





Locally sourced Hampshire food from breakfast to dinner

Winter menu now being served Tel: 01962 779191

www.theploughitchenabbas.co.uk info@theploughitchenabbas.co.uk



TRADITIONAL CONTEMPORARY · BESPOKE

Over 100 Wood Burning Stoves, 30 Open Fire Configurations and a huge range of accessories.

Kingsworthy

Lendon Raid Engroundy, Wardester Humphie (CCF 1956) Opposer Volve, 1959 in Wilson Topianov. 1902 88776 www.kingswordyfoundry.co.uk



WELCOME to the Valley News

You just can't get the staff these days. Literally, not one of the editorial team was going to be around in the middle of February to produce the magazine. Five sub-editors – and they all chose to go away on holiday at the same time. So the Editor himself has had to roll up his sleeves and slot everything into place for the March edition. I had forgotten how long it takes to gather everything together, copy and paste it all into the right order, find the best photos to illustrate the articles, and generally make it look neat and tidy. Your team of sub-editors clearly deserved their holidays!

Let's hope they come back in March or they will miss all the valley events, including the Easton 1940's tea party with the rather scary lady wearing the spotted scarf on page 4. The What's On section has expanded as far as page 8 this month and includes information about the two local safari suppers. If you've recently moved to the area, do sign up for these moveable feasts as they are great ways of meeting your new neighbours.

Three of our regular strands creep into the magazine this month. Itchen Insight, Valley Volunteers and For the love of .. are all featured, giving us the opportunity to learn about three valley characters who lead such interesting lives. We also have two obituaries this month, describing local residents sadly no longer with us. Recording the rich tapestry of people in the valley is, after all, one function of the magazine. The BBC's mission to "inform, educate and entertain" could equally apply to

the Itchen Valley News. We do our

best to inform you of upcoming events and also tell you about

those that have happened. You can learn about Coltsfoot, Soda bread, and the Mary Rose whilst our Tiddler joke this month cannot fail to entertain you. Our local politicians write regularly for the magazine - but I'm never quite sure into which part of that mission statement they might fall. If they're successful, maybe all three.

Do join in the annual valley litter pick on Saturday 4th March; it's surprising what you can find in a hedgerow if you reach far enough!

Next month's editor is Tony Gaster. Vernon Tottle

Itchen Valley News

Editor Vernon Tottle

Sub Editors Charlotte Appleby, Verity

Coleman, Tony Gaster, Fiona

McIntosh, Lucy Wolfe,

Advertising Sue Hitchen

Sophie Jackson

IA&A 779725 Mima White Distribution

lane Chichester E&MW 779315

Treasurer Andrew Kennedy

For editorial enquiries, articles, letters or

comments, please email:

itchenvalleynews@gmail.com.

For advertising enquiries, please email:

itchenvalleyadvertising@gmail.com

Postal address: Itchen Valley News, Hazeldene, Northington Road, Itchen Abbas, SO21 IBE Please send all contributions for April 2017 by 15th March. 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. Cover photo by Vernon Tottle, other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Lent Lunches

Lent lunches will be held in aid of the Countess Mountbatten Hospice during March and April. See page 21 for details.

Stephanie Gretton

Litter Pick Saturday 4th March

Happening throughout the valley 10 am to 12 noon. Details on page 18.

Easton Tea Party Wednesday 8th March

Creatrix Winchester is a team of Event Management students studying at the University of Winchester, currently in their third and last year of study. As part of their degree, they are organising a 1940's themed Afternoon Tea Dance on Wednesday 8th March to raise awareness for Mid Hampshire Age UK.

Set to be both a fun and educational event, the 1940's Afternoon Tea Dance will feature a classic afternoon tea for all attendees, a raffle (with some great prizes lined up already),

special guest The Mayor of Winchester, and a live performance. In addition, all attendees will receive a gift bag to take with them, including informative flyers and fun mementos to remember the event by.

Arrival is from 2pm at Easton Village Hall and will finish at 5pm – there will be no admission after 2:30pm and no admission without the event ticket. Tickets are free and can be obtained from 07519 622451 or by email from creatrixtickets@yahoo.co.uk To ensure the Tea Dance can remain a free event, a number of generous sponsors have offered to help through the provision of their services.

Saturday 18th March Itchen Valley Montessori School

Ina Williams

2017 is a landmark year for Itchen Valley Montessori in Itchen Abbas Village hall. February this year we will have been open for 10 years. During that time the school has grown and developed. The classroom is a rich environment with different areas inside and outside for the children to explore





and play in. Moo Music, Rugby Tots, Cooking and Dance are all offered as part of our curriculum with no charge to parents. Ofsted judged us outstanding in 2015 and importantly, our parents judged us as excellent in 2016.

To celebrate on Saturday 18th March we are holding a fun morning. There will be lots to do in the classroom and garden. We are also offering free sessions of Moo Music, cooking and family Zumba, To book a space and time on an activity please email carolinembutcher@btinternet.com or call 07770 440561. There will also be tea, coffee, drinks, cake and a warm welcome for all so please do pop in and see what fun we have.

Caroline Butcher

Saturday 18th March, Easton & Martyr Worthy Safari Supper

This year's Safari Supper will be held on Saturday 18th March for residents of Martyr Worthy and Easton. Please see last month's edition of the Valley News (February 2017) for full details and the application form. Alternatively please contact one of the organisers below for more information and further forms. The evening is great fun and a good way to meet other residents. Please note that the closing date for

applications is Friday 10th March. Terry & Anna McGowan Tel. 779350 Hilary Castle Tel. 779572

Putting the flowers before the cart on Sunday 19th March

We are looking for some volunteers to help with our wildflowering project on Sunday 19th March for one or two (or more) hours. Can you join us to enhance your natural environment and enjoy some community team work? We are a small team of 3 wildflower enthusiasts who are aiming to brighten up our verges, successfully done last year on a 'practice' verge at the Cart and Horses Kings Worthy junction. We chose this (notorious) junction because it is the gateway to the South Downs National Park and to our Valley. We are looking to sow



annuals on the other side (NE) of the same Kings Worthy junction this spring and not only do we require volunteers on Sunday 19th March to lift the turf and move it to a trailer to take off site, but we also are asking if anyone has a turf cutter or knows of someone who does, which we could use for this day or any turf cutting spades? We are planning to lift up the turf and then sow with annual seeds in the following week, for a good flowery show this summer. We follow this up in autumn





5* Self Catering www.avingtonholidays.co.uk

AVINGTON PARK GOLF COURSE



Your Local 9 Holes www.avingtongolf.co.uk

01962 77 99 55



The Chestnut Horse Easton

Real ales, great food. 2 course lunchtime & early evening menu for £12.

A la carte and blackboard specials also available.

Great atmosphere and open fire for those chilly days and evenings



Ben Stanbrough

Tel: 01962 779257

Mould & Thompson Ltd

Easton Garage

Servicing and Repairs to all makes of cars and vans MOT and Bodywork arranged

Collection & Delivery

24hr Recovery and Breakdown Service

01962 779319



Let us help you explore the **world**

- · Quality holidays at sensible prices ·
- · Friendly, impartial travel advice ·

 Extensive range of fascinating holidays from specialist tour operators, plus our own holiday programme

Call us on (01962) 713330









The Old Forge Twyford SO21 IBF www.rogerwalkertravel.com

sowing perennials for the following year (another work party possibly November 5th).

Many thanks, any help would be much appreciate from an hour to a few hours on the 19th March. Reply to me - Sophie Rogers on

millersj24@yahoo.co.uk. We will do a rota, and provide refreshments. We hope we will be joined by our Kings Worthy neighbours who are very supportive of our plans, as is the South Downs National Park.

Also if anyone has a front verge in any of the villages they would like to sow with wild flowers then do get in touch with one of us.

Verity Coleman - mumgod@aol.com Lucy Collis - lucyvarcoe@gmail.com Sophie Rogers millersj24@yahoo.co.uk

Winchester Regeneration public consultation Friday 24th and Saturday 25th March

Do you want a say in how Silver Hill should progress after the demise of the original scheme? If so, do go along to the planning weekend in the Guildhall. Full details of the event, which includes discussion groups, young people's workshops and walkabout tours, can be found at the architect's website. Search for "jtp winchester" and you should get the right pages.

Vernon Tottle Saturday 25th March Bach Mass in B minor

Experience one of Western culture's blazing masterpieces (and tick it off your bucket list).

The Waynflete Singers host a concert in the awe-inspiring space of the Nave of Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 25th March at 7.30pm. They will be joined by the Girl Choristers who will add their magic voices to the mix and

the highly acclaimed, period-instrument ensemble Florilegium, under the direction of the Cathedral's Director of Music. Andrew Lumsden.

