

# ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 29 May 2016

For Avington, Easton, Iichen Abbas and Martyr Worthing





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# WELCOME to the Valley News



This was a good month for the sub-editor, with a longer interval between theoretical copy date and sending the magazine to the printer than usual, but as you will see when you reach the end, the copy date was somewhat waived. The last piece of the jigsaw came in on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> when the gnomes of Martyr Worthy finished counting the proceeds of the plant sale. As always, the News gives advance information about Valley events, as well as some just outside the valley. Golf lovers can hear Peter Alliss in aid of Barnardo's; dog walkers can help Cancer Research; tennis players can play for Home Start and shoppers (and house de-clutterers) can support Help for Heroes, and you might just be in time to sign up for the East End Safari Supper if you get your skates on (or send a donation to the Night Shelter instead). No wonder no one in the Valley has any spare time! But if you do, there is a flower arranging demonstration, a recommendation for a book to read, an incentive to be creative in your cooking (and to send the resulting recipe to the Valley News) and schedules of events in your village halls. There is the Duck Race and, looking further ahead, the Queen's Official Birthday to celebrate, the Avington Fete and the Flower Show - all dates for the diary.

I referred above to the gnomes who are counting the proceeds from the plant sale - how many readers are old enough to remember the gnomes of Zurich, who were so much talked about in the sixties? I looked it up on a well-known and not always accurate

online resource and found that George Brown is credited with using the phrase first, in November 1964. It would be great if you could let the Valley News know whether the phrase means anything to you if you were born after the swinging sixties were over. It is not surprising that some of those who have time to edit the News are of retirement age, but it would be good if our readers could let us know if it shows!

Talking to people at recent events it is clear that Valley people are busy, but do come to the local events if you can. Tony Gaster is next month's sub-editor.

*Charlotte Appleby*

## Itchen Valley News

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## What's On

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### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

East End Safari Supper. Applications by Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April (sorry if you get this too late) to shrubhill@gmail.com

*Charlotte Appleby*

### **Home-Start Tennis tournament**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May at Lane End Farm House, Longwood Donation £25 per player includes picnic lunch. Bring chairs or rugs, non-players welcome for lunch.

*Book today with Kerry Coleman on 07748 978652 or email kerry@bigbale.co.uk*

### **Easton Duck Race**

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> May 12 noon. See page 32.

### **Easton Village Hall – Annual General Meeting**

Everyone in Easton and surrounding area is invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Easton Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust. It will be in the Hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm, with a drink and nibbles and informal chat from 7.30pm.

The formal business will be: Chairman's Report, Treasurer's Report, Election of Trustees, questions and answers and any other business. We will discuss improving the facilities including wifi broadband at the Hall and Ground. Anyone keen to help run the 2016 Easton Village Fete is also invited to come and share ideas.

We thank all the volunteers and fundraisers who support the Hall so enthusiastically throughout the year. Also we invite anyone who is interested to consider joining the Committee as an elected trustee or co-opted member. Ask your Committee if you want to know more (Robert Hall, Sally Stone, Ina Williams, Adam Murch, Scot Johnston, Mike Cox, Lyn

Russell, Iris Lacey or Simon Broadley).

*Simon Broadley, Secretary*

### **Charity dog Walk Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Charity Dog Walk (with or without a dog!) starting at 10.30 am at Cheriton Recreation Ground SO24 0QQ in aid of Cancer Research UK. A choice of either 1 hour or 2 hours and Ploughman's Lunch, £15. Contact me on 01962 771 617 or [saranangle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saranangle@hotmail.co.uk) for more details.

*Sara Nangle*

### **Flower Arranging Demonstration**

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, Pauline Lund is very kindly giving a Flower Arranging Demonstration in St. Mary's Church Easton

10 am Meet for coffee and refreshments

10.30 am Flower Demonstration

12 noon Further refreshments and dispersal. Donations to St. Mary's Church Flower Fund.

Pauline is going to demonstrate with flowers on the altar and one pedestal.

Any queries: – 01962 779317 or

[pkellie@pkworldwide.com](mailto:pkellie@pkworldwide.com)

*Penelope Kellie*

### **University of Winchester – Foundation Music soloists & King Alfred Consort Choir**

in The Abbey Church of Our Lady and St John in Alton. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 6.30pm for refreshments with wine, 7.30pm concert. Tickets £15.00 from Tickets, Friends of Alton Abbey, Alton, GU34 4AP, Cheques payable to "Friends of Alton Abbey". Please include a SAE, a telephone no, & an email address, For more information email: [friendsofaltonabbey@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofaltonabbey@gmail.com) or ( 01420 562126 / 01428 712938

*Pat Brockway*



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### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May

I am hosting a sale in aid of Help for Heroes in Itchen Abbas village hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 11am - 1pm in aid of Help for Heroes. We are going to be selling items for grandparents, mummies and children so if you have anything you could donate to our sale I would be very grateful. I am happy to collect.

Ronnie Johns 771 003  
[purpleronnie11@hotmail.com](mailto:purpleronnie11@hotmail.com)

### Fit for a Queen!

Wanted.....volunteers to help us party...! As part of the Royal 90th celebrations, Easton is hoping to stage a street party on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Time to be confirmed, but the plan is to close a section of village roads, and set up a traditional outdoors event, with food, and live music.

In conjunction with the party, we also plan an exhibition of photos and

memorabilia relating to Easton in the Village Hall.

The Hall's Management Committee will coordinate the event, but we badly need help in putting things together.

