-10am Pilates with Emily
 7-8pm Sally Stanyard's Dance School

FRIDAY

9-10am Authentic Pilates
 4-7:30pm Sally's Dance & Drama class

Other bookings

Mon 6th 10:00 – 13:00 Bridge Club

Thur 9th 19:00 – 22:00 WI meeting

Thur 16th 12:00 – 20:00 and

Fri 17th 13:00 – 20:00 Sally Stanyard Ballet Exams

Thur 23rd 06:15 – 23:00 Polling Station EU referendum

Wed 29th 19:00 – 22:00 Easton Panto 2016 read through

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Mon & Wed 9am – 3pm

Thursdays 7 – 9.30pm Whist Drive (not 2nd or 23rd)

Other bookings

Wed 1st 7-9.30pm Whist Drive

Thur 2nd 7pm Parish Council Meeting

Sun 12th Village tea party for the Queen (if wet)

Sat 18th Private Party

Wed 22nd 7pm Whist Drive

Thur 23rd 6.15am-10.30pm Referendum Election

Sun 26th – am. The Ark



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and a sieve for the stones. I also wear cheap, close-fitting gloves. I remove stones as I go and when I find lumps in the soil, using a good pastry-making technique, I rub the lump with my gloved hands to produce a fine tilth. I have also found that a light sprinkling of garden compost helps to reduce weeds.

We were only away for a week. In that time the grass edges had grown up to 3 inches and the beech hedge in places produced new shoots over 2 feet long. I've yet to find an alternative for trimming edges apart from a pair of long handled shears which are both time-consuming but effective.

I have a number of trellis and posts in the garden which over time need replacement. Using "postcrete" to concrete the new post, makes the whole process so much easier. It sets hard in about 10 minutes, meaning the whole job can be done simply and quickly. EU regulations have banned the use of many chemicals previously used as timber preservatives. That means that timber which used to last for 20 years now rots in 5. There has to be some logic here which escapes me. Be warned "Roundup" and similar weed-killing chemicals are also due for the chop.

Happy gardening. Tony Gaster.

Jensen Rally in Itchen Abbas

Even though I don't own a Jensen (no really, I don't) it was fascinating to see over forty Jensen cars lined up outside Rejen's workshop behind Itchen Abbas village hall one Saturday in May.

The rally was organised by Jason and Paul Lawrence, owners of Rejen, as a social and networking event for Jensen owners and their families. Much loved by film producers around the world, the Jensen Interceptor's seven litre engine gave the sporty looking car the performance needed for silver screen stardom.

Vernon Tottle

(The idea of Vernon driving around in a high powered car is interesting. Ed)



Upper Itchen Valley Society Summer Party

This will be at 6pm on Saturday, 9th July, at the home of Mark and Jackie Porter, The Down House, Itchen Abbas. During the evening Mark will give members an idea of the pleasures and challenges of producing wine in the Itchen Valley!

If you are a member you should have received an invitation but if not please let me know on ralphandalimattthews@gmail.com or 779632. If you are not yet a member

but would like to come to the Summer Party, please contact Lucy Collis on lucyvarcoe@gmail.com or 779598 to join the Society.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Alison Matthews and UIVS Committee

George Stoney: 27th March 1929 - 26th April 2016

George was born in Quetta in India in 1929 where his father was stationed in the army. They returned to the UK in 1933 and settled in Itchen Abbas with his father building Greenacre on the main road. He attended Pilgrims School, Wellington College and then Sandhurst from which he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery.

The army took him to Germany, Egypt and finally Hong Kong in the late 1950's, rising to the rank of captain. At this point the army was downsizing and he like many others took the option of redundancy. For a brief period of time he sold 2nd hand Vauxhall cars (so no surprises we had Vauxhall viva !). He then joined Canadian life insurance company, Manulife, where he did his time as President of the local Life Insurance Association.

George met Pauline in Hong Kong through their mutual interest in sailing. They also shared a passion for music and a love of gardens. They returned and settled in Weeke and moved to Itchen Abbas in 1978.

George had many interests. Classical music was one of his great passions and

it came in many forms. It was with him all day. He was a member of the Itchen Valley Choral Society and active in the Winchester and County Music Festival. Carol singing was another of his great enjoyments and he and others would be determined each year to see how many houses in the village they could visit, all helped along by a few mince pies and the mulled wine that was on offer.

