

Valley^{ITCHEN} News

Issue 25 January 2016 For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy





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WELCOME to the valley news



The new all-colour magazine makes the job of the sub-editor much easier, now there is no need to ration the colour pictures and make difficult decisions about which articles to allocate them to. Thanks to those who have donated to support the magazine and to our advertisers who have made this affordable. Please mention the IVN when responding to advertisements. You may notice several articles focusing on local residents in this month's edition. In addition to the established Itchen Insight feature, we recently added Valley Volunteers, organised by Ronnie Johns, and our newest section is Entrepreneurs in the Valley masterminded by Dionne Sanders and Lucy de Laszlo. The IVN team feels that it is the people who make our community so special and that the Valley News has a role to play in introducing some of these talented and interesting neighbours to us. Please let us know if you have suggestions for people who could feature in any of these sections. However, you may think that the buildings that surround us are also a valuable part of our Valley and you might like to start a new thread - Valley Buildings perhaps - unless someone can come up with an alliterative title! Some of our regular contributors have taken a Christmas break, but we are grateful to our council representatives and our MP, who have continued to keep us up to date with the many issues they deal with on our behalf. Broadband is a big problem for some of us - the worst thing about the Valley according to this month's Itchen Insight

subject and we are lucky to have some knowledgeable volunteers working hard on this for us, note the public meetings on 13th and 14th January. The letter in praise of our new Ramblings feature from the walks supremo who has organised the splendid local walks for many years is particularly welcome. This month's walk is again on the centre page so it can be pulled out and kept, or the Parish Council's website hosts links to past editions of the Valley News. News of bright lights in the sky on Christmas Eve, a festive Yule Log and ten tips for the New Year will, I hope, brighten your Christmas and New Year. Best wishes from the IVN team.
Charlotte Appleby

Itchen Valley News

| | |
|--------------|---|
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Please send all contributions for February 2016 by the 15th of January. 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. Cover photo A parent. Other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Carol Singing

Remember you can come carol singing in Itchen Abbas on 21st and/or 23rd Dec, meet at the Dartnall's house behind Itchen Abbas Church at 6pm. Also, Carols in Grace's Barn (at junction of Easton Lane and B3047) at 4pm on Sunday 20th Dec. Photo from last year.

Charlotte Appleby

Hinton Ampner walks

The Head Gardener will guide you on a 4 mile walk around the estate, which is now open 363 days a year, taking in panoramic views of the Southdowns as well as the stunning woodland. You will be rewarded with a glass of mulled wine and mince pies on the walk. Booking essential, ring 0844 249 1895 or book online, £10, dogs on leads welcome. **Boxing Day** 11:00 - 13:30.

New Year' Day 13:00 - 15:00

Little Red and the W olves

Saturday 9th

January: If you haven't done so yet, please don't forget to

reserve your tickets for the Proteus Theatre

Company production based on the story of Little Red Riding Hood, which takes place in Martyr Worthy Village Hall on Saturday 9th January.

The show is suitable for all the family aged from 5 upwards. It starts at 6pm and runs for about 2 hours, with a short interval. Tickets are £6 per adult and £4 per child and are available from Sara Mason on 779169 or splmason@hotmail.co.uk.

Guy Green



Public meetings- Broadband

Easton: **Wednesday 13th January** in Easton Village Hall and Itchen Abbas:

Thursday 14th January in Itchen Abbas Village Hall Both starting at 8pm. See Page 13 for more details

Easton Tea

All residents of Easton are invited to tea on Sunday **17th January** in the village hall from 3pm to 5 pm. This is for all residents, however long they have lived in the village, to meet one another. Please put this in your diaries and any offers of baking gratefully received.

Judith Mezger 07834 831450

'Come and Sing' Haydn's Nelson Mass in Winchester Cathedral

6th February : An opportunity for all who enjoy singing to join Waynflete Singers under the direction of Andrew Lumsden, in the magnificence of the Cathedral. The event starts at 2.00 pm for registration and handing out vocal scores, followed by rehearsal and an evening performance from 6.30 pm which will also feature student soloists from various Music Colleges in London. More details from Tony Gaster, 779110 or tonygaster@btinternet.com

Easton & Martyr Worthy Safari Supper 2016

This year's Safari Supper will be held on Saturday 5th March. Please make a note in your diary. Full details and application form will be included in the February issue of the Itchen Valley News.

Terry and Anna McGowan 779350

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**Chilland, Itchen Abbas and Avington
Safari Supper 2016**

This will take place on Saturday 7th
May, again please STD (save the date,
for those not familiar with this
acronym).

Charlotte Appleby

the residents were involved in
organising lunches, growing bulbs,
making pepperpots and priests (the
Rector was spotted buying one),

What has been happening

Martyr Worthy Christmas Fair

There are three vital components for
any fund raising event – a lot of hard
work, a lot of fun and a lot of money!
The Martyr Worthy Christmas Fair
certainly provided the first and last, and
hopefully there was also plenty of fun
to be had. It seemed that at least half





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setting up stalls for gifts and food,
organising a bran tub and a raffle,
inventing a Christmas quiz and making



sure all the essential elements of a
successful event were in place. Just
under £3,000 was raised, to be shared
equally between the church and the
village hall.