An internationally renowned line up of soloists will perform: Ruby Hughes, Robin Blaze, Andrew Staples and Benjamin Bevan will add the sprinkle of

glitter to make this

a stunning event.
The Mass in B
Minor is a
monumental work
and is both
complex and
sublime offering
the audience
exhilaration, awe
and therapy all in



one evening. Not to be missed. Booking is now open: special offer on mid-price tickets is available 2 for I (£19.50).

Ticket prices: £39.50, £32.50, £24.50, £19.50 (2 for 1), £12.50

Box Office: 01962 857275. www.tickets.winchester-cathedral.org.uk

Brenda Sims

Church annual meetings

Dates have been set for the four Annual District Church Meetings starting on Sunday 26th March and ending on Tuesday 4th April. See page 21 for details.

Easton Boules

We will play boules (petanque) at The Oak House, Church Lane, Easton on Monday 24th April at 6.30pm and then every Monday evening over the summer. All are welcome. Beginners can borrow balls and quickly learn to play. If you are coming along for the first time please register an interest by email to evhsecretary@gmail.com

Simon Broadley

Itchen Abbas, Avington and Chilland Safari Supper 2017.

This year's Safari Supper will take place on Saturday 10th June 2017. We are hoping to get lots of the families who have moved into the villages to participate, and to that end, we won't be doing the 'pre-dinner drinks' this year, and will go straight into the starter course at 7.30pm - a much better time for parents with small children/ babysitters.

Full details to follow in the April edition of the magazine, but please do put the date in your diary, and we hope to make it a really fun community event.

Zazie and Ian Carter 779108

Graham Brown 1940 - 2017

Graham and Sandy Brown were muchloved residents of Easton from 1984 to 2012. Graham died suddenly on 27th January this year after suffering a terrible fall whilst out for his daily walk. Graham was born in Parkstone, Dorset in 1940. His mother had been evacuated there during the war. They returned to Bassett, Southampton after the war and Graham spent most of his time in the woods on the Common which is where he got his love of nature. He passed his 11+ and went to Taunton Grammar school. After school he started an apprenticeship as a tool maker but he didn't finish it as he didn't like being in a factory. He wanted to be outside and decided to become a bricklayer/builder and was self-taught.

Graham and Sandy met in a cafe when Graham was 17 and Sandy was 15. She remembers his white shirt and blue eyes, he remembers her long brown hair. They got married in 1959 and had 3 children Tony, Gary and Louise.



They have 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Graham built their first house 43 years ago. He built four houses on plots of land they bought in Horton Heath and Twyford. They moved to the Farmery in Easton in 1984. It was a run down cottage which Graham renovated, and then built Shagrayn next door (home to the Paramors) and they lived in the Farmery for 28 years.

There aren't many houses in Easton that Graham hasn't worked on. He was expert at flint and brickwork walls, patios and extensions; anything to do with brickwork. He never really retired. He used to say he would get bored if he didn't work, and could always be relied on to share his extensive building knowledge and skills. His flint and brick work was so good it looked as if it had been there for years. When Graham was applying for

permission to build an extension, the planning officer came to look at the Farmery and told Graham certain walls couldn't be touched as they were original, only for Graham to tell him he had built them a few years earlier! Graham and Sandy left Easton 5 years ago and moved to a new house in Twyford.

Graham loved everything to do with nature. He identified 28 different species of bird in his garden in Easton and could recognise each one by their birdsong. He loved walking and would go each day, coming home with pockets full of rubbish he'd picked up. He would tell the village children about the birds he had seen and help them identify the 'snake' they'd found as a slow worm.

Graham and Sandy were very close but they gave each other the freedom to do their own thing. Graham did a huge amount of travelling and was supportive of Sandy doing her yoga therapy training in southern India. He travelled to Everest basecamp, the Northern Himalayas, the Alaskan outback, the Galapagos islands; he canoed on the Amazon and climbed Morocco's highest peaks. With Sandy they travelled to Nepal, on safari to Africa, to the North Himalayas and New Zealand.

Graham was really getting into golf just before he died and was going to join the Avington course. The day before he died he beat his friend at golf for the first time ever which gave him great pleasure. And he and Sandy went to the cinema that evening, and ate fish and chips at home by candlelight. Graham will be much missed by all his old Easton neighbours, and we hope Sandy will return often to Easton. Contributed by Katie Hart & Lucy Collis (with help from Sandy)

It's time to hang up my cassock.

Whilst my faith has been part of my life since I was very young, I never thought seriously about ministry until I was in my fifties; that was surely for holy people. It was 1999 when we had a talk from the Warden of Readers which gave me some inspiration. The selection process demanded support from both my incumbent and parish. The training to become a lay reader took three years and I felt was quite demanding. I was working full time, travelling extensively and was also churchwarden in my parish in Winchester. The group I trained with, including some from the Channel Islands, which was part of our diocese at the time, numbered about 25. We were split into smaller groups for the training and only came together once per term at Old Alresford Place.



I met some very inspiring people, both teachers and trainees. I started to see what a broad church we belonged to, how different in practice and understanding we were in different places. It was our Christian faith which was the common denominator. During the final year of study, we had to leave

our home parish and serve a term in a different place. This was the first time I came to know the Itchen Valley. It was during this period that I came to know two bishops quite well: I sailed for two years with Bishop Jonathan Gledhill and retired Bishop Simon Burrows was my spiritual advisor. I learned so much from them. It became very clear how important was the pastoral work of the Church and that was for everyone.

I was first licensed in 2003 and served under the inspirational leadership of Caroline Baston. For some time I had wanted to leave Winchester for the country, so after the very warm welcome I had in the Valley, a move here seemed right. It was also a time when the rector, Jonathan Cruickshank, was the only minister. He was also area dean and chaplain to the sea cadets. It was clear I could make an immediate contribution to ministry. So I worked closely with Jonathan until he left. During the vacancy everyone worked together and through a sometimes difficult issue of creating a single parish. We had strong support from Bishop Trevor Willmot at that time. Serving with our next rector Andrew Micklefield was very different. He brought a raft of new ideas and ministry with children started to grow again.

Andrew has leadership qualities that enabled us to have curates: first Stefan, then Alex who has wonderfully stayed with us, and then Rebecca. We also had a number of Readers who like me came to train here. Gerry Stacey was also licensed to our parish.

It was at this time I was asked to help out in other churches in the deanery. That was a wonderful experience and an opportunity to make many new friends. Andrew was an easy person to work with and the rectory was always open if there were issues to discuss. A Lay Reader's main task is to preach and we were taught to interpret scripture for our time. Of course, each of us brings something different and in our experience of life, some new ideas. I think my sermons were described as challenging and sometimes political but I hope not boring. My last service in this parish was Good Friday 2015 and in Winchester last September. God calls us to do different things and now I have time for my trains, having also stopped sailing. I have come to know many lovely people in this community. It's been a privilege to share in their joys and sorrows. For me, Church and community cannot be separated, though I recognise that is a challenge for some who are not Christian. We live in a wonderful country, founded on Christian principles and have much to be thankful for.

Tony Gaster Reader Emeritus.

The Itchen Valley recipe

A recipe has been sitting in the Valley News inbox for ages, and there has never yet been a shortage of material



so acute that it has been needed as a space filler – not that I wish to imply that the recipe is unattractive, over complicated or in any other way unsuitable, just that the sub-editors prefer to included material sent in by readers rather than by one of their number (at least, I hope that is the reason!). However, perhaps because it has never been printed, I have continued to adapt it every time I make it, which I do regularly because it is so easy and, though I say it as shouldn't, so delicious. In the latest iteration (which I have not yet actually made) it has been reduced to only three ingredients: - a large tin of mango pulp (usually available in the 'exotic section' of our nearest supermarket, and no doubt elsewhere), a lime and half a pint of double cream. Squeeze the lime juice into the mango pulp, lightly whip the cream, fold the two together and bob's your uncle – leave to set in the fridge for a while. Some mango can be kept aside to decorate the top. Earlier versions had gelatine and all sorts of complications which I have since found to be unnecessary.

I wonder how many other things get simpler as time goes on, not only recipes but all sorts of actions and plans? Other things get more complicated – why the difference? Your thoughts on that, or anything else, would be welcomed by future sub-editors! Anything is better than the bottom of the inbox barrel! Charlotte Appleby

The joys of custom compression

No, I'm not describing your efforts to repack your suitcase after the customs officer has gone through it on arrival back at Gatwick.

I refer to the less glamorous but equally exciting process of reducing the Itchen Valley News to a file size suitable for archiving on the Itchen Valley Parish Council website.

