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WELCOME to the Valley News

It's pleasing to have lots of articles this month so thanks to those who have contributed. November saw some big events, the usual bonfire night celebrations reported towards the back of this edition. But I particularly wanted to focus on Remembrance. As one who has no military connections, I feel very strongly we must remember those who have given their lives so we today can enjoy our freedoms. WWI seems a long time ago, yet the effects are still felt today. The theme is also taken up in the rector's letter.

On a lighter note we look forward in December to more fun events, lots of singing and parties. The past weeks also seem to have been a time for fun and the community here has been having its full share. I took off with family for a warmer place!

It's good to see reports of activity concerning our environment. The Itchen Valley is a very special place and it's hugely important to protect open spaces for the future generations. Trees have been under considerable threats in recent years from disease so we have to be careful not to add to that with the chain saw. Likewise flowers, wild and cultivated, add so much to our appreciation of nature. Those of us who are walkers or who own dogs get to experience nature in all its glories.

We have much for which to be thankful here: our three lovely village halls, all very different but cared for and providing a base for so many activities; three great pubs, my local, the Plough is such a treat and it's so good to learn the Chestnut Horse has some new blood; four historic churches, much used and visited, I hope everyone will



make a visit to one in December. A thank you also to our elected representatives, parish, city, county and parliament - for all that they do on our behalf, so often a difficult balance. Now we are in the season of shorter days, maybe an opportunity to check up on our neighbours, especially those older or less mobile. In this time of electronic communications, we should never forget the power of a friendly chat or indeed a helping hand. Next month Verity Coleman is editing. Tony Gaster

Itchen Valley News

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What's on

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 and enjoy the fun.

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

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

Aireford

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

12-15 December

Easton Pantomime Sinbad the Sailor. Performances 12 – 15 December. Please see large poster on page 19 for full details.

Wednesday 19 December

Itchen Valley choir Christmas concert, see opposite for details.

Saturday 19 January 2019

Get ready to shake the winter blues away. See page 9 for details. *Iris Lacey*



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

ITCHEN VALLEY CHOIR

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Wednesday 19 December at 7.45pm

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

Avington Pumpkin Party Version 2018

This year's Avington Pumpkin Party was held in the Old Coach House by kind invitation of Fi Macintosh and Rhys Lewis and was a great evening, with everyone contributing lots of the usual food and drink. It turned into a marathon event with three separate "happenings". After the pumpkins (12 of them) were weighed, the winner



was announced by Ralph Matthews, Chief Pumpkin Judge 2018 seen pictured, who presented the tankard. This year's winning pumpkin was grown by Penny Russell (winner for the second year running) and it weighed in at 16.6 kilos (twice the weight of the next heaviest grown by Judy Thomas). At the end of the evening unwanted pumpkins were taken away to be delivered to Trinity Winchester and FirstBite Community Café. At the same event First Aid certificates were presented to most of the 15 Avington residents who had undertaken a First Aid Training Course held at Avington Park. So if you have the misfortune to fall ill in Avington over the next three years you could be in good hands, for a wide cross-section of the village undertook training, with ages ranging from under 20 to over 70. During the course, held in October, everyone benefited from the relaxed but professional teaching by the Red Cross trainer, who expertly tailored the course to the needs of residents. Our thanks to the Itchen Valley Parish Council for a grant towards the cost of the course and thanks too to Charlie and Sarah Bullen for once again letting us use a room in Avington Park.





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Pictured: Red Cross trainer, Jemina Kennedy, Christopher Langford (at back), David Kennedy, Gerri Kelly, Penny Russell, Sarah Shirley, Frances Simpson, John Hiscock (at back) Diana Wilson, Chris Player, Jacqui Squire, Mike Lane (at back) Vicky Low

The third "happening" of the evening was a farewell presentation to Sarah Shirley on her departure from the village. Ralph Matthews presented her with a framed print of Avington Park and the lake, a set of digital kitchen scales and a shopping trolley in which to take the first two presents home. Sarah has lived in Avington for more than 20 years, contributing much to all the various events that



have taken place over the years, in particular by her tireless work as Church Warden (and as Church Warden-in-all-butname for the last few years). Sarah is moving to Andover to be nearer to her family and we wish her health and happiness in her new home. She will be much missed. Jacqui Squire

Jackie's County Corner



I hope this Christmas period is a happy time for you. You may be thinking of making a new start in 2019 - if you have childcare experience (including your own children) have you thought about fostering? You can get in touch to find out more by calling 0300 555 1384. For more details or go to hants.gov.uk/adoptionandfostering. Broadband: the delivery plan for Rural Broadband through Broadband Delivery UK with Government & HCC funding is continuing until the end of 2019. I asked for an update and have discovered there at least 490 addresses still unconnected in the Micheldever/ Wonston area, and small pockets elsewhere in the division, including Alresford and the Worthys. If this affects you, please contact me with your name and postcode and I'll endeavour to find out the situation for you. The county now has faster broadband to 97% of addresses, but you may have heard in the Budget statement that we are being promised that all homes will have fibre to the premises by 2033. So the BDUK programme starts again! Massive flytipping has occurred at several places including the Orr's Meadow layby on the A31. Please, if you see any flytipping, report it as soon as you can, and if you see anything that

