

# ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 41 May 2017

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy





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# WELCOME to the Valley News



Sub-editing the Valley News would be described by one section of the media as a 'roller-coaster' - meaning that it goes from one extreme (begging the rest of the team to write something to fill the gaps) to the other (deciding who to offend by leaving out their contribution!). I hope the latter will forgive me this month and, more importantly, that you the reader will feel that I have made at least some of the right choices. One of my space saving tricks has been to remove 01962 from all the telephone numbers; if no area code is given, that is what it is. Forthcoming events reach as far as July - and even to the Easton Fete in August - so please fill up your diaries. As always, there is no excuse for being bored in the Valley, and please buy your tickets early for events such as Hay Fever and the Easton Fest - it is so reassuring for the hard working organisers to know that their efforts are going to be appreciated - and you will be sure of getting a ticket, or several if you invite your townie friends to come and stay.

I have included some charity fundraising events which are not strictly within the Valley because we must not be too firmly parochial and these worthy (and fun) events deserve our support.

Our relatively new section entitled 'For the love of ...' is continuing strongly, and we noted some of the most sincere form of flattery from a neighbouring publication! If you have a hobby - or what would now be called 'a passion' - please get in touch. If you would like help turning your thoughts into words we will be happy to help.

Our policy with respect to elections outlined on page 15 was formulated before the calling of the General Election, but it would have been difficult if not impossible to change it before going to print so I was relieved that no such call was made. As always, if you don't agree with us on anything, do let us know. We do like getting positive feedback too - it is rare, but sufficient to keep the team cheerful.

I look forward to seeing some of you at 0445hrs on 30<sup>th</sup> April for the dawn chorus walk and more of you at other May events.

Verity Coleman is next month's editor.  
*Charlotte Appleby*

## Itchen Valley News

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## What's On

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### **Dawn to Dusk Activity Day**

The Watercress Way are having a day of activities on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April** starting with a Dawn Chorus walk at 4.45am. Day ends at the Plough at 6pm. [www.thewatercressway.org.uk](http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk)

### **Charity Dog Walk**

Cancer Research UK Alresford Branch invites you and your friends to a charity dog walk:- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May** - with or without a dog! Prompt 10.30am start at Cheriton Recreation Ground, SO24 0QQ. Walks finish at Cheriton Recreation Ground for a delicious Ploughman's Lunch at The Cricket Pavilion. Places cost £15.00 each (to include lunch). Enquiries 771617 or [saranangle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saranangle@hotmail.co.uk) I do so hope that as many of you as possible can take part, with or without a dog - it is a most enjoyable occasion whether it is wet or fine!

*Penelope Kellie*

### **Choral Society visits Romsey Abbey**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May** sees the members of the Itchen Valley Choral Society join with two other choirs in the annual Winchester and County Music Festival concert in Romsey Abbey. This year the programme includes Rio Grande by Constant Lambert and Carl Orff's Carmina Burana. Tickets are available from Music in Romsey.

*Vernon Tottle*

### **Martyr Worthy Parish Hall**

The Annual General Meeting of Martyr Worthy Parish Hall will be held in the hall at 7pm on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May**. The business will include the approval of the minutes of the 2016 AGM, reports by the Chairman and Treasurer of the activities and finances

for the year, the election of the Management Committee for the forthcoming year and any other matters arising. All residents of Martyr Worthy aged 18 or more are entitled to attend and vote and will be very welcome.

*Guy Green, Chairman Management Committee*

### **Piano + Vocal Music Charity Gig**

Churches Nightshelter will be holding its very first Piano + Vocal Charity Gig on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May** at the Performance Hall in the Winchester Discovery Centre.

The charity gig will showcase great music from two talented young musicians, pianist Jake Gauntlett and singer songwriter Max Rhodes, as well as a session from the residents.

The doors open at 7pm and tickets are £6.50. To reserve tickets please contact the Discovery Centre Box Office on 01962 873603 or purchase online [www.hants.gov.uk/shop](http://www.hants.gov.uk/shop).

*Lisa Koronkiewicz*

### **Charity tennis tournament for Home-Start Winchester**

Sponsored by IVC Cars of Alresford, on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May** at a court near you, followed by lunch at Lane End Farm House, Longwood SO21 1JU. Play as an individual, group or court of eight players. Shopping opportunities available. Donation £25 per player, includes two course picnic lunch (bring chairs or rugs, non-players welcome for lunch). Book with Kerry Coleman on 07748 978652 or email [kerry@bigbale.co.uk](mailto:kerry@bigbale.co.uk)

*Sue Gentry*

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

Everyone in Easton and surrounding area is invited to the Annual General

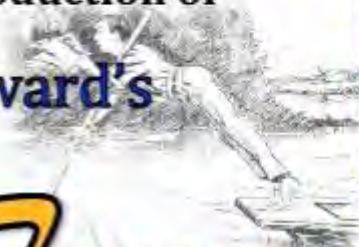


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## Hay Fever

**28<sup>TH</sup>, 30<sup>TH</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July**  
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(Gardens open for Picnics 6.30 pm)

In Aid of  
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**TICKETS: £15 Under 21: £10**

**From: [www.southwoodplayers.org.uk](http://www.southwoodplayers.org.uk)**

**Email: [contact@southwoodplayers.org.uk](mailto:contact@southwoodplayers.org.uk)**

**Maddy Woosnam: 01962 779294 Nick Owen: 01962 779162**



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Meeting of the Easton Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust. It will be in the Hall on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May** at 8pm, with a drink and nibbles and informal chat from 7.30pm. As well as the formal business we will discuss improving the facilities at the Hall and Ground.

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. 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*

### **Safari Supper**

For Itchen Abbas, Avington and Chilland is on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**. Closing date for applications is Friday **19<sup>th</sup> May** and the form was on p32 of the April IVN or email [iasafarisupper@gmail.com](mailto:iasafarisupper@gmail.com)  
*Zazie Carter*

### **Ovington & Itchen Stoke Summer Fete**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June**, Lovington House, Ovington, 2.30pm-5pm, Delicious teas and fun for all the family  
*Shelley Hughes*

### **Easton Fest**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July** at

Graces Farm 6.30 - midnight

Entertainment - We Are Robot; Plaitford Common; DJ and Bar. Tickets available from: [eastontickets123@gmail.com](mailto:eastontickets123@gmail.com). Or 779283 Price £16.50 for adults, £10 for children under 16. To include hog roast  
*Sally Stone*



### **Cabaret Concert in St. Mary's Church, Easton - Victor and Albert**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

6.30 - 7.30 p.m. Wine and Canapes

7.30 - 8.30 p.m. approx. Cabaret Concert. Rosé wine will be available to buy at £7.00 per bottle. Tickets £15.00 per person, available from :

Penelope Kellie -

[pkellie@pkworldwide.com](mailto:pkellie@pkworldwide.com) - 779317 or

Vanessa Rosewell -

[vanessarosewell@btconnect.com](mailto:vanessarosewell@btconnect.com) - 01962 841182

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*Penelope Kellie*

### **The Itchen Valley Flower Show**

Our traditional village show has been held in the Valley for over 50 years and is a community event for everyone across our four villages and beyond to enter. Please and support our Show on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July** by entering one of our many classes including cookery, craft, flowers, fruit, photography, flower arranging and our popular children's classes.