He was also an avid bell ringer and started as a ringer in Easton church some 25 years ago. He took this very seriously and attended a Tower Maintenance Course learning amongst other things how to oil the bearings correctly and repair the stays. He took great interest in the upkeep of

churches and more recently he has been involved in the restoration project for the Itchen Stoke Church.

His other great passion was his garden and all things horticultural, where he had an encyclopaedic knowledge. He would spend many hours in the various houses he lived in tending to the

gardens. When we lived in Itchen Gate we had wonderful fruit cages – raspberries, strawberries and blackcurrants, which he looked after meticulously and sprayed with insecticide on a regular basis. He believed that inhaling the fumes over a number of years poisoned him and led to Parkinson's. He also took great pride in his contribution to the annual Winchester in Bloom festival and



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helped with the organisation and design of the logo.

He retained his links with the military and was a member of local Royal British Legion. Not a keen sportsman, George took up boxing to avoid having to play rugby in cold, wet conditions. He liked things just so and in his later years made 3 different plans on the back of the kitchen door for breakfast, lunch and supper showing his carers exactly where his cutlery, tea pot, salt and pepper and other bits and pieces should be placed.

George was also a very practical man. He built a ramp for his arthritic dog so that she could walk up and down to the sofa. At his son's wedding, when the generator that was supplying the electricity to the marquee developed a problem, he rolled up his sleeves and sorted it.

He was devoted to his family and took great interest in the activities of his grandchildren, whether it be their academic, sporting or musical achievements.

He was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2004 and in his last years needed full time care at home. In one of his last trips outside he was able to point at the daffodils and crocuses in full bloom at the end of the road. These were bulbs he planted many years before to bring colour to the area every year.

Martin Stoney (abridged and edited for IVN)

Alresford Surgery News

A warm welcome to Dr. Mohammad Moazzam who is our current F2 trainee who joined us at the beginning of April and will be with us for a period of four months. From early June Dr.

Cross will be unavailable as she is undergoing knee surgery and it is anticipated that she will be off for a period of 6-8 weeks.

Carers Week – 6th - 12th June

This year we're focusing on building Carer Friendly Communities. These are communities which support carers to look after their loved ones well, while recognising that they are individuals with needs of their own.

We will be switching off our surgery online prescription form on the 6th June. You will need to use Patient Access Online from that date.

Jackie's County Corner

"Devolution plans are going awry as the Government makes unpopular demand for an elected Mayor, and District Council Leaders see a way to seize power!"

I realise that this isn't a catchy headline, but unfortunately, the whole devolution debate seems to be taking so many twists and turns that by the time you read this, it will probably be different again!

There is one definite suggestion on the table: that you, the public, will be consulted on this.

At the County Council meeting on 13th May, the leader talked about the



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possibility of becoming a Unitary Authority. That is just one council instead of city and county councils as at present. This could make it easier for you the electorate, save £40million a year and place greater responsibilities on parish and town councils. You can see the leader's speech on 'Council TV': go to www.hants.gov.uk and search Council meeting on 13th May. I'll let you know



about the consultation which should take place over the Summer.

The Academies debate is still unresolved despite claims to have saved the day. The Secretary of State is still insisting that schools will improve if they become academies, and her aim is for every school to be an academy, run through a multi-academy trust. The cost of transferring land, assets, governance and staff is enormous and just not necessary at this time. I was pleased to receive all-party support for my motion to Council to argue that, with 85% of local authority supported schools in Hampshire rated good or outstanding, this is not necessary or desirable. You can see this debate on our web site.

Locally, the Mobile Library Service will no longer run after June this year. The Mobile Library Service is used by just 1% of total library customers and costs approximately five times more per visit than one to a static library.

Kim Adams has kindly arranged to have a small 'Pub Library' at The Plough in Itchen Abbas. Please use it if you can - and buy a drink or coffee at the same time! (see page 15 -Ed)

Additional alternatives offered by the HCC Library Service will include the Home Library Service, which will be expanded to replace the relatively high-cost Mobile Library Service, working with local communities in the 20 busiest mobile library stops to identify opportunities for volunteers to deliver books to appropriate community gatherings and offering free online library learning sessions in communities that will no longer have a mobile library stop.