Thank you to all those readers who contacted me after my plea for help in the February issue of the magazine.

The problem was the incorrect display of the magazine on certain, mainly AppleMac, computers. From all your suggestions, the cause was traced back to the loss of font information on compression using the standard minimum size option.

After many experiments, involving various file types and sizes, the Itchen Valley News team has hit upon a customised compression routine that maintains font integrity but yet successfully generates a file smaller than the maximum size allowed. All technical stuff but it does mean that anyone will be able to read the archive copies without distortion. You've never had it so good!

From the Rectory

Vernon Tottle Editor IVN

In the final weeks of the US Presidential Campaign in 2016, Lucy and I were watching the final series in the US TV drama West Wing. It



was so interesting to contrast what was happening on the BBC News to what was happening in that brilliant TV drama – where there was also an election for President of the United States between two brilliant candidates: Matt Santos for the Democrats and Arnold Vinick for the Republicans, either of whom would have made a fantastic president. And, of course, we

AVINGTON PARK



Stunning Home available for Weddings, Parties, Meetings and Corporate Events.
House, Grounds and Tea Bar open to the public May - September on Sundays, Bank Holiday Mondays and Mondays in August 01962 779260

www.avingtonpark.co.uk









cannot help feeling immense sadness for our closest ally, with whom we share so much in terms of history, culture, language and aspirations, that they should be subject to such conflict. Lucy and I rather enjoyed seeing the musical La La Land at the Everyman Cinema in Winchester, whilst the Presidential Inauguration was taking place in Washington DC. On the whole I think I prefer West Coast fantasies....

But as we see the checks and balances of the US Constitution come into play, it must be becoming clear to those in the current administration that the power of the President of the United States, even if he is the most powerful man in the world, is still limited. They must by now have started to appreciate that the President's power is much more circumscribed than they might have anticipated, even with a majority in the Senate and Congress. And perhaps this is the case for all politicians in democracies. They embark with great enthusiasm on political careers to transform the world but find that they are having to address crisis after crisis and that the huge changes they were hoping for don't seem to materialize, because in a democracy they all need to be watered down to get the co-operation of those who see things differently. Indeed, wise politicians take satisfaction from the tweaks that they can make to society during their careers and do not necessarily expect to effect a complete change in the direction of their countries, which is surely the preserve

of the very few.

It is so fascinating to contrast the three years of Jesus' ministry with the political careers of even the greatest of politicians. Those few years had so much impact on the world and continue to do so 2000 years later. This penniless homeless preacher caused such a revolution in thought within the most powerful empire that the world had ever seen that within three hundred years of his execution Emperor Constantine declared Christianity to be the official religion of the Roman Empire, turning the pagan traditions of Ancient Rome, which had been followed since its foundation, upside down. Jesus didn't write a book although several were written about him. He didn't have a political party to support him. He killed or maimed noone. He was no friend to those in authority and power at the time. And yet he changed everything for two thousand years and over a third of the world's population.

There is so much which is so striking about his ministry and about which we could speak in comparing him with individual politicians. We could mention the colossal importance of the witness testimony to his resurrection set out in the gospels, but a very significant point was how he dealt with individuals: his calling of the disciples, his conversations with the lame, blind, sick and the outcast. He changed the lives of individuals. He changed the world one person at a time.

And following his example, and guided

And following his example, and guided by the Holy Spirit, we can do this as well.

We were so delighted to welcome the Chief Executive of Prison Fellowship to speak at one of our services in January about their Sycamore Tree course by which prisoners are encouraged to face

OCEAN UPVC



OCEAN GUTTERING SERVICES AND ROOFING

- •Gutter Maintenance and Repair
- Roofing Repair
- New Felt Roofing
- Lead Roofing

80 High Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9AT

Tel. 01962 779690

www.ocean-roofing.co.uk

Emma Mitchell

BA Hons I.T.E.C. Dip RAW. Dip MAR



REFLEXOLOGY AROMATHERAPY MASSAGE



Tel: 0780 7037508 or 01962 861378 Three Acres, Chapel Lane, Easton, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1HQ

Email: emma.mitchell I @me.com www.naturaltherapypages.co.uk/emmamitchell

PULSECARG®

Worldwide Freight Forwarding Services

- * AIR
- · SEA
- a ROAD
- * COURIER

Tel: 0800 130 3444
Email: getintouch@pulsecargo.co.uk
Website: www.pulsecargo.co.uk

Officer to Crimettone to dyshin overfulness function for

PETER G FISHER

GAS SAFE registered 219242

Plumbing, Heating and Gas Engineer

33 Victena Road, Fair Oak, SO50 7FY

Phone 02380 600834

Mobile 07860 401304

Credit and debit cards accepted

ALRESFORDPILATES

Small group classes or private sessions

Close supervision and individual support

Further details - www.alresfordpilates.co.uk

Call/text Sally Hogg - 07771 522665

Email: sallyhogg@btinternet.com

Hampshire Garden & Land Management Ltd

Garden and land management company based in Hampshire with over 20 years experience

Year round garden maintenance and landscaping Domestic and agricultural fencing

Woodland maintenance

Long term contracts available

Sjm444@live.com

07730 099611

up to the consequences of crime on victims and in which they have an opportunity to show regret about what they have done. As a result of that talk, three people from the Valley joined Session 6 of the Sycamore Tree Course running at HMP Winchester at the end of last month. It is hoped that, once trained, they will be able to take part in this very important ministry to bring transformation to some of the most lost people in our society and to start making an impact on the high levels of recidivism in this country. We hope to have other opportunities for people from the Valley to get involved in work which will transform the lives of individuals and we will advise you from time to time of these opportunities.

A story illustrates the point:

Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions.

Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves," the youth replied. "When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them

back into the water."

The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference." The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "I made a difference to that one!" Revd. Alex Pease
Assistant Priest Itchen Valley Parish

Itchen Insight

Name: Alex Bellisario

Age: 27

Occupation: Archaeologist but you probably know me as the Itchen Abbas village hall manager!

How many years you've lived in Valley: Almost three years

Your life in 180 characters: Grew up in Fawley, Hampshire, went to the University of Winchester where I did a degree and masters in Archaeology. Worked in a few badly paid jobs as a



field archaeologist and now co-lead the CITiZAN (www.citizan.org.uk) project in the South West, a National coastal archaeology project to record our disappearing coastal heritage and archaeology.

Champagne Moment: Sitting on the balcony of the best room in the best hotel in Ghent, Hotel Harmony. The view of the cityscape at dusk is breathtaking.

Surprising Snippet: I absolutely love baking – there is always a cake at my house with a plentiful supply of tea or wine.....

Most frustrating moment:

Whenever I hear about animal cruelty – there is just no excuse.

Passion: My wonderful family (including the dog!) and my job Favourite place in Hampshire: Winchester

Best thing about the Valley: The sense of peace

Worst thing about the Valley: Phone signal – I seem to get about 10 voicemails a day

Favourite Book: Anything by Phillipa Gregory, it's awful but I do love a bit of easy reading

Favourite quote: 'Do you live in the Archers or something?' (personal quote from a very good friend who cannot quite fathom why I live here and not in a city).

Nuisance phone calls

No, I'm not talking about the ones you get from the editor of the Itchen Valley News reminding you of the deadline for your monthly contribution. I mean the ones you receive advertising double glazing, central heating, insurance or legal advice.

We all get them, some it would appear

more than others. But can you stop them? Current advice is to enrol in the Telephone Preference Service but this organisation is powerless to regulate calls originating from outside the UK. Some locals have suggested, via the ItchenList, that we all get call blockers. These can be set up to refuse all calls except those from recognised telephone numbers. Alas, if someone you would be happy to talk to rings you from a different number than usual, they may fail to get through to you. Until recently, the Tottle household managed to live with nuisance calls by adopting the following routine. We subscribe to Caller Display and have a couple of phones that show the number of person calling. Anyone whose number we already know will show an identity, allowing us to answer by welcoming the caller by name. When we receive a call from a number we don't know, if it is an 01962 number then we generally will answer, otherwise we leave it to ring for the five rings it takes before the answerphone cuts in. The caller can then leave a message if desired and we can phone back if necessary. Any calls originating from overseas or showing number withheld we just don't answer. However, BT have now come up with Call Protect. We signed up for this (it costs nothing to do so) and the Tottle residence has been remarkably quiet ever since. All withheld, international and unavailable numbers are intercepted by BT with a recorded message asking the caller to phone back with a recognisable number. Furthermore, BT also intercepts any calls from known junk callers, again significantly reducing the number of unwanted calls we receive. Unidentified callers can always leave a



FREE COLLECTION COURTESY CARS

NEW FARM MOTOR SERVICES LTD

New Farm Road, Alresford SO24 9QE 01962 732338

M.O.T. Testing Centre
Chart. 7 Vanis from 5000 to 3500 to
Chart. 7 Vanis from 5000 to 3500 to
Chart. 4 Cent. and years up to 7000 to
All makes care is vans sew ced and repaired.
Horsebores, forms and campers up to 7500 lig.
serviced and prepared for olding tests.