looks like evidence, please photograph but do not move it. To report flytipping go to: winchester.gov.uk/ report or call 01962 840222 The whole programme for road maintenance reporting is now best done online. So for the fastest response, please use the Hampshire website if you can. Please let me know if nothing happens soon afterwards. For Leaf Clearance or other street issues, you may like to refer on line to wasterecycling/grounds-and-streetcare for the schedule. You can report any Rights of Way faults on the hants.gov.uk website or call 0300 555 1388. You can request a blue badge, a licence or permit or report a pothole on road or footway (tarmac) online. Bus cuts totalling £449,000 were agreed by the Exec Member, Rob Humby in the last week of October. Despite protestations from me and from Lewis North, the 67 bus will be reduced at non peak times and the C41 Alresford to Basingstoke service will be cut to two days a week. Mervyn's bus timetable will not change. Street Lighting will be cut off between lam and 4am on residential streets but lights can be left on street by street if there is a strong case to do so. If you need the lights on between those times, please let me know: I am keen to ensure everyone in this division feels safe, walking at night. The Cart and Horses junction now has lighting and I am assured that the CCTV will be in place very soon. I'd be interested to hear your views on the works there. Cllr lackie Porter. Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk01962 791054, text/mobile 07973 696 085 [Many pressed hard for a roundabout or part-time traffic lights. The latter was rejected by SDNP because of light pollution yet now we have lights! Ed]



Upper Itchen Valley Society AGM

As always, the pill of an AGM was sweetened not only with wine, but also with a very interesting talk, this time from Tim Slaney, Director of Planning for the South Downs National Park. He quoted the American artist George Catlin who introduced the concept of National Parks "A Nation's Park, containing man and beast, in all the wild and freshness of their nature's beauty!". Tim pointed out that the Park is not just about the landscape, lovely though that is. The Park has two Purposes: I: To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of

2: To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

And one Duty: To seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes. Balancing the conflicting demands is clearly not always easy. There is a need for the businesses in the Park to flourish and Tim mentioned wine making as one area of particular growth - naturally a topic of interest to those at the meeting. Tim answered several questions from the floor. The rest of the meeting was usual AGM business: the financial reserves are healthy and the officers were thanked and agreed to be re-elected. Charlotte Appleby

From the Parish Council

One vigilant resident of Itchen Abbas noted that on our October minutes we had a list of projects, two of which they

were keen to support, and emailed to find out what the list is about. So here is the explanation. Thanks to our City and County



Councillors we discovered that we could bid for some CIL/106 money to fund specific projects. CIL/106 money comes from an occasion when a development takes place. Under certain criteria the developer has to make a contribution to the infrastructure of the area. You can see from our latest management accounts that we have already received some money. Funds for which we could bid are on top of this. So we have rapidly compiled a "wish list" of projects set in sections and in order of priority. It is now a case of wait and see. However, be warned, the total sum of all projects in cases like this generally well exceeds the available funding but if you don't ask you won't get.

Another source of funds which the Parish Council distributes comes from Boom Town. For the past two years we have allocated money to the Wild Flower Verges Group. Their aim is to restore our verges to wild flowers. It is a great cause which will take time. Hence our continued support. They have written about their aims and work elsewhere. Despite a setback earlier this summer, when a WCC contractor mowed down the wild flowers at the Cart and Horses junction, the group has carried on with their good work. You can support them by joining in with the work but for those of us who have verges bordering the roads there is another way to help. Rather than verges looking like well groomed lawns, why not turn your verge over to wild

flowers and really make it look as if we are in a beautiful National Park, No. doubt the Verges Wild Flower Group experts can give you plenty of advice. We have started the interview process for a new Parish Clerk, Hopefully we will have someone in place ready for the handover period in December. Meanwhile we are continuing with preparation of budgets for 2019/20. As always it is a balancing act to try to keep costs down and still achieve as much as possible. Two principals we have recently established are to see that our funding from the precept covers all our administration and running costs. Legislation like GDPR requires time and training, all adding to our running costs. We also have to keep funds in reserve for emergencies. Having looked at this, where we used a formula in the past based upon a percentage of the precept, we are now looking to change to one based on time and turn over. It will be December before all of this will be finalised. Patrick Appleby.

New to the valley? Please join the Upper Itchen Valley Society

The Upper Itchen Valley Society (UIVS) was formed in 1970 as the M3 motorway was being bulldozed through, to "safeguard what is good in the character of the Upper Itchen Valley". From its beginnings in managing to ameliorate some of the impact associated with the M3, to its more recent successes in planning appeals, the Society plays an active role in monitoring all planning applications submitted to the City Council to ensure that development is sympathetic, sustainable and justified.

Over 500 people in the Itchen Valley are members, which gives the Society an important mandate when speaking up for the Valley, and it aspires to having everyone as members. It costs only £20 for family life membership, so please do get in contact with me (or your village UIVS committee member) if you haven't ever been invited to join, or forgot to fill in the form posted through your letter box.

Contact: Lucy Collis at lucyvarcoe@gmail.com or 779598. Or Simon Broadley (Easton), Rolls Coleman (Abbots Worthy), Alison Matthews (Avington) or Gilly Greenwood (MW). We are looking for a new Itchen Abbas Committee Member if anyone is interested to join us.

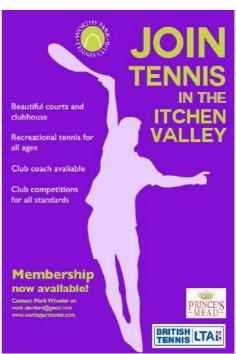
Lucy Varcoe

Valley Volunteer

At the beginning of the summer, the Itchen List contained a request for people to volunteer with the charity Winchester and District Young Carers.