Please contact me on 779461 - more detail at the Easton Village Hall AGM in May.

*Robert Hall*

### The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations in Itchen Abbas

Do come along and join us mark Her Majesty's 90th birthday in Itchen Abbas & Avington village hall on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

There will be a tea party in the afternoon, with plenty of cakes and an entertainer to keep the children amused.

Musical accompaniment from David Parker's Band will be

followed by a champagne toast.

More details next month.

If you would like to help in any way, please get in touch with me on 779927.

*Rosie Salmond*







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## **Martyr Worthy village event for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**

Martyr Worthy village will be celebrating the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a village tea party on the afternoon of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Everyone in Martyr Worthy is invited to enjoy a fun afternoon together, so please save the date! More details in next month's News, or contact Sara Mason ([splmason@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:splmason@hotmail.co.uk)) or Isobel Pinder (tel 779758) for more information.



## **Your Parish Needs You – Singing Opportunity**

As you probably know the Queen's birthday is to be celebrated in the Itchen Valley with a special service at 10am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Musically, we would like to mark this occasion with a performance of a festive setting of Psalm 150 and Parry's wonderful anthem "I was glad". I would be delighted to hear from anyone wishing to take part in this service and who would like to sing with an expanded choir. Preferably, you will already have some singing experience and you will know which voice part you are. Music will be provided and you should expect at least one rehearsal in early June and two in May. Why not use this opportunity to sing for Queen and Parish?

If interested, please contact me by email: [david@dtruslove.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:david@dtruslove.freeserve.co.uk)  
*David Truslove*

## **Avington Fete 26<sup>th</sup> June**

On 26<sup>th</sup> June this year, in the superb

setting of Avington Park, the Avington Village Fete just gets better! There's food, drink, strawberries and cream, music to entertain you and in addition this year, along with the Dog Show and the 5-a-side football tournament, there's a Golfer's Corner, Beat the Goalie, Rugby Moves, Croquet and Welly Boot Throwing for you and your family to have a go at. You can even try your hand at writing a story or let your hair down with some Carnival Dancing. Treat yourself to some nail art or have your face painted and to reflect the theme of the Olympics, you can enter a Rio-style Carnival Hat competition. We have pony rides too, and you can see some beautiful falconry.

All of these are in addition to the usual Avington Fete activities like the Midsummer Queen Parade and the Mini Olympics. The Barrel Organ will greet you at the entrance where you'll see the stalls, a bouncy castle and a carousel. Look out as well for our silent Auction of Promises, new this time, and as always our raffle prizes are great (tickets now on sale).

We always do rely on our friends in the other villages offering help. We still need plants, cakes, books, good clothes, bric-a-brac, toys and games, if you are thinking of having a clear-out, and more volunteers would be very welcome.

We want to raise as much as we can to benefit our beautiful Valley Churches, so put Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 12 - 4pm, in your diary and if you would like to donate anything or help in any way, get in touch with us. We would be very grateful. Thank you for your support.

*Judy Thomas (779 026 or  
[judypower.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:judypower.thomas@gmail.com))  
or Sarah Shirley (779 429  
[sarahmshirley@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmshirley@gmail.com))*

# Avington Fete

**Sunday 26 June 2016**

**12 noon to 4pm**

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*Yes, we know it is not until June, but please put it in your diaries and invite your town-dwelling friends to come and join in with village life. Ed*



## Reviews

### Lent Lunches 2016

A big thank you to all those who attended the 2016 Lent Lunches in the valley, all of which were most enjoyable and enabled us to see something of our neighbours. The chosen charity was Friends of the Family in Winchester, and I was delighted to be able to pass on to them a total of £1,501 as a result of your generous donations at the lunches. Particular thanks go to those who hosted the lunches: Madeleine Rakowicz, Ina Williams, Caroline Kirkman, Penny Flemons, Jackie Porter and Zazie Carter. They produced some delicious soups!

*Stephanie Gretton*

### The Way of the Cross, 2016

Change and continuity are both important for villages, probably for all communities. We had continuity: the Way of the Cross in Church Lane, Martyr Worthy, has been a regular fixture for many years, but there were changes: a new Jesus and cast of disciples; a new Simon of Cyrene, more wailing women and a new style of photograph among others – thanks to Alex Pease who organized that.



Perfect weather brought out a large congregation and the production was ably directed by Sonia Cragg. It was a moving occasion and the singing was helped by a core group who led us in the familiar

hymns – well, familiar to the older people. Thanks to all involved and to the residents who allowed their gardens to be used to stage the various scenes. There are more

excellent photographs and a fuller report on the church website [itchenvalechurches.org.uk](http://itchenvalechurches.org.uk).

*Charlotte Appleby*



## Easton WI April meeting

The Antiques Road Show came to Easton village hall for this month's meeting.

Mike Cox, husband of our committee member Helen, came and gave us a potted lesson on how to make informed guesses when watching *The Antiques Road Show*. To let you know what fun we were having, the meeting overran by about an hour! He was able to describe some items that had been brought in by members, but it was even more interesting when he showed us some of the earliest products of his own collecting. These include some fascinating eyeglasses.

He told how we could use the woods that furniture is constructed of to help estimate its age. We learnt a little of the search for the recipe for porcelain. He also showed us some of the early London porcelain marks.

Did you know that the four Martin brothers worked together to produce some of the rarest porcelain figures there are?

Apparently one year their entire saleable production amounted to ONE piece.