L.P.G.A. Approved Autogas conversions www.amsautogas.com

CERTIFICATED ENGINEERS RECOVERY AVAILABLE



Handcrafted Kitchens
Handmade Furniture
Wood Floors
Wood Floor Sanding

Prospect Road, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9QB Tel: 01962 733016

Email: info@alresfordinteriors.co.uk
Web: www.alresfordinterors.co.uk



PRESTIGE CARS of ALRESFORD

Private Hire Available For Airports, Cruise Terminals and Train Stations Any Journey Undertaken

> 01962 865602 07752 570787

www.prestigecarsalresford.co.uk kevin.mitchell202@btinternet.com

Our Hampshire stores are filled with superb hand chosen wines, spirits, champagnes, ales and lagers.

We pre-taste all our wines to ensure they fit our ethos, resulting in our unique wine range.

You won't find any of our wines in the supermarkets, we offer small estate wines at superb prices. Wines on Tasting every day

20 West Street, Alresford 01962 732002 6 Oak Green, Four Marks 01420 562060 simon@tngwine.co.uk



www.thenakedgrape.co.uk





Antique Jewellery a Speciality

Contemporary Jewellery Silver & Watches

Full Repair and Restoration Service to Jewellery, Watches and Clocks Hand & Heraldic Engraving Valuations Undertaken

> 40a West Street, Alresford Tel: 01962 732200 www.dbarkerandson.co.uk





MEETING POINTS:

Avington: War Memorial Itchen Abbas: Village Hall car park Easton: The Cricketers car park

Martyr Worthy: War Memorial, top of Chilland Lane

Please bring with you Hi-viz jacket or dothing gloves

 \sim

Friends and family. Bin bags will be provided

Organised by Itchen Valley Parish Council

message that, eventually, will get picked up when I dial 1572. But as this may not be more than once a day, for anything more urgent the caller will need to stop withholding his or her number. (And this can be done by pressing 1470 before dialling me.) Vernon Tottle

From our MP

It's a brave politician these days who talks about building a wall but that's exactly what I am going to do in this month's column.

THE WALL is a unique project working to build a national Christian monument to answered prayer and it launched in Westminster last month at an event I was blessed to attend. It will be built somewhere in the Midlands near a major motorway (think Angel of the North) from one million bricks, each representing a single prayer. It is being led by Richard Gamble who is a remarkable man following a dream - and answering a call.

What's equally exciting is that Winchester based Snug Architects is one of the five shortlisted designs for what is an international competition being overseen by RIBA. You can view Snug's entry via

www.snugarchitects.co.uk and find out more about THE WALL as well as contribute at www.thewall.org.uk February saw my annual opportunity to



address Winchester's business community via their big breakfast event at the Wessex Hotel in town. Sponsored by Winchester Business Improvement District, the event was an opportunity for businesses across the area to meet up, share experiences, and hear an update from me on the national, international and local business scene.

After providing a detailed report on the current buoyant labour market and an update on the Government's approach to Brexit, I took questions from the floor including the ongoing business rates revaluation, immigration, planned works at J9 of the M3 Junction and how the UK should work responsibly with President Trump. I also spoke about a range of local issues including what I call the 'Winchester Challenge' and didn't pull my punches. That challenge is to ensure the new leadership at the City Council – now including your own

impressive Cllr Caroline Horrill as leader - drives through some of its big projects so Winchester regains its reputation for competence and a place where things get done.



Itchen Valley Church Services



Wednesday 1st March Ash Wednesday

8pm Holy Communion Easton

Sunday 5th March

8am BCP Holy Communion Martyr Worthy
10am All Age Service Itchen Abbas
11am Matins Avington

Sunday 12th March

8am BCP Holy Communion Easton

I 0amParish CommunionItchen Abbas6pmEvensongMartyr Worthy

Sunday 19th March

8am BCP Holy Communion Martyr Worthy

10amParish CommunionEaston6pmEvensongAvington

Sunday 26th March

8am BCP Holy Communion Itchen Abbas 10am Parish Communion Martyr Worthy

6pm Taize Easton

Rector

Rev Amanda Denniss 779832 amandadenniss@gmail.com

Assistant Priest

Rev Alex Pease 791010 rev@ampease.co.uk

Curate

Rev Rebecca Fardell 809264 rebecca.itchenvalley@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister

Mr Gerry Stacey 620263 gstacey@easynet.co.uk

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

Itchen Valley Churchwardens

Robin Greenwood 779540; Andrew Impey 779645;

Theo Mezger 07775 908014; Vanessa Rosewell 841182

Church annual meetings

Dates have been set for the four Annual District Church Meetings (ADCM) as

follows:

Martyr Worthy
Avington
Sunday 26th March, I Iam in St Swithun's
Tuesday 28th March, 6pm in Avington Park
Sunday 2nd April, I I.15am in St Mary's
Itchen Abbas
Tuesday 4th April, 7.30 pm in St John's

These meetings are opportunities to hear a report of what's been happening in

each church during the last year and to discuss matters of interest.

Nominations will be agreed for the positions of churchwardens and other church officers for ratification at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 26th April.

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. Do please come along!

Amanda

LENT LUNCHES 2017

Lent lunches will be held in aid of the Countess Mountbatten Hospice www.cmhcharity.org.uk as follows:

Friday 3rd March Nathalie Paterson

White Gates, Avington Lane

Easton SO21 IEE tel 01962 779158

Friday 10th March Rosemary Salmond

22 Little Hayes Lane

Itchen Abbas SO21 IXA tel 01962 779927

Friday 17th March Alison Karran-Smith

Martyr Worthy Place

Martyr Worthy SO21 IAW tel 07855493117

Friday 24th March

Joanna Smith
2 Church Lane

Easton SO21 IEH tel 01962 779297

Friday 31st March

Lizzy Reid

Chilland Place

Martyr Worthy SO21 IEB tel 01962 779445

Friday 7th April

Anne Heaton-Armstrong

2 Chandos Terrace

Avington SO21 IDD tel 01962 779848

The Lent lunches have been held in homes around the Valley for over 25 years and take the form of simple fare – soup, bread and cheese. Please do come along to have fun meeting each other, and to support the Countess Mountbatten Hospice.

Stephanie Gretton

Big ticket items such as the leisure centre and station approach have got to move forward now and I am clear the new leader and Chief Executive need to assert their authority because Winchester is not a great bet for investors right now. It is time for all our sakes to face down the sneering, often politically driven, cynicism which is threatening any attempt to improve the city. More: www.stevebrine.com/ businessbreakfast

Don't forget my ongoing PMQ ballot to which I have now added Wednesday 22nd March 2017 so do add your name to the draw via www.stevebrine.com/ PMOs or via 01962 791110. Finally, you can find more about my other work, in Winchester and of course in Westminster, via my website which includes my regularly updated Brexit mini-site at www.stevebrine.com/brexit Steve Brine MP Winchester, Alresford & Itchen Valley

The Mary Rose at Easton WI

We all know about the raising of the Mary Rose in 1982 but many did not realise she was in action for 33 years before sinking in the Solent in 1545 whilst leading the attack against the French. Trevor Sapley from the Mary Rose Museum entertained us dressed in clothes of the period according to the Sumptuary Laws when you had to dress according to class.

The remains of the ship were brought up from the Solent 437 years after she sank and work began on preservation in dry dock. Many thousands of artefacts have been carefully preserved and are now displayed in the new museum, which has been built over the ship. The area in the Solent has been designated as a war grave.

Trevor brought lots of replica artefacts as well as a genuine piece of rope and a section of treated wood. The wreck held personal objects belonging to the crew including musical instruments, a backgammon board, shoes, nit combs, metal and wooden plates and spoons. Carpentry tools stored in chests, long bows made from Spanish yew. 92 nearly complete skeletons were recovered and analysis shows that



some of the crew members were as young as 11-13 years old and the majority were under 30.

Theories as to why the ship sank vary, a gust of wind as she was turning with her gunports still open, overloaded with extra guns and soldiers for battle, or human error. There could have been 700 men on board, thirty five were known to have survived. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 9th March, when we learn the importance of making a Will together with a visit from the Wild Wessex Plum Company.