Here are some of this year's classes for children, photographers and cooks to enter.

Children's classes;

1. Marzipan fruits (four)
2. Make a model of something you have been learning about. max. 50cm
3. Miniature garden in a half seed tray.
4. Flower arrangement in a jam jar.
5. A photograph – playing with water
6. Decorated piece of handwriting - poem of your choice.

Adult photography classes;

- A Colour Photograph of a famous building, no larger than 7 x 5 inches (19 x 13 cm)
- A Black and White Photograph of curves, no larger than 7 x 5 inches (19 x 13 cm)

For our cookery competition the classes are;

1. Four flapjacks
2. Toffee apple pie
3. Four Chelsea buns
4. Six cheese straws
5. Four meringue halves
6. Six truffles

The set recipe cake will be announced in May. The full schedule will be available on the Itchen Valley Flower Show website in May and in the Itchen Valley News June edition.

If you would like to know more about the Show please contact Sara Mason [splmason@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:splmason@hotmail.co.uk)

*The Itchen Valley Flower Show Committee*

### **Cricket**

The date for this year's Easton 6s is **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July** with the Tug of War being held the night before. Local estate agent Charters have very kindly agreed to support the event again now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year. All funds raised by the event will go towards the newly formed E&MWCC Academy, which is a development initiative aimed at providing coaching and mentoring for the clubs talented roster of players aged 9 - 18. We are pleased to announce that the Chestnut Horse will be back providing the bar and there will be a hog roast and BBQ. If you would like to be involved as a player or team sponsor please contact Gareth Goodall or Paul Sanders. Trevor Compton is also looking for an additional team for the Tug of War. We will be putting updates on the website [www.eastonsixes.com](http://www.eastonsixes.com).

*Gareth Goodall*

### **Easton Fete**

On behalf of all at the Village Hall, a shout out for help with this year's Fete.

As you know there was discussion last year about whether we should hold the event every other year, as is the case in Avington, but there was an overwhelming feeling that once we lost the impetus, we might never get it back.

So.....whilst there is no shortage of people happy to help on the day, the Fete can't happen without a small team to set it up, and in particular someone to lead that team. The Hall Committee, which is already planning two other major events, will always be there to provide support and advice- but the Fete should be run by the **WHOLE** village for the **WHOLE** village, and we need a handful of neighbours/friends to get together within the next six weeks. It's not that scary - please email/call/ chat to any member of the Hall Committee for reassurance! But we need to get our skates on - the clock is counting down...

*Simon Broadley, Secretary*

### **Winchester City Council's Community Planning Event**

My family wondered why on earth I had opted to spend most of a lovely spring weekend inside the Guildhall. But it turned out to be a real privilege attending Winchester City Council's community planning event! The views of a range of people were captured very effectively by JTP, the consultants hired to design the supplementary planning guidance for regenerating the Silver Hill quarter of the city centre. I met an amazing number of new people as well as a few familiar Valley residents during the workshops and walkabouts. We summarised our views on 'post-it







notes' and base maps. The pervading feeling throughout was the hope that the lower part of town will be redeveloped soon – and in a sensitive way, fitting for our little city which looks so run down in many places. JTP outlined the surveys they had done on retail trends in Winchester compared with other cities – believe it or not we have an amazingly low proportion of vacant shops!

The feedback after two days of talks, sub group discussions and plenaries was given at a packed gathering in the Guildhall on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

JTP gave an impressive factual summary of the fears and hopes of the 700 or so people who participated in their research. Their presentation featured one of our local residents, 17 year old Phoebe Jackson, who had gone to the weekend meetings to further her geographical studies at Peter Symonds College. She gave an impassioned but balanced and remarkably mature overview of the ideas of her 'breakout group' on sustainability issues in regenerating Silver Hill.

The consensus view included re-siting the bus station, creating a pedestrianised area in front of the Guildhall and re-instating some of the old watercourses with waterfront style

public areas and small squares. Much time was spent by the public at the weekend to try to capture what 'Winchesterness' is and how to feed that into any new developments. Most agreed on small scale non mall-type developments, with varied architecture and a sense of heritage maintained, especially Anglo Saxon, which is one of Winchester's unique selling points, together with Jane Austen. The last comment of the evening was the hope that 'sense and sensibility' would prevail with the final decision makers!

I came away heartened that someone in power might actually be listening to local viewpoints!

More info here [http://](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/major-sites/silver-hill-central-winchester-regeneration/)

[www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/major-sites/silver-hill-central-winchester-regeneration/](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/major-sites/silver-hill-central-winchester-regeneration/)

*Kim Adams*

## The Valley Gardeners: Our first Spring Flower Show

Sometime last year, one of our committee members suggested we hold a Spring Flower Show. There were a few gasps around the table! After all, we already put on 16 Valley Gardeners events each year for our

members and their guests – it's quite a workload for our dedicated committee. But, never known to back away from a challenge, we decided to give it a go! As you will know, there is already a super flower show in the Itchen valley that takes place in July and we had no intention of trying to rival that event. Our show was to be for our 120 members and their guests only and the selection of plants and flowers would be quite different from the established show, given that our chosen season was Spring. Another crucial difference was that all the classes would be judged by The Valley Gardeners themselves, rather than professional judges, because we wanted everyone to participate in the democratic process of awarding prizes.



The show took place on 9<sup>th</sup> April. The wonderfully warm weather in late March and early April gave us some sleepless nights, wondering if there would be any Spring flowers left in the garden to exhibit on the day. But, we needn't have worried as our members came laden with an extraordinary total of 163 different entries for the 16 classes in the show! Daffodils of all varieties, spectacular tulips big and small, hellebore flowers floating in water, Spring flower arrangements and a wonderful selection of photographs on the subject of Spring to name but a



few. Other members (and their guests) who had not entered the classes came to admire the entries and support the Club as well as enjoying a cup of tea or even a glass of wine! We issued certificates of merit (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) for each class and it was good to see that these were won by a wide spread of the members who entered, showing that everyone has talent in different areas. The atmosphere in the hall that afternoon was really warm and friendly with a hint of healthy but kindly competition. We couldn't have wished for a better outcome for our first (but not last!) Spring Flower Show. The date for next year's show is already set!