They are most famous for 'The Wally Birds'. These are extraordinary looking birds, with incredible detailing. They are some of the most expensive porcelain that can be collected. We all knew we should have listened harder as he then went on to test

our knowledge about furniture, and porcelain.

We also discussed the couple of resolutions that will be discussed at the WI's AGM. We have asked our delegate, Kyrene Beames, to use her discretion when voting on the NHS making it possible for dementia patients to have their carers in hospital with them. The second resolution to be discussed is one that will require supermarkets to reduce to zero their food waste, by channelling unsold items to charities etc.

I would like to say a belated welcome to all the new members that have started to come to our meetings. We are very pleased to be expanding  
*Sarah Robinson*



## Itchen Valley Flower Show July 17<sup>th</sup> 2016

Our annual show which includes sections for flowers, flower arranging, cookery, vegetables, eggs, crafts and children's classes is open to all villagers across the Itchen Valley. It is a fun show, free to enter with prize-giving in the afternoon and a chance to look around and have a cup of tea and homemade cakes.

**Children's section:** There are six classes for children between 4 -15 years to enter. This year you can make and enter;

- four decorated cup cakes,
- a miniature garden in half a seed tray
- a 'selfie'
- handwriting
- a flower arrangement in a dog bowl
- a model of a school project

**Photography section:** If you are a photographer then perhaps you might like to enter a colour photo of a 'photo bomb' - described as a person or thing unexpectedly appearing in the photo. It could have been a prank or joke. Alternatively if you like snapping black and white photos, how about taking a snap of rain? Children can enter a 'selfie' photo in their own classes.

**Cookery section:** Our baking challenge this year includes the Orange Drizzle Cake that Nadia baked for the Queen's birthday. We also have classes for shortbread, cherry pie, poppy seed rolls, savoury tart, jam swiss rolls and fudge. If you are a baker please enter our classes, our judge loves to taste all the entries!

**Flower arranging:** Keeping the theme of Her Majesty's birthday, we have a class for a flower arrangement incorporating a handbag. All our classes are for everyone to enter so if you have a spare handbag and garden flowers, why not enter?

Our miniature arrangement is in the shape of a crown but it must be no more than 10cm overall - a challenge!



**Vegetables, fruit and flowers:** We have over 30 classes including peas, potatoes, dahlias, sweet peas and hanging baskets.

**Craft:** Lots of craft classes to enter including

woodwork, embroidery, beading and tapestry.

We welcome entries in all sections and classes from young people.

Please look out for the schedule in the July magazine which can be pulled out

and completed.

If you have any queries about the Show please contact Sara Mason, [splmason@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:splmason@hotmail.co.uk).

*The Flower Show Committee*

## Jackie's County Corner

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Our beloved Recycling Centres are under threat.

Taking our waste to be recycled at the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) is something that we take for granted but our sites are under threat here in Hampshire. Please have your



say on the current proposals to cut out hours, days or even close our local centres completely. The consultation lasts until noon on the 25<sup>th</sup> May – you can comment by going to [www.hants.gov.uk/hwrc2016](http://www.hants.gov.uk/hwrc2016).

Are you struggling to pay for new items of household equipment? Fair For You, an organisation set up by an ex-Director of a Credit Union, offers white goods and other items at prices that are fair and reasonable, with interest rates that are clear to see. Go to [www.fairforyou.org.uk](http://www.fairforyou.org.uk) to see how much it costs to purchase items without resorting to your credit card! Broadband is still a challenge where the plan for improvement is just too slow or there is no plan at all. We have

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made 'the leap' to connect to the wireless service provided by local start up company Gigabeam. It is a pleasure to receive the personal service as well as faster speeds! You can contact Dudley or Tom at [www.gigabeam.co.uk](http://www.gigabeam.co.uk) The Watercress Way website is now up and running. Please sign up to our website if you are interested in volunteering or joining in activities. We have trustees from right along the route and now we are looking for a volunteer to develop a logo that we can use as waymarks. Can you help us? Please go to [www.thewatercressway.org.uk](http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk) to find out more, meet the Trustees and make contact.

Finally, I have been talking to experts on the River Itchen who tell me that they are worried by the dramatically falling counts of the gammarus shrimp in recent years. Poor counts of this shrimp, which is a vital all-year-round food for the fish, points to contamination of the water. I am working with local experts in this area to tackle this problem.

You can contact me for paper versions of any of the above items by telephone 01962 791054, or letter The Down House, Itchen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1AX or you can contact me and see more on my website [www.jackieporter.co.uk](http://www.jackieporter.co.uk)  
*Jackie Porter*

## Itchen Insight

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*Name:* Umm tricky, I'm going with Yvette Frankland (but you probably know me as Yvette Riley)

*Age:* With the sun out I feel about 40!

*Occupation:* Mum and Company Director

*How many years you've lived in the Valley:* 14 but in and around

Winchester for 30

*Your life in 180 characters:* Born on Welsh Coast, Father prof footballer/RAF, boarded from 9 to University, Sandhurst to Royal Army Pay Corps, 15 years as an NHS Director, Mgt Consultant, Mum, Sports fan, Parish Councillor, organiser!

*Champagne moment:* 5

Dec 2011 when our children Ben and Sophie-Jo arrived at Tumbledown

*Surprising snippet:* For about 25 years I harboured a passion to swim the Channel, way beyond my county swimming ability!

*Passion:* Swimming, Tennis, Golf, like to dabble in the garden and love to read.

*Favourite place in Hampshire:* The high bench overlooking Avington House and lake where my husband proposed.

*Best thing about the Valley:* It's stunning, especially the sunsets, why go to Key West?