Sallie Peake

The Practical Gardener

We can now look forward to longer days and warmer weather and hopefully our long cold snap will have killed off some of the nasties. There are signs everywhere of new growth. The snowdrops this year have been magic and they seem to spread without any help from me. But that's not the case in the greenhouse where now is a



traditional sowing time.

My view is we can safely ignore advice on the packet about timing. It seems from experience much more to do with weather. I think this year the ground is quite cold and will take time to warm up. Many seeds don't germinate when it's too cold or wet. That's what a kitchen windowsill is for! I have found almost anything can be started in pots or trays with the exception of root vegetables where the results of transplanting have been disappointing. It's also time to sow first early potatoes and this is best done with fleece pegged out over them for a month. Trust me, if you want an early crop, sow now and there is almost no work to do after that.



In the warmer days I get out onto the flower beds, cleaning up and cutting back any old growth; great time to hand weed and hoe, clear up fallen leaves which can harbour slugs. It's the time of the year to curse the beech hedge which holds its foliage for months to come.

I have had two interesting experiences with growing this year. I bought three Amaryllis bulbs which were planted as instructed in December. One has no flower, just foliage, one now is about to flower and one is a month behind. Yet all came from the same source and had the same care.

I mentioned moss last month and my lawns are badly affected. The moss seems to suppress the grass. Easy to kill moss (ferrous sulphate) but big black patches are not very pretty. I've talked to some experts without a real answer except to throw ludicrous amounts of money at the problem. I wonder if readers could share solutions?

In the fruit garden it's time to finish pruning. This is something about which I am never very confident but I know particularly apples and pears need to be shaped. Perhaps a job best left to those who really know.

Happy gardening. Tony Gaster.

From the Parish Council

Two important dates. First don't forget the annual litter pick on Saturday 4th March. As part of the national "Great British Spring Clean"



the "Itchen Valley Great Tidy Up" will start from various points around the valley and from 11.30 am onwards tea



and cakes will be provided by the WI in Martyr Village Hall. We are proud of our valley and need to keep it looking at its best as spring and summer approach. The more people

who participate, the easier the task and the more fun the event. So do come and join in. Details of the starting points can be seen on the poster on page 18 in this edition, on our web site and on posters around the valley. The second date is for our Annual Parish Meeting (that is the Civil Parish and not the Church one) which will take place at 7 pm on Tuesday 25th April (venue to be advised). This is the opportunity for everybody to hear what we have done over the previous year and what we hope to achieve in the future. It is also a time for you to ask questions and suggest what you think we might do. So if you care about your locality and have an interest in the affairs of the Parish, please put the date in your diary and come along on the day.

We have been recently asked a question about planning, the visits to sites where an application has been made and to any neighbours close by. The simple answer is that when we receive an application a judgement is made and where considered appropriate to do so, visits to neighbours and more rarely to the applicants are made. If we are unable to get a response from a neighbour, we leave a letter giving the information where details can be found. Applications are considered either at a Planning Committee Meeting or if deadlines are short at a Full Council Meeting. Times and places for these

meetings are posted on our website and the notice board. All members of the public are entitled to come and make their case at these meetings where we decide whether or not to comment and if so on the wording to be used. We can either support or object but if we wish to make comment, even on a minor issue, it has to be registered as an objection. Our response as a Parish Council is then sent to the relevant Planning Authority. Please note, as has been said before, it is the planning authorities who make the decision and not the Parish Council. These authorities make decisions according to their interpretation of the rules. The decisions made by them are therefore not necessarily in agreement with the Parish Council's views and it can be frustrating for all when we feel we have been ignored. From that, it can be seen that with visiting and meetings, planning can be a time consuming process. All Parish Councillors are volunteers and even those of us no longer in full time work lead busy lives so time is always at a premium. Hence we have to use our resources where we believe it to be most necessary. Remember anyone can make their own comment on a planning application to the relevant authority. If they see an application and are concerned, they can contact any of us to be sure we are aware of it. When dealing with important issues such as planning, it needs everyone to be vigilant.

Finally a question of crime. We have been asked to answer various questions on a survey for the Police and Crime Commissioner so if you have any views on the subject of local policing please contact us but be quick; we have to report back by 3rd March. One good point already made on the

reporting of crime is the understandable fact that the police concentrate their responses where it appears they are most needed. Hence if crimes go unreported in a locality, a false impression is given that all is well and resources go elsewhere. So do report a crime using the 101 number even if you think that little can be done about it. Then more accurate statistics may highlight a previous unseen problem and resources put in to solve it. Hope to see as many as possible on Saturday 4th March. Patrick Appleby, Parish Council Chairman.

Tiddler Joke

Q: Why did the police officer have a very thin piece of paper?A: He wanted to trace someone!



From Isabella (8), Thomas (6) and Anna (3)

Jackie's County Corner for March

Rural Policing Conference Along with CLA representatives, rural councillors and other stakeholders, I attended the Rural Police Matters conference at Sparsholt College.



After a morning of information, we gathered to discuss priorities for rural policing.

Fly-tipping topped the poll: it is antisocial and expensive. All delegates, including Police, felt the problem had increased since the arrangements at recycling centres had changed.

The council has successfully prosecuted some flytippers - but it often lands in rural fields so all wanted an easier way to dispose of waste for small businesses to cut this antisocial behaviour.

We also identified a greater Police visibility, based on intelligence, and agreed it would be useful to retain PCSO's as the community link. There is now a range of alternatives to 101. Just 16% of calls are to report actual crime, but 101 receives thousands of calls every day. You can use the free 'Self Evident' App (an orange fingerprint logo) to report problems or information, or email postmaster@hampshire.pnn.police.uk Council Tax: The proposed increase to the County part of your Council Tax bill is 4.99%.

This includes 3% for social care. There are cuts in budgets as the councils are forced to become increasingly less dependent on Government grants and more dependent on local council tax. Limited funds can be raised without a referendum and so this is leading to



more cuts, drip by drip in our services. A simple cut is that some information booklets will no longer be automatically distributed to all libraries, meaning that some events and activities will only be advertised where there are volunteers to promote them.

More serious is the closure of children's centres. Mums report feeling isolated especially if they have no families nearby.

Cart and Horses junction- thanks to all who turned out for the Awareness Photo – it brought results and we now expect an interim report from the County Council on the 23rd March. You can see more news on this on my website.

We had a spate of Ofsted inspections in my division recently, including Kings Worthy, where I am a Governor, and Perins school. With just hours of notice, staff don't have time to be nervous, but do demonstrate their professionalism. As I write, all of the reports are awaiting publication.

Many of you will know about The Watercress Way Project, a long distance circular walk that

encompasses the Gratton
Recreation
Ground on its
western side, and
'starts' near the
Watercress Line
Steam Railway to
the east.



We are holding a series of events along the route from 'Dawn to Dusk' on 30th April 2017 including a Dawn Chorus Walk at 4.45am! You can sign up for news, including this and other plans for the day on

www.thewatercressway.org.uk County Councillor Jackie Porter 01962 791054, email Jackie@jackieporter.co.uk, text 07973 696 085, website www.jackieporter.co.uk, twitter@JackieLibDem

Our Wild Valley: Seek the sunshine flowers!

With luck some bright yellow plants should be out by now, the lesser celandines open on a south facing bank, possibly a dandelion or two, all to help out some searching hungry insects and to brighten up our walks. One found on the last big corner out of Itchen Abbas towards Itchen Stoke is Coltsfoot, which flowers very early before the big leaves come out. The flowers appear on a thick purple pink stem, and look very weird! The large leaves with their thick felt-covered undersides occur in rosettes. They are similar in shape to animal hooves, hence the names colt's or foal's-foot. The scientific name Tussilago derives from the latin for 'cough' (Tussis), and hints at the widespread smoking of the dried leaves in folk-medicine to calm



Family Owned

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Over 150 years of Family Service Richard Steel, Iain Steel, Mark Allery

Alderman House, 12-14 City Road

Winchester (01962) 862333

with St Mary's Chapel & Garden of Remembrance at 4. Chesii Street

> Personal 24 Hour Service Pre-need funeral plans

www.winchesterfunerals.co.uk

PETER BRAY

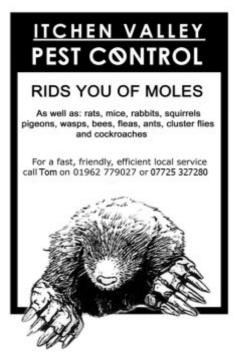
DOMESTIC APPLIANCE ENGINEER

Repairs to Washing Machines, Dryers, Electric Cookers, and Waste Disposal Units

Service Agents for In-Sink-Erator, Tweeny, Maxmatic, Waste King and Waste Maid.

