ISSUE 59 November 2018 For Avington, Easter, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



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WELCOME to the Valley News



November! Many of us will have vague memories of the gloomy poem by Thomas Hood:

No sun - no moon!

No morn - no noon -

No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day. No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease.

No comfortable feel in any member -No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -November!

However, after the summer we have had this year we cannot complain if it does turn dull. And you can see November in with a Light Party. One 'What's On' item is actually in October, on the last day, and thus the eve (in the sense of evening before) of All Saints' Day, when traditionally (since at least the eighth century) the church has remembered the Saints, especially those who have no special feast day of their own. It is also known as All Hallows, hence Halloween for the eve(ning) before. I have an old paperback of an Agatha Christie book called Halloween Party where they use an apostrophe and spell it Hallowe'en, making the origin of the word clearer. If you don't want to indulge in the modern ghosties and Ghoulies, come to St John's, Itchen Abbas, at 5pm for a Light Party.

I have always felt particularly sorry for those who were killed in the last hours of the Great War, and wondered whether it was worth delaying the end of hostilities until the resonant 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, but it was pointed out to me that in those days of communication by field telephone or hand delivered message it was indeed necessary to allow time for the news to reach everyone before the ceasefire came into effect. Nevertheless, imagine hearing that your loved one had been killed after you had heard the news of the Armistice — this must have happened in some cases, especially since the news did not reach the fighters in Africa and elsewhere for many days after. I found a lot of interesting and heart breaking information on the internet. I hope our commemorations will be well attended, especially by the young - see Page II (where else!) for details. Next month's editor is Tony Gaster. Charlotte Appleby

Itchen Valley News

Chief Editor Vernon Tottle

Editors Charlotte Appleby, Verity Coleman, Tony Gaster, Fiona

McIntosh, Lucy Wolfe

Advertising Jenny Sloan

Lyn Jones IA&A 07899 922221 Distribution

Gilly Greenwood E&MW 779540

Treasurer

For editorial enquiries, articles, letters or

comments, please email: itchenvalleynews@gmail.com.

For advertising enquiries, please email:

itchenvalleyadvertising@gmail.com

Postal address: Itchen Valley News, Hazeldene, Northington Road, Itchen Abbas, SO21 IBE Please send all contributions for December 2018 by Monday 15 November. 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 Vernon Tottle, other photos from Gerry Whitlow and various contributors.

What's on

Wednesday 31 October

Avoid scary US import trick or treating and bring your children to the Light Party - see opposite.

Tuesday 6 November

Upper Itchen Valley AGM, with speaker Tim Slaney, Director of Planning for South Downs National Park. Martyr Worthy Village Hall, 7pm

Thursday 8 November Easton WI

Meeting, 7.15 at Easton Village Hall, when George Mann will be talking about his Ten Year Study of the River Itchen at Martyr Worthy. Guests very welcome.

Sallie Peake

Saturday 10 November Remember, remember!

Come and join us for our annual Bonfire and Fireworks celebrations including a best guy competition at Easton Village Hall on Saturday 10 November. Bring your family, friends and homemade guys from 6pm onwards and enjoy a cup of mulled wine and other refreshments, hot dogs, cakes and glow sticks. At around 6:30, after all the guys have been judged, the bonfire will be lit followed by our fantastic fireworks!! See you there! Ina Williams on behalf of Easton Village Hall

Sunday II November

The 100th anniversary of the Armistice

that ended the Great War, at I I am - an historic moment. See Page I I for details of commemorations in the Valley.



Wednesday 14 November, Winchester Churches Nightshelter

invites you to its annual Supporters' Evening and AGM at the Pastoral Centre, St Peter's Church, Jewry St. What does it take to move someone on from homelessness? Join them at this year's Supporters' Evening and AGM to find out how the Nightshelter's wide-ranging services are helping people get their lives back on track - from employment support to counselling, cookery to budgeting, plus so much more. Come and hear the residents' stories about how "it takes more than a house to make a home."

All welcome, no need to book. Doors open at 6.15pm, short AGM commences at 6.45pm. Light refreshments will be available. For more information please email admin@wcns.org.uk or call 862050.

Saturday 17 November

The Friends of Itchen Abbas Primary School PTA are holding their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 17 Nov at 3-5.30pm at Itchen Abbas Village Hall. It's the most popular fundraising event in our school calendar and we are delighted that Santa has agreed to take time out from his very busy schedule to come along and meet our children again this year.

Other attractions include a chocolate and bottle tombola, children's festive games, toys, books, home produce, crafts and a raffle offering four fabulous luxury hampers amongst other goodies. And of course there'll be cakes and refreshments with a very festive feel to get you into the Christmas spirit!

Our fundraising events wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our parents and supporters in the local



Please come along to our Light Party

on Wednesday 31st October at 5pm - 6.30pm St John's Church, Itchen Abbas

Games, Activities, Music and Crafts
Hot Dogs and Ice Cream Bar
Fun Photo Booth

fancy dress optional - non Halloween
RSVP to admin@itchenvalleychurches.org



community and we would be very grateful for donations of :-

- Unwanted books or toys in good condition
- Bottles of wine/spirits
- Raffle prizes; unwanted gifts, vouchers

and for all you home growers and bakers out there, any jams, preserves, chutneys or other produce. These can be left at the school office by Friday 16 November or I am happy to collect and can be contacted at thestudio23@me.com or on 07766 740572. Many thanks. Sarah Banks

Sunday 18 November

Watercress Way Quiz 8 pm at the Plough, Itchen Abbas. £5 per person. Details on page 7.

Kim Adams

Friday 23 November

Don't miss this opportunity to meet your local Police team.