*Worst thing about the Valley:* The lack of houses for young families and downsizers, oh and people who leave dog poo bags in trees, on children's play areas, and the footpaths, please stop.

**Favourite Book:** *Code of Honour* by USAF Colonel John A Dramesi, a testament to the human spirit of endurance.

**Favourite quote:** "Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." Winston Churchill



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## From Our MP

As Members of Parliament, we are not short of lobbying from a wide range of organisations. One mainstay of this world, and a group that has really risen in prominence in recent years, is *Open Doors*. Around since the 1950's, it is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide and at the start of every year they produce a (now eagerly awaited) report on freedom of religion including a world watch list of the 50 countries in the world where it is hardest to be a Christian.

Hundreds of MPs, including me as a member of the active *Christians in Parliament* group, attend the launch of *Open Doors* annual update each January and this year was no different where the Northern Ireland Secretary gave the stirring keynote address. Not surprisingly, North Korea heads the list for the fourteenth consecutive year where Kim Jong Un has continued to consolidate his power and Christians try to hide their faith as far as possible to avoid arrest and being sent to a labour camp. Today there are an estimated 50-70,000 Christians

in 'gulag-style' prison camps in the country.

Iraq has moved up one place on the list to number two but it is Eritrea which soars in this years' report, coming in at number three. Dubbed the 'North Korea of Africa' it ranks among the very worst countries in terms of religious freedom, freedom of press, rule of law and other dimensions of human rights. Any Christian who dares to speak up in Eritrea and protest against the treatment of Christians is jailed or arrested, no matter what their status. According to UNHCR, 22% of all refugees reaching Italy by boat are Eritrean even though they know there is a very high probability of falling into the hands of traffickers and groups such as Daesh.

*Open Doors* makes a series of recommendations in its report, calling for Free of Religion or Belief (FoRB) to be mainstreamed within the work of the UK Foreign Office. As it rightly says, we need a commitment to understand how FoRB can contribute to countering extremism, encouraging economic development and assisting the poorest through constitutional and legal frameworks.

It commends what I agree is a laudable effort from the UK Government – especially William Hague when he was Foreign Secretary - in combating the issue of gender violence in conflict but calls on the UK Aid budget to be better focused to ensure British resources reinforce rather than undermine freedom of religion or belief. There are nine recommendations in total contained within the report.

I may have been a Christian before entering Parliament but I had no real idea of the extent to which some parts of our world are dangerous places to just be. I am hugely grateful to *Open*



Steve is with the Northern Ireland Secretary (Teresa Villiers MP) and Open Doors CEO Lisa Pearce.

Doors for the work they do in educating those of us in Westminster and to the many constituents who, judging by my postbag, know of their work and understand these issues as much as they are troubled by them. There is much more detail, and links, via [www.stevebrine.com/opendoors](http://www.stevebrine.com/opendoors) if you are interested. You can find more information about my other work as your local MP, in Winchester and Westminster, via the website or on 01962 791110. *Steve Brine MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley*  
[steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)  
[www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com)

## Our Wild Valley

'Ne'er cast a clout 'til May is out' refers to the blossom of the hawthorn tree, also known as May blossom, so I do hope we can cast off our winter coat by now and absorb a bit of sunshine! It's a great time not to rush, to smell the flowers or see the buds bursting



out on trees. Don't bring hawthorn indoors though as it's meant to be bad luck!

Whilst enjoying warmer days, we might also see around hedgerows a member

of a group of true flies called Hawthorn Flies (*Bibio marci*) also called St. Mark's Fly because they emerge around St Marks Day; 25th April. They are around 1 cm in length, with clear wings over a black body and long dangly legs which show up easily against any white flower such as cow-parsley or hawthorn. Apparently the male's eyes are divided up and have separate connections to the brain; the upper part to look out for females and the lower to look at the ground and hover. How useful is that! They often gather in large swarms at head height, trying to attract females which they must do within a week. Most of their time is spent as larva in the soil where they feed on rotting vegetation. We might see them in April dancing up and down over our lawns and beside hedgerows. They are one of the important first pollinators of the season and also a good sign that spring is really underway. ([buglife.org.uk](http://buglife.org.uk))

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April funding has been stopped for our 37 local environmental record centres (for biodiversity data of species/sites with records dating back decades). Funding has been reducing over recent years but the record centres had been paid £5,000 a year in exchange for access to data. The government says it wants to invest in a more centralised system of data that will enable information and records to be as transparent and accessible as possible. The Association of Local Environmental Records Centres says its concern is not necessarily financial, but it is worried about the negative message the government is sending out regarding the value of these centres, not just for the data, but the work/







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projects the centres do and their dedication in verification of the data. I for example, can send my sightings in to Hampshire Biological Records Centre, by an app or by spreadsheet, and someone will check them, whether it be plant, bird, mollusc or a dolphin species. They do it all in their own time, and are dedicated to their specialised subjects. It is very time consuming but results in data with credibility and usefulness; for use in local plans, for planning applications or for conservation projects.

The local record centre not only holds factual tangible data, but also keeps a great continuity of the conservation scene over the last few decades and also has the feel of and a 'mental' picture of local wildlife. This can save on many projects the need to reinvent the wheel every time. For me, most importantly, they nurture the amateur dedicated experts who wade through thousands of records every year. These amateurs carry a lot of information around in their heads, and I feel they are pivotal to the background data collection for any proposed development in Hampshire. All record centres and their staff and extended volunteers I hope will stay core to the government's ideas about 'standards of data, verification and access' so that none of the data is fragmented in any updating procedures.