Verity Coleman

One man's winter

"Why have you come here in the off
season?" the tourist guide asked. "The

weather is so much better in the
summer." With a clear blue sky and
temperatures in the low thirties,
Rebecca reckoned that most English
seaside resorts would be over the
moon if they had summers as good as
Israel's winter. She was visiting
Jerusalem as the placement module of
her curacy training. Working for part
of her time from a church just within
the Jaffa gate of the old city walls,
Rebecca soon appreciated the
substantial differences between the



Itchen Valley and life in an inner city parish.

During her early December talk to an enthusiastic audience in Itchen Abbas church, Rebecca explained the difference between ethnicity and religion and why it is so important to the people who live in Israel. You can be a Jew or a Palestinian, with all the historical baggage that this entails, but at the same time you can be a Muslim or a Christian regardless of your ethnic origin. Those who discover faith in a religion other than that in which they were brought up are often regarded as traitors to a much greater intensity than would usually be experienced in England.

This was vividly illustrated by her visit to a local school. A mainly Christian institution for Palestinians of any faith, the children were so grateful that she had made the effort to come to see them. In an area where merely walking on the streets lays one open to stabbing or bombing, the message of the school, Do Not Be Afraid, is very comforting to the children who often have to spend the day locked inside their classrooms with the windows shut to avoid the choking tear gas outside.

Walking in the steps of Jesus was a large part of Rebecca's instruction. Where she could find locations that weren't too crowded with tourists, such as Peter's house in Capernaum or the Church of the Beatitudes sited on the traditional location of the Sermon on the Mount, Rebecca felt a deep sense of presence different from that experienced in her other travels.

The constant hustle and bustle of Jerusalem, when combined with most tourists' expectation of a significant religious experience, is a heady mixture



that can cause mental stress or worse for some visitors. The relative calm of the Garden of Gethsemane or the placid waters of Lake Galilee does much to sooth the overactive imaginations of many a guest. The vicar of Rebecca's church in Jerusalem was explaining to her one day that they get several people each week who walk into the church proclaiming themselves as The Messiah. Although he can usually talk sense into these visitors and release them from their delusions, he told Rebecca that he has to be careful because, you never know, it might actually be the moment of the Second Coming!

Vernon Tottle

Christingle



Christingle means Christ's Light, and St John's church was indeed lit up for a packed service. Precautions had been taken and, in the spirit of the age, warnings were given, but nothing untoward occurred to mar the occasion. A choir of children from Itchen Abbas School sang for us, ending with the foot tapping Christmas Calypso – thank you to Rebecca and David Truslove for rehearsing them so well, and to the children for their enthusiastic singing. The rest of us – a full church, with parents, grandparents and many of the young at heart – also sang lustily, working up an appetite for tea, coffee and mince pies – thanks to Elizabeth Bouldin and her helpers. These may have been the first mince pies of the season for many of us but it is likely that there will be more to come, not least at the Carols in the Barn on 20th December. £231.48 was raised for the Children's Society. Thanks to all who helped make the Christingles and to Sara Mason for organising it.

Charlotte Appleby

“See What You Missed” or December with the WI

December is a busy month for everyone; all the Christmas shopping, lunches, parties etc. Well it has been no different for the ladies of the Easton WI. The photo shows you the



wonderful meal we had at the Chestnut Horse. Karen and her staff gave us a very tasty 3-course meal all taken in the private party room. Don't we all scrub up well? I would like to congratulate Helen Cox who seemed to organise it for us very easily. The Secret Santa raffle raised £130 for the Air Ambulance.

Normally during each month various activities are organised for smaller groups of the members, from craft afternoons, a lively book club, and a walking/lunch group that is working its way through local watering holes.

Well, in December we went one better and had a tour of the Cathedral. Shirley Burwell organised a private tour, with our very own guide, who turned out to be Suzie Smith and who lives in Avington.

We spent nearly an hour and a half having lots of interesting facts and many beautiful features pointed out. We even got down into the Crypt. Fortunately it was dry and wonderfully atmospheric (and chilly); the Anthony Gormley standing man is gorgeous. The statue is fashioned in lead from Gormley's own body and is named Sound II.

The WI meets once a month, on the

second Thursday, in the hall at Easton, and in January we shall be discussing the several resolutions that have been sent to us from the National Board. We shall pick one that we think is the most important for mention at the AGM. This is the chance we have to influence the campaigning arm of the WI nationally. I hope we have whetted your appetite, with our regular reports and hope to see more ladies at our meetings.

Sarah Robinson

Itchen Valley Parish Ladies Supper

The Ladies Supper which was first inaugurated by Fiona Micklefield, and then seamlessly continued in the church vacancy by Laura Hanley and Penelope Kellie, has now become a Valley Institution. On Wednesday 18th November our Rector, the Revd Amanda Denniss, kindly invited the ladies of the Valley to a bring-and-share supper at the Rectory. In true Valley style everyone appeared with their delicious offerings and we were warmly welcomed into the bright and fresh home of the Dennisses for a drink and much conversation. We were then treated by our curate, the Revd Rebecca Fardell, to a short reflection on her travels in the Holy Land which was truly fascinating. She told us about the incredible lives of some of the people she met and helped us in turn to reflect on the question "Who is Jesus?" and to think about that in the context of the life of a Palestinian Christian living without water, a Jewish Christian, and a Muslim convert hiding in fear of being discovered. Needless to say this led to further interesting conversations and then we enjoyed a magnificent feast laid on by one and all. In a show of solidarity with our European brothers and sisters across

the Channel, one in our number