

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 56 August 2018

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



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WELCOME to the Valley News

It's always good to know about new events and learn about what has gone on. So there has been much reporting on the past month, what a busy community this is. I suppose the weather has played its part, unusual for us Brits to have such heat. 1976 seems a long time back when we last all had brown lawns. I seem to spend my days carrying watering cans (much more useful than the gym).

The Flower Show occupies our centre pages and perhaps the one comment to make is participate next year! I am grateful for so many contributions, which gives our magazine a touch of flair and variety. Sometimes though it's a challenge when we have files that are difficult to handle. We strongly recommend articles written in a Word document with separate photos, most of which do need to be edited.

On 26 August we see a welcome return of the Easton fete. Clearly events like this and others require a huge amount of organisation. Yet you can see from the many reports this month, how much folk have enjoyed themselves. This is such a wonderful community although recent months have shown peace and quiet is difficult to find. Such are the joys of living close to a large building project. Nonetheless we must all respect our neighbours and anything we do that makes noise should be done with care (oh yes and I have been using my chain saw recently).

Our magazine focuses on local issues. So I am still coming to terms with my 2G phone as the government doesn't see mobile phone coverage as

important, yet it's almost non-existent in Itchen Abbas.

The big problem I have is that most websites now insist on a mobile number and most on-line businesses only want to communicate by text. I also note on my regular journey to Winchester there are now 10 changes of speed limit. There's a challenge that appears to defeat many.

Enjoy the summer, the school holidays or whatever. It's not so long till Brexit!

Next month's editor is Charlotte

Appleby.

Tony Gaster



Itchen Valley News

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Please send all contributions for September 2018 by Wednesday 15 August. All material is published in good faith and the Valley News cannot be held responsible for any information given or views expressed; neither can it be liable for any loss arising from the use of any information or advertisements contained herein. The Editorial Team reserves the right to refuse or amend articles or advertisements submitted for publication. Printed by Greenhouse Graphics of Basingstoke. Cover photo by Anna Croft, other photos from various contributors.

What's on

Sunday 12 August 4.30pm **Life Before Birth**

New Farm Chapel in Alresford
We will be showing a short DVD called "The Land Cries Out", which looks at abortion in three nations, including Israel and our own from God's perspective. Hatikvah, the producers of the film, will introduce the DVD and will bring a video stall of Christian resources. There will be songs from the psalms about the truth and beauty of life before birth. There will also be a young couple from Hampshire, who have a personal story about an experience concerning abortion. Free of charge, donations welcome for Hatikvah Films. For further information please contact
bell.daniela@yahoo.co.uk
Ben and Daniela Bell

Sunday 26 August 2-5pm **Easton Fete**

The Easton Fete is getting closer!
Come and join us for a fun afternoon with lots for everyone to see and do. If you can donate to one of our stalls please contact the following:

Books Simon Broadley 779435

Cakes Judith Mezger 779277

Jewellery and Handbags Iris Lacey 779707

Tombola Lyn Russell 779818

Raffle / Tombola Jill Croft 779453

We welcome your support to help get the most from this much loved community event.

For more information please email
eastoneventsqwe@gmail.com or call
Lyn 779818 or Donna 07432 237392

In aid of Itchen Valley Parish, Easton Village Hall and EMWCC
Sophie Goodall

A yellow poster for the Easton Fete 2018. The word 'EASTON' is written in large, bold, black letters, with 'FETE 2018' in smaller letters below it. A stylized sunburst or flower graphic is centered behind the word 'EASTON'. Above the main title, it says 'SUNDAY 26TH AUGUST' and 'EASTON VILLAGE HALL' in bold, black letters. Below that, it says '2.00 - 5.00PM' and 'STALLS TO BROWSE' in bold, black letters. Further down, it says 'AND GAMES TO PLAY' in bold, black letters. At the bottom, it says 'REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING AFTERNOON TEA & LICENSED BAR' in bold, black letters. To the right of the main title, it says 'AND CRICKET GROUND' in bold, black letters. At the bottom right, it says 'Magic Show AND Dog Show' in a cursive font. At the bottom left, it says 'Donkey & Tractor Rides' in a cursive font. At the very bottom, in small black letters, it says 'MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO ITCHEN VALLEY CHURCHES AND EASTON VILLAGE HALL & CRICKET CLUB'.

Saturday 8 September 10am - 6pm Ride + Stride

in aid of Historic Churches and Chapels.

Last year over 400 churches opened in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, with 350 people participating representing 136 churches or benefices. Just over £60,000 was raised which was a record amount. For more information contact Vanessa Rosewell 01962 841182

Sunday 16 Sept at 3.30pm

A Concert of Renaissance and Baroque Music in St John's Church, Winchester, SO23 0HF

A concert of lively music-making where players introduce the pieces to provide a context for listeners and to share a performer's view of what makes the music truly great.

Please join us for tea and cakes after the performance.

Tickets £16 from Theatre Royal Box Office 01962 840440 or theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk/whats-on
Ticket price includes a £1 booking fee
In aid of Winchester GoLD Enabling People with Learning Disabilities

Ros Francis

Saturday 15 Sept at 6.45 Flanders and Swann Revisited!

An evening of musical comedy featuring the songs of Flanders and Swann performed by Michael Lunts in St Mary's Church Easton, preceded by supper at The Old Rectory.

Cost £30 a head to include a light supper, glass of wine and a fantastic performance in aid of St Mary's Church Development Fund.

Tickets from Penelope Kellie, Steeple Cottage, Church Lane, Easton, SO21 1EH, pk@pkworldwide.com

Penelope Kellie

Sunday 14 October 12 noon Harvest Lunch

Come and enjoy a delicious home cooked lunch at the Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall. Adults £10, children under 10 free. Tickets will be available through churchwardens in August.

Further information from Tony Gaster on 01962 779110

Friday and Saturday 19 and 20 October - Figaro at Itchen Abbas

Do you remember Don Giovanni being carted off to hell, or the fabulous singing and superb costumes that went with it, 18 months ago in St John's Church? If not, you missed what was lauded in these column as "if this is the future of opera, then the future's bright". The same group of young singers returns in October to sing *The Marriage of Figaro*, another of Mozart's famous trio of comic operas with librettos by the scandalous Da Ponte.