(For techy types: have a look at 'irecord' and 'ispot' for any sightings). It can get addictive!

*Sophie Rogers*

## Letter to the Editor

---

Julia and I would like to thank everyone, friends and neighbours for

such a lovely farewell party in Martyr Worthy village hall on Easter Saturday. The display of cakes was outstanding and with the ladies pouring tea and washing up, it made me so humble, I couldn't help shed a tear. It just goes to show what a wonderful community spirit there is in the valley.

It was also our Golden Wedding Anniversary that day and 37 years since we moved into Bridgets Lane.

Although we are still here it shouldn't be long before we move, everything is packed up and we are just waiting.

I shall be back from time to time, so thank you everyone.

*Steve Green.*

## From the Parish Council

---



Our April meeting is the last in the Parish Council's year. We have now officially appointed Alan Weaver as our Clerk. If you need to contact him on council matters please use

[clerk@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk).

We have two councillors retiring this year, Garfield Powe and Shirley Howells. Garfield worked hard over several years liaising with the South Downs National Park Authority to get us new bus shelters. Despite adverse criticism from some quarters he has always carried calmly on with a good sense of humour and without his efforts we would now be standing in the rain at three more of our bus stops. Shirley has served on the Parish Council for at least ten years, she has represented us on the Martyr worthy Village Hall committee and also been our eyes and ears on Couch Green and King George V playing field. She now feels it is time to hand over to some

new blood. So we thank them both. It means that we have two places to fill on the Council. Please let us know if you are interested. Local affairs can be fun and you can make a difference. As already reported, our lengthsmen are giving up, to concentrate on other areas of his business. If you know of anyone interested in taking on this work please ask them to contact the Parish Clerk.



Fencing round the play equipment at Couch Green is now complete.

This was a requirement on health and safety grounds so we had no choice. However it looks smart and may help save some of the equipment from being damaged, as has happened over the past year. On that point, it still has to be decided whether dogs should be allowed inside the fenced area and we will be debating this issue in May, so please let us know your views. In the meantime we have temporary notices asking dog owners to keep it a dog-free area. Please keep to this until a decision is announced. It was disappointing to hear that one dog owner decided to ignore the notices and use the play area to throw a ball for his dog and, to make matters worse, when a passerby pointed out the notice the dog owner was extremely abusive. It is a pity that even

## Parish Lengthsman (Uplands Group) **CONTRACT FOR SERVICES**

A group of 10 Parishes requires the services of a Parish Lengthsman to work on village maintenance. The Parishes, known as the Uplands Group, consist of Itchen Valley, Barton Stacey, Bighton, Boarhunt, Headbourne Worthy, Medstead, Micheldever, Old Alresford, Ropley and Wonston.

See [http://](http://www.itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk/ItchenValley-PC/lengthsman-6199.aspx)

[www.itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk/ItchenValley-PC/lengthsman-6199.aspx](http://www.itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk/ItchenValley-PC/lengthsman-6199.aspx) for more details

in this beautiful valley, some are not able to behave in a civilised manner.  
*Patrick Appleby*

## Jane's All The World Bus Shelters

Downtown San Diego. Free Wi-Fi.  
Catch up on the news, trade the markets, whatever!  
*John Harris*



# Itchen Valley Church Services



## Sunday 1st May

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

## Sunday 8th May

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

## Sunday 15th May

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

## Sunday 22nd May

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

## Sunday 29th May

8am	Holy Communion	Easton
10am	Parish Communion	Avington

**My Faith:** How do I reply when people ask me why? A course with cake, coffee and chat with Itchen Valley Churches, 7.30pm-8.45pm at St John's Church, Itchen Abbas. Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April: Is there any solid evidence for our faith? Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Do all paths lead to God? Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May: What about evil and suffering? Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Should we trust the Bible? Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May: What about prayer?

## 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

Theo Mezger 07775 908014; Andrew Impey 779645; Robin Greenwood 779540



## From the Curate

I was minding my own business one afternoon, in the room which serves as a study in our cottage, when I received a telephone call. I have learned to be a bit



suspicious of calls in the middle of the day in the working week – the very same week I had had a call allegedly from ‘BT technicians’ advising that they were going to cut our telephone off, but were willing to pay £100 compensation, if I would only give them my bank account details....and then another call, clearly from the Philippines, asking me whether I was interested in some facial products from her company ‘based in Switzerland’. My usual approach to these calls is to ask the caller whether they know Jesus (and before you write in, I have already been told that this may not be in the right spirit of evangelism) and, generally, they hang up – although in this latter case when she replied ‘Cheese-us?’ it was me who gave up...

So I am a bit suspicious of calls on my phone number during the day (but please do feel free to call me on 791 010 because I will pick up nevertheless) but this time it was a poll about the EU Referendum due in just a few weeks from when you will be reading this article (if you have got this far). Now I should say at the outset that I am completely in agreement with the Archbishop of Canterbury when he says that there is no one Christian answer to how we should make this momentous decision, but I would only

ask that you pray about it beforehand, because no-one, except God, can possibly know all the consequences which will flow from one decision or another. All we can know is that whatever the consequences are, for once we cannot blame our politicians as we will have made the decision ourselves, although doubtless some of us will try to blame them!