*Catherine Hahn*

## Itchen Valley Lent Lunches

There have been successful Lent Lunches in the last six weeks, with thanks to the hosts in all four villages: Nathalie Paterson, Rosemary Salmond, Alison Karran-Smith, Joanna Smith, Lizzy Reid and Anne Heaton-Armstrong. If anyone else aspires to host a Lent Lunch next year, please let me know.

There were great soups and cheeses; good company and, mostly, good weather.

Finally, we raised £1,720 for the Countess Mountbatten Hospice Charity – up £500 on the funds raised at last year's Lent Lunches. The Hospice has written to us: 'It is truly an

amazing amount to have raised for the Countess Mountbatten Hospice Charity, and we are truly grateful to everyone who kindly donated. We rely on community support to ensure we are able to continue to provide the 'over and above' items and services in the hospice and our community'. So thanks to all – the hosts and those who attended the lunches and donated to the Hospice.

*Stephanie Gretton stephgretton@sky.com*

## Easton WI

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The speaker at our April meeting was Philip Jeffs, who runs Worthy Plants. He talked about plants for small gardens and we were given lots of tips for suitability of planting and choosing the right plant for the space and situation. He illustrated his talk with delightful photos of unusual plants and herbaceous borders mixed in with vegetable planting. Small gardens can be made interesting with tiered planting, using espalier trees along a wall to add interest and height. We all know that Lion dung deters deer, but did you know that ferret bedding will deter rats?

Our next meeting will be our AGM on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 7.15 at Easton Village Hall.

*Sallie Peake*

## Laptop dancing for the IVN

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Since its inception, the Itchen Valley News has relied on the editors' own computers to generate the magazine each month. For some this has been easy but for those with small ageing machines it has been a struggle. And anyone without a compatible computer has been excluded from the exciting world of cut and paste. No longer! With gratefully received grant aid from

both Winchester City Council and the Upper Itchen Valley Society, the Valley News now has its own laptop. The computer will be used each month to generate the magazine and it will be passed from editor to editor at the monthly magazine team meeting. The Mayor of Winchester, Councillor Jane Rutter, came to Martyr Worthy to mark the official handover of the laptop to the magazine along with Gilly Greenwood for the UIVS.



As you can see, the mayor's already in training for some of those laptop dance moves.

*Vernon Tottle*

## E&MWCC News

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Junior cricketers at Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club have got the next three seasons licked thanks to a cool new partnership with local company Jude's Ice Cream.

The Hampshire company, which originated in an Easton barn in 2002, will support the coaching, development and matches for young players from ages 9 to 15 for the next 3 years.

The new partnership comes as

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EMWCC becomes part of the CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) scheme and fits with Jude's aim to partner charities both locally and nationally.

EMWCC's juniors' organiser Graham Croft said: "We're very excited about our new partnership with Jude's Ice Cream, particularly as it's embedded in the heart of Easton village through its founder Theo Mezger, his wife Jude and their family. We're very proud that all our juniors will be displaying its logo on their shirts this year."

Jude's gives 10% of its profits to charities whose work specifically supports children and young people. Theo said: "With EMWCC's CASC status, it fits perfectly with our ethos to partner a club in our local community that benefits children and young people through sport and teamwork."

As well as having a main partnership with national charity Spear, Jude's partners other local charities including Naomi House Hospice.

EMWCC, which celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday last year, trains over 100 boys and girls each week and has a total of nine teams (seven boys' and two girls') playing in the upcoming Winchester Warriors leagues. Last season's highlights included its U11 side lifting the prestigious County Cup.

*Tracy Wickham*

## Gift Aid boost to fundraising as cricket club becomes a CASC

As a CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club), Easton, like many other local clubs, commits to serving the local community and in return will be able to enjoy certain tax breaks, notably the ability to claim Gift Aid on

donations. This will provide a welcome and timely boost to current fund raising initiatives to renew and upgrade Club facilities, particularly new nets. The Club is hoping to raise £100,000 and is off to a good start with more than half already pledged. Anyone wishing to contribute can contact the fund raising committee at philip@wolfe.co.uk

*Stuart Upcraft EMWCC Treasurer*

## 'What hurts the most?'

I guess there are going to be two sorts of people reading this



article:- one group will be able to answer this question immediately – whether it's bereavement, loneliness, a broken marriage, unemployment, debt, career change, challenging children or children in difficulty, not having children, the impact of addiction, mental health issues, empty nests, fear of death or something else – many of us carry great suffering throughout our lives. And it hurts a lot....

Then there will be the other group - those who say 'actually things are going pretty well thank you...I'm not sure this is really one for me Alex' – but please don't stop reading - because you could participate in something that the Itchen Valley Parish is doing this summer, which could completely revolutionise the lives of some of your neighbours. You can be part of the solution!

We live in a beautiful place with many wonderful people who are very supportive of their neighbours. But when everyone knows everyone, it's sometimes difficult to talk about the challenges that we face in life. We don't want people gossiping about our



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problems. We prefer the stiff upper lip. Privacy is very important to us. But sometimes that can result in us feeling that no-one cares about our problems – they have problems of their own we think. What can anyone do anyway?

The Church is here to help. And we can really make a difference. But unless we know the challenges that our parishioners are facing, then we end up being the answer to a question that no-one is asking!

So this June and July, we are following the example of a Church in rural Norfolk in conducting an anonymous survey of the entire parish in which we will be asking one simple question: 'What hurts the most?' We will be trying to knock on every door in the parish – all 500 of them – and asking you to complete a card asking this simple question, to put it in a blank envelope that we will give you (to ensure anonymity) and to hand it back to whoever has visited you.

Once we get all the cards back we will feed the responses into a computer program which will then tell us the most frequently mentioned issues in our community, in order of priority. This will then guide the teaching that we do in the church over the next year and any courses that we might run in the community. We will have listened to the priorities of the community and be guiding what we do accordingly. And the example in Norfolk shows that this can make a transformational difference to many people's lives but without anyone having to reveal anything to anyone except anonymously.

So if you are in that second group of fortunate people who feel no pain, or even if you are in the first group, but



want to help – we really need your assistance! We need your help in knocking on the doors of the houses in the parish in your village and handing out the survey cards and collecting the completed cards – there will be a little bit

of training beforehand and then all we will need from you is one evening during June or July. It might be just the thing to go round with your children if they are still at home. Just drop me an email and I will let you have more details [rev@ampease.co.uk](mailto:rev@ampease.co.uk)

If you receive a knock at the door during this period from one of your neighbours please don't set the dogs on us. If you have a sign saying 'no unsolicited calls' we won't visit you unless you let us know that you want to take part – you don't have to get involved but it would be wonderful if you would. If you are suffering from something then I guess there will be others as well and you may well be helping someone by completing the card and setting the priorities for the Itchen Valley Parish for the next year or so. Please do help and lives will be transformed!