Don't miss these top class singers.

They are coming back from Japan, Australia, South Africa and Germany for the rare chance to enjoy singing together in the small, intimate auditorium of our local church. And at £35 the tickets are too good to be true for real quality opera.

Following these two nights of Figaro, Sunday 21 October will be a more relaxed occasion of songs from the shows and arias, at only £25.

Tickets will be available soon from southwoodplayers.org.uk or further information from me on 01962 779162.

Nick Owen

Don't forget to notify us if you want a future event listed in our What's On pages. Contact details on page 3.



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From the Parish Council



Good news, the Parish Council's new website is up and running. A big thank you goes to Jonathan Legat who has guided this project over many

hurdles and difficulties to bring it to fruition. Also to those within and without the Council who have helped him. One big change is that all the Council members now have new e-mail addresses. This has been necessary to meet with current transparency and GDPR regulations. The addresses and a lot more can be found on the site, www.itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk. Please make sure that you use these when e-mailing on Parish Council matters and note initial contact should be via the Clerk.

One thing that can be found from the new website is information about the Boomtown Festival. Contact details are there including the hotline number to the control room. It starts on Wednesday 9 August and finishes on Sunday 12 August. No doubt there will be contractors and performers arriving and leaving outside those dates. We are now in the situation of seeing how well the measures work, which have been put in to minimise problems like the traffic congestion that have occurred on the two previous occasions.

Another piece of good news, especially for the young in Easton, as they may have already discovered, is that we have a new play tower in the Old School Field. Inevitably it has taken time to bring this project from conception to completion. Special thanks go to Yvette Riley who has

masterminded it throughout. Funding for it has come from the Parish Council with a contribution from the McPherson Trust and it is pleasing to report it came in under budget. The choice of tower design was the result of a survey conducted by Richard Stoodley with a final decision being made by the Council. A long process but judging by initial comments, a very worthwhile result.

A County Council consultation is underway, and please note, the closing date is Sunday 5 August. For Itchen Valley residents the main issue is our bus service. At present it is heavily subsidised but for some it is an essential service. Although used at peak times it does not appear to be used as much during the rest of the day. That inevitably raises the question as to whether it is worth the subsidy and, if that is the case, how can savings be made? The choices seem to be either to have a further reduced daily service or limiting a more frequent service to specific days during the week. There have been notices up regarding this, but if you have missed them, go to Have your say:

hants.gov.uk or e-mail environment.bus.review@hants.gov.uk Please make your views known and note the closing date above.

Remember that when it comes to having a bus service it is either a case of use it or lose it.

The Parish Council is still aware of the need for smaller social housing in the Valley. At our July meeting we had an interesting talk from Andrew Palmer of Winchester City Council. It was pleasing to have two members of Northington Parish Council attending as well. So we are not alone on this issue. It is not going to be a matter that can be dealt with quickly but we

will keep you informed as and when progress is made.

More currently, most of us will be aware of the serious fire in the field adjacent to Chapel Lane south of Easton. It is a reminder that we have to be careful in dry weather when it comes to bonfires. Also, as many are enjoying the warm evenings and outside in the longer hours of daylight if you have to have a bonfire please have it during the hours of dusk, please be careful and check the wind direction.

Patrick Appleby.

Triples Report

It was Martyr Worthy's turn this year to host the boules competition known as The Triples. On 19 June a large number of villagers gathered at Martyr Worthy Manor, by kind permission of Isobel and Charles Pinder. The garden was delightful, the sky was clear, the sun was warm, the refreshments were generous and the spectators were in cheerful mood.

This is a knock-out event, organized rather along the same lines as the football world cup. All four villages have an A and a B team, in two groups, playing one game against the three other villages in their group, scoring 2 points for a win or 1 for a draw. The top two teams from each group go forward to the knock-out section. The whole competition has to be completed in the long summer evening, so all games are restricted to six ends. In group A, the Avington team won two of their three games, so were winners with 4 points. Two teams had 3 points each and, for deciding between teams on the same score, there is a system similar to "points for goals scored", and Itchen Abbas



qualified as runners up. In group B, the Martyr Worthy team were consistently strong, winning all three of their games (6 points). All the other three were equal on 2 points each and, under the scoring system, Avington B were runners-up.

In the semi-finals, the winner of one group plays the runner-up in the other group, so the strong Martyr Worthy B team challenged the Itchen Abbas A team. MWV continued their successful run and forged ahead of their IA rivals by 7-2. In the other semi-final the two Avington teams were pitched against each other, and it was their B team that ended ahead after the six ends and went through to the final.

So at about 9.00pm the final commenced between Martyr Worthy B and Avington B. It started quietly but after two or three ends the vocal spectator support for one team or the



other began to rise. The play was reasonably balanced but Martyr Worthy inched ahead and after five ends (with one to go) they were leading 7-5, seemingly in a powerful position. In the final end, when Martyr Worthy had thrown their final boule, Avington had one closer to the cochonnet, but scoring one point was insufficient. However Avington's final boule not only landed close enough to score a further point, but it also nudged another of its boules closer, resulting in 3 vital points to finish 8-7 ahead.

So Avington were the 2018 winners, and Isobel Pinder kindly came forward to present the victorious team with the Nigel Graham Maw Cup for 2018. John Prince brought the evening to a close with thanks to all for coming, to those who produced the food and drink and to Isobel and Charles for allowing use of their delightful garden.

Ralph Matthews

Martyr Worthy Open Gardens and Teas: 24 June

On a hot Midsummer Day, six glorious gardens in Martyr Worthy very generously opened their gates to the public in aid of the Parish of the Itchen Valley and Martyr Worthy Village Hall. They were rewarded with an estimated 250 visitors from near and far. Each garden had something different to offer, which was clearly appreciated by all those, including the knowledgeable and the curious, who followed the excellent garden trail map to visit each of them. They also appreciated the refreshments and splendid array of cakes and other goodies contributed by many in the village for sale in the hall. Particular thanks must go to the garden owners for all their hard work in

making the gardens look so stunning and also to all those who organised the teas and the event generally, as well as to Riverbank for their intriguing scavenger hunt and to the many volunteers on the day. Together a sum in excess of £2,100 was raised, to be divided equally between the churches and the hall.