Andrew Salmon, the Itchen Abbas Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, has been liaising with



Sgt Bethan Wood who runs our local rural policing team. She would love the opportunity to let us all know what they are doing behind the scenes and allow us to ask the team questions about any topic of concern or interest. The meeting has been arranged for Friday 23 November starting at 7pm at the Easton Village Hall.

Continued on P7





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The hall and the police have been booked for 2 hours, but the duration will really depend on the interaction we all have with them. For topics to be covered, I currently have the following:

- Nottingham Knockers door to door traders and scams
- Cyber crimes telephone and computer
- Speeding
- Local burglaries
- Thefts from rural car parks
- Theft from cars in driveways (keyless systems)



Quiz starts at 8.00pm

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kimwatercressway @gmail.com

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We are raising funds to help increase access to and enjoyment of the two disused railway lines and linking droves making up the 26 mile trail

www.watercressway.org.uk

01962 779191 Dogs welcome

If anyone would like to attend, or add additional topics, please email me:-asalmon@traand.co.uk.

This is open to anyone in the valley, not just Itchen Abbas residents.

Andrew Salmon

Martyr Worthy Children's Christmas Party

All children aged 3 to 8 who live in or have a family connection with Martyr Worthy are warmly invited to a Children's Christmas Party to be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday I December** from 3 to 5pm.

Entertainment will be provided by the ever popular Robbie the Wizard, followed by a party tea. Attendance is free but parents/grandparents are asked to contribute a plate of food and are, of course, very welcome to stay

Please contact Sara Mason (07787 538306 or splmason@hotmail.co.uk) for further details and to book your place. We look forward to seeing you: the more the merrier.

Guy Green

Sunday 2 December

and enjoy the fun.

It's the season to be jolly...
Easton Village Hall invites you to our 2018 Christmas Fayre during the afternoon of 2 December. Get into the Christmas spirit with festive produce, decorations, crafts and presents and relax with a hot drink and mince pies.

Ina Williams on behalf of Easton Village Hall

Saturday 8 December Carols for Everyone

Come and join Alresford Community Choir for a traditional Christmas concert, to be held in St John's Church, Alresford. Our programme will include beautiful festive pieces from around the world as well as familiar carols and classic Christmas songs, with several opportunities for the audience to sing with us.

Doors open 7pm, the concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £12-£15 each from Oakleaf Stationery, Alresford and www.alresfordchoir.com

Keith Chambers 07834 303466

And finally, for your diaries

Easton Pantomime **Sinbad the Sailor**. Performances 12 – 15 December. Please see poster on page 29 for full details.

Christmas concert 19 December see opposite.

And looking even further ahead to next year's diary: **Easton's ABBA Party Night-** 19 January 2019 Get ready to shake the winter blues away. Further information to follow in next month's issue.

An Evening of Folk

What do you get if you amalgamate a group of musicians who love to make music with a group of locals looking forward to being entertained? The answer is Easton Village Hall, packed out with an enthusiastic audience to listen to the Itchen Folk Band on an astonishingly balmy October evening, when £700 was raised for charity, shared between the village hall fund and research into prostate cancer. The evening was arranged by Tony and Sandra Hurling, who live in Easton and





You're invited to

MARTYR WORTHY

'CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

All children aged 3 to 8 who live in or have a family connection with Martyr Worthy are warmly invited to a Children's Christmas Party to be held in the Village Hall on



Saturday 1 December 2018 from 3 to 5pm

Entertainment will be the ever popular Robbie the Wizard, followed by a tea party.

Attendance is free but parents are asked to contribute a plate of food and are,
of course, very welcome to stay and enjoy the fun.

RSVP Sara Mason: 07787538306 or splmason@hotmail.co.uk

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

ITCHEN VALLEY CHOIR

Do come and join us – we will be singing a lovely selection of traditional and contemporary Christmas music and audience participation always adds to our special concerts.

ITCHEN ABBAS VILLAGE HALL

Wednesday 19 December at 7.45pm

Admission £10 on the night – to include a glass of wine and a finger buffet supper

are members of the band, and the legendary Ina Williams. The village hall committee organised the set up at the hall and Simon Broadley ran the bar. Iris Lacey and Sally Stone surpassed themselves with a wonderful buffet of cheese and cold meats and lots of tempting cake.



The band played folk music, familiar and less well known, from Ireland, America, England and more, and everyone joined in the chat and cheering and

sang the choruses with gusto. John Wilkinson (photo) has taught more than 300 budding musicians using his trusty guitar (left) and also brought along his newer Portuguese guitar with its eye catching shape (right). It all contributed to a great village party with a wonderful atmosphere.

Verity Coleman

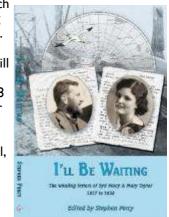
Easton W.I.

We welcomed guests to our open meeting in October when Steve Percy explained how a conversation with his 95 year old mother, Mary, led him to research his father Syd's family history. The sixth of eight children, Syd was born in 1907 in Everton. At the age of 23 he had gained a BSc in Chemistry when he joined Lever Brothers where he met Mary. In 1937 he volunteered to join a whaling trip to Antarctica as chemist on the factory ship ensuring quality of the oil was maintained. On his return he married Mary and they



raised 6 children on the Wirral. Steve visited the British Library to search the archives of the Port Sunlight Magazine where he learned much about his father 's interests in rock climbing, rugby and amateur dramatics. We found his family's history fascinating and enjoyed reading articles, publications and letters relating to the

lives of such interesting characters. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 8 November 7.15 at Easton Village Hall, when George Mann will be talking about his



Ten Year Study of the River Itchen at Martyr Worthy. Guests very welcome. Sallie Peake