Nick Owen and I both did this, he to become a trustee and I to assist at various activities with these Young Carers.

The charity exists to support young people between the ages of eight and eighteen who care for parents or siblings at home. It is estimated that in every classroom throughout the country there is at least one pupil who is a carer. This young person may well be lonely, tired and struggling to keep up academically. He or she may also have less chance to enjoy what are considered the usual pleasures of childhood - friendship, days out, holidays and playtime.

Winchester and District Young Carers offers support to such children in their caring roles and the chance to meet and make friends with others who are in the same situation. The support is provided during term-time in weekly meetings after school that offer the chance to the carers to explore their role and to share their problems, all within a structured framework. During school holidays the charity provides outings, sometimes residential, and a wide range of social activities.

All these are provided by a team of just four very dedicated people. So volunteers are always needed as there is an endless number of children in need of this support. The volunteers help with transport and all the different activities that the charity provides. It is a privilege to be a part of the team, and to see children managing a brief break, growing in self confidence from responsibilities which have come to them so early in their lives.

The charity is based at Unit12, Winnall Valley Road. See: www.wycp.org.uk I would be very happy to talk with anyone who might be interested in

volunteering.

Clare Gaster

[Nick Owen is also a trustee and would also be happy to answer questions. This charity always needs funds particularly for events and is worthy of our support. Ed]

Letter from the Rectory

As I write this letter, I am still rather reeling from the emotional overload of Remembrance Sunday this year. The film They shall not grow old by Peter Jackson, if anything, made the whole experience of



Remembrance Sunday this year even more traumatic. The extraordinary images of the suffering of a whole generation have impressed themselves on our minds. The mainly young men going off to their deaths, or wounded returning home to live out the consequences of the horror that they had experienced, have had a profound impact on all of us this year. It's easy to assume that nothing in our experience could be that bad. Speaking recently to someone in the Valley, I was told that in her family, she had only had two years free of major crisis since the 1990s. However, she went on to say 'but at least we don't live in Syria....we are not being bombed...we can get bread in the shops'. As if her suffering was not the totally encompassing thing which it is, she might as well have said 'at least, we were not born in the World War I generation'.

I have been thinking a bit about this

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reaction. It is of course highly desirable to see our suffering in the context of other people's more serious experiences. This can help us to cope with our own grief or pain, but it can also enable us to be compassionate towards others. This is a very good thing.

But it seems to me that there is also a danger in that we see our own suffering as trivial in comparison and tell ourselves 'we should be able to cope - at least we are not being bombed!'

But so often we cannot cope and this can make us feel like failures. 'Come on, buck up' we say to ourselves. Or we feel that others are implying that in what they say to us. We feel everyone is looking at us and (making that classic error) thinking 'what on earth can they be depressed about....?'

Part of the problem is living in such a wonderful place as the Itchen Valley. Surrounded on all sides by stunning beauty, delightful neighbours, a wonderful community, ease of travel to Winchester, London and the rest of the country, this really should be one Happy Valley. Somehow we look at others and think, 'if only I had their trouble-free life....their beautiful compliant children....their loving spouse...their wise and generous parents and siblings'.

Of course, the "Who Cares" survey last Summer revealed a lot about the internal emotional architecture of the residents of the Valley. We learned so much about the pain encountered by so many. But it's not just that. The more I meet people in the community, I find the more I hear about their suffering and their fears. I don't think I have come across anyone who doesn't have something going on - some coping with bereavement, some with addiction

issues, some with money worries, others with children going off the rails, others with marriages on the rocks, others with terrifying diagnoses. Still others are beside themselves with worry about their parents, children or siblings who are going through these issues.

I am beginning to wonder (and you may think 'how is it that it has taken you so long to wake up to this, Rector?') whether suffering is actually a normal, part of life. That the life of success and happiness and comfort which other people seem to enjoy and we seem to enjoy only briefly, is a glimpse of the Sun on an otherwise cloudy Autumn day.

So the question is, should we just get on with it, gritting our teeth, showing all those others that everything is perfect, when in fact we are paddling like anything under the surface? Or can we use our suffering as an opportunity to engage with the Creator of the universe, who loves us and wants to help us through our hard times, even if we think we should be able to cope. That person, whose birth in Bethlehem 2000 years ago we are getting ready to celebrate in this month, who suffered as we do, knows exactly what it is like for us in what we are going through today.

How do we engage with Him? I have heard so many stories of people whose perspective on their situation and then their entire lives has been entirely transformed by simply calling out to Jesus 'if you are there, please help me!' As we do so, the story of the Nativity will become real in a way which it never has been for us before and we will encounter that peace and joy which the world cannot give. Alex Pease

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Itchen Abbas Defibrillator

Juliet Burnand, who died last year, started Lent lunches in the Itchen Valley some 30 years ago raising funds for local charities.



This year the Lent lunches, which are now run by Stephanie Gretton, contributed half the funds to purchase defibrillators in Itchen Abbas and Easton. The other half of the cost has been given through Peveril Bruce's Boomtown event.

The new Itchen Abbas defibrillator is sited in the centre of the village outside the Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall and was recently inspected by Geoffrey Burnand (husband) and Peveril Bruce.

Christopher Langford

Wild Valley Verges

This is an update about the progress of our project to revitalise the Valley road verges. We have now been working on this for three years; sometimes it feels like a long uphill road, but we have had a lot of support from individuals, the local parish councils and the Upper Itchen Valley Society. We have learnt a lot and we have constructive progress to keep us focused. Thank you to the Boomtown Community Support Fund (administered by the Itchen Valley Parish Council) and the Upper Itchen Valley Society for their financial support.