Guy Green

From our MP

It's tough being a parent these days. We all want our children to be healthy, happy and active but it's hard in a world



filled with temptation. When it comes to food and drink, the sheer range and volume of marketing can make limiting our kids' exposure feel like a losing battle, but it's a battle we must win.

One in three children is now overweight or obese by the time they leave primary school.

Overconsumption, combined with reduced activity, is having a catastrophic effect on their health. We estimate that obesity related conditions are costing the NHS £6.1 billion each year.

As the country's Public Health Minister I am clear that obesity is indeed the new smoking and it is set to overtake smoking as the biggest cause of cancer.

Of course, childhood obesity is complex. And while parents are responsible for protecting our children from obesity, we in Government are committed to playing our part.

That is why last month I published the long-awaited Chapter Two of our childhood obesity plan and our aim is to halve childhood obesity by 2030.

We're asking every primary school –

and I've seen many do it well here in the constituency - to encourage their pupils to run or jog for at least 15 minutes every day as part of the 'golden mile'. We've been inspired by the brilliant active mile campaign which is now in 36 countries.

But exercise is only part of it. Our plan includes consultations on mandatory calorie labelling on menus and the banning of energy drink sales to children. We also want to consult on a 9pm watershed for TV adverts featuring products high in sugars, salts and fats - a particular bugbear of mine. I draw the line at marketing that deliberately targets inappropriate food choices at children.

All these actions will help but only concerted effort across society will ultimately help us get a grip. Let's get our children off their screens starting this Summer - put aside their fizzy drinks and sugary foods - and point them towards a healthier and happier future.

Finally, I cannot let this column pass without mention of the incredible performance of *Beauty & The Beast* at Perins School last month. My daughter Emily and I were fortunate to go along and could not have been more impressed. This school has provided some real stars in the past and I think there are more to follow. To erect a big circus tent in a school field is brave but speaks volumes to Perins ambition for its pupils and education in the widest sense of the word. You can see more at www.perins.net/theatre and huge congratulations to all staff and cast for making something very special in the heart of our community.

You can see much more of my work at www.stevebrine.com, follow me on Facebook at [fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP) or Twitter @BrineMP.

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester, Alresford & Itchen Valley

Grange Opera

The last night of this year's Festival at The Grange was celebrated with a single performance of Leonard Bernstein's operetta *Candide*, coinciding with the composer's 100th 'birthday'. This was semi-staged, with lively interpretation of the scenes but no scenery to support the seven strong cast of soloists; they were accompanied by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and a chorus of 32 singers. This operatic version of Voltaire's morality tale was making a rare appearance at a summer opera festival. Katie Hall made a fine Cunegonde, and carried off the spectacular "Glitter and be Gay" aria with great verve and vocal agility, hitting all the high notes to perfection. Richard Suart (well-known for his Gilbert & Sullivan roles with ENO) performed three roles as Narrator, Dr Pangloss and Martin, and kept the audience entertained with some of his unscripted remarks. Rob Houchen, like Katie best known for his musical theatre appearances, carried the title role with great confidence, and won plenty of plaudits from the audience. At the end, I thought the



applause would never stop, as many of the audience stood to acclaim a most entertaining evening. A fitting end to a very successful second season!

Peter McManus

Stained Glass Workshop at St Mary's Itchen Stoke on 9 July

Well over 30 people gathered at St Mary's Itchen Stoke for a fascinating presentation by Salisbury Cathedral Stained Glass about stained glass and restoration techniques, organised by the Churches Conservation Trust. They are repairing two damaged sections of glass at the eastern end of the church and also a vandalised plaque dedicated to the memory of Major Ponsonby Cox. Therein lies a mystery. Who was Major Ponsonby Cox, what was his connection to the church, and who was responsible for the plaque – the dedication reveals that it was commissioned 'by one who loved him' but does not say who! We know he



was born in 1874, was a major in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was in army training in Alresford from 1914 – 15, and was killed in action at the Battle of Loos in 1915. The Trust would really like to find out more so if there are any keen researchers out there who could find historical records to shed any light on the mystery, please get in touch with Ed McGregor at the CCT by emailing emcgregor@theccct.org.uk

We learned about the stained glass in the church. Most likely it was made in the 1860s, in full Gothic Revival style, by London-based Alexander Gibb. The windows contain a high proportion of ruby red glass which is produced using a colour agent of gold oxide, and therefore would have been very expensive.

The damaged stained glass panels had been taken out for repair and we were able to see them laid out and appreciate the intricacy of the design and the precise and skilled repair work that would be required, the first stage of which was demonstrated. This was to carry out a kind of brass rubbing of the panels on white paper to produce an image which would guide the repair work.

Future events at the church for your diary: evensong, sung by St John's Choir with commemorative hand bells rung in the porch at 5pm on Sunday 29



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July, and a Memorial Reinstatement event on 27 September to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Loos. More details to follow!
Sue Germon

The Valley Gardeners visit two Hampshire gardens

Although The Valley Gardeners often travel far afield to visit gardens of interest and great beauty, we never forget that our own Hampshire gardens are as good as any you will find in the country. So, our July outing was to Ashe Park and Spring Pond, both within a half hour's drive of the Itchen Valley.

The ancient manor of Ashe was once owned by William of Wykeham and has been through many guises in its long history, including a commercial producer of mineral water and a polo centre, the latter often frequented by the royal princes. The current owners are restoring the house and garden and the planting designs have been created by Andrew Woolley who was Head Gardener both here and at Farleigh House. With our friendly and knowledgeable guide, the Estate Manager Darren, we set off to see some of this huge estate. Within the grandeur of the parkland setting,



the simple planting schemes are most effective. I was particularly interested to see the prominent use of *Acanthus mollis* (or Bear's breeches/ Sea dock) as I have always liked it and have lots in my garden but had really discounted it as a "proper" plant for border schemes. These blocks of planting were complemented by some wonderful sculptures, including a group of rhinos made out of disused African road signs. Surprisingly, they looked quite at home on the parched yellow grass of the estate! The potager (pictured) has been a labour of love over the last few years and now established, is both a thing of great beauty and a supplier of fruit and vegetables for the owners and the estate employees. We sampled some of the produce at our delicious lunch, served in the Party Barn, together with a glass of wine....or two!