Watercress way guided walk

The Ordnance Survey's challenge to encourage up to a million people to get outdoors on the last day of September was taken up by The Watercress Way charity. 37 people and 9 dogs joined



The Parish of the Itchen Valley

Acts of Remembrance

Sunday 11 November to mark the 100th Anniversary of the end of The First World War

10.00 am St Mary's Avington

10.30 am St Mary's Easton

10.30 am St John's Itchen Abbas

10.50 am St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

11.00 am Remembrance Day Service

St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

6.00 pm Sung Evensong, St Mary's Easton

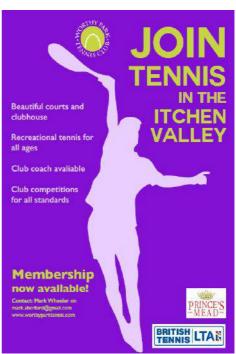
A very special

Remembrance Sung Evensong at St Mary's Easton with Itchen Valley Churches Choir

led by Maj Gen Tim Tyler











me and trustee Clive Cook on a six-mile guided ramble in and around New and Old Alresford, taking in the eastern part of the newly formed 26 mile circular walk based on disused railway lines and historic rights of way. The sun beamed down from a beautiful early autumn sky as the group, ranging from 4 years old

to 80, put their best boots and paws forwards and moved off from their very appropriate starting point of Alresford train station, home to the hugely popular Watercress Line steam railway.

The group were given route maps and comprehensive notes on what they would see, pausing frequently to learn from the trustees. Highlights were: French Napoleonic prisoner of war graves, a US military dog grave, Saxon Roods, Broad Sreet sheep fairs, ghosts of Lidos past, the link to the Sargasso sea and the Eel house, Marrakesh style tanneries, the Pinglestone road running along the River Arle's bed, Fob Down's Romano-British settlement (now a beautiful new vineyard), the octagonal Toll house, ancient heronries and traditional watercress beds in Spring Gardens with their 'Roke' autumnal mists.

The circular route was designed to allow those that did not want to attempt the full six miles to wave cheerily goodbye and head back to the start via shortcuts and the route is now on the OS website for all to look up. The long term aim of the charity is to increase access to the old track bed, or as near as possible to it, to make a seven mile safe walking, cycling and



horse riding route west to Kings Worthy

Three of the Charity's sponsors from Alresford, The Globe, Horse and Groom and The Bell pubs, also contributed to the day, playing host to many of the hungry walkers More information and details of the walk and others along The Watercress Way trail may be found at wwwthewatercressway.org.uk Kim Adams

Harvest celebrations in the Itchen Valley

On Sunday 14 October, the Itchen Valley held its annual Harvest Festival Parish Communion service in St John's Church, Itchen Abbas. Richard Pitt from Tearfund gave an interesting talk

on how this organisation helps people in poorer countries to become self-sufficient. A short film was shown portraying a lady from



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the Congo in Africa who was given the opportunity to undertake a sewing course. She now uses a machine to produce clothes to sell, which brings in money to help pay for her family's needs.

The flower arrangers had done a splendid job, decorating the church windowsills with stunning harvest arrangements that included attractive small red crab apples, bunches of grapes and an enormous pumpkin. Afterwards 42 people sat down to a delicious Harvest Lunch in the village hall provided by Jill Croft and her team of helpers. We were treated to a tasty chicken casserole accompanied by baked potatoes. This was followed by a delicious plum crumble, which Tony Gaster had produced using fruit from his garden. The tables were decorated with attractive flower arrangements done by Julie Taylor.

The lunch, together with the glasses of The Wessex Wild Plum Company's golden plum liqueur, which were handed out to the congregation after the service, made a fitting harvest celebration for the Itchen Valley. Arminel Tottle

Our Wild Valley - Windy wild days

The rook, the red kite and the magpie. It sounds like the title of an Aesop's fable, but I saw them today; the magpie scratching at the red kite from below, the rook hassling the red kite from above. The red kite acted as if flying on a string, twisting and flicking with a swish of its tail, yet its wings out straight, as if keeping a calm lid on all the drama. I'm not sure how bothered the kite was by its hecklers, and whether it just shrugged its shoulders and headed on west above the tree line. I am seeing at least one red kite frequently over the old railway track,

up on the school hill and luckily over our garden too. The kite could easily take any small animal or bird if given a chance but they also eat carrion -



whereby they have been easily poisoned.

What I do find amazing is that they are one of the lightest birds of prey (about Ikg) so they can take off easily from the ground and this is what gives them that effortless manner of flying when they are airborne. The lightest movement of wing balances out any alterations in wind; a sailor or pilot would be proud to act even as tenth as fast. At one with the wind, I think so,

and a really fantastic and successful bird, spreading its breeding range south from where I grew up in the Chiltern Hills where it was introduced in the 1980s and 1990s, on the Getty estate. Birds were brought over from Spain. Numbers had fallen low due to persecution and the use of pesticides in the 1960s. They are successfully breeding in the south-east, their range continually spreading and I think we have at least one pair locally if not more now. But watch out for your picnics - in Marlow, in the park by the river, they now have signs up to warn picnickers to watch out for the birds swooping down to thieve a sandwich. Reports say they have been seen taking sausages off a BBQ or trying to take pet dogs. Rather disappointing behaviour for such an elemental bird, behaving like a gull, but then again gulls could also compete for the best flying acrobatic award too!