Our aims are to improve the biodiversity and aesthetics of our local verges, to lobby local government to modify their verge maintenance programme, to enhance the wild life corridors and to support insects and invertebrates.

WVV initially focused on the verges around the Cart and Horses junction, because they are very visible and are at the entrance to the South Downs National Park. We have had some success but also some disheartening problems with the verges being cut by the contractors at the wrong time of





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year. It is also likely that there will be various types of disturbance here as the traffic problems are worked on. We have decided that we will try to maintain this area but will not try to enhance it at this stage.

We have also been working on the verge outside the Couch Green playing fields, which has been surveyed by Sophie Rogers and is particularly rich in



wildflowers; we expect it will repay careful management. We have started to work with the four Valley churches to increase the biodiversity in the churchyards, and we are also working on several other verge sites around the Valley, including in Itchen Abbas, Easton and Martyr Worthy. In conjunction with the physical verge management, we have realised that communicating with the various statutory bodies is also vital and so we are lobbying Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and the SDNP among others to make sure

that the verge management system supports our wildlife.

We organise regular working parties and would welcome your help; please email Verity at mumgod@aol.com if you would like to be included in our regular email updates. We are also looking for suggestions for areas that would benefit from managing and reseeding, and any other ideas you might have. You might also be interested to read the guidelines from Plantlife at their online site. Lucy Collis, Verity Coleman, Sophie Rogers

and Simon Broadley

[Aren't we lucky that people care about this and want to keep our verges and countryside in good shape -Ed]

Martyr Worthy lecture series

The first lecture in the series of three sold out completely, so don't leave it too late to get your tickets for the next lectures!

Saturday 26 January 2019: Curtain Up for an Opera! by Michael Chance CBE

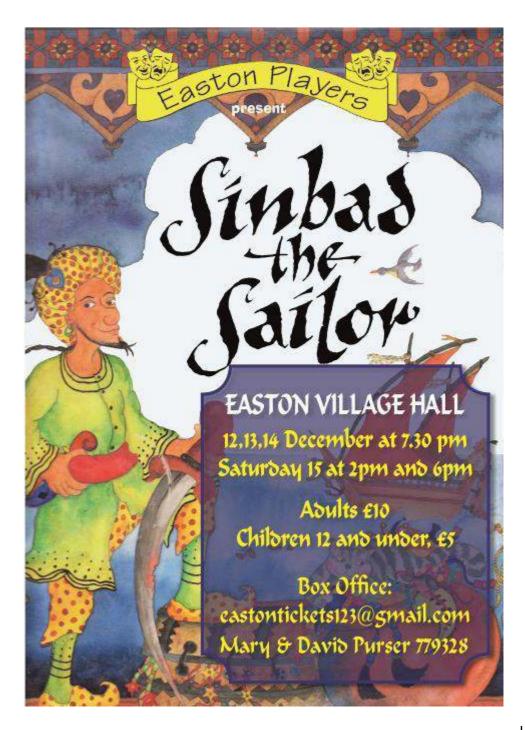
Tuesday 26 February 2019: What is Power in Modern Russia? by Dr Andrew Monaghan

Tickets are £20 from itchenvalleychurches.org/fundraising-events/ martyr-worthy-lectures-2018-19 or enquiries to Verity Coleman 882800 mumgod@aol.com or Gilly Greenwood 779540.

Lectures are in Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall at 7.45 with refreshments from 7.00

Waste collections in December

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 7 and 21 December. Green bins on Friday 14 and Monday 31 December.



Itchen Valley Churches

2nd December

BCP Holy Communion 8am St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy Christingle Service St John's, Itchen Abbas 4pm

9th December

Parish Communion 10am St John's, Itchen Abbas 6pm Evensona St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

16th December

BCP Holy Communion St John's, Itchen Abbas 8am 10am Valley Worship St Mary's, Easton Carols in the Barn The Barn, Avington 4pm

23rd December

10am Parish Communion St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

6pm Evensong St Mary's, Avington

24th December

4pm Crib and Carols St Mary's, Easton First Communion 11.30pm St Mary's, Avington

of Christmas

25th December

Parish Communion 10am St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

30th December

8am **BCP Holy Communion** St Mary's, Avington 10am Parish Communion St Mary's, Easton

LLM

Rector

Revd Alex Pease Mr Gerry Stacey rector@itchenvalley-07554 438973 churches.org

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Beccy Clark

www.itchenvallevchurches.org

Roman Catholic church services over Christmas

Saturday 15th December

2.30pm Family Penitential Service,

St. Peter's Church

Monday 17th December
7.00pm Parish Penitential Service,

St. Peter's Church

Monday 24th December

5.30pm First Mass of Christmas,

St. Peter's Church

5.30pm First Mass of Christmas,

St. Stephen's Church

8.30pm Midnight Mass w/carols,

St. Gregory's Church

10.30pm Midnight Mass w/carols (carols at 10pm), St. Peter's Church

Tuesday 25th December

8.00am The Nativity of the Lord,

St. Peter's Church

9.00am St. Thomas More's

Church

9.15am St. Stephen's Church 10.30am St. Peter's Church 11.00am St. Gregory's Church

Wednesday 26th December

10.00am St. Stephen's Day Mass,

St. Stephen's Church

Harvest Festival gifts

Following the various Harvest services in the valley churches, a large collection of gifts was distributed between the Winchester Night Shelter and the Food Basics Bank at Bar End. Both organisations were hugely grateful and have written to thank everyone who donated, especially all the children of

Itchen Abbas school.