After lunch we drove the four miles to Spring Pond garden. Spring Pond is on alkaline soil and was the creation of garden designer Ian Mylles, and lovingly developed and established since 1995 by Carolyn Sheffield. The garden surrounds a flint and brick house converted from a group of derelict farm buildings, designed by the architect, the late Francis Johnson. An arboretum started in the year



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house, finished off by a huge kitchen with a cathedral ceiling! If you glance into the conservatory, stuffed with Mediterranean and tropical plants, you can imagine yourself drifting off to sleep, book in hand, on the very comfy chaise longue, surrounded by scent and

2000, features ornamental trees, each tree different from the others.

The colour palette in the garden at Spring Pond is dreamy, soft and soothing with pale mauve, purple, pink, white and cream predominating. The most magnificent roses and clematis clamber up every wall and pergola.

There are splashes of stronger colours in the red garden and the natural pond – which is modelled on the Longstock water garden – is surrounded by marginal plants, including *Primula Candelabra*, *Rodgersii* and *Astilbes*. We were very honoured also to be allowed to look inside the most unusual house which forms a one storey, three sided backdrop to the garden. Each room has a theme, Classical, Gothic, Regency and so on, owing to the treasures the owners brought with them from their previous property, Laverstoke House. It certainly is an Aladdin's Cave of a

warmth. Heaven!

After enjoying a cup of tea and homemade cakes, sitting in the shade with Carolyn and her helpers, we made the short trip back to the Itchen Valley and pondered on a very happy day and the beauty we had seen just a few miles from home.

Catherine Hahn

Boules 2018 – league round 2

The second round of the Boules League was held on Tuesday 10 July. At one venue, Avington were playing at home against Easton. Easton were in devastating form. In the first half, both Avington teams started well and seemed to be building up a good lead, but soon the two Easton teams found their stride and both overtook their rivals – score 2-0 at half-time. The refreshment break gave a chance to revive energies and to give Avington hope for an improvement in their fortunes, but it was not to be. In the second half, although one of the Avington teams battled away point by point to 12-12, both the two Easton teams were ultimately victorious. Final score - Easton 4, Avington 0.

On the other side of the Valley, Martyr Worthy were entertaining Itchen Abbas. The setting was perfect with tables filled with food and drink under



a warm evening sun. However enjoyable this was, they all had a match to play. Itchen Abbas produced two teams of strength and depth, and at the half-way point they had succeeded in winning both games. After the interval the home team rallied and pulled back one game but the visitors were too strong and the final score was Itchen Abbas 3, Martyr Worthy 1.

So, adding the two points that each village scored in the first round, the position now is Easton 6, Itchen Abbas 5, Martyr Worthy 3, Avington 2, with one round to play.

Ralph Matthews and John Prince

Pedal Power through the Valley 8 July

Keith Sloan and Rob Harris safely marshalled several hundred cyclists through Itchen Abbas as part of the annual Pedal Paddle Pace triathlon in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. They also controlled the large crowd at the T-junction (see image)! The event comprises a 20km bike ride, a 5km run and a 2km kayak on the River Itchen through the water meadows. The amount raised in 2018 has not yet been in published, but the 2017 event raised over £20,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Rob Harris



Cakes Wanted!

The 'Cake & Bake Stall' and 'Refreshments Stall (Teas)' at the Easton Fete on Sunday 26 August call for your help. We are hoping for many bakes of any size or shape, from tortes and tarts to other tantalising titbits. Plus for the new 'afternoon tea' section: tray bakes, mini cakes & scones and sandwiches (a chance for non-bakers to shine!). Please contact me on 779465 for noting your interest with further instructions (delivery etc) to follow closer to the fete!

Ready Steady BAKE

Ina Williams

New arrival in Easton

Elsie Lark Binney-Martin on 17 June daughter of Helena and Phil at The Old School House. And doesn't she look lovely!





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From the Rectory

Few events draw more attention than sport, as the World Cup in Russia has illustrated. The world is football crazy and gives a mystic and religious status to its heroes. Going into this world cup we had Lionel Messi being called "The Messiah" and Cristiano Ronaldo dubbed "a god". Leaving, we have new heroes in Kylian Mbappe and Paul Pogba. Who knows yet what the media will style them. With its usual use of hyperbolic religious imagery it may well add to an already negative perception of sports among many.



Why negative you may say. Even many who are sports fans have a negative image of the drinking, partying and sexual habits of overpaid young sportsmen and many find it inconsistent with the genuflecting, gesturing and wearing of religious jewellery they see on TV. They are also often talked about as being role models, for better or worse. Can they be a good role model whilst surrounded by money and temptation? After all when Jesus led his squad of twelve (I know, only 12? But of course he knew he would only need one substitute) out to face the world he had only his own leadership skills to call on.

Not all football players are just rich playboys. Some, maybe even many, are sincere Christians. Many of you will have heard of Linvoy Primus who played for Reading & Portsmouth and is well known for his work for Christian charities. Of the current world players Ronaldo is probably the most well-

known who is avowedly Christian. In terms of wealth and adulation he probably also has the greatest temptation, yet when you look at his work ethic, his charitable activities and the sheer leadership he shows on the pitch (as well as off it, apparently) there is no doubt he is a good role model. I was particularly impressed by the way, even when borne down by his own disappointment in being knocked out of the cup, he took time to go to every individual Portuguese player with hugs and words of sympathy and consideration.

There are many other Christians in football so see below for my World Cup Christian squad. Religion and sports may appear to serve different purposes but they often share a



common audience and many values, such as fairness, discipline and commitment.

For its part, football is about a balance between teamwork and individual creativity while religion is about serving fellow humans with a sense of individual accountability to God. If there are at least a few Christians on the world stage of football, maybe its dream of helping to unite people of all nations can be achieved.