What interests me though is the idea of ‘Project Fear’. Really there are so many things to worry about at the moment. If it’s not the economy and whether we keep our jobs or pensions or whether we can afford to get to the end of the month with all the bills we have to pay that we are worrying about, it is worry about whether some mad jihadi is going to try and blow us up the next time we go on holiday or travel on the train. It is very easy for those on both sides of the political argument to use our propensity to imagine the worse in support of their cause. And, of course, newspapers, desperate to boost falling circulations, tend to play upon this. When we add to these general concerns the challenges which we all face personally, maybe guilt about past decisions that we have taken or actions that we should have taken, maybe our own failing health or that of our close relations and friends, maybe ageing parents or wayward children, then it really is quite a surprise that any of us get out of bed in the morning at all! What a contrast is the Easter story, which, as I write, is still fresh in my mind. At a time after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ when all the disciples had had their hopes completely dashed, Mary Magdalene rushes to meet them, where they are cowering with fear in a locked upper room. She announces the impossible – she has seen the Lord, risen from the dead! Suddenly

everything is different for them, and for us. The Resurrection of Jesus is the turning point in history. From this point on we can know that, if we choose to take up His offer to know Him, we can rest all our guilt about the past and all our fears about the future on His shoulders. We can know that whatever happens on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, or at any other time, we are safe in His arms. If we do this, our outlook is totally changed, regardless of the circumstances. I call this 'Project Hope'. Be a part of it!

Rev'd. Alex Pease [rev@ampease.co.uk](mailto:rev@ampease.co.uk)  
01962 791 010 Follow me on Twitter  
[@AlexMPease](https://twitter.com/AlexMPease)  
[www.itchenvalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.itchenvalleychurches.org.uk)

## The Itchen Valley News guide to the elections

---

Last time the valley went to the polls to elect a City Councillor in May 2015, there were three candidates for one position and Kim Gottlieb was chosen to represent us here in the Itchen Valley. This year we are going to the polls again, but this time we will be electing three councillors from a field of nine candidates to represent us, not only here in the valley but also including Alresford and some of the surrounding villages.

Why the change?

Back in 2014 the Local Government Boundary Commission was charged with equalising the number of electors that each councillor represented. When it came to Winchester's turn, the commission found that although the Itchen Valley with a population of around 1,200 had one councillor, other places such as Alresford had two councillors serving around 6,000 electors. The commission felt this was an unfair distribution and then



considered how to address the problem.

The commission's solution was to combine the Itchen Valley with Alresford and other villages such as Bishop's Sutton and Northington, allocating three councillors, thereby giving an average of around 2,350 electors per councillor.

Our present councillor objected to the answer, telling the commission that he felt that a councillor's ability to serve his constituents would diminish as the wards got bigger, leading to a sense of increasing disenfranchisement.

The Upper Itchen Valley Society also objected, being concerned that urban Alresford would dominate the three councillors' activities in preference to the more rural villages. In particular the UIVS asked that Abbots Worthy be included in the Itchen Valley ward. On this last point the commission ruled that the M3 was a greater physical divide than the A33 and Abbots Worthy should remain as part of Kingsworthy.

So this year we will be electing three



councillors to represent the Itchen Valley, although in future years they will stand down one by one and we will go to the polls with only one councillor vacancy each year. Whether three councillors representing about 7,500 residents will work well or not remains to be seen. Will the gang of three carve up the area between them or will each of them attempt to serve the whole population? Time will tell – but at least this month please remember to vote for three candidates. Being a

large area, there is a danger that you may only recognise one or two of the named candidates on the voting slip. And then of course it comes down to the big question. Do you vote for someone you know and want to represent you or do you vote for someone you don't know but whose party you support? Not always the same answer!

*Vernon Tottle*

*Editor Itchen Valley News*

## The Practical Gardener

It's 34°C and as I write I'm looking out over a clear blue sea from a tropical beach. I too can dream of the cold and wet days in Itchen Abbas. And yet nature is moving on and our world is springing to new life, particularly in the garden. My garden serves three purposes: it provides food, colour and a pleasant backdrop.

I've been very busy in the greenhouse and it's also warm and dry. The sun at noon is now quite strong so small plants need shading. Every year I have used a white powdery mix and I struggle to

reach the roof apex. So this year I have some new green shading which is pinned inside. We shall see how it works.

Forgetting all the old advice, I use a gut feel about things. So I take a



chance and plant out early. So far, so good. My first early potatoes planted on February 29<sup>th</sup> are all up but still under fleece protection. My experiment this year is to plant main crop late because recently I've been harvesting late August and that's too soon. To keep well, potatoes need to be in the ground until October. We are still eating last season's reds, Desiree.

Because the year has been so wet, it's been difficult even to work the soil in my raised beds. Here's where my compost sifter has been useful. I've levelled the plot and covered part with sifted compost which is perfect for direct sowing, like root crops. But I'm still experimenting with sowing in trays and we shall see what works best.

Likewise I have peas planted out now for a month, Meteor, and they look OK. But later crops are also on their way. I grow everything in trays in the greenhouse (mice love pea seeds). Fresh peas from the garden are a real delicacy. In the same way I have many brassicas planted out. Some are under plastic cloches and all of

them protected from pigeons. But in June I will change the netting to a much closer form to keep out the white butterflies and the subsequent army of caterpillars. It's all part of the war game and creation was not meant to be easy. Perhaps that's why few clergy grow things!

Our first daffodils appeared in January but they have not stopped and the garden is therefore full of colour. But now some of the rockery and water loving plants are in flower. Oh, and the pulmonaria are just wonderful in attracting bees.