This successful re-introduction into our countryside could only have worked if the habitat was there. Other future introductions may not be so successful if the habitat has gone, deteriorated too far or is isolated, and our local wild creatures are under threat from continued expansion of human infrastructure, pollution and 'busyness'. Search "Packham peoples manifesto" for a read of 200 ideas from scientists and campaigners of all ages. I think this is trying to offer a practical, sometimes radical and hopeful approach in helping out UK wildlife now from all of us. including benefiting our own mental health and mental health of our younger generations.

Enjoy the weather whatever it brings, and do look up for beautiful trees, leaves and maybe beautiful birds.

Sophie Rogers

Ring, ring. Is that the library?

Our upstream correspondent, Di Hardy, has alerted the Itchen Valley News to the recent refurbishment of

the two redundant telephone boxes in Ovington and Itchen Stoke. These now gleaming red icons of British design owe their current splendid state to Ovington volunteers Barry and Phil who, together with John, have worked hard to help them reach their pristine state.



The one at Itchen Stoke is seeing the start

Ovington kiosk

of a local library service (more books are welcome) whilst the fate of the

remains at present undecided; a defibrillator has been one suggestion. Any readers not familiar with this area of the valley might like to see both boxes by walking from Itchen Stoke (parking is available down the

lane opposite the

church) along the

footpath leading



upstream to Ovington. This must be one of the few parts of the Itchen where one can walk with the river on both sides of the path. St Mary's church at Itchen Stoke is always worth a visit if for no other reason than to walk around the indoor maze whilst the Bush Inn at Ovington makes a good halfway stopping point.



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Mike Bolton 1929 – 2018

Mike moved to Hampshire with his family in 1964. At that time he had (in common with many of his peers) experienced



evacuation, air raids and national service. He'd completed an English degree, been sent home from the Congo with tuberculosis, spent eighteen months in a convalescent home; had two satisfied employers, a wife and three children (his fourth child was born in Hampshire). Mike's new role was with Eli Lilly in Basingstoke and he stayed with the pharmaceutical company for the remainder of his working life, spending time in Indianapolis (1971) and Speke (1972 – 1982) before returning to Basingstoke. Mike and Cynthia started their Hampshire life in Ellisfield; when they returned in 1982 it was to Itchen Abbas and a new-build house that Mike named Beeching after the trees in the back garden and the politician who had closed the railway line on which the house stands.

After his retirement in 1989, Mike became involved with the Winchester Lions. He cycled, learned golf and walked. Both he and Cynthia loved mountains and spent many holidays in the Austrian Alps. They houseswapped with friends from New Zealand and explored other landscapes.

Mike's Alzheimers was diagnosed shortly before Cynthia's death in 2007. Though he managed to stay in Beeching with the wonderful support of several live-in carers, he eventually moved into residential care. Mike spent several muddled but happy years in Cornwall close to his eldest son; he was able to engage with his great-grandchildren, whose innocent activities gave him great pleasure. Sadly, Mike died in May this year. His funeral was held in Cornwall, but his ashes will be interred next to Cynthia's in the graveyard at Itchen Abbas; the ceremony will be at I I am on 3rd November.

Mike was a friendly, happy man with a lively sense of the ridiculous. He leaves four children, ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. We are immeasurably grateful to him for his care, love, wisdom and companionship. Any local friends who would like to remember him with us on 3 November are most welcome, both to the ceremony at the church and in the Village Hall afterwards.

Nigel Anthony Smith 1946 – 2018

On 17 June Nigel passed away, peacefully, after a long illness, to the very end a kind and generous soul. You may remember Nigel's Easton Panto performances, or in his roles volunteering at the Winchester Carer's centre, or most likely seeing him walking along with his border collie.

Born in
Brighton, Nigel
left the local
grammar
school with a
scholarship to
Imperial
College
London to
read Physics
and Chemistry,
but he turned



Martyr Worthy Lecture Series 2018/19

at Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, SO21 1BQ from 7.00pm for a complimentary glass of wine and canap s



Friday 16th November 2018

EASTERN ENCOUNTERS

PASSAGES TO INDIA ~ John Lang

John Lang combines a brief look at the history of India and the years of the East India Company and British Raj, with England's relentless quest to find more efficient and faster ways of linking the two countries to improve trade, travel and the carriage of news.

Saturday 26th January 2019 - Michael Chance CBE

Curtain up for an Opera!

Tuesday 26th February 2019 ~ Dr Andrew Monaghan

WHAT IS POWER IN MODERN RUSSIA?

Tickets are £20 each from www.itchenvalleychurches.org/fundraising enquiries Gilly Greenwood 01962 779540 or Verity Coleman 01962 882800

that down so he could attend a different University and meet a broader variety of people studying more varied subjects. The happy result was that he made many lifelong friends who came from the Psychology, Arts and Classics fields of interest. He also captained the chess and debating teams while still finding time for meeting with friends in the pub.

After completing his Post-doctorate in theoretical physics from Strasbourg, Nigel chose to go into industry rather than academia, joining the Tektronix company in Amsterdam then moving on to Oregon in the USA, where he married, and his daughter was born. A little start-up company called Microsoft caught his eye, and when he approached them he was instantly offered the job of starting their marketing department, at the time finding their accounting in a shoe box,

he enjoyed his time there very much. Nigel chose early retirement, so he could spend more time with family and projects at home, returning to England in 1993 and moving into Easton Lodge. Nigel always enjoyed eclectic reading and helping people out with their businesses, but his last hobby was to learn another language with an interesting alphabet. He chose to study the Russian language and culture, taking another degree and winning a prize, for the fun of it.

Nigel clearly enjoyed serious studies, but he also had a light witty side to his personality which allowed him to find humour until the very end of his life, sadly lost to early onset dementia. Nigel is survived by his daughter Anthea and granddaughter Ella. He is sorely missed.