Please don't forget as Christmas approaches that there is an urgent ongoing need for the same sort of offerings. There are boxes at the back of each church or, if it is easier, most supermarkets have a trolley where gifts can be left.

Liz Platt

Poppy Appeal

Sixteen volunteers carried out house-to-house collections in the Valley this year and 15 organisations displayed collecting boxes for the Poppy



Appeal. A total of over £2,600 was collected for the British Legion. This is in addition to the collections held at the Remembrance services at Martyr Worthy and Easton.

Many thanks to all those who helped. Rob Spriggs

Remembrance Collections

£1106 was collected at the church services on 11 November to be given to the British Legion.

John Prince & Sara Janssen

Dates for your Diary

Cameo: Tuesday 18 December.

Farmers Market in Winchester:

Sunday 9 December.

Parish Council Full Meeting:

Thursday 6 December IA&A village hall



LEST FOR

The community gathered for the hundredth anniversary of the end of World War One at Martyr Worthy together with local members of the British Legion on parade.





Our British Legion sta

Γ WE RGET



andard bearer outside St n's church.



Members of TS Itchen also joined us. It was also good to have a contribution in church from many of our local children who learnt about remembrance and its meaning.



Remembering - 2018

I attended my first Remembrance Day service in the Valley very shortly after we moved here from Scotland in 1981. 7 rectors and 4 chairmen of the local branch of the Royal British Legion later, the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice of the Great War provides a suitable moment to look back at some of the events that have marked the passing of the years.

40 years ago, the two communities of Avington and Itchen Abbas, and Easton with Martyr Worthy were

separate entities and went their different ways. Living in Martyr Worthy I have no recollection of participating in an Act of Remembrance involving all four villages but, over time, this changed and the format we enjoy today was established. The practice of having individual Acts of

Remembrance at the Memorials in each village on the Sunday is relatively new.

Throughout the Branch's history membership has largely reflected the make-up of the local community with former Army officers forming the majority with a small core of naval officers and a smaller group from the RAF contributing to the total in excess of 40. Many would proudly parade with WWII medals recalling service in all parts of the world on land, at sea and in the air. Our most decorated member spent the entire war at sea in the North Atlantic and was one of the few to be awarded the DSC and two bars. We had a former

RAF bomber pilot, a Typhoon pilot, a former prisoner of war and, I am told, a former officer from Easton who had served with distinction with the SBS (Special Boat Service) in the Aegean Sea making life difficult for the enemy in occupied Greece.

During the past 10 years the numbers have steadily declined to around 20 who are still reasonably active but the Branch continues to survive largely due to some recent, and younger, former servicemen joining to arrest the steady decline. The four villages work in harmony today and we hold the Annual Remembrance Day Service in one of the four churches in rotation. Each

year the service is preceded by a muster at the relevant war memorial where we are joined by members of the Winchester Sea Cadets, have a bugler or Trumpeter sounding the Last Post and Reveille, and our own standard bearer, Ted Bugden, preceding us into church

This years' service was held in brilliant autumn sunshine

at the Martyr Worthy War Memorial. A record number of the community participated and, between us, we filled the church to remember the fallen in conflict in the company of 10 transparent silhouettes representing those from the Valley who never came back from either First or Second world wars.

Later that day, in a full Easton Church, many people participated in a moving Choral Evensong with the Parish choir under the direction of General Tim Tyler making it an occasion to remember.

At a RBL lunch in the Martyr Worthy Village Hall on the Sunday I had a final

opportunity to say a few words on relinquishing the post of Chairman of the Valley Royal British Legion Branch after 17 years. In a short speech I reflected on the theme of Remembrance Sunday on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the guns filing silent on 11 November 1918. (A slightly shortened version can be made available.)

As I stand down it gives me great pleasure to hand over the reins of the Branch to my successor Major James Stevens of Easton, and to thank my two stalwart lieutenants, Richard Seymour and John Prince who have respectively served as our secretary and treasurer for their superb support over many years.

John Lang

Remembrance evensong

The evening of Remembrance Sunday 2018 witnessed the very best of the Itchen Valley community spirit. Easton church pulled out all the stops for a

splendid Choral Evensong to mark the centenary of the Armistice.

The building was packed; the full strength choir squeezed into the east end and the congregation filled the pews and extra chairs arranged in the nave. The church was decorated with magnificent red and white flower arrangements blending with the poppies and ivy woven through the rood screen.

Whilst the standard Itchen Valley evensong is a much loved liturgy, this time the service was more akin to that experienced in Winchester Cathedral with the choir taking over most of the sung portions of the office. The alternative settings of the responses and canticles, chosen and directed by Major General Tim Tyler, were a welcome change to the customary tunes and were brilliantly performed by the choir. The forte sections were sung with tremendous gusto and the words could be understood with great clarity. Tim is the very model of a



modern choir master.

Similar clear diction from the readers of the Bible and Woodbine Willie extracts was much appreciated whilst having two fluent native speakers reading the Lord's Prayer in German and French was inspired.

A splendid tribute to mark our appreciation of the sacrifice made by fifty eight local residents in the last two world wars.

Vernon Tottle

Jumping for Joy!