Back in the greenhouse all sorts of annuals are coming on. It's a real fiddle pricking our small seedlings but worth



it. I'm still sieving compost and recovering stones, wood and pieces of metal, not very impressive. Now the real issue is watering. So my deputy assistant acting gardener (unpaid) is



hard at work, bless her.

I've realised over the years that you need banks of colour in a garden. So now when I buy something new, it's always two or three together. I always rely on a nursery to give me new inspiration. Last autumn I was given a present: a small polytunnel. Sadly it did not work. The plastic material started to tear and I could not hold down the sides in the many storms. It went back to Wyevale and all credit to them, my money was refunded without question. Happy gardening.

*Tony Gaster.*

## A captive audience and a captive author

---

*An Enquiry into the conditions in English Prisons 2001—2003* by the Right Hon. Lord Archer, hardback, HMSO would probably sell fewer than a hundred copies. Put it into paperback and call it *A Prison Diary* by Jeffrey Archer and you've got a three volume instant bestseller.

With a well-known author in a position where he can talk to people whose voices never get heard, and where it is known that he isn't doing it from choice, both officers and inmates open up to him in ways that would otherwise be highly improbable.

Jeffrey tells us about his own experiences of prison life, from basics such as washing and eating, to the limited opportunities for exercise and association with other inmates and the ever present problem of how to spend the time you are locked up in your cell. For some, the last is insurmountable and suicides are a constant reminder that the system is ill equipped to look after all its residents. For the resourceful Lord Archer the answer in his case is to start writing a diary. With so much to put down on paper,



this takes up several hours of each day and it is only through this activity that he copes with the endless boredom of prison life.

As the weeks go by, Jeffrey gets to know how the system works and how, with the assistance of enterprising individuals, he can get those small comforts to make his confinement more bearable. For him, getting enough paper to write on is a constant problem until he finds the prison's version of Del Boy who can supply anything - at a price.

His constant battle against authority is a theme of the book, not only to get his conviction overturned but also to get his sentence reduced. He shows the prison officers themselves to be reasonable people doing a tough job but yet subject to sometimes inexplicable Home Office pressure and regulations. As far as Jeffrey is concerned, often the most difficult problem for the governors is how to deal with a celebrity prisoner. The press are always trying to get photos of this particular inmate, sometimes smuggling in cameras for the prisoners to use themselves.

By coincidence I was reading this autobiography last month when Steve Brine's piece on prisons was printed in the Itchen Valley News. (If you've lost your copy of the April edition you can read his article again online via the IV Parish Council website.) Steve Brine and Jeffrey Archer have a lot in common. Whilst the latter experienced prison life in person in various degrees of confinement over a two year period (and our current MP has not) they both realise that unless there is a sea change in our attitude to offenders, the number of inmates will continue to grow.

Even when the Prison Diaries were

written, over ten years ago, it was becoming almost inevitable that most of the inmates would be using prohibited drugs to help while away the hours. Some minor offenders get the habit by being locked up with

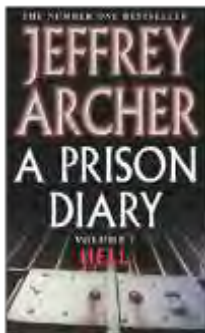
drug users immediately on arrival in prison whilst many are put in jail because of crimes committed to pay for their drug habit, often having acquired this whilst still at school. Being found in possession of drugs or having signs of using drugs automatically adds to a prisoner's sentence, thus leading to even more self-perpetuating overcrowding.

If you are at all concerned about prisons, prisoners, drug use or rehabilitation, do read this book. If you just want a good Jeffrey Archer page-turner, you should also read this book. Indeed, everyone should read this book. I award *A Prison Diary* 5 out of 5.

Vernon Tottle

## Tiddler Joke

Antonia and Hugo Paterson's joke is: "What did the policeman say to his tummy?" (*Think about it before you turn the page - Ed*)



"You're under  
avest"

## Comings and Goings

---

Rob, Tabs, Georgie (10) and Jemima (6) Starr have returned to Cranesbill in Easton from Kings Somborne. They left Easton 8 years ago and missed it so much they came back!

## A Narrow Escape

---



The chicken wing, as we call it, is a single story building. Katharine, daughter and her husband Josh were sleeping in the bedroom nearest the tree, it fell at 2 am and they thought it was a bomb. Terrified . Chow and wife Bela were next door and future daughter in law Jessica in the next room. We have been told that if the tree had landed at a different angle the walls might have blown out. We are truly blessed to have five young people still alive.

*Jude Mezger*



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## Easton Village Hall

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 evh.booking@googlemail.com

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#### **MONDAY:**

9-10am, 6:30-7:30pm Authentic Pilates

#### **TUESDAY:**

9-10a m Pilates with Emily

4:15 – 8:30 Sally Stanyard's Dance School

#### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 – 13:00 Bridge Club

Thur 5<sup>th</sup> 07:00 – 22:30 Police & Crime Commissioner /Local elections

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 15:00 – 18:00 Children's Party

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 18:00 Birthday Lunch

Thur 12<sup>th</sup> 19:00 – 22:00 WI meeting

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> 19:30 – 22:00

EVH & Recreation Ground AGM

Tue 31<sup>st</sup> 14:00 – 17:00 CPRE meeting



Another Easton village hall, in Somerset



## Martyr Worthy Village Hall

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Lucinda Ffennell 779701 or  
 simon@ffennell.plus.com

### **Weekly**

Mon – Fri 9am – 1pm

Riverbank School

Mon & Wed 9am – 3pm

(half term 30th)

Thursdays 7 – 9.30pm Whist Drive

### **Other bookings**

Tuesday 3rd – 7pm Village hall AGM

Wednesday 4th – 7pm Whist Drive

Thursday 5th – 7am – 10pm Elections

Sunday 22nd – am.The Ark

## Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

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Details of bookings and real time availability are now available on our website.