Susie Smith

Itchen Valley Churches

4th November

8am BCP Holy Communion St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

10am All Age Worship St Mary's, Easton 6pm All Souls Service St John's, Itchen Abbas

11th November (Remembrance Sunday)

10.50am Parish Communion St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy 6pm Choral Evensong St Mary's, Easton

18th November

8am BCP Holy Communion St John's, Itchen Abbas

11am St Mary's Friends Service

and Valley Worship St Mary's, Easton

25th November

10am Parish Communion St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

6pm Evensong St Mary's, Avington

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

All Souls' Day Service - In the service, during a time of special prayer, we will mention by name all those whose funerals have been conducted in the Itchen Valley during the last 3 years, together with any other names given in before or during the service. Later in the service, everyone present will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved ones and leave it burning on the altar as a visible sign of remembrance.

Churchwardens

Robin Greenwood 779540 Andrew Impey 779645 Theo Mezger 07775 908014 Vanessa Rosewell 841182 Tony Gaster 779110 Nick Owen 779162



Itchen Abbas School Christmas Fair

Saturday 17th November 3pm - 5.30pm Itchen Abbas Village Hall

Come and meet Santa at his wonderful Grotto

Refreshments

Cakes

Produce

Tombola

Crafts

Gifts to Buy

Raffle

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A Tale of a Dog

When I was walking round the grounds of Avington Park discussing the pending fete with Sarah Bullen, we talked, amongst other things, about incentives for me and Ken to walk more and she said we should have a dog. My response was that we'd thought of it but didn't

particularly want to change our life style, or have all the responsibility a dog would bring, but she suggested the perfect answer. Our lovely next door neighbour's children were desperate for a dog, but because of work commitments and school it wouldn't

be fair on one, so we could dog share! I was surprised, but the more I thought about it the better it felt.

I shared my thoughts with Ken who was instantly enthusiastic, but we didn't broach it to Vicky or Mark when the children were around - just in case. Happily they, too, thought it was a brilliant idea, so the plot was hatched. The children weren't to be told until we had a suitable dog to buy, so we sat

with some wine one evening, as you do, and made a list of what we would like or need in a dog. Then began the search. Originally we looked for a rescue dog but after a few weeks realised that it

was a puppy we had to find and that was easier said than done. We had identified a few difficult criteria on our 'want' list, like the need for a dog that would not shed its coat to trigger existing allergies, none of us wanted a large animal and I won't mention who said that it had to be decorative! The rules would be that it would be a polite, well trained dog, with both

homes following the same commands, the same food, and having beds, leads, toys etc in each. All bills would be split down the middle and it would have its own bank account for regular payments out for medical insurance etc.

Summer of 2016,

we heard of the birth of our little cockapoo puppy. We were so excited but it was still very hush hush so one Saturday morning, our neighbours went off to 'do the supermarket shop' knowing that the children would not want to go with them, and came back with a tiny Merlin to surprise them. He is a complete joy. Now 2 years old, Merlin is dropped off to us when the children go to school and collected

each evening when they get back. He stays with them each night and each weekend, and when either family are away he is with the other one. As it has been the arrangement all his



life it is completely natural, so he is a lucky little thing, well trained and everything we ever wanted a pet to be. He is surrounded by people who adore him, in a safe and secure environment and is rarely home alone for more than an hour or two. There is never a need for him to go into kennels and he even stays with other loving neighbours on the unusual times when we're all away. He is our little pocket rocket, likes his walks, to go out in the car, to play and loves all of his extended family. None of us would be without him now.

None of us would be without him now It is a perfect arrangement to dog share.

Judy Thomas

Jackie's County Corner



more pressure. More cuts in the region of £80m are planned in HCC before 2021 and you will see information related to that titled Tt2021 in future consultations. County Councils are particularly under pressure because their statutory role includes Social Services both for adults & children. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) funding need is growing, but the money per child is diminishing.

The County Councils are under even

Despite the population living to a good age, the health of many of us diminishes in our last years, and the number of

over 80's is growing rapidly.

The challenge for our County Council is to extract money from the Government to meet those needs. If not, this council, like others, will be forced to cut even more if not all of the non-statutory services e.g.:

Alresford Recycling Centre, Library, some elements of the countryside service.

Thank you for your comments about potential bus charges for senior citizens - you can complete my simple survey online www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/busfares

I was pleased to make my comments to the first HCC plan to improve the Adoption of Roads process. Since my first formal Council question on this subject, I have been working with the Officer to describe the difficulties in my division for some years, and this paper links to that original query. This is a 'bit nerdy' but if it affects you, please contact me for more details. It is expected that by 2027 over half of

the cars sold will be electric and at the October 'Café Scientific' meeting, we heard about the challenges and opportunities that will bring for us all as we charge them in our homes, on street and at work. If you are an electric car owner, please contact me to join my EC Forum so you can tell me what you think the Council should be doing to enable the use of these vehicles.

Which brings me to the subject of Affordable Homes. We all see applications for the larger new private developments: they must offer up to 40% affordable homes, but these are not exclusively for local people who have local connections. Many people say, 'if we could add just a few more houses, family members could help each other'.

You will have seen that the Micheldever New Town proposal is back on the agenda. These households won't be exclusively for local people: but exception housing is. Please look at every possibility in your community: exception housing sites can be small; as little as three or four homes if necessary. It could even help your family one day.

On World Mental Health Day in October, I attended a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services conference on Eating Disorders. If you would like more information, and support, go to www.Beateatingdisor ders.org.uk. It is no secret that early diagnosis means faster recovery. Cllr Jackie Porter : 01962 791054, Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk,

From Our MP

First up and it was standing room only last month at a Dever Society public meeting to hear local opposition from myself and many others about 6000 proposed houses at Micheldever Station.