The Itchen Valley's 14 year old Georgia Molton and her pony Toby represented The Westgate School at the National Schools Equestrian Association Championship jumping in two championship classes held in Keysoe, Berkshire.

Georgia and Toby returned with a Reserve Champion in the 90 cm class



and Champion in the I m class. With nearly 250 children in each class it was quite an achievement! Lucy Wolfe

Light Party

The Itchen Valley Churches children's group, otherwise known as "The Ark" held a "light party" on the evening of 31 October at St Johns Church, Itchen Abbas. Over 30 children from the Valley participated in the event and had great fun joining in with the many activities. These ranged from making their own lanterns organised by Claire Hunt, a fancy dress photo booth run by lames Greig and also a large Scalextric set. Susie Brine rustled up some wonderful hotdogs that children devoured with great gusto, finished off with a great selection of ludes Icecream provided by James Wright. The evening was brought to a close by a short talk from Julia Wright who shared how Jesus was the light of the world, before everyone disappeared home. It was fantastic to see the whole church filled, full of fun and energy, with children having a great time. Many thanks must go to everyone involved in organising it. The Ark meets at 10am every Sunday except for the first Sunday of the month and all children and parents are welcome - details can be found on the website or from the church office. Tim Clabb

Easton WI

Guests at our November meeting came to hear George Mann's talk on his study of the River Itchen at Martyr Worthy over a ten year period, covering the wildlife, plants and river keeping. With beautiful photographs



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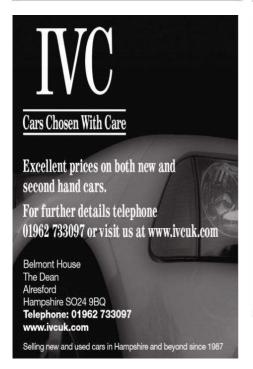
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and videos, George explained the history of the water meadows and how the flow of the river has changed over the years. Weed cutting is only allowed during May to August, controlling the flow of water and giving cover for the fish.

Over 70 species of birds thrive around the river - kingfishers, sandpipers, egrets, a group of batchelor swans and a black swan, which is not a native species. Mandarin ducks have been seen for the first time, but warblers are dwindling due to weather conditions, and there are no water voles because of the mink.

Using night vision cameras George captured badgers, deer, stout and otters feeding, swans still active through the night. We had a trout's eye view of life under water with trout spawning in December and January and fish passing through the clear water at great speed.

We look forward to the publication of The River Itchen at Martyr Worthy in February 2019 to see more of George's remarkable wildlife photographs. Our next meeting on 13 December will be a Christmas lunch at The Plough in Itchen Abbas. Sallie Peake

From our city councillors



Sports Awards for Winchester District Sports Clubs 2018: The Awards will be held at the Holiday Inn on Thursday 7 February. Please ensure this information is

passed on to any local sports clubs to nominate individuals, it can be high level rugby to indoor bowls. If you have a local club which has committed members or organisers, then ensure they get a nomination. Closing date for nominations: 4 January. There are a number of sports funding and Continuing Professional Development opportunities.

Handyperson Service: WCC has started an initiative for residents over 60 or living with a disability. Small repairs and adaptations can be undertaken at a subsidised rate for those who qualify. Tel. 01962 848455 Fly-tip Orr's Meadow A3 I: The fly-tip was cleared and swept by 2 November and the search revealed a number of pieces of evidence to follow up for investigation and which we hope will lead to prosecution. Anyone having work done needs to ensure all materials are disposed of in the correct manner. Failure to do so can lead to prosecution by magistrates with a fine of up to £50,000 and a prison sentence. In a Crown Court the fine is unlimited. Both the originator household and the fly-tipper are culpable.

Living with and beyond cancer: A recent event, hosted by the Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust at the Holiday Inn, highlighted the need for self-care during and after cancer treatment. An important part of this is physical activity. Mental support can also be provided in classes offered at River Park run by its own staff and also WCC officers. There are other rehabilitation programmes, as part of the exercise referral scheme, to support individuals with long term health conditions.

Winchester Sport & Leisure Park, Bar End planning application was passed on the 31 October 2018. Next step: get the business case ready for Full Council budget approval in February 2019. Lisa Griffiths 01962 469854

The Winchester Movement Strategy is now available on the Winchester and Hampshire websites for your comments. If you ever go to or



around Winchester this will affect you. Book some time between Christmas and New Year to take a look and provide constructive criticism.

Are we affluent? Not all of us, and even in Alresford and the Itchen Valley there are families who have needed to use the Basics Food Bank, and there will be more in the future. As you fill your shopping baskets at Christmas please make a purchase for the Food Bank, there are donation boxes at the Co-op in Alresford, Sainsbury's stores at Badger Farm and Middlebrook Street and Waitrose in Stockbridge Road, Weeke. I hope to see you at one of my councillor surgeries, 0930-1045, first Friday each month, Alresford Community Centre, by kind permission of the Trustees.

Margot Power 01962 734167

Comings & Goings

We welcome to Bramble Cottage, Easton, Darrell and Gilly Grundy, Barny and Betty American Cocker spaniels who have moved from Winchester. Judith Mezger

We are all sorry to see Sarah Shirley leave Avington; she has lived here for 21 years and been such a kind and thoughtful neighbour, as well as a dutiful churchwarden. But she is very excited about her move to Andover, where she will be near to her son and his family. We wish her a happy future. Sarah's house in The Row now belongs to Mark and Kate Kewley, and we look forward to welcoming them.