*Revd Alex Pease*

## Itchen Valley News election policy

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This magazine has written into its constitution that it "shall be free of political bias". In normal months this restriction hardly rears its head as all contributors play fair and very few political points are made or played for. At the last General Election in 2015, the magazine observed this



requirement by refusing to publish any contribution from any candidate or any article mentioning any candidate for the two months of the election campaign. It merely printed the names of the candidates in the order given by the returning officer.

For the Hampshire County Council elections this year, the editorial team considered that the position taken in 2015 was too restrictive. The magazine is not supported financially or otherwise by the City or County Council (the grant that by a fluke of timing is referred to elsewhere in this month's edition is a one-off award and is not relevant) and the Valley News is therefore not subject to the rules of purdah. (Yes, I had to look those up!) All contributors (whether politicians or not) have therefore been allowed to continue their regular monthly columns so long as they don't carry heavy political messages, a policy supported by the County Council's own Head of Legal Services.

Whatever your view of the elections and whatever your interest in the result, do please vote on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May for the candidate of your choice. The candidates for the Itchen Valley in the Hampshire County Council elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May are:-

Chris HESKETH-ROBERTS Green Party

Richard William JAMES Labour Party  
Ernest David JEFFS The Conservative Party Candidate

Jackie PORTER Liberal Democrats  
Vernon Tottle

*Editor Itchen Valley News*

## From our MP

---

Regular followers will know of my long-standing interest - as a constituency MP - in rail services for our area. So it was big news last month when

Ministers announced a coalition led by FirstGroup will take over the contract to operate the South Western rail franchise from Stagecoach/South West Trains this August.

The group, whom I met with many times during the bidding process and impressed me with their ambition, will invest some £1.2bn over the period of the franchise which runs until at least 2024.

Their undertaking to increase capacity - in new spacious carriages - deliver wi-fi (that actually works), a modern smart and flexible season ticket policy as well as new lower fares for 16-18 year olds are really exciting. And I have already secured an undertaking from First to work afresh on finding a long term solution to the parking problems at Micheldever Station because what we have now is a short-sighted sticking plaster that answered a clarion call but doesn't solve the problem.

As I said on the media at the time, I look forward to working with the new team and will hold them to every promise they have made. My rail site sits at [www.stevebrine.com/trains](http://www.stevebrine.com/trains)



*Steve speaking to students from King's School who were actually with him in Parliament on the day of the recent terror attacks*

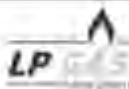
Thank you to the many constituents from these villages who got in touch after the terrifying events in Westminster on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. I was in the Chamber at the time taking the Pension Schemes Bill through its final stages as part of my Ministerial work at



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the DWP. We were actually voting when the rampage begun but it quickly became clear hundreds of MPs were not there.

As we're now aware, our attacker acted alone but we didn't know that at the time and a full lockdown of the Commons chamber – with heavily armed close protection officers on every door – followed.

For me it was a horrible reminder that an open, accessible Parliament can never be 100% safe and, in any event, we cannot beat this kind of twisted hatred with force alone. All our love and prayers remain with the family of PC Palmer and the others who lost their lives that (seemingly ordinary) day in March.

As I said on my Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP](http://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP)) late that night as I left the Commons, "today darkness had a victory but tomorrow the light will flow back in". And it did.

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](http://www.stevebrine.com/brexit)  
*Steve Brine*

## Jackie's County Corner

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As I write, **The Watercress Way** is holding its first Dawn to Dusk Day on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. You can see more about the day and future events on the website

[www.thewatercressway.org.uk](http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk)

We have been very heartened by the positive response from landowners and look forward to sharing more news with you as the route develops.

**The Eel House in Alresford** has hundreds of visitors every year.

There, you can see how eels were caught for food in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As just one of a band of volunteers, I enjoy telling the story of the building - and we have all have learned a lot about the eel's lifecycle. The open days are on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May (Watercress Festival Day) and 2<sup>nd</sup> July, then 28<sup>th</sup> August and Heritage Open Day, 10<sup>th</sup> September.

In last month's report I talked about **Ofsted** and its role in monitoring settings for children. Little did I know that they would turn up at the Kings Worthy Pre School too. At the briefing after our time in the spotlight, the staff agreed that they had actually quite enjoyed the day! Are you eligible for the 30 hour funding for 3-4 year olds or tax effective scheme for other ages? Go to the [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) website for more details; you can complete the forms online.

### Street Reach's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday!

There are many people who work for a charity for a while - but Fiona Watton, who has worked at the youth club in Micheldever, now run by Street Reach, really is amazing! She has worked there for over 21 years!

We held a party, and we were delighted that so many old friends turned up, including the builder of the club! Special thanks to Peter & Brian for joining us and others who



shared stories of their adventures.

Finally one last plug for **Trinity's Big Sleep Out!** There's still time to sponsor me : please go to [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com) and put



'Jackie Porter' in the search box.

Thank you!

You can contact me, on 791054, by

text 07973 696 085 or by email

Jackie@jackieporter.co.uk

Or go to the 'contact me' section of my website [www.jackieporter.co.uk](http://www.jackieporter.co.uk)

## From the City Council

---

Since the last edition of IVN I turned 60. Some of you might scoff, but for me it was a moment of trauma and horror and, above all, reflection. The opportunities that slipped through my fingers, the ones I did catch that then went south, the time wasted on idiocies, the time not spent on things that were precious. What was I thinking? If only I could remember. Inevitably my last six years as a city councillor was held to account. It was supposed to be a leisurely occasional pursuit, but my campaigning on various issues soon turned it into a full time job. There has been much contention to deal with in the Council chambers, but the broader public support has always provided a reason to continue, the main aim being the preservation and enhancement of a city which has a heritage much under-appreciated by those who should have known better. The kind folk who have thanked me for giving the city centre a second chance all sit proudly in the credit column in my accounts as I look back. Looking forwards, I am happy that JTP know what needs to be done with Silver Hill, but I am not yet convinced that they will allowed to do it. There may be a tad more campaigning to be done, but we'll see. Looking back over the decades, for the most part I'll begrudgingly give myself a



3 or 4 out of 10. Only in one area have I been an outstanding success, and that was in my decision to marry Nicky who has been an absolute star in so many ways. Of course, it wasn't entirely my decision nor was it my decision to have three daughters, but I must have had some role in the proceedings and for all of what that's involved, and continues to involve, I am truly thankful. It was Nicky's decision to move to Winchester 20 years ago. She was born here and we had kids and a dog who needed the space of the countryside. Her time just now is spent organising the Winchester programme for the Heritage Open Days Festival held on September 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Please look out for it. In the meantime I'll start looking forwards to turning 70. I've been told not to scream too loudly.