The multi-millionaire Magnier family, who run an Irish bloodstock business, recently bought the land and hired the O'Flynn Group to work up proposals for a new town the size of Petersfield between Micheldever and



Steve Brine addressing a large public meeting in Micheldever Station.

Micheldever Station. I have worked with the Dever Society for well over a decade to save this land and told the meeting I am angry that we seem to be here again and I really do wonder how many times we have to say no to a new town at Micheldever Station.

Of course this country needs new homes but Conservative run Winchester District is more than doing its bit, both through its new council homes programme and a signed off Local Plan. My message to the developer is this; if you submit these proposals you will face the same united local opposition you did last time and the time before. And my message to Winchester City Council, who I understand must follow due process to the letter as they set about reviewing their Local Plan, is to rule out Micheldever later this year when you get the chance because it's simply not needed by any measure you or Central Government are working to. There is more and a short-film at www.stevebrine.com/michnewtown

I have written before about my work in Government at the Department of Health and, specifically, as Cancer Minister. This part of my job means a great deal to me and I've been working flat out in recent months to land the big announcement you may have heard the Prime Minister make in her conference speech; a new ambition to tackle cancer and save thousands of lives.

As part of the long term plan for the NHS, backed by the new investment which will in time be some £600m extra each week, a package of measures will be rolled out with the aim of seeing three quarters of all cancers detected at an early stage by 2028. The plan will radically overhaul screening programmes, provide new

The Itchen Valley News needs a treasurer

Since Andrew Kennedy died in July, the Itchen Valley News has been without an honorary treasurer. I have been filling in on a temporary basis but we do need to appoint a replacement. The work usually takes little more than half an hour each month although, when readers' donations are received in June and advertisers' remittances arrive in December, there is more effort required. The magazine's annual income is around £8,500 and there are around 300 transactions per year. All bank payments are made online through the magazine's HSBC account. The accounting records are currently maintained on a spreadsheet with annual and occasional interim accounts (when requested by the Chief Editor) being generated automatically. As a member of the magazine team, the treasurer is also invited to participate in monthly team meetings if desired.

If you would like to help your local magazine in this way, please let me know. Vernon Tottle Chief Editor (and acting treasurer) itchenvalleynews@gmail.com or 779611

investment in state of the art technology to transform the process of diagnosis, and boost research and innovation.

This is a key part of our plan and we will harness the power of new technologies and innovations to offer people more screening and treatment options and save thousands more lives over the next ten years. I am so excited to be leading this work inside Government working with some of the best people in the NHS and our world-class charities in this sector.

And finally, I have once again thrown open my allocation of tickets to PMQs via public ballot and the next date I have is Wednesday 5 Dec 2018. See details via www.stevebrine.com/PMQs You can find more of my work, locally and in Westminster, on my new website at www.stevebrine.com Steve Brine

MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

St John's Church

There's been a lot of activity recently due to an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Prior to the celebrations for Harvest Festival, the church was given a thorough clean. Whilst the ladies (Elizabeth Bouldin. Joan Dartnall, Charlotte Appleby, Arminel Tottle, Brigid Brett and Sarah Hunt) were busy at their tasks, two "supervisors" were photographed with a duster.



Outside, the regular churchyard working party has been particularly active. Visitors will also note that there is a new surface to the path from the lychgate to the church. Lighting has also been provided, switched at both ends. The lights were designed and built by Patrick Appleby. This is a project costing around £8,000, first considered seven years ago to make access easier and safer for those with pushchairs and wheelchairs.

St Johns is a busy community building also housing the parish office. It has the advantage of a kitchen, toilet and warmth!

Tony Gaster, Churchwarden

The Practical Gardener

Every month I comment on unusual weather but here we are in mid-October, still with very warm temperatures. It's a constant challenge about what to do when or indeed when to do what. But it's certainly the

time of year to prepare for frost, so I am starting to dig up tender plants for overwintering in the greenhouse. The greenhouse itself needs a thorough clean both inside and out and I use my small pressure washer to do that. I am now completely clear that there is no cure for whitefly, I've tried everything in the book, looked up all the technology and am defeated. Those little beasts that sit on the underside of leaves can just enjoy life! Perhaps like me you have seen an army of ladybirds appear. Yet they don't eat the aphids but rather want to go into the sheds. You would have to live a very sheltered life to say things were not changing!

I have a very bumpy back lawn, so an attempt has been made to correct this. Using a mix of plastering sand (because it's free-flowing) and fine sifted soil spread in the dips, I am hoping all will be well. Grass will normally grow through I-2cm of soil so reseeding is not necessary. I'm sorry to report





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PETER BRAY

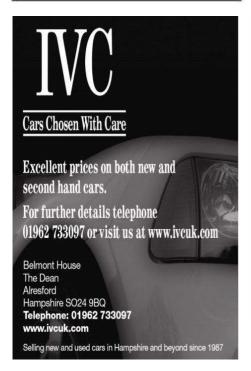
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chafer bugs have returned and the only treatment is to use nematodes. It's a costly business but they eat the grass roots so left untreated means no lawn at all.



Autumn is a time for colour and leaves are starting to change. My trusty leaf-sweeper, unused since December, started first pull. It's a noisy machine and heavy to use but very effective. Leaves can take a long time to rot but the final result, leaf mould, is wonderful to use as a top dressing.

I store apples in my garage but every two weeks I need to inspect the trays and remove those which have rotted. However it's a low-cost solution and quite effective. Bramleys will keep 6 months over winter. I also have sacks of potatoes and the only issue here is mice. It's also sensible to store potatoes in the dark and in a separate space from onions.