As we also say goodbye to Tim and Chris Player who have now moved from Avington to Four Marks, we are very pleased to welcome Ellie and Henry Adams who now live in the Cedar House with their children Lily(3) and Penny (16 months) (and a new arrival, due in the new year).

The average age of Avington residents is coming down nicely!
Penny Russell



St John's Churchyard

The final clear up of 2018 with Arminel Tottle, Charlotte Appleby, John Bouldin (and Elizabeth who provided drinks) Rodney Dartnall, Brigid McManus and Vernon Tottle all helping to keep this place in good order.

Tony Gaster

Easton Village Hall Ina Williams 779465 or evh.booking@googlemail.com							
Authentic Pilates	Mon	9 am, 6:30 pm Fri 9am Judy		07774 899909			
Ems Bray Pilates	Tue	8:45 am Thu 8.45 am Emily		07876 033893			
Sally Stanyard School of Dance	Tue Thu	4.15 pm - 7.45 pm Sally 6.30 pm and Fri 3.45		01962 776562			
School of Dance	Sat	9 am - 2.30 pm					
Brew with a View	Wed	3 - 5 pm	Ina	01962 779465			
Dionne Yoga	Tue	8.15 pm; Dionn		07961 888676			
	Fri	10.15 and 11.30 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							
Riverbank Kindergarten	Mon Wed Thur	8.30am to 3pm	Maria	07900 437685			
	Tues & Fri	8.30am to 1pm					
Whist Drive	Thur	7pm					
Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall							

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Rugby Tots	Tue 09.15 & '	Wed 10.20	Phil	03453 133258
Boules	Tue	18.00	Jenny	01962 779813
Ladies Short Tennis	Wed	14.30	Arminel	01962 779611
Pilates	Wed 9.15 &	18.00	Aimee	07546 941489
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Calling young and old!

Please join us for one night of carol singing in Itchen Abbas on Sunday 23 December. We have received a kind invitation to sing to the residents of Little Hayes. A warm welcome awaits you at the home of Rodney and Joan Dartnall. Please meet at 6pm for festive refreshments. Warm clothes, torches/lanterns essential. Our chosen charity this year is Winchester Go LD, a local charity that supports and enables people with a learning disability "to live and thrive".

Joan Dartnall 779538

Our Wild Valley: Bountiful trees

We had such an apple-laden autumn to enjoy and we ate our way through many apple pies. Thank you to all those who left apples out and those who offered apples. I tested out a simple apple tray-bake which worked! It felt like a mast year for apples, trees over laden and branches bending with the weight. How amazing after all that burning heat, a tree can produce such bountiful fruit.

Apples first appeared in literature in King Alfred's time, and after the Norman conquest varieties were honed and developed often in the orchards of monasteries. The Costard apple came over from France and grown in many parts of England. Sellers were known as 'costardmongers', hence the word 'costermonger'. Around the time of Henry VIII there were Pippin and Queene varieties. Bramley apple is known from 1809 and still considered one of the best cooking apples today. Orchard production developed and after the Second World



War research into smaller trees began. Sadly our trees were not prolific enough to cope with the high yielding varieties imported from Europe in the 1970's and many apple orchards stopped production. In the 1990s growers tried successfully to grow the popular Gala, Braeburn and now Jazz, Kanzi, Rubens and Cameo. They still have much competition. An apple a day and all that but make it a British grown one!

I think we have to wait and see whether it will be hard winter, although berries appear prolific this autumn which is a traditional sign that it might be a cold one. Our Christmas tree which lives close to the back door is sometimes adorned with dinosaurs! I also like our own old apple tree which has a few apples left on it. Wishing you a very festive December with family and friends and time out to enjoy your own traditions or make new ones.

Sophie Rogers



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New Management on board at The Chestnut Horse



Following Ben Stanbrough's recent departure a new team has taken over The Chestnut Horse. Simon and Annie, owners of the Old Inn Pub/

Pizza Company have experience of turning pubs around. They've managed pubs, restaurants and hotels for the past 25 years and have run the Old Inn at Holt, outside Wimborne for the past five years, overseeing a complete refurbishment. While they continue to run the Old Inn, The Chestnut Horse will be run by Connor Wiltshire-Hall. Simon says that "Connor is a great manager and has good customer skills and will definitely be the protagonist of the Chestnut. We'll be offering traditional home cooked pub grub , e.g. pies, fresh fish, steaks etc".

The pub is aiming to open Tuesday to Thursday II am – 3 pm/ 5.30 pm – close (serving food I2 noon -2 pm/ 5.30 - 9 pm) Friday and Saturday II am -II pm (serving food I2 noon – 9 pm) Sunday I2 noon - 6pm (serving food I2 noon – 4 pm) Monday Closed. The pub will be closed Christmas Day, but is aiming to open Boxing Day lunch I2 noon – 4 pm. New Year's Eve to be decided.

The pub is looking for part-time evening and weekend staff. Depending on planning, Simon and Annie aim to do a total refurbishment within 12 months. Simon says "The Chestnut Horse has been very successful in the

past and we intend to turn it around very quickly and make it the hub of the community."

Lucy Wolfe

Itchen Insight

Name:
Sharron
Gordon
Age: Always 10
years younger!!
Occupation:
Consultant
Pharmacist and
Aesthetics
Practitioner



Years lived in Valley: 7 in Easton Your life in 180 characters: I'm married with 2 kids, 2 cats and a dog! I grew up in Birmingham, went to Bath. I run an aesthetics company providing bespoke skincare plans for clients and teach clinical consultation skills, around the globe.