*Best wishes, Kim Gottlieb*

## From the Parish Council

---

Another year for the Council has passed. We held our Annual Parish Meeting in April and have our AGM at the beginning of May.



Two of our Parish Councillors have decided to step down. Zazie Carter joined us last year but has since found that other commitments have left her with insufficient time to be a council member as well. She has carried out a lot of back ground work in the communications area, from arranging refurbishment of our notice boards to looking at the way forward with our website. Henry Labram joined the Parish Council several years ago. He has been an active member all that time and has been our representative on Easton Village Hall Committee as

well as masterminding the Vodafone booster boxes, which have in some areas increased the chances of getting mobile phone reception. For the last two years he has chaired our Finance and General Purposes Committee. With the change in Parish Clerk and RFO this has been a mammoth task made even greater by increasing legislation on items such as transparency and financial control. Our thanks to both of them.

That leads us into finding two new Councillors. If you are interested in being involved in local affairs and helping with the running of the Civil Parish please come and have a chat with me or other members of the Council or contact our Clerk Alan Weaver. It is interesting work and can give insights into how things work that you might never have guessed. If you want to have a taste of what goes on please come along to one of our meetings as an observer.

Be warned on 9<sup>th</sup> July and on 16<sup>th</sup> July this summer there are two big cycling events taking place. Both will be coming through the Valley. We have arranged for representatives of the first event to come to our Full Council Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and have already had a useful discussion at our last meeting with the organisers of the 16<sup>th</sup> July event. It is being held in aid of Macmillan Cancer Fund and in past years has raised considerable amounts of money. Riders will start coming into the Valley via Chapel Lane in Easton at approximately 9.30 am and the final group should have left by 11.30am. The route will be in an anti-clockwise direction

though all four villages and back towards Winchester the way they came. The organisers are well aware of the need for safety and we have discussed the various danger points on the route in our area. The biggest problem is finding enough volunteers to act as marshals. So if you are not riding your own bike and can help support this very worthy cause please contact the organisers on <http://www.winchesterppp.co.uk/> for general information and the chief marshal is Richard Nichols at [info@winchesterppp.co.uk](mailto:info@winchesterppp.co.uk) if you want to contact him direct. There will be a briefing session for marshals which will be held sometime beforehand.

We have had a number of applications from local charitable causes for funding from the money donated by Boomtown after last year's event. These applications are being considered by and will be discussed at our next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting. Continuing with Boomtown, after last year's appalling traffic problems on departure day, we have made it clear that the organisers of Boomtown, the Highways Authorities, the Emergency Services and the relevant City and County Officers need to get together, look at all the possible scenarios that might take place and produce a set of contingency plans so that there is a sensible level of coordination between them that will minimise disruption to the local communities. A repeat of last year's traffic problems is not acceptable. We can but hope that someone will listen and we can all enjoy a pleasant and active summer.

*Patrick Appleby.*

## The song and dance to take a chance

Grand National day. The one day in the year that we visit a betting shop. Ten pounds spread over five horses; a pound to win and a pound each way. In and out of the shop in less than five minutes. A financial stake in the outcome of a sporting occasion generates a little more interest in the running of the event.

This year I had flu. Proper shivering, aching and high temperature flu. The symptoms were alleviated by paracetamol but I was nevertheless not well. But what about placing the bets on the selected



horses? How could this be achieved? Modern technology offered the possibility of doing it all online, allowing wagers to be placed without leaving the comfort of the sickbed. I opened up the Grand National website to find direct links to many online gambling providers. Choosing one for its apparent special offer of a free bet (OK, there's no such thing as a free bet, but you never know) I was immediately confronted with: Terms and conditions for the "free bet".

A registration form requiring full name, address, phone, date of birth and my mother's maiden name.

General terms and conditions (28

pages of paper if printed), Betting Rules (3 pages) and the Privacy and Cookie policy (another 7 pages) with a requirement for me to confirm I had read and accepted all 38 pages.

All this seemed excessive when I could accomplish the same end result in a five minute visit to a High Street turf accountant, completely anonymous with no agreement to any terms and conditions. In the end I took another paracetamol and we headed out to the bookmakers.

*Vernon Tottle*

## Family File 2 – Negotiations and Marriage Time

When Lucy and I first started going out together, I can remember the excitement of collecting her from the train – she was a student at Plymouth



University and I was working in London. I had generally planned something pretty spectacular for the whole weekend that she was with me and I look back on those times with great fondness and an increased heart beat...

And then we got married. My work increased. Claudia was born. We moved to Tokyo. Marina was born. And pretty quickly we found ourselves never having time to see each other; never having time to speak without the interruption of a client or a baby. It's very difficult to have a successful marriage if you don't spend any real time together. And away from home with two small children, and with me at work all the time....something needed to be done.

And so started the first of a number of

## Itchen valley church services

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### Sunday 7th May

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

Avington  
Easton  
Martyr Worthy

### Sunday 14th May

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

Easton  
Itchen Abbas  
Martyr Worthy

### Sunday 21st May

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

Martyr Worthy  
Easton  
Avington

### Thursday 25th May

12 noon	Ascension Day service
---------	-----------------------

Easton

### Sunday 28th May

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

Itchen Abbas  
Martyr Worthy  
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

negotiations which Lucy and I have had over the years, discussing the basis on which our marriage was going forward in the future. Our 'Tokyo Negotiation' resulted in moving house and in my agreement to have breakfast at home every day (and not at the office); to take Claudia to school in the morning, and to limit the amount of client entertainment I was doing (at the time it was four or five evenings a week). The move, amazingly, brought us within range of an expat church (to which we took the children just to get some kind of expat experience in the sea of Japanese culture). It was at this church that we became Christians and which set us on a path that has eventually led me to being the Assistant Priest in the Valley.