For me, growing produce is all about flavour. So I issue a new challenge to those who organise shows. Fruit and veg are not for a fashion show, so how they look is irrelevant; it's what they taste like which matters. We can all remember the French Golden Delicious apple, perfect in size and uniform appearance but without any taste – ugh!

It's also bulb planting time. I am fed up with daffodils in the flower borders lolling all over everything else. So this

year I have cut back the lawn by a hedge and planted hundreds of bulbs which can stay undisturbed. We shall have a great view from the house. Tulips I still think do better in pots, also kept near the house so not a temptation for squirrels.

A final task is to look at conventional fruit trees, maybe take



photos, so that in the dormant season, pruning can be done. Not only is this necessary but also good to provide easier access for harvesting fruit. My solution to the tall plum tree is to prune back hard but not until the spring.

Happy Gardening. Tony Gaster.

Comings and goings

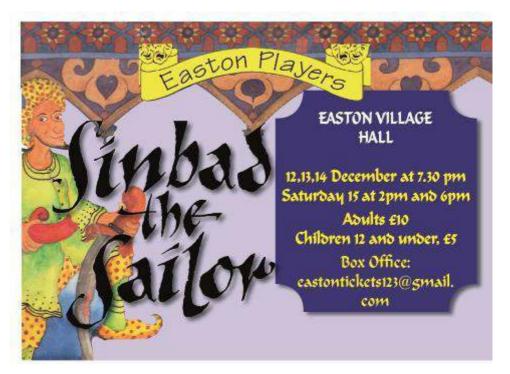
We say farewell to Chris and Tim Player, Tim was for many years treasurer of the Itchen Abbas and Avington magazine, before the great amalgamation.

Welcome to Camille and Sam, who have moved from Winchester to No 2 The Terrace, Easton. Both work locally. Thus we say goodbye to Lyn and Chris Miller who have left No 2 The Terrace for Dorset

Also welcome to Lena Elizabeth born

on Monday 24 September to the Allured family, Lara, Ben and brothers Seb and Theo.





Easton WI

As part of W.I. Centenary Celebrations, ten Easton W.I. ladies bravely entered the Choral Speaking Competition which took place on 22 September at Barton Peveril sixth form college.

We had a lot of fun rehearsing in the weeks before

with help from Steve Percy and Beth Smith. Our performance of The Hat From Hell by Pam Ayres and Stately As A Galleon by Joyce Grenfell really came alive. "Very entertaining" said the judge.

We came fourth in the competition but despite that were asked to take part on the performance day. We declined and decided to rest upon our laurels. Thank you Beth and Steve from Les Girls.

From Jill Croft and Jean Wheeler



Easton Village Hall Ina Williams 779465 or evh.booking@googlemail.com					
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Ems Bray Pilates	Tue	8:45 Thu 9am		Emily	07876 033893
Sally Stanyard	Tue	4.15 pm - 7.45		Sally	01962 776562
School of Dance	Thu	6.45 pm and Fri		Sally	01702770302
	Sat	9 am - 2.30 pm			
Brew with a View	Wed	3 - 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
Sinbad the Sailor	Wed	7.30 pm		Anna	01962 779350
Easton panto				Ina	01962 779465
Martyr Worthy Village Hall					
Lucinda Ffennell 779701 or simon@ffennell.plus.com					
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Can you help?

The aerial photograph shown below has recently come to the attention of the Itchen Valley News. Clearly it shows the Edmonds Engineering works in Itchen Abbas, some years before the village hall was built on the site. Can any of our readers give a realistic guess as to the year it was taken? Alas the original photo has no date on the back. A full size image can be supplied on request.

Do send your conclusions to itchenvalleynews@gmail.com Vernon Tottle Chief Editor



From our City Councillors

Winchester High Street Defence Barriers, formed of planters, seats and anti-ram raid drop and static bollards, will be fitted mid October to early November. They will be replaced one by one to ensure the security of Winchester High Street.

Winchester Sport & Leisure Park, Bar End The planning application is to be heard on 31 October 2018. No objections have been raised by Statutory Consultees. The construction contractor is sourcing fixed prices, and the operator procurement bids are due in November. This information will feed into the business case to be put to Full Council in February 2019. The Operator will not be appointed until after approval is given.

Council borrowing for house building The Government news to scrap the cap will enable WCC to make quicker progress to meet our



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ambitious target to build 600 new homes.

Cllr Lisa Griffiths

River Water Quality. Most of us who value the Arle and Itchen recognise the decline in water quality and the range of wildlife supported. Following the February meeting in St John's church. Alresford we wanted to know 'what can we do to help' and for most of us that was about reducing the contaminants we release into ground water, via private drainage arrangements or the sewerage system, and to stop using so much water. Phosphates are an area where we can all make a difference. Phosphates from domestic cleaning products account for about 20% of the amount in our rivers, for example, dishwasher tablets being up to 30% phosphates. Some manufacturers use no phosphates – Ecover, and Bio-D. As an alternative it is recommended that products containing less than 5% phosphates are used, the majority of the Co-op range fall into this group. Cllr Margot Power

From the Parish Council

A topic of concern nationally at present is the lack of rural social housing. It is also of concern to us. Although the figure varies slightly over time, at present on average there are at least seventeen known applicants for social housing in the Valley. Outside the National Park there has been a call to land owners for the offer of potential sites. At this stage no information is available and the Parish Council will only get to know along with everyone else when information is made public.

We are at the time of year when budgets have to be set both to cover

routine items and also projected capital projects. Thank you to those who have made suggestions for the latter. At our last full council meeting, thanks to our County and City councillors, we discovered that there was a pot of money (from CIL/106 agreements) for which we could make bids. It did not take long to produce a list of projects ranging from road safety to improvement of facilities at the King George V playing field. For those who wish to see the details, the full list can be found on our website with the minutes of our October meeting.