> Tel 01962 714224 Mob 07885 490786 11 Hill Rise, Twyford, Winchester SO21 IQH





Easton Village Hal	I							
Ina Williams 779465	or evh.bo	oking@)googlem	ail.com				
Regular bookings Authentic Pilates						.=== /		
Authentic Pliates	Mon Fri	9 am & 6:30 pm			Judy	07774 899909		
Ems Bray Pilates	Fri Tue	9 am 8:45 am & 10 am		n	Emily	07876 033893		
Lills Dray I liaces	Thur	9 am		Lilliy	0/0/0 0330/3			
Sally Stanyard	Tue	4.15 pm - 7.45 pm		om	Sally	01962 776562		
School of Dance	Thur	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 (not 1 st , 8 th)		Ina	01962 779465			
Muriele Zumba	Thur an	nd Fri 10.30 am		Muriele	07821 545403			
Martyr Worthy Village Hall								
Lucinda Ffennell 779701 or simon@ffennell.plus.com								
Riverbank	Mon - \	Wed	9am to	3 pm	Babs	01962 621757		
Kindergarten	Thu - F	_	9am to 1 pm					
Whist Drive	Thu		7pm					
Children's party	Sat IIth	•						
Children's party	Fri 17 th	5.30pm						
Itchen Abbas and	l Avingto	n Villag	ge Hall					
Details of bookings	and real t	ima ava	ilahility ar	a now	availahla (on our website		
www.iaavillagehall.c		iiiic ava	nability at	e now	available	on our website.		
Hall Manager Alex Bellisario or manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk								
or telephone 07947 191229 Village hall callbox 01962 791021								
Regular Booking	S							
Montessori	Mon to I	Fri 08	3.30	Carolin	ie 0	1730 829377		
Zumba	Mon	18	3.30	Sue	0	7947 410394		
ъ. т.	_	^	\ I F	DI II	^	2452 122250		

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



coughs. Most plants spread out from the rhizome which would explain the large clumps of it found in hedgerows. The leaves can be cooked and used to make tea. The flowers can be added to liven and brighten up your salads. How many yellow flowers can you spot this month?!

Sophie Rogers

Badger

On Ist February, Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club was rocked by the cruellest news of all, that we had sadly lost a much loved and key member of our club, Steve Green. To all of us he was simply known as Badger – who gave that name I am not sure – but it suited him and it stuck. For those of you who do not follow our cricket you may still have known him for his taxiing services in and around Winchester. If you had looked closely you would even have seen that he had the word Badger on the bonnet

of his cab.

This was a man who grew up with his younger brother at the club whilst his father was batting, learnt his cricket at the club, went on to become the most successful Captain we have ever had, scored thousands of runs and took hundreds of wickets, untold number of catches and was still only 44. Years ago I was explaining Badger to new members of our committee but after much wrestling with how best to describe him, I simply said that if you cut Steve in half it would undoubtedly say "E&MWCC".

He loved his cricket and lived and breathed E&MWCC. At any given time somewhere in his cab you would have been able to find a scribbled team sheet for some future game. Such was his knowledge of all of us, he coached us even if we didn't realize it and had a superb tactical ability to read a game and snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. He was ours and we loved him



for it while other clubs around Hampshire might not have been so complimentary!

Badger will be sorely missed by all at our club but most of all by his family. He was the proud father of two boys, Joel and Ethan, both wonderful cricketers at our club, brother to Shaun, devoted son to his widowed father, Chris and loving partner to Lin. There is a large Badger sized hole in all

our lives and we will miss him.

Anyone wishing to make a donation then there is a Crowdfunding page on the Just Giving website. Simply search Steve 'Badger' Green and look in the Crowdfunding section. All the money will go towards a bursary to help young cricketers in our community.

It has not been the best of times for the club with our highly respected former Chairman Geoffrey Burnand losing his lovely wife Juliet. He and all his family are in our thoughts too. Adam Murch

E&MWCC Chair

Valley Volunteers

Itchen Abbas school advertised recently for a school governor. To encourage potential candidates to consider applying, this month we feature Richard



Hunt, one of the existing governors at the school.

How long have you been a School Governor at Itchen Abbas School? Just under two years.

What's your role and what does it involve?

The Governing body is responsible for the strategic direction of the school. We have a busy period ahead as we get ready for our Ofsted review.

Why did you choose to become a governor? How did you get involved?

The school is so much a part of the community whether or not you have children there (I didn't when I became a Governor). Having a good village school like this is such an asset and

there are many of all generations living in the valley who went there.

Brief description of what being a governor entails

Being a Governor is fascinating. We spend a lot of time looking at the data (measurements of how the school is perfoming) at different points in the year to make sure that the school is teaching its pupils well so that they make the grades they should. The results though are the tip of a large iceberg and it is being able to look at the detail of how the school operates and how it could operate even better that is so rewarding.

Like many you are a busy father and this must be time consuming. What do you get out of being a governor and why do you do it?

Yes, it does take time. But I can't think of a more important local organisation to get behind and to try and improve standards. There is a great group of Governors, some parents, some not who all bring different skills sets with them so the workload is shared around.



Why do I do it? Having a great school in the valley is fantastic and I am really keen to see it develop, not least as I now have a daughter who goes there. The school is rated 'good' by Ofsted and I want to support the Head in her efforts to make it even better for all the pupils that are there now and will follow in the future.

Compiled by Ronnie Johns

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING WITH NO VAT!!!

*Carpet and rug cleaning *Upholstery cleaning

*Protective treatments *Leather furniture cleaning

01962 733602 07799 403867 www.martinturvey.co.uk Local Fresh Flower Gifts to Delight

Circles, Garlands, Door Wreaths made to individual requests



Floral Design Gifts

Contact Amanda Rember to discuss your order

07791 733002 floraldesigngifts@yahoo.co.uk



MOBILE SERVICE

We can repair unsightly and annoying damage to your vehicle at a reasonable cost ~ including:

Small to medium dents and scuffs

Collision damage ~ Alloy wheels refurbished

Curbed allow wheels ~ Coded bumpers

Contact: Ray Bradbear Tel: 01962 779828

Mobile: 07950 216856 Email: raybradbear@gmail.com

STORAGE made easy

- 24/7 access
- Sizes to suit your needs
- Short or long term
- Easy to find, easy to use
- On your doorstep

01962 771993 www.barn-store.co.uk



Holden Farm Cheriton SO24 ONX

Madeline's super nutty soda bread ©

"This is your best bread Mummy!" Isabella grinned, grabbing another still warm slice. I love this bread too. Ready in under an hour from first getting the flour out of the cupboard, it is the easiest, quickest loaf to make great for the novice or busy times of year. There's no kneading, just a quick mix like making scones or muffins. It's also highly nutritious, delicious both warm from the oven or toasted. You can substitute most of the ingredients for your own favourites. Spelt flour complements the nuts particularly well, but you can use wholemeal flour or just all white. Or experiment with speciality flours. You don't need to use bread flour. You can even use gluten free flour - although it does taste a bit different. Nut free? Try dried fruits or oatmeal instead. Can't find any buttermilk? Use 300ml milk and 200ml yoghurt instead or even 450ml milk soured with the juice of half a lemon.



I've never tried using lactofree or dairy free substitutes, but they should work, as long as they have some acidity to make the raising agent work.

Never baked bread before? Give it try! **Ingredients**

250 g plain white flour 250 g wholemeal spelt flour I tsp salt I tsp baking powder
I tsp bicarbonate of soda
I tsp cream of tartar
90 g mixed seeds (eg pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, linseeds, Omega 3 mixes etc)
90 g chopped walnuts (or other chopped nuts)
450 g buttermilk
I tbsp honey
I tbsp olive oil

Topping: I-2 tbsp of rolled oats (or seeds)

Mix the dry ingredients, except the walnuts, together in a large bowl. Mix the liquid ingredients and the walnuts together separately and then pour into the dry ingredients. (Mixing the nuts with the liquid stops flour getting trapped in the knobbly bits of the walnuts.) Mix until roughly combined as a sticky dough. You do not need to knead it. If it looks a bit dry, add up to 50ml extra buttermilk.

Spoon into a I kilo baking tin — either lined with bake-o-glide or well-greased. Press down with wet hands. Top with the oats. Using a sharp knife or pair of scissors, make a cut along the middle of the loaf lengthwise about I cm deep — this helps the loaf expand neatly, rather than cracking where it feels like it. Either put a small dish of hot water in the oven or use a water spray to add steam to the oven — this is optional but also helps the bread rise well and develop an attractive crust.