But we have had to renegotiate the deal many times. One iteration was called rather importantly 'The Treaty of Vienna', as we happened to be in Vienna at the time. We have had subsequent negotiations since as our lives and circumstances have changed. What has been particularly striking about these negotiations is that the discussion time itself has started the process of healing. It was the negotiation itself which really made all the difference, particularly as there was one rule – nothing was off the table. However, there has been one common feature resulting from the negotiations and each of these discussions – that of designating time that we would spend together alone without the distraction of television or telephone or children. In the excellent book 'the Marriage Book' (obtainable on [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)) Nicky and Sila Lee describe these moments as 'marriage time'. They recommend taking time every week to be 'on a date' – doing together the sort of things that we used to love doing together when we

first met and before we had children. It could be going to a restaurant, it could be going to the cinema, playing tennis or going for a walk. But the key thing is that we are willing to spend that time without distractions. This Marriage Time should be of at least two hours a week and needs to be protected and only changed with the consent of your partner, which should only be given in exceptional circumstances. As the Lees say 'if we only meet around the bank statement or the toolbox, meaningful conversation will be stifled and our love will struggle'. Couples should take it in turns to organize Marriage Time – an element of surprise may be a good thing! Marriage Time should be fun and memorable. The answerphone should be on and mobile phones should be switched off and there should be a baby sitter for the children. To quote from the book: 'It is time to hold hands, time to laugh, time to enjoy doing things together and above all time to talk. This is the time to share our hopes and fears, excitements and worries, struggles and achievements. Such sharing builds intimacy. It's simple but very powerful'.

Making sure that we have the discipline to organize Marriage Time is probably one of the most important lessons of the Marriage Course that Lucy and I have run together over the years. It may have a disproportionately beneficial effect on your whole marriage. On one occasion, one of the wives attending our course was about to book an evening out with a friend. She checked in her husband's diary and saw that he had written on the proposed date 'Marriage Time!!!!!!' She blushed and skilfully directed her friend to another evening....

*Rev'd. Alex Pease*



## 'A Month in the Country' by J.L.Carr

---

A few years ago an assistant in a local bookshop handed me this novel, saying he thought I might like it. I do!

Set in 1920, 'A Month in the Country' describes several weeks (longer than one month) in the life of Tom Birkin, a man in his twenties, suffering from shell shock and with a disfiguring twitch in his face which causes people to look 'over his shoulder' rather than directly at him. He has come to Oxgodby in Yorkshire to try to restore what may prove to be a medieval wall painting in the parish church.

His stay in the country begins a process of healing and revelation both as regards the wonderful masterpiece he uncovers and his own war-torn mind and body. This is a very short novel but full of wonderful details about the people and the seemingly eternal, idyllic landscape that brings peace and hope to the almost lost soul of the wounded soldier.

"There was so much time that marvellous summer. Day after day, mist rose from the meadow as the sky lightened and hedges, barns and woods took shape until, at last, the long curving back of the hills lifted away from the Plain. It was a sort of stage-magic....."

The local people, who have briefly seemed alien, soon prove anything but that and Birkin feels that he has "turned a corner and that this summer of 1920, which was to smoulder on until the first leaves fell, was to be a propitious

season of living, a blessed time."

Then there is the Botticelli beauty who is the Vicar's unlikely wife.

There are wonderful descriptions of other unlikely things: the Bankdam-Crowther stove in the Church, the magnificent oil-lamp in the home of the station-master at

Oxgodby, the amazing and terrifying Vicarage inhabited by the laconic Vicar and his shy, lovely wife.

It seems to me that novelists who write of a past that has become the stuff of history books are often rather unconvincing. It must be difficult to write of things which have not been experienced. Somehow, though, J.L. Carr, who was only two years old when the First

World War began and who wrote this novel in 1978, has worked his own magic and pulls us into a world so real that we can live in it with the characters and be utterly absorbed by their lives.

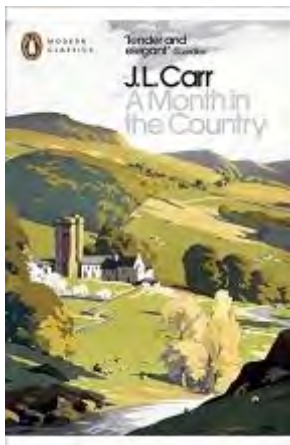
*Clare Gaster*

## Valley Wild Verges – an update

---

From the start of the project to increase the wildflowers and biodiversity of our roadside verges and open spaces, we have had an eye on the verge to the east of the notorious Cart and Horses junction, as that is the entrance to the South Downs National Park from the Winchester side. It seems appropriate that it should look more like open country and less like a suburban park.

Last spring we took advantage of some



council work on a new footpath to sow annual wildflowers on bare earth on the south west corner of the junction, and in the autumn

added perennial seed that we are hoping will begin to form a permanent planting.

With the help of some enthusiastic volunteers, and with funding from the Kings Worthy Parish Council and the Upper Itchen Valley Society, we have lifted two large sections of turf from the new site at the start of the SDNP, and sowed annual seed..



Grass is tougher than the wildflowers, so they do best on poor soil less suitable for grasses. On the first site there was already bare earth, but on the new site we had to use a turf cutter to give the seed a chance to thrive. We will be removing all the dead plant material in the autumn so that it doesn't

enrich the soil. The other useful weapon is a plant called yellow rattle, which is parasitic on grass and helps to weaken it. The seed we are using is a special mix of native species.

We shall also be looking after the other spaces where we have made a start – one in Easton and one in Itchen Abbas. We are keen to continue to add wildflowers to our verges in appropriate places; perhaps that site might be where your own garden forms part of a roadside verge. We would welcome suggestions for other suitable areas in the Valley – good sites need sun and might be a bank where the soil is naturally impoverished. We are thinking about a Turf Cutter Day in the autumn when we might tackle a number of different sites – do nominate your favourite and volunteer to help!

*Verity Coleman, Lucy Collis and Sophie Rogers*

## Our Wild Valley - Secret singing!

When we first moved here, or rather the first spring after, we were so excited we thought we had heard a nightingale sing! It was a tremendous tune but slightly repetitive, but in the end we realised it was a song thrush, spilling out the loudest and longest song I have ever heard! We still love it now and are glad it sits in the tall trees behind to sing its heart out.

However nightingales are in Hampshire, up at Noar Hill Nature Reserve and on the Island. We did in the end hear a glorious nightingale but near Cherbourg, walking down a country lane. Magical!

Nightingales tend to lay their eggs in May, after they have arrived from the



continent, living in Europe and Africa in scrub habitat. The males sing to denote their

territory once they find a good thicket or dense hedgerow. The hen bird sits on the eggs alone and once they hatch they take about 2 weeks to fledge with both parents feeding them. The male keeps singing once the eggs are hatched, even with his beak full of caterpillars!

How lovely after the dark days of winter to be able to open the window early in the morning and enjoy the birds belting it out!

*Sophie Rogers*

## In Memoriam

---

Juliet Burnand:- 4<sup>th</sup> November 1944 - 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Juliet and Geoffrey came to the Itchen Valley in July 1972 with George just 3 months old. They moved into Easton Lodge, which was, at the time, verging on derelict. Juliet actually refused to move in until it had a staircase! Carola, Henry and Arthur appeared subsequently and Juliet was a natural, being a loving and caring mother to all of them. At the same time she minded two dogs, a cat, a tortoise and various other children's pets as well as creating a stunning garden from a building site. She also became active in all sorts of local affairs.