One item we have agreed to purchase on this year's budget is a picnic table for the play area in the Old School Field at Easton. If it is used as much as the one at Couch Green it will be a worthwhile purchase.

Planning issues continue to be looked at as they come up. Please keep an eye out for the orange notices. Please also remember the Parish Council is only one voice. If you want to make a comment, object to or support a particular application you can make it to us but also be sure to put your individual submission in to the planners as well and also get likeminded individuals to do so. This is definitely a case where numbers matter.

Patrick Appleby

Tiddler Jokes

Joseph (9): What is brown and sticky a stick. Esmé (7) What do you call a mushroom at a disco? ... fungi to be with!



Supermarket recipe of the month

When did you last go "Wow!" when you ate something? Well I did a few days ago when I tried a Waitrose recipe for Saffron Panna Cotta.

A simple dish of cooked cream set with gelatine, panna cotta has become popular as a ready prepared dish from the desserts aisle but it is remarkably easy to create at home. Heating the double cream with some sugar in a pan until almost boiling, adding gelatine and ground-up saffron and allowing to cool until set isn't exactly difficult but I was suitably amazed when I tasted the first

spoonful.



Wow! Yes I actually said "wow!" out loud, it was so unexpectedly tasty. Saffron has a flavour and colour all of its own; there really isn't anything quite like it. Yes, it's expensive if you buy it in a fancy Schwartz glass jar at £4 for 0.4 grams, but ethnic shops usually sell it for a more reasonable cost (I found it in Salisbury and online for £2.50 for a whole gram) and you only need about a third of a gram to make four glasses of this delicious dessert.

Search for "Waitrose saffron panna cotta" to get the recipe – though I did

sieve the cooled mixture before pouring it into glasses to remove any strands that hadn't been ground up. Go on, treat yourself if you can to this unique pudding and catch yourself saying the W word.

Sue Sheph

Alresford Surgery Newsletter

The surgery will be closed on Thursday 15 November for training. If you need medical help in a hurry the normal Out of Hours service is on 111.

Conference for people who have type 2 Diabetes on Saturday 10 November 1330 to 1600 at Queen Elizabeth Court, The Castle, Winchester.

Talks will include "Confused about Carbs", cookery demonstrations - good food for people with diabetes and advice about exercise and movement. Specialist nurses, dieticians and others from the community diabetes service will be on hand to answer questions.

The Chestnut Horse

The Itchen Valley News is sad to report that after almost two years running The Chestnut Horse in Easton, landlord Ben Stanbrough is calling time on his tenancy. We understand from brewery Hall and Woodhouse that the pub will remain open. We will bring you more information about the new tenancy in our December issue. Lucy Wolfe

Marriage of Figaro

Mozart's Marriage of Figaro in Itchen Abbas Church? Don't be absurd! But as it happens, anyone attending one of the two recent performances would have been rewarded by first-class singing and wonderful acting, *Pictures on P39, continued P40*



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Below: Susanna having a #Metoo moment?

Bottom: The Valley's own Annabelle Woosnam singing Barbarina

Above: Eager anticipation from the audience



Marital harmony all round?





particularly if you were near the front to appreciate fully the subtlety of the singers' facial expressions. Just six professionals sufficed to play the major roles, accompanied with great verve by John Cuthbert on a keyboard which doubled as piano and

harpsichord. Projections expertly synchronised by John Bouldin kept us abreast of the (ever so complicated) plot - I remember once taking a whole study day to become fully acquainted with its subtleties - and more than compensated for the necessarily simple set; particularly hilarious was Cherubino's 'escape' through a window frame obligingly held in place by Susanna.

Alistair Ollerenshaw captured the essence of the artful Figaro who runs rings round his master the Count played as a bluff country squire by John Lofthouse. Eleanor Ross as Susanna dealt expertly with her 'admirers' as she kept their unwanted attentions at arms length (most of the time). Gillian Ramm played the much put-upon Countess with subtle emotion as she moved from misery to triumph over her philandering husband. Vivien Conacher captured the gaucheness of Cherubino's hormone-driven behaviour very cleverly, while Stephen Anthony Brown moved effortlessly from the subservient Don Basilio to the indignant Gardener, the while doubling as Stage Director and so responsible for the overall performance. Local singer Annabelle Woosnam conveyed the adolescent Barbarina's naiveté very expressively - rounding off a cast of professionals known as Intermezzo Opera who delivered an outstanding



small-scale version of this well-loved opera. Our appreciation is extended to Nick and Lavinia Owen, who with their willing band of helpers were responsible for most of the hard work involved in staging such a

splendid production. *Peter McManus*

Local monthly information

Waste collections in November
Black bins and green bags on Fridays 9
and 23 November. Green bins on
Fridays 2, 16 and 30 November.
Cameo

On Tuesday 20 November.

Farmers Market in Winchester Sundays II and 25 November.

Parish Council Full Meeting Thursday I November MW parish hall

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach. **School term timetable** operates all month.

Weekdays to Winchester: 07:53 09:23 11:23 13:23 16:23 17:23 Weekdays to Alresford: 09:19 11:19 13:19 15:19 17:11 18:09

Saturday service (same for the whole month)

Towards Winchester: 08:23 | 11:23 | 14:23 | 17:23 Towards Alresford: 09:19 | 12:19 | 15:19 | 18:09

No Sunday or bank holiday service All times shown are at Itchen Abbas. Times are 5 minutes later (or earlier) at Easton.



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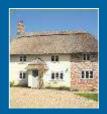
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