Champagne Moment: Reaching the top 4 women's businesses in Hampshire after being incorporated for only 2 years

Surprising Snippet: I am half Indian and nobody ever believes me! **Passion**: Glitter, I have THE BEST

panto costume

Favourite place in Hampshire:
The top of St Catherine's Hill

Best thing about the Valley: The huge talent, costumes for the panto by Helen and Jill and all the Baking geniuses! To name a few!!

Worst thing about the Valley: 'Reply all' on the Itchen List
Favourite Book: Like Water for Chocolate

Favourite Christmas Carol: In the Bleak Mid-Winter Sharron was talking to Lucy Wolfe

The Practical Gardener

Autumn is a time for colour and as this



month fades we enjoy the last of our trees and shrubs. However for me it's a sad time in the garden, pulling up the annuals and cutting back everything else. The early frosts last month did their worst. The green house is put to bed but there is a riot of colour, almost invisible behind the bubblewrap. At least that provides a proven and economical method for keeping tender plants over the winter.

The vegetable garden, in contrast, continues to produce, root crops and brassicas aplenty. I even have some peas left. Now is the time to plan for next season: should I plant out peas and broad beans now or later – I prefer later as I do with sweet peas.



I've just moved into storage a cubic metre of leaf-mould which takes about 5 years to produce but well worth the effort. Whilst I like a tidy garden, we are all encouraged to leave one area a bit wild. That's good for the wildlife to bed down undisturbed. Not so my friendly Robins who are always around when I am digging or weeding. Whilst most folk will be having large trees inside soon, the micro spruce bought by my wife last year is alive and well in a pot. I'll take a bet it's the smallest Xmas tree in the Valley. Gardeners - time to put your feet up! Tony Gaster.

Remember, remember

Well, who could forget?



I really thought we had seen it all at this year's rain drenched Fete but the village Bonfire Night presented us with horribly similar weather-related





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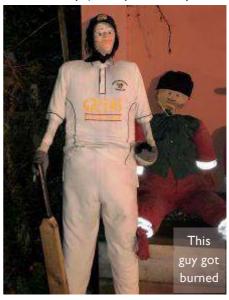
challenges.

After many phone calls, emails and ever changing forecasts of showers and gales, I finally decided to 'just go for it' and hope that the true Easton/ Itchen Valley spirit would shine through once again....and the gamble paid off. In the end, a considerable



crowd enjoyed a fun and only slightly damp evening, with profits of around $\pounds 600$ – a welcome contribution toward our new storage and alteration project.

A big thank you to the following: Michael and his team for building the Bonfire; Iris and Den for providing a 'Cricket' Guy (outfit provided by



Adam Murch); the Firework display team (Glynn, Chris and Paul); the 2 Davids (Poole and Swinstead) on the bucket; Lyn and her team of sausage cookers and hot dog sellers; the cricket club team for providing liquid refreshments (hot and cold) and finally Lotti and Dan on Glow Mania. Also, of course, a further heartfelt (and not in the slightest dampened) thank you to all of you for your generous contributions and continued support throughout the year! Ina Williams on behalf of Easton Village Hall & Recreation Ground.

Hold very tight please!

For many years now Winchester has hosted the extremely popular Christmas Market in the cathedral close. It brings in tens of thousands of extra visitors to the city centre during December and, unless you are up really early, parking spaces become very hard to find.

I avoid all of this aggravation by using the bus to get into town. Here in the Itchen Valley we are fortunate to have a regular two hourly service that runs six days a week. The number 67 bus runs along the B3047, stopping every few hundred yards, often at one of our previously-controversial-but-now-just-part-of-the-scenery bus stops.

The return fare to Winchester is £5.50 (it's free if you have a bus pass) and this gives you a ride directly into the newly refurbished bus station opposite the guildhall.

The bus leaves Itchen Abbas (opposite the village hall) on Monday to Friday at 0753, 0923, 1123, 1323, 1623 and 1723. It passes the Easton bus stop about five minutes later. Your return journey leaves the bus station at 1100, 1300, 1500, 1650 and 1750. The Saturday service is less frequent and leaves at 0823, 1123, 1423 and 1723, returning at 1200, 1500 and 1750. You can find out if the bus is running to



time by visiting the Stagecoach website and clicking on "Live Bus Arrivals". If you've never used the 67 bus before, make this December your opportunity to find out how relaxing and convenient the service actually is and then make it your default mode of transport into Winchester.

A Halloween Thank You

A huge amount of thanks and appreciation goes out to all those Easton residents who opened their doors to all ages of witches, ghouls and monsters during the 'trick or treat' fest on 31 October. As always, Easton is a popular destination for people with young children and this year was as busy as ever. It's fair to say that those houses with pumpkins outside were inundated with visitors - thank you for your patience, good humour and endless supply of sweets. Whatever anybody thinks about Halloween, there is one thing that is for certain - it brings smiles, excitement and fun to so many children who for one night of the year enjoy dressing up and heading out with their friends in the dark. At least it gets them off their screens!!! Easton Trick or Treaters

Christmas wheely bin dance

Collection days change over Christmas. Green bins normally collected on Friday 28 December will get emptied on Monday 31 December. Black bins normally collected on Friday 4 January will be emptied on Monday 7 January. Garden waste green bags will be collected on Friday 18 January and Christmas trees will also be picked up on that day.



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