Bake at 200 °C (180 °C for fan oven, top oven in aga) for about 40-45 minutes, until well risen and golden brown. Depending on your tin/oven, you may find the top browns faster than the sides, if so, take it out of the tin and give it an extra 5-10 minutes upside down. Cool on a wire rack. *Madeline Rakowicz*



Fully qualified and insured specialists in tree care, hedge trimming, stump grinding and garden reclamation

01962 861891 / 07725 835715 www.fishertreecare.co.uk



High quality domestic services Guaranteed



One less thing to think about.

We can help.

- Regular cleaning and end of tenancy cleaning
- One off spring cleans
 Washing and Ironing
- Carpet cleaning
- Building maintenance including painting and decorating
- Shopping
- · Man with a van

telephone: 01962 736713
email: enquiries@maidmariancleaners.co.uk
web: www.maidmariancleaners.co.uk

Hampshire Acupuncture

Specialising in you

Traditional Chinese Medicine

Cosmetic Acupuncture

SHARON BRADBEAR

BSc (Hons) Lic Ac MBAcC 07951 501594



SHAUN BARNEY

Professional
Painter & Decorator

Local Tradesman with 20 years experience



Competitive Rates

Quality Work Fully Insured

01962 864033 07928 027618





Warner & Richardson Solicitors

Warner & Richardson was founded over 200 years ago and has built a reputation for personal service and high quality advice. With the longest record of service of any Winchester firm we are committed to providing innovative solutions to our clients' problems and needs based on a strong foundation of local knowledge, experience and pragmatic advice.

Private Client Services

Property and Conveyancing

Wills, Probate and Trusts

Business Client Services

Commercial Property and Business Leases

Agricultural Land

Please see our website at www.wandr.co.uk for further details



29 Jewry Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8RR
Tel 01962 868366 Fax 01962 840607 DX2511 Winchester

Email: lawyers@wandr.co.uk
Website: www.wandr.co.uk

It's a dog's life

"Man's best friend", "one of the family", happiness is a warm puppy". You might think reading those familiar phrases, that all is well in the relationship



between us and our dog companions. But despite all the toys we buy them, the money we spend on special foods and grooming parlours and the cute coats and glittery collars we put them in, I maintain that our doggy friends are having an increasingly raw deal, because these things are not what dogs need.

Some of you will know my connection with PDSA, the only veterinary charity in this country. As well as picking up the pieces (in some cases literally) of the disasters which result from illnesses and/or accidents to pets, this 100 year old organization is trying to educate owners present and (most importantly of the) future about how to give their pets a life which will make both the dog and his/ her owner happy. Sadly, this is becoming an increasingly difficult task due, I believe, to a shift in how we see and understand animals and their needs.

When I first visited a PDSA Pet Hospital I saw a 12 week old bullmastif puppy recovering from an operation to remove a toy arrow from its intestines. Its owner was a single mother with several small children, living in a small flat in a city. The bullmastif grows to be a huge dog, very expensive to feed, which needs adequate care and exercise

which this woman and her family were unable to give it. I have no idea how the story continued but I do know there are increasing numbers of unhappy and badly cared for dogs living amongst us, despite our professed "love" for our furry friends.

Grooming parlours, squeaky toys and cute coats, as mentioned above, simply don't cut the canine mustard. (Is that what you put on hot dogs? Ed.) Dogs don't want to be humans, they don't want to smell like us, look like us or wear what we wear! They want (and need) very basic, simple things: your time and companionship, adequate exercise, good food and a safe, comfortable home. Add to these requirements, basic training so they respect your authority, return to you when called and are pleasant and sociable with other dogs and humans alike, and you will have a lifetime of blissful harmony and enjoyment with your dog. Choose the wrong breed, or indeed buy a dog when you have neither the time nor resources to look after it, leave it alone all day, neglect to exercise it adequately, don't train it or feed it properly, then you will have an unhappy, unhealthy dog which will cause all kind of behavioral and



veterinary problems. These huge issues are just part of the work PDSA undertakes and I hope, in a small way, to make a contribution to their very worthy goals. These, I hope, will help to make our dogs happy and healthy again and truly once more, Man's best friend.

Catherine Hahn

For the Love of.....Rugby!

This month we continue to delve into the passions and hobbies of our readers. With the RBS Six Nations Rugby Union Tournament currently dominating the sporting calendar, it seems rather appropriate to shine the spotlight on one of the England squad's most inspirational young rugby players. Easton's 17 year old Poppy Wheway is this month's interviewee.

When and why did you start playing Rugby? I was aged 13 and in Year 9 at school. I started playing because my friend who already played rugby encouraged me to come along to School training sessions.

Who do you play for? I started off playing for Perins School, and my coach at school encouraged me to go to Hampshire trials in my first year of u 15's. I didn't have a club back then, rugby was all new to me. Once getting into Hampshire I then decided I wanted to start playing regularly and that's when I joined Basingstoke. I have now been at the club for 4 years and they have pushed me to where I am today. In my first year playing for Hampshire u 15's, I was put forward for South East and I am now playing my third year of divisional rugby. Last year, which was my first year of u 18's, I luckily was selected for the England U18's Training Development Group (TDG), which is a national group of developing rugby

players and I am now training with them. Hopefully in this upcoming season I can have even better success than I did last year!

What do you find most enjoyable about the sport? What I enjoy the most about playing rugby is that whatever level you play at, all the girls seem to really enjoy it and put in 100%





WORTHY HEATING & PLUMBING SERVICES





- Corgi Registered Gas Installers
- · Boiler & Control Specialists
- Boiler Servicing and Repair
- Gas & Oil Fired Boilers
- Appointed Service Agents

Spring Cottage. Tel: 01962 776321 Woodman Lane. Fax: 01962 776111 Mob: 07703 178219

Sparsholt, Winchester

SO212NZ

Email: worthy heating@aol.com

Itchen Valley Montessori



Itchen Abbas

9.00 am - 2.45 pm Monday

9.00 am - 1.00 pm Tuesday to Friday

The Montessori Method in a prepared classroom

Activities include Art & Craft. Music & Movement, Cooking, French and Drama

Call 01730 829377

carolinembutcher@btinternet.com

Sensibly priced, bespoke catering using local produc

For all enquires contact Jude Ower:

Mobile: 07729 473795 Home: 01420 568179 www.noshcafebar.com noshcafebar@gmail.com

nos

Lymington Bottom Road Next to Reads Butchers Open 8-5 Mon/Sat ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HIRE





Pure circuits classes Mondays 8-9pm at Itchen Abbas Village Hall

Are you up for a new challenge? Suitable for all levels of fitness. No equipment or fancy gear needed, just a good sense of humour!

Run by local Fitness Instructor Juliette Green.

Email purecircuits@gmail.com

FIRST CLASS FREE - Drop in classes only £6.

es only £6.

or phone/text 07799 890860 to book your FREE place.



Can't get the hang of your computer?

One-to-one tuition in your own home by qualified trainer

Gift tokens available
Call Christine for details on

01962 735359



Butchers of Distinction
Home Made Pies. Ready Meals
A Variety of Seasonal Game
Award Winning Sausages and Burgers

Alresford Motor Services New Farm Road

All makes serviced and repaired MOT test station Volkswagen, Audi, Saab and Volvo specialist 01962 733 888

CURTAINS and AUSTRIAN BLINDS

Throw-over bed covers made up from customer's own material.

Headboards & dressing tables covered.

Christening gowns made to order.

Tel: Mrs Egleton 07985 517169 01962 779586 .

SMARTIES

Top quality second-hand clothes for children aged 0-15

Please contact Andrea on 01962 779553 07743 042753

and join over 500 other Hampshire Mums at Smarties

PLUMBLINE Local Plumbing & Heating

Friendly, local family run business with over 20yrs experience and a member of CHECKATRADE

Tel: 01962 885511 Mob: 07801 365925

1 year guarantee on work undertaken NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Memorials

Building Stonework Restoration

BLACKWELL & MOODY Ltd

Stone Masons for five generations
Magdalen Masonry Works
Alresford Road Winchester SO21 1HE
Tel 01962 852476
blackwellandmoodyltd@fsmail.net

ZUMBA CLASSES



Every Thursday and Friday morning at Easton Village Hall,

10.30am to 11.30am.

Come and get fit whilst dancing to fantastic Latin beats. Getting fit never felt such fun!

Tel. Muriele on 07821 545403

For more details visit www.murielezumba.com

ITCHEN VALLEY B&B CHILLANDHAM LANE MARTYR WORTHY 01962 779379

bh@itchenvalleybandb.com www.itchenvalleybandb.com

effort. It shows that it means something to them. I like playing because I love the sport, I have been lucky in the success I have gained from it, but it is definitely not why I love it. Playing with girls that act like they want to be there just as much as you do and seeing players who never believed they would be good at rugby, or didn't think it was the sport for them, progress into these very talent athletes is what I gain the most from it.