The Watercress Way Dawn Chorus Walk was a great success. 12 intrepid walkers heard 30 species calling from 4.30am. We are holding more events this year so please sign up to our newsletter via

www.thewatercressway.org.uk

That wasn't the only time I heard the Dawn Chorus that week! I was one of about fifty sleepers who took part in the 'Big Sleep Out' at the Cathedral the night after the elections. Please donate to our fundraising efforts for Trinity by texting 70070.

Cllr Jackie Porter,
Jackie@jackieporter.co.uk, text 07973 696 085, telephone 01962 791054.

Avington Fete

Plant Stall — an exciting new feature for 2016

Save your gardening questions for 26th June. Two of our resident gardening specialists, Mark Porter and Tony Gaster, have kindly agreed to be on hand during the afternoon to give you their expert advice and share their experiences.

(A small donation will be suggested for this wonderful opportunity to solve your problems!) Offers of plants gratefully received: *Sarah Shirley 779429, Jacqui Squire 779852*

Cake Stall

Last time our neighbours and friends from local villages were all so generous in providing a wonderful array of cakes and biscuits for our stall. There were cup cakes, big cakes, in fact all sorts of cakes and I am hoping for a repeat performance this

year. I will be very grateful for any donations of cakes, preserves or chutneys for the fete. You can bring them to me at 2 The Row, Avington, on Friday 24th or Saturday 25th June. Many thanks, *Colleen Parry 779354*

SUNDAY 26TH JUNE

Noon - 4pm

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A BIG thank you.

The team at The Chestnut Horse Store would like to thank all the regulars, new comers and the passers by for your continued support, it has been lovely to see you and we hope you will continue to visit to help secure the future of your local store. Many thanks again!

Diane Wells

A bit of humour

Sometimes I feel our magazine can be too serious. Of course it is designed to be a useful source of information and reports on local events. But as the one responsible for “loof lirpa” I have sometimes submitted some frivolous articles not always welcomed by the editor. I used to travel extensively for business and often found humour was a way to relax with people I met and situations which were sometimes difficult (like being deported from China). So here is an article about my last trip to USA. There are 20 words that are not UK English: see if you can spot them – answers next month.

I arrived at Chicago in the evening and went straight to collect my rental car. Asked whether I wanted an automatic or stick-shift, I chose the former. I dumped my things in the trunk. There seemed to be something amiss on the windshield so I raised the hood but found nothing amiss. Soon I was on the highway north to my hotel. Parking was easy and I just crossed the sidewalk to reception. There seemed to be an issue with my reservation but I checked my pocket calendar which said Monday through Wednesday and all was resolved. I had an easy walk to the first floor, no elevator needed.

I needed a shower but had trouble with the faucet and which way was hot. I slept well and the next morning at breakfast had 2 eggs over easy with hash browns. After a quick visit to the bathroom, I was off to see my customer. Help! I couldn't find my car in the lot. I needed to be more careful so arrived at the plant a bit late. I checked my cell but all was fine. Everyone was very nice and wished me a nice day. Formalities completed I went to check the machine. The plant room was quite dark so I needed a

flashlight.

Then I could see a loose connection so asked for a wrench. It was going to be a bigger problem requiring a power cord and a new ground connection!

Tony Gaster

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Pictured above is the Duck Race held last month in Easton, just one of the many quacks in the community. And below yet another bus stop in Nikolassee, Berlin from John Harris. We can't seem to put a stop to these pictures! Ed.



Local monthly information

Waste collections in June

Black bins and green bags on Friday 10th and Friday 24th. Green bins on **Saturday 4th** and Friday 17th.

Library

Visiting on Friday 3rd June.
Itchen Abbas 11.15 am Easton 11.45 am

Cameo

On Tuesday 21st June.

Farmers' Markets in Winchester

Sunday 12th and 26th June

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach

School term timetable operates from Monday 6th to Thursday 30th June:

Weekdays to Winchester:

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

Weekdays to Alresford:

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

School holiday timetable operates

Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd June:

Weekdays to Winchester:

07:53 09:23 11:23 13:23 15:23 17:23

Weekdays to Alresford:

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

Saturday service (same for the whole month)

Towards Winchester:

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

Towards Alresford:

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

No Sunday or bank holiday service

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas.

Times are 5 minutes later (or earlier) at Easton.



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