So, my World Cup Christian Team (classic 4 4 2).

Goal: Gianluigi Buffon (Italy)
Defenders: John O'Shea (Ireland) David Luiz (Brazil) Wesley Sneijder (Netherlands) Thiago Silva (Brazil)
Midfield: Javier Hernandez (Mexico) Raheem Sterling (England) Andres Iniesta (Spain) David Silva (Spain)
Strikers: Neymar (Brazil) Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal)

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Gerry Stacey

Itchen Valley Churches

5th August

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am All Age Worship

St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
St Mary's, Easton

12th August

10am Parish Communion
6pm Patronal Evensong

St John's, Itchen Abbas
St Mary's, Avington

19th August

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Valley Worship

St John's, Itchen Abbas
St Mary's, Easton

26th August

10am Parish Communion
6pm Evensong

St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Rector

Revd Alex Pease
rector@itchenvalleychurches.org
01962 779845

Days: Sun, Mon, Tues & Weds.

LLM

Mr Gerry Stacey
gstacey@easynet.co.uk
07554 438973

Parish Administrator

Beccy Clark
admin@itchenvalleychurches.org
01962 779845
Mon-Fri, 9am - 1pm (term time)

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

Church Notice of the Month

The Hub will be closed from 20th July until the 5th September. Beccy will still be working but reduced holiday hours from home so please do still email her in the usual way and she will reply (although maybe not so promptly!).

Churchwardens

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Andrew Impey 779645
Theo Mezger 07775 908014
Vanessa Rosewell 841182
Tony Gaster 779110
Nick Owen 779162

Itchen Valley Flower Show 2018

It had been the driest June since records began. According to the BBC that means since 1880. Alas, the records of the Itchen Valley Flower Show don't go back that far but it is known that the event was in existence in 1947 and probably for many years before then. So it had indeed been the driest June ever during the history of the Flower Show and flower and vegetable entries suffered accordingly. Carrots, lettuces and runner beans were scarce and herbaceous perennials and dahlias were noted for their absence.



The hot weather also caused problems with cooks struggling to bake their cakes, flans and biscuits in kitchens already warmer than ideal for concentrating on the recipe. Only half the number of entries were received for the set-recipe sponge compared to last year and other baking contributions were also fewer in number.

The day dawned clear and sunny (again) and the steady trickle of exhibitors developed into a regular flood of people before the doors were very firmly closed at a quarter to ten. The mysterious world of show judging then took over the hall, the lengths of



courgettes were noted and the scents of all those roses were inhaled before pronouncing suitable winners. The taste buds of the cookery judge were assaulted by the surprisingly mixed results from a set recipe, a Floral Decorated Victoria Sponge. The eyes and fingertips of the craft judge were exercised by the range of photographs and handmade objects on display whilst a wide scope of inventiveness had been shown by the children in their own special classes.

With the decisions made and the various coloured cards suitably distributed amongst the exhibits, the doors were opened again at 2.30 pm to welcome the afternoon visitors, most of whom were keen to find out if they had managed to collect a trophy.

There were indeed a couple of entrants who won this year who hadn't ever won before, proving that winning isn't just for the selected few. Having once been asked to be a judge myself





(a decorated bicycle parade was my lot) I know how hard it is to separate the truly excellent from the really splendid when they all look so good. Although a “Best in Show” wasn’t awarded this year, my choice has to go to “The Solar System” entered by Aura O’Brien under the *Make a model of something you have learned about at school class*. A wonderful vibrating and illuminated display.

The ease with which pictures can be taken now on even the cheapest of electronic devices is reflected in the growth of interest in the photograph section of the show. Alas the craft section has declined significantly in recent years and is now only one class that had a mere four entrants this year (even if one of those contributions was a truly splendid pair of leather shoes). Sipping Pimms whilst watching a display of basket weaving was an option for those preferring to be outside rather than drinking tea and munching cake



indoors. Alex Pease concluded the afternoon by awarding the silverware and Bob Germon took the group winners photo (page 26). Many thanks to Sara Mason and her team for organising this year’s Flower Show and of course there’s another show next year – but it’s Christmas before that.
Vernon Tottle



Flower show memories

One Saturday in July about 35 years ago, we were driving through Itchen Abbas at the end of the afternoon. On approaching the Old Village Hall we noticed a crowd of people gathered outside and in front of them stood an elderly man auctioning bunches of flowers. We pulled over to the side of the road and Vernon and I went over to investigate. When he held up a bunch of decent looking perennials which included *Alchemilla Mollis*, *Mauve Phlox* and *Bachelor’s Button* for which £2 was requested, Vernon made a bid. Well pleased with our purchase we returned to the car and continued on our way back to our home in Winchester.

The Annual Itchen Valley Flower Show had taken place that afternoon in the Old Village Hall and the cut flowers, fruit and veg were being auctioned to raise money for the following year’s show. Little did we know at the time



that we would end up living in Itchen Abbas a few years later. The man performing the auction was none other than Albie Marsh, an avid supporter of the Flower Show winning all the produce cups, year in, year out. He continued to enter right up until he died in his early 90's. He was a lovely man and I remember once going round to his house to collect some Wall Flower plants from him and I asked him if he was entering for the show that year. "Oh Yeah" he said, "I'm all raring to go. My beans are this long", he indicated with his arms.

We moved into our bungalow in Itchen Abbas early 1987 and as Flower Show time drew near, Jane Edmonds called round to see if we'd be interested in taking part. We decided to give it a go and have entered ever since. I really enjoy flower arranging and so entered for the miniature. I did an arrangement in a large cockle shell utilising cornflowers and the judges commented

the arrangement was very pretty but cornflowers were too large for a miniature. I had learnt something there. That year the set cake recipe was for a Madera cake and Vernon decided to have a stab at it, much to his amazement winning first prize. This caused quite a stir amongst all the ladies in the Valley. Not only was he a new-comer to the Itchen Valley but he was a man.