If you would like to book please look at our new web pages on  
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 or telephone 07947 191229  
 Hall Manager Alex Bellisario  
[manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk](mailto:manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk)  
 Village hall callbox 01962 791021



## Banolem

---

It's Saturday evening. It's late, it's dark and cold outside and I need to make a pudding for tomorrow's lunch. I forgot to plan ahead for this eventuality; what can I make with what I've got in the fridge and larder?

I spy a tin of caramel condensed milk and an idea begins to form in my mind. I search the web for suggestions as to what I can do with this ridiculously sweet ingredient. Alas, all the answers I find seem to add even more sugar to the confection.

I remember buying, and not using, a pot of crème fraîche and yes! that is still in the fridge. I look in the fruit bowl and find a lemon.

So I mix one tin of caramel, one pot of crème fraîche and the zest and juice of half a lemon. Not too sweet and with a bit of a tang. But perhaps a little dull. The other day I bought some chewy banana slices so I dig out that bag and add about half the slices to the mixture. Magic! It's a sort of banoffee



pie but without the base and just sitting in a mixing bowl.

I name this pudding, Banolem! May she delight all who partake of her.

*Vernon Tottle*

## Young at heart joke

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So I went to this bar. On the walkway outside was a cardboard box, written on this was "TIP BOX". So I did and there was money inside and it all came out! I tried to explain in Queen's English that to avoid misunderstanding they should write "BOX FOR TIPS".

*Tony Gaster*

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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I am not sure really whether APCMs should be fun. It doesn't tell you in the book on Practical Church Management, but certainly last night felt almost more fun than it should be!



Of course, it would be difficult not to have enjoyed any evening at Avington Park on a beautiful Spring evening. The beautifully cut lawns running down to the almost invisible ha-ha and the fields beyond; the beautiful 18th century architecture, decoration and furniture. Thank you so much Charlie and Sarah Bullen for your kind



hospitality. What a privilege to be able to meet in such surroundings.

The hall filled with Itchen Valley parishioners drinking some really excellent red and white wine (thank you Andrew Impey for organising) and eating the delicious nibbles to which so many of the parish had contributed under the wonderful guidance of Jill Croft (thank you so much, you are amazing) and she provided a flower arrangement as well, wonderful! Very Itchen Valley!



Thank you so much to all those who helped wash up, distribute drinks and canapés and move chairs about. Its a huge help that so many people just come forward and get these things done!

Alex Pease

*There are more photographs on the Parish website - Ed*

## Goodbye to the Mobile Library

According to Hantsweb, the Mobile Library service will no longer run after June this year. The Home Library Service will be expanded to replace it. The Mobile Library Service is used by just 1% of total



library customers, and costs £11.44 per visit per customer, compared to £2.23 per static library visit.

Mobile library vehicles are also in need of frequent repair as they near the end of their ten-year leases. The closure of the Mobile Library Service will contribute £360,000 towards a total library savings target of at least £1.7 million by 2020. Additional alternatives offered by the Library Service will include:

- Offering free online library learning sessions in communities that will no longer have a mobile library stop
- Developing links with voluntary sector groups that provide community transport to help rural communities access their local library.

*From the Hantsweb webpages*

## The Itchen Valley Choral Society still dreaming on ...

This group of local singers, which rehearses every week in Itchen Abbas village hall, is taking part in a performance of Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* at 7.30 pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May along with other choirs from the Winchester area.

Do come along and listen to your local choristers; tickets are available from the cathedral box office on 01962 857275.

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# Glynde Easton

## 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016



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## Magnificent Plant Sale

There was a long queue waiting for 'the

off' at 10am sharp when the trolley dash began - well, yes, wheelbarrows: The barrows soon filled up!



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As well as the plants, many cakes, buns, biscuits, jams, jellies, etc. had been made in all four corners of the parish,

to be sold enthusiastically by the team, and coffee was liberally provided to all, even the far-flung car park attendants.



Heading home with the loot!



People from all over the parish have been preparing for the biennial plant sale for a long time, planting seeds and cuttings, dividing perennials and potting up surplus plants. Many of these were maintained in the Impey's kitchen garden for quite a while, waiting for their time to move on to new homes. Dozens of people have been involved, and the attention to detail in terms of signage, safety warnings, plant labelling and organisation was impressive, as is the sum raised of over £6,000.

Customers came from Southampton (alerted by the Echo) and 'just passing, saw the sign on the road' as well as a great gathering of friends from the four corners of the Valley itself.

Great thanks are due to Andrew and Katherine Impey who allowed their lovely garden to be used again this year, and to all those who helped. There are more photographs and a fuller report on the church website [itchenvalechurches.org.uk](http://itchenvalechurches.org.uk). These photos are by Claudia Cox, who we hope will be covering many future Valley events for the News.

*Charlotte Appleby*

## Two volunteers needed to join the Parish Council

**Meetings first Thursday of  
each month**

**Contact Patrick Appleby to  
discuss if you would like to know  
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## Local monthly information

### Waste collections in May

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

### Library

Visiting on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Itchen Abbas 11.15 am Easton 11.45 am

### Cameo

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### Farmers' Markets in Winchester

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May

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**School term timetable** operates from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May:

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

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May:

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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