They moved to Freefolk House in 1985 and with the children away at school she became directly involved with The

Samaritans in Winchester, The Easton & Martyr Worthy News, NADFAS, and chaired the Hampshire Branch of the National Art Collection Fund (now The Art Fund) and running its fundraising Fair for some 10 years. She managed to continue these activities alongside birthday parties organised with intricate detail, baking cakes, organising tennis tournaments and ferrying children to and from barn dances or NSPCC discos. Somehow, with all this going on, she also found time to study for and be awarded an Honours degree in History of Art. Beyond a fascination with the Arts her interests extended to gardening, in which she could recollect all the Latin names of plants and Bridge, organising weekly fours for friends in the area.

Juliet was intelligent, quirky, witty, forthright and beautiful. She always thought of others and always put them before herself. In so doing, she enjoyed long-lasting friendships and was forever making new ones as was demonstrated

by the huge attendance at her Thanksgiving Service.

With her conversion to Roman Catholicism over 35 years ago she became directly involved with the Church, initially in Alresford and latterly in Winchester. As a very active member of the parish, she was a regular Reader and Eucharistic

Minister and frequently took

communion to the sick. She set up and then organised the Itchen Valley Lent lunches as well as the annual Ecumenical Mass in Martyr Worthy. Above all, Juliet's priority was always the family and with the arrival of grandchildren she became the most wonderful, loving and attentive granny to all of them.





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	Sat	9 am - 2.30 pm			
Moo Music	Wed	9:15 am, 10.15 am		Denise	01962 779182
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David Michel Yoga	Fri	1 - 2 pm		David	07790 899890
Dionne Yoga	Fri	10.30 - 11.30 am		Dionne	07961 888676
Mahjong / U3A	Tue	1 - 4 pm		Anne	01420 563393

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Juliet suffered from depression which was eventually managed with medication but remained with her for the rest of her life. This did not diminish her enthusiasm and she remained always positive despite the onset of her cancer in 2011 which she fought so courageously for some 6 years. Her attitude towards it was: "I don't have time to be ill, I have too much to do."

Between them, they planned and designed Middle Beat House and moved there in September 2016 where Juliet enjoyed time surrounded by all the family before dying peacefully at home in January 2017.

R.I.P.

*Contributed.*

## For the love of Horse Racing

David Poole of Easton tells us about his passion for race horses.

### **How did you get into racing?**

The addiction (oops I should have said interest) began when I was a student at Wye College, which was based in a village in Kent. Not much went on in the village, apart (in those days) from regular race meetings at Wye Racecourse.

### **Have you ridden racehorses?**

Yes but none of my own in races. Back in the sixties racehorse trainers had few health and safety concerns and I rode horses trained at Findon in West Sussex. I did this as an amateur, which, whilst that meant no pay, it meant no mucking-out and a working day which finished at noon.

### **How long have you kept horses?**

A long time. Early in my career as an agricultural scientist, I was posted to West Wales, where property was inexpensive and where I was able to buy a farm. This was large enough to keep sheep and cattle profitably and

such profits paid for the upkeep of horses on the farm.

### **When did you get your first horse?**

That would be in the early seventies. I knew to only buy a filly, because if a horse couldn't cope with the pressures of being trained, it could be used for breeding. I bought an un-raced 3 year old at Ascot Bloodstock Sales and took her back to Wales in my trailer. She was named Polar Cloud by me and the next year she was sent to Peter Makin to be trained on the Wiltshire Downs, north of Marlborough. However, one of her ankle joints couldn't withstand the pressures of training, so she came back to Wales and bred me several racehorses.

### **How expensive is horse racing?**

Racing is expensive because, as an industry, it is exceptionally labour intensive. Nobody makes money. The trainers and all of their staff work for far less money than one would imagine in view of the associated risks and responsibilities. At the same time, owners puts in large amounts of money every year.

### **How much is a racehorse?**

Flat race horses are bought in the autumn as yearlings. At that age they will not have been tried for speed, so they might have immense ability. Some yearlings don't look right and are given



*David's horse is on the right, green cap and one pink sleeve*

away and each year a few sell for millions of pounds. However, most are sold within a price range of £10 to £50K. However, it is not essential to buy a whole horse. One encounters people who have just a leg in a horse or to spread their chance of success, they might have just a leg in several horses. Additionally, there are racing clubs where shareholders have small fractions of a horse's total value.

### **How expensive is training?**

Training and racing costs are high. Depreciation is the generally the greatest cost of all. Because it costs as much to train a slow horse as it does to keep a champion, the majority of flat race horses are taken out of training within the first year of ownership. The motivation for this being that were there to be a similar level of expenditure invested in another young horse, that would be better rewarded if that horse won a high value race. Because of this, in most cases, the value of a horse will depreciates to a spectacular extent in the first year.

### **What about prize money?**

Prize money confuses the issue. There could be 10 runners in a race but only one will be a winner. In common with most sporting activities, the prizes for top achievers has risen to spectacular levels but for the majority of horses, which only ever race below the top level, prize money has not kept up with inflation. Most races are for prize money of around £2K, which makes little impact on total training and running costs.

### **So why do you do it?**

The answer is simple, there is great

pleasure arising from the ownership of horses. In addition, because I breed and rear most of my horses, that involvement magnifies such enjoyment.

### **Do you recommend racehorse ownership to friends?**

Not if you really like them. Persons new to the sport are prone to regard a racehorse as a pet whereas they ought to be regarded as a commodity. As soon as it is established that a horse is not fast enough to ever win (and only a third of horses ever win) that is the time to give it away (and spend another large amount of money on a replacement). The second downside is that far from being able to plan social events around occasions when a horse will run, one might make plans but unless rain arrives, your trainer might decide not to risk running the horse on hard ground.

### **Most memorable moment**

There have been many, although everyone remembers their first winner. Mine was Jokers Patch at Goodwood,

which is a special location and it was a particularly special occasion for me, because I had bred the horse (and it had been raised at Easton).

### **A lot of the above**

### **information sounds pessimistic, so have you had sufficient success?**

The answer is a definite 'Yes' and that is what feeds my motivation to continue racing horses. It is because 'disasters' can occur any time from conception, birth, rearing, training and even during a race, that when success does occur, the joy arising from the experience is almost boundless. ◀



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## Revd. Rebecca Fardell

---

Rebecca came to us almost four years ago to serve her curacy. She chose our parish because she felt it would be a good learning environment; we had a wide range of services and the benefit of a single parish, quite unusual in country ministry.

Rebecca has been living in Winnall, in some respects not ideal but having been born in Winchester, it was a bit like coming home again.