In those days there were only nine cups to be won; in addition, entrants who were awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd places received £1, 50p and 20p respectively and the Winners of the Rose Bowl and Produce Sections won £10 with £5 going to the runners up. The Committee when we first came was chaired by Gill Graham-Maw. Her place was taken up by Chris Cheong a few years after the new hall opened and when she left the village Sara Mason took over. She is still Chairman. Other committee members were Jane and Sheila Edmonds, Lyn Breslain as Treasurer, Joan Bickerdike as Secretary, Alex McKay, Jim Chalke, Molly O'Keefe, Sue Glasspool, Fred Haslam, John Baxter and Margaret Nelson.

Teas were provided by the WI or Sunday School, taking it in turns doing alternate years. In those days sandwiches were included but it is now just cakes and cups of tea which is a lot simpler. There were a few side shows run by the Committee members for people to partake in such as Maggot Racing which Jane Edmonds produced. Picking up Corks out of a bowl of water with a needle was also popular. There were also two Raffles in those days. One was run by Sheila Edmonds and the other by Jim Chalke's mother. At the end of the afternoon Cups and Prize Money were presented and the



cut flowers and produce were auctioned to raise money for the following year's show. In the early days this was carried out by Alex McKay who was very keen to raise as much money as possible for each item by asking people to pay unrealistic amounts of money for them. He'd say "Remember next Year's Show"!! We used to provide all our own containers and plates for exhibits but owing to an unfortunate mishap several years ago in the old hall they now provide green vases for all the cut flowers except pansies and paper plates for the cookery items. Jean Dunn had entered a plate of shortbread which was accidentally auctioned and she lost not only the shortbread but also the plate which was part of her best dinner service. She was very cut up about it and the plate never materialised.

In 1989 the winner of the miniature flower arrangement had simply placed a small heartsease bloom in a little china candle stick and all of us who'd really gone to town to produce something spectacular were really miffed! Obviously the judges were impressed with her simple arrangement involving next to nothing. Similar entries were of course submitted the following year but without any success whatsoever. It does depend on who is doing the judging!

One year the set flower arrangement was in a Tea Pot with shades of all one colour which was fun. The following year we had an arrangement in an unusual container and Sandy Milne, a first class flower arranger, utilised a flour sieve, which was very natty. She of course received the Cup and did likewise on a number of other occasions whilst living here. Joan Dartnall did one in an old copper

jelly mould which was rather fun and mine was in a Quality Street tin. Unfortunately it was disqualified for being oversized which was a shame, as the mauve phlox matched up with the colouring of the sweet tin beautifully. In the past, names that I remember on the small neat white tickets of exhibitors year in, year out included Chalke, Hardy, Collier, Haslam, Earle, S Edmonds, Brett-Foreman, Nelson, Windsor-Aubrey, Bickerdike, Milne, Marsh, Dunn, Butler, Stent, Stoney, Dee, Hobbs, Guest, J Edmonds, Breslain, O'Keefe, Glasspool, Baxter and Dartnall. Many more people put in entries for all the classes in the old days and the hall tables were filled to capacity! In the old hall there was far less room to move around in and during the middle of the afternoon it became quite congested. If it was wet the tea tables and chairs were placed at the end of the main hall which made it even more cramped and almost impossible to move around to admire the exhibits. When the new hall came to fruition in 2000 the difference was amazing.

In recent years the number of adult entries has dropped considerably which is a shame. A number of the old stalwarts have either passed away, left the valley, or are no longer able to partake. Not enough younger Valley residents have taken up the baton. A few years ago it was decided to hold the show on a Sunday to see if it made any difference, but no such luck. However those of us that do become involved thoroughly enjoy ourselves exhibiting, attending, chatting to all the local people and various friends who have come along to support the Show and joining in the various activities taking place throughout the afternoon. Long may it continue!!
Arminel Tottle

The Itchen Valley Flower Show Trophy Winners 2018

1. THE MACKLIN CHALLENGE CUP : Jacqui Squire
highest aggregate of points in Sections A (fruit and vegetables) and B (flowers)
 2. THE ALBIE MARSH TROPHY : Gail Kennedy
runner up Sections A (fruit and vegetables) and B (flowers)
 3. THE VEGETABLE CHALLENGE CUP: Penny Russell
winner of the Fruit & Vegetables Section (Section A)
 4. THE FLOWER SECTION TROPHY : Gail Kennedy
winner of the Flower Section (Section B)
 5. THE ROSE BOWL : Judy Thomas
winner of the Cookery Section (Section D)
 6. SHEILA EDMONDS CUP : Sarah Hunt
winner of the Preserve Section (Section E)
 7. THE UPPER ITCHEN VALLEY SOCIETY SALVER : Rob Harris
winner of the Craft and Photograph Section (Section F)
 8. MARGARET EDMONDS MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP : Dave Cannons
winner of the Best Rose (Section B)
 9. FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CHALLENGE CUP : Sarah Hunt
winner of the Flower Arrangement Class 47
 10. ROSEMARY DEE MEMORIAL CUP : Sarah Hunt
winner of the Flower Arrangement Class 48
 11. THE NELSON CUP : Arminel Tottle
winner Miniature Arrangement of Flowers Class 46
 12. THE MOLLIE BRETT-FOREMAN FUCHSIA TROPHY : Not awarded
winner of the Best Fuchsia (Section B):
 13. VALLEY GARDENER'S CUP : Jacqui Squire
winner of Class 45 hanging basket or summer planted container.
- THE CHILDREN'S TROPHIES
14. THE STENT CHALLENGE CUP (aged 12 - 15 years): Erin Bolger
Awarded to the child with the highest number of points.
 15. THE SCATCHARD CHALLENGE CUP (aged 8 - 11 years): Nessie Marter
Awarded to the child with the highest number of points
 16. THE STEVENS CUP (aged 4 - 7 years) : Archie Cannons
Awarded to the child with the highest number of points

The winners of the Flower Show prizes



From our City Councillor

It was a difficult decision to make, but I resigned the Conservative Party whip and became an independent Winchester City councillor, with effect from 23 June, because it was the only way in which I felt I could continue in all good conscience to serve the residents of Alresford & Itchen Valley.