What's been the most memorable moment of your rugby career so far? I think it would have to be being picked for the England U18's Talent Development Group last summer. It was so unexpected because when you look at the standard of the girls in that group you would never picture yourself being compared to them. So to be put into an environment where I am playing with the best in the country makes me push myself ever harder to prove myself. It was definitely the most memorable moment because I would have never have dreamt of being in that group and to be recognised by my

It's a very physical sport – how much does it hurt and have you had any injuries? I do ache after games but it is definitely worth it. I haven't picked up anything too serious so far (finger crossed it stays like that) just had a few nasty bruises!

coach was a great honour.

How do you stay fit and healthy? I train with Basingstoke and as part of TDG weekly, as well as going to the gym.

What's your ambition within the sport? I don't think I have one particular ambition, there are a couple

of things I would love to achieve but I just want to carry on playing as long as I am still enjoying it and see what happens.

What would you say to any young women out there thinking of having a go?

I would say it's 100% worth a go. A lot of girls think it won't be for them, and when I first started that's what I thought as well but ever since that first training session I knew it would be for me. It is a sport that will teach you a lot and help you a lot. Definitely worth it!

Compiled by Lucy Wolfe

Puzzle time

Those readers familiar with countryside practices will know immediately why there are so many of these piles of grassy reeds along the riverside this winter. But could there be another explanation? Termite nests? Hobbit houses? A small prize for the best explanation! Suggestions to itchenvalleynews@gmail.com



Finger lickin' good

When it comes to remembering the past (yes I know that's tautology; you can't remember the future) the most probable trigger is a smell. More likely to elicit a response than a picture or a

sound, a smell can activate the memory brain cells quicker than you can say Harold Wilson.

The other day I was baking a pizza – the easy way. I had bought a simple pizza base and was adding extra ingredients to make a Quattro Stagioni pizza fit for a king. I had placed the final ingredient on the circle of cheesy dough when I was suddenly taken back to university days. I had just licked my fingers to remove some of the salty anchovy oil and at once had a vision of the St Michael Street Pizza Bar.

As a cheap alternative to college fine dining it was perfect. Small, dingy, crowded and really very inexpensive, it was great – so long as you got there soon after opening. Arrive at the Pizza Bar in the middle of the evening and you could queue for ages to get a table. Pizza Magherita was 50p, Con Fungi increased the price to 60p and blowing your grant on a Quattro Stagioni would set you back a whole pound.

I was never sure which bit to eat first. The relatively ordinary tomato corner, the slightly exotic (for a Bristol boy) artichoke section, the earthy mushroom bit or the more salty ham and olive segment. But whichever quarter I chose, it was the anchovies dividing them up that became my favourite of the whole pizza. They would sparkle like strings of pearls in the candlelight and the extra saltiness would make you that little bit more thirsty for the house red.

And then I thought of Delia Smith. No, I didn't meet her in the Pizza Bar, indeed I've never met her, but I do recall her pronouncing anchovies in a rather odd way. I have always said "An-cher-viz" but she came up with "An – cho – viz" with the "cho" as in chosen, accented on the second syllable. I can't remember what she

was cooking but I do remember her pronunciation. I've never noticed Mary Berry using anything other than cut glass south-east diction and perhaps because of this, in my mind I'll forget Mary long before I forget Delia. St Michael Street Pizza Bar and Delia Smith. Funny what a little taste can bring to mind.

Vernon Tottle

Local monthly information

Waste collections in March

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 3rd 17th and 31st. Green bins on Fridays 10th and 24th.

Cameo

On Tuesday 21st March.

Farmers' Markets in Winchester Sundays 12th & 26th March.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 2nd March at Easton

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

School term timetable operates for the whole of March.

Weekdays to Winchester:

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

Weekdays to Alresford:

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

Saturday service (same for the whole month)

Towards Winchester:

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

Towards Alresford:

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

No Sunday or bank holiday service

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas. Times are 5 minutes later (or earlier) at Easton.



CHIMNEY SWEEP

01962 734029 07721 458067

- · Professional and comprehensive service
- · Stringent dust control methods observed
- No mess guarantee
- · Bird guards and weather cowls fitted
- Wood stoves and multifuel stoves serviced
- Flue inspection and airflow testing
- Calls taken seven days a week

Cartridge Plus+

Computer Consumables and Stationery Printers Now Available Also Pictures, Frames & Mounts 3 Stockbridge Road, Winchester Tel 01962 877992 Fax 01962 877976 Email: keith@cartridge-plus.co.uk www.cartridge-plus.co,uk



A H SERVICES

Domestic gas engineer - certificated plumbers

Boilers/Cookers/Gas fires - İnstalls/Servicing/Repairs Electrical - Gas safety checks - Landlord's safety certificates

Bathrooms Property maintenance Fully insured.

Telephone 07533 776406 or 07847144092



FIRST ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

Number 1 choice for all your electrical needs

FIRST

Office: 02381 783347 Mobile: 07712 539192

Email: contact will first electrication book co.

NICEIC REGISTERED

PROUD MEMBERS OF CHECKATRADE

Mulberry Tree Services

Problem Trees?

Fully Qualified Certified Tree Surgeon with 25 years experience

Fully Insured Very Competitive Prices

- Removal of Dangerous Trees
- · Pruning · Shaping · Thinning
- Stump Removal Hedge Cutting
- · Fencing Specialist

Tel: 01962 88 68 66 Mob: 07974 761183 www.mulberrytreeservices.co.uk

MH GARDEN WORKS

Fencing + Decking + Patios

Garden maintenance

free quotes and advice

07818800706 or 01962 469489

Paulina Swiezynska

Your mobile nail technician
Professional manicure and pedicure
Available for pamper/children's parties
07496 482019 01962 779425
paulina I 37@live.com

LAWN CARE

Feed, Weed and Moss Control
Single/All-Year-Round Treatment
Scarifying/Overseeding
Weed Control of Driveways/Paths

Tel: Brian 07710 792839

Keylink SAS Ltd



Mercedes, BMW, Porsche and VAG servicing & repairs specialist.

(All other makes too). Competitive rates, full diagnostics, MOTs arranged. Air conditioning service and

repair.

Free collection, delivery or courtesy car.

www.keylinksas.co.uk info@keylinksas.co.uk 01256 397150

Unit 15/16 The Calvert Centre Woodmancott Winchester, SO21 3BN











Jo Huggins

Rosie Williams

High Quality

- Dressmaking
- Restyling
- Alterations
- Repairs

Traditionally made

- Bespoke curtains
- Blinds
- Cushions
- Curtain tracks & poles
- Fabrics

Call or email us today

07885 750070 johuggins76@yahoo.co.uk 07411711168 rosio@coudre co.uk

Friendly local service

Computer Problems?



- · PC, Mac, iPads, Phones
- · Systems & Software Problems
- Virus cleaning, & Security
- Tune ups and Health Checks
- Broadband & Sharing
- Upgrades & Hardware
- Data Recovery
- · Cracked screens replaced

Independent and Impartial Advice, Home Visits (some evenings available) * FREE Estimates *



10% labour discount with Parish Magazine

Laptops, Macs, Phones

PC's, home setups, Viruses

Colin: 01962 713890 Mob: 07727 481220

Gerry: 01962 712674 Mob: 07900 845814

Qualified engineer

Member Hants Buy With Confidence



- · Livery full, part and grass
- · Rent a Pony for 6 or 12 months
- Happy Birthday Pony Parties & Pony Camps
 - . Horses for hire to go hunting
 - Opportunity to compete at shows

For more details cell Frances care

07970 717093

find to on Facebook Northington Stud & Stables

GARDEN GEORGE CANN MACHINER

2014 UK Garden Machinery Dealer of the Year

STILL SOWING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS

TEL: 01962 771800

LACE /S FARM, BRAMDEAN, ALRESTORD, HAMPSHIRE, SQ24-031 www.georgecanngardenmachinery.co.uk







Property Sales | Lettings | Management 02392 632 275 | countryhousecompany.co.uk



Blinds & Awnings

We offer a full measuring, manufacturing and installation service for all types of high quality

Blinds - Awnings - Shutters Full 5 year guarantee

Other services include:

Awning and canopy restoration (including recovering)

Blind servicing and repair work

For a free, no obligation quote in your own home or office:

Tel: 01962 736836 or 07711 007079 email: enquiries@drblinds.co.uk



Call 01962 736333 or email alresford@hellards.co.uk for a free market appraisal



Sales, Lettings and Property Management 11 Broad Street, Alresford | www.hellards.co.uk