Rebecca enjoyed her first year with the then rector, Andrew Micklefield but then had a year in the vacancy which provided its challenges. As a ministry colleague I saw how much was achieved in this period. Many who come to our community comment on the welcome and this was especially so for Rebecca, not just from the church but also the wider community. She has found a natural place in ministry with young people working with our local schools, Riverbank and Montessori. It's here we have seen real growth and encouragement.

Before ordination, Rebecca worked in museums where there are some parallels with stories from the past coming alive with real things. When you speak to Rebecca about faith, you can feel her confidence and assurance and this must have helped many in our community.

She speaks warmly of our church buildings, all very different with their own character, yet providing a visible witness from past generations. Still some of the challenges for today are a lack of volunteers.

Church is about people, their lives and concerns and Rebecca has shown in what she has done that the gospel is alive and that God's work needs to be encouraged in all of us. Prayer has been at the centre of her focus in her mission for Jesus in this place. She leaves us with this prayer:

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his

Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3.16-21)

I'm sure we all wish her well in her first parish as vicar of Sunnyside, Berkhamsted and Bourne End.

*Tony Gaster.*



CAMEO saying farewell to Rebecca

## The Practical Gardener

---

The rat proof compost heaps are finished and in use. Details will follow later and we shall see how effective it is.





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However, now is a great time to be spreading compost. I've used copious amounts on all the flower beds. It's too soon for vegetables but as the small plants grow, compost will be a useful addition, although not for the root crop.

I've been very busy sowing and the excellent lecture from the Valley Gardeners series taught us some new tricks. In a few words: use grit 1-3mm. So this has been done in all the compost mixes and I judge about one third grit. It's also used to cover the seeds. It's too early to say for sure about the results but first sowings look very promising. It's mid-April and I have already planted out my first annuals, risky I know.

The big problem this year is lack of rain. Seeds planted out directly need daily watering and that's a real chore. The greenhouse has already been too hot on some days so the shading is up and all the auto-vents reconnected. Whilst I use heated propagators, the covers need to come off when the sun is strong.

My sad front lawn has gone. The treatment against chafer bugs seems to be effective so now it's resown.

There didn't seem to be any other solution. I'm hoping for some



rain but happily we have plenty of recycled water. Spring is a joyous time with lots of colour as new flowers and shrubs come alive. Recent warm weather seems to have hastened blooming. But

most of the bulbs are over and what's left is not that pretty. The experts say leave it all to die down and cut the blooms off low down and when you have hundreds of bulbs that's quite a task so I compromise. I cut everything down to about 6-9 inches, easy and quick to do and clearly the bulbs flower well next season so it works.

*Happy gardening. Tony Gaster.*

## Itchen Valley Down Under

**Q:** Where does one go in the middle of a cold English February to meet up with Itchen Valley friends?

**A (obviously):** the West coast of South Island, New Zealand. By a happy coincidence on

one day during our recent trip, Janet and I had the pleasure of joining Alison

and Ralph Matthews at Pancake Rocks for a lunchtime coffee (sadly no pancakes), then that evening sharing a champagne barbie with Amanda and Richard Seymour in their campervan down the road in Greymouth. The IV News was there of course to record the event.

*Guy Green*





Philip Windsor-Aubrey with the candlestick he made and donated to Martyr Worthy church



Tulips photographed at Dunsborough Park on the Valley Gardeners' outing by Judy Thomas



Pictures from the Way of the Cross on Good Friday taken by Claudia Cox

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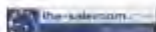
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## New Faces at The Grange

---

There is a changing of the guard at The Grange. Grange Park Opera, the company that established The Grange as our local garden opera venue back in 1998, has moved 40 miles away to West Horsley Place in Surrey. The Grange Festival has taken over the stunning Northington location, with its Grecian temple architecture and beautiful grounds.



Some familiar faces from the previous regime have decided to stay in the area, and many of us are interested to see how Michael Chance puts his own stamp on the first season's repertoire - there will clearly be a new take on the artistic values that will characterise the Festival company. Michael, a distinguished counter-tenor in his own right, is new to the role of artistic director; he has spent the last two years building a new team and setting a direction which looks both challenging and intriguing. Part of his vision, though not in the first season, is to offer ballet as well as opera, and even drama at some stage - hence the 'Festival' title.

Programming will be biased towards baroque and modern operas, and so in the first season we are not surprised to find featured Monteverdi's *Ritorno di Ulisse in patria* and Britten's *Albert Herring*, with Bizet's *Carmen* added as a crowd pleaser - each of these operas getting their first airing at The Grange. There are 19 performances in all,

including a couple of extra treats in the shape of a Verdi Requiem and a Rogers & Hammerstein evening. After the main season in June & July, there will be a bonus in the form of a new version of *Mansfield Park* by the popular composer, Jonathan Dove. This is the first element of what will become an extended autumn season in due course. Tickets are selling fast, which we all hope will bode well for the success of this new and exciting venture. Those who are familiar with the Grange will find the ambience generally as it was before. It will be intriguing to see how much the feel of the place has changed, with new seating installed, but many other aspects relatively unchanged.

*Peter McManus*

## Hey Pesto!

---

I am sure most of you use pesto, that wonderful staple from Genoa which not only makes a pasta dish in its own right but adds zing to all sorts of other dishes. Here is a classic recipe:

100g fresh basil leaves

25g pine nuts

2 cloves garlic

Salt

120 ml extra virgin olive oil

50g grated parmesan cheese

Put the basil, nuts, garlic and salt in a food processor and blitz. Run the motor whilst adding the oil in a steady stream, then mix in the cheese. It is easy and very much better than out of a jar (just read the list of ingredients on a ready made version!). I store it in the back of the fridge in a sealed container, with an additional layer of oil over the top to stop it from discolouring.

The basic idea can be extended both in the ingredients and in its uses in the kitchen. I have just been foraging for wild garlic, which makes a lovely pesto:

using the recipe above, substitute fresh wild garlic leaves and lightly toasted hazelnuts and leave out the basil, pine nuts and garlic cloves. While you are picking, bring home some of the flowers too – they are lovely in a salad. You could also use the same principle for a pesto with our lovely local watercress, using walnuts.

Verity Coleman



## The Alresford Surgery

Closed on Mondays 1<sup>st</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May. Outside surgery hours urgent medical care is provided by Care UK. Tel. 111 or 01962 718697. Richard Hanney will be retiring at the end of May. Michael Ott has joined as Practice Business Manager.

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### Cameo

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

### Farmers' Markets in Winchester

Sundays 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May.

### Parish Council Full Meeting

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Itchen Abbas

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**School term timetable** operates from 1<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May.

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Weekdays to Alresford:

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

**School holiday timetable** operates on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 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

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