Without going into detail, I had many concerns about process and governance, and about the sincerity of the Administration's engagement with the public. Generally, I feel that there



has been too much focus put on the presentation of things, largely as a result of 'politics', rather than on their substance. More specifically, there has been a failure to learn any of the lessons provided by its loss of the Judicial Review I pursued against the Council in 2015, or by the subsequent independent inquiry commissioned from Claer Lloyd-Jones.

I have tried to use my experience in the property industry to assist the city's major projects, namely Silver Hill, Station Approach and the Bar End sports centre but, in my view, the project management and strategic thinking behind them has been lacking. As a consequence, the Council is not making the best of what should be wonderful opportunities for the city. In addition, I have been particularly concerned by the Administration's

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insensitivity towards the city's heritage, and the potential it holds for the economic, social and cultural future of the district.

The decision to approve Sun Lane was also a factor. I recognise the need for more housing in Alresford, but I fear that the traffic impacts will be too severe and that we may end up with no affordable housing contribution. The approval also included a large volume of business space, the actual disposition and use of which is very far from being clarified. I appreciate the democratic right of others to hold a different view but, for me, the planning process was not a robust one and the examination of the key issues was incomplete and one-sided.

I intend to continue campaigning on all these matters and will happily work with all parties in an effort to secure the change of approach needed. I will remain as a city councillor at least until the local election next May and, in the meantime, if there is any way in which I can assist with whatever local issue, or if anyone has a specific query about the above, I would be delighted to hear from you, regardless of political persuasion.

Kim

Cllr Kim A Gottlieb

Alresford & Itchen Valley

Save Itchen Abbas Zumba class!

I have been running a Zumba class, Monday evenings at 6.30pm, at Itchen Abbas Village Hall for many years but sadly numbers have declined and we are not getting any new people joining us.

Classes are always subject to fluctuations in attendance but these are

normally offset by the arrival of new folk. Sadly this has not been the case at Itchen Abbas for the last year. So I am sending this out as a last ditch attempt to save the class.

The hall is magnificent but it is large so needs filling! My Friday 10 am class is happily thriving but not so the Monday night. If you are reading this and wish to try out Zumba, please drop me a line on sue@plays-r-ussell.com, always happy to talk Zumba! There are lots of pics (including one of the hall) on my website www.zumba-around-winchester.com

Can I just reassure those of you who worry about age, coordination, etc. that you don't need to! My Zumba is not the high impact/pumping iron variety. It is genuinely for everyone and this is reflected in the friendliness of my classes: no divas (apart from the one at the front!)

I am returning to the States for a holiday this summer and have been invited back to do a class at where it all started for me at Boston Sports Club. This was ten years ago and I am still loving Zumba as much as that very first class I attended.

Do hope this elicits a positive response as I really want the Monday night class to continue but it has to have people there, supporting me! Fingers crossed. Hopefully see you in class!

Sue Russell

Martyr Worthy lecture series returns! Friday 16 November 2018, Saturday 26 January and Tuesday 26 February 2019. Please mark up your diaries for the return of the biennial Martyr Worthy Lecture Series, when three top quality lectures will again be offered in the Itchen Abbas Village Hall over the winter. More details of the speakers next month.

Itchen insight



Name - Lyn Russell

Age- 63

Occupation: Retired Lead for Community Services in the NHS

Years in the Valley: We lived in Winchester for 3 years before we moved to Easton 12 years ago

My life in 280 characters: I qualified as a nurse in 1975 and in the 90s having gained a degree I continued a career in community nursing ultimately setting up and managing community nursing and rehabilitation services in NW Surrey. I met my husband whilst training and we married in 1977. We have two children Oliver & Charlotte both are married and last year I became a grandmother to a beautiful granddaughter. I am a Easton village hall trustee helping to organise fund raising events of which this year is the return of our village fete. I also play boules in the valley league.

Valley Moment: Winning the valley cup at boules for Easton

Champagne moment: The birth of my granddaughter in November.

Surprising Snippet: I am training to ring bells at St Mary's Church.

Passion: My family including our Labradors.

Favourite place in Hampshire: St Catherine's Hill

Best thing about the Valley : The great community spirit and the Itchen list.

Worst thing about the Valley:

Muddy walks in the winter

Favourite film: Sliding Doors. I love a chick flick.

Favourite one liner: Once said to me by a gentlemen who was collecting a pudding for his wife at a party: *A happy wife is a happy life.*

Upper Itchen Valley Society summer party

Very many thanks to Fi and Rhys who kindly lent their beautiful garden in Avington for the annual UIVS party – with the added bonus of wonderful flower arrangements ready for another party the next day. It was a lovely venue on a perfect evening, and about sixty members enjoyed the chance to catch up over wine and canapes. New members are always welcome – contact lucyvarcoe@gmail.com
Rolls Coleman, Treasurer (and bartender)



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Sally Stanyard	Tue	4.15 pm - 7.45 pm		Sally	01962 776562
School of Dance	Thu	6.45 pm and Fri 4.15 pm			
	Sat	9 am - 11.30 am			
Moo Music	Wed	6.15 am - 10.15am		Denise	01962 779182
Brew with a View	Wed	5 pm		Ina	01962 779465
Dionne Yoga	Tue	8.15 pm;		Dionne	07961 888676
	Fri	10.30 and 11.45 am			
Mahjong / U3A	Tue	2 - 5 pm		Anne	01420 563393

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Cover photo

Many congratulations to the EMWCC U11 girls cricket team for winning the Brian King County cup.



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The Importance of Being Ernest in the open air

In wonderful weather and in the magical setting of the grounds of Avington House, The Pantaloons gave another of their original interpretations of a well-known play.

On 15 July their four-actor company presented a fast-moving, action-filled performance of Oscar Wilde's most famous play with the clever addition of song, mime and, as always, witty extemporisation. This was a performance which encouraged audience interaction and even referred to the earlier, famous film so that we were all encouraged to exclaim 'A handbag!' in our best Edith Evans manner.

Some of the interpretations, especially those of Lady Bracknell and Miss Prism, were something of a challenge to our usual ideas of these characters but this is all part of the fun of the performance.

It was a most entertaining experience in spite of the occasional air traffic!

Clare Gaster

Seven New Arrivals

From Church lane, Martyr Worthy. Congratulations, firstly to Quentin & Louise of Priory Cottage on the safe



arrival of their daughter Evelyn on 20 June – only the second baby to be born in Church Lane in 26 years, & secondly to Pebble, the Ffennell's lurcher, who successfully delivered 6 puppies on 5 July!

Simon & Lucinda Ffennell

Barbecue & Camping at Avington Park Farm

Robert Stent, with help from David Kennedy and Mark Low, welcomed locals to Avington Park Farm last month for an opportunity to walk along the historic Temple Drive, which is not



usually open to the public, and to join in a barbeque on the farm with the chance to camp overnight.

The Temple Drive was a scenic walk running south from Avington House as far as the current A31, returning down the original driveway from Dukes Lodge to the house. It was created to entertain house guests by showing them the large park and landscaped grounds. It was originally a double beech avenue but unfortunately the diseased trees had to be removed in the 1950s. Recently the path has been cleared and restored with the help of volunteers from the South Downs National Park.



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Everyone had a great evening, using the wonderful hot coals to barbeque a wide assortment of food, ending with ice creams all round. It was the most beautiful evening and the view across Hampshire was spectacular. After dusk, when the day visitors had left, the adults gathered round the camp fire. The children were exhausted after all the excitement and didn't stir until nearly 7:00 the next morning when the smell of coffee and bacon on the barbecue brought everyone out into the fresh morning air. Others had woken early and watched the beautiful sunrise. The children enjoyed washing their faces at the standpipe. It was such a privilege to see the valley from a new angle, as well as learn a bit more about the Stent's farm.

Verity Coleman

The Practical Gardener

I have been reflecting on many things to do with gardens. I firstly feel the Village Flower Show team need our praise and thanks. In common with many activities times are changing. I am a keen gardener but find exhibiting is very difficult. I felt the same at the Valley Gardeners spring show. I had a garden full of flowering bulbs but they failed to impress in a vase in the hall. I grow a lot of fruit and veg but the main reason is for taste yet this is not part of any show. I recently harvested large cucumber, it looked fantastic but something was wrong as it tasted bitter so not fit to eat. I've had a great crop of potatoes but it's not what they look like that matters. I came



home from the Show and picked 1kg of tomatoes yet there was not one shown. It's been a superb year for home grown tomatoes because of the endless sun. In spite of my stupidity with compost, the results have been amazing especially a variety called "Big Daddy". Interestingly the plants grown outside are as good as those in the greenhouse. I guess it's all a matter of luck and I am convinced gardening today is

more about trial and error and what works for you and your garden. The main problem now is the fruit trees which are so laden, I fear branches will break. I estimate the crop is more than double anything I have seen before. I tasted my first eating apple on 14 July and it was juicy and sweet. The plums will be ready to pick before the end of July and soon after blackberries. A simply amazing year after such a cold and wet start.

Even the vegetables have been prolific, so much that I have been freezing the surplus. Peas have been hit by pests but are still a great crop and the second sowing is already in. The key in all of this has been water and my recycling system has been used to the maximum. Few vegetables seem to have deep roots.

Onions are such an easy crop to grow, they need little attention and are so rewarding. One small home grown onion has twice the flavour of anything in the shops, so size is not significant. Anyway many recipes demand different sizes of onion so having them all the same can be unhelpful. I trust the recent sunshine will mean the crop will store well and last.

No annual will survive well without water so even the flower borders have been under stress. Yet geraniums are








just thriving in all this sun, being better equipped for the dry conditions than most. They have produced a truly wonderful display. And they can be kept for another year if potted on into a frost-free environment. The Alstroemeria are still amazing, continual flowers which last well when cut. I bought mine from a specialist supplier and planted them near the house. It's time to sow for next year and Wallflowers and Sweet Williams are two I like.

My big gripe at this time is pests. I have controlled white fly with big yellow cards and different sprays. Here's a tip: add a dose of washing up liquid to the spray and that helps in keeping the plants clear. Roses prone to blackspot need continual spraying (sadly only a chemical is available) and I do this late in the day when it is still and bees are not around. The slug and snail population grew well with the wet start to the year. If you want a cabbage, you have to take precautions and there are many nature-friendly possibilities now. Slugs and secateurs make good companions! I've seen many ladybirds eating blackfly but not our native species.

Happy Gardening. Tony Gaster.





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Supermarket recipe of the month

The internet is a wonderful source for all things cooking and sometimes comes up with ideas I have never come across in my own rather old cookery books. A couple of weeks ago I decided to make a quiche but didn't want to have the oven on in

the hot weather.

To my great surprise I found a quiche recipe that can be cooked in a pressure cooker, thereby saving me from sweltering in the kitchen. OK, it doesn't have a pastry base but it is very simple to prepare.

The recipe itself is wonderfully vague about quantities and merely suggests that I fry together some onion, garlic, bacon and mushrooms. When



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cooked you need to add some spinach until suitably wilted. Then add six eggs and a 200g pack of feta cheese. Stir well and pour into a suitable flan tin (about 7 inch in diameter works fine).

I then cooked it at high pressure for 20 minutes but those of you without a pressure cooker could, I guess, steam it for double that time – or until it looks cooked. Served with a salad and some fresh bread rolls it went down a treat.

The webpage calls it Alexandra's Crustless Quiche but I have been unable to find out who Alexandra is to give her credit for this excellent invention.

Sue Sheph

Avington Car Boot Sale

The inaugural Avington Car Boot event was held in the grounds of Avington Park on Sunday 1 July.

Bright sunshine brought crowds of eager bargain hunters to come and explore the 40 or so 'car boots' made up of professional booters and locals happy to have the opportunity for a clear out!



Visitors were also able to enjoy the Pimms and Strawberry stall as well buy cakes and plants.

All in all the successful day raised in

excess of
£2,000 for
the Itchen
Valley
Churches.
Thank you!
Vicky Low



Local monthly information

Waste collections in August

Black bins and green bags on Friday 3 and 17 August. Green bins on Friday 10 and 24 August.

Cameo

On Tuesday 21 August.

Farmers' Market in Winchester

Sundays 12 and 26 August.

Parish Council Full Meeting

No meeting in August

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

School holiday timetable operates all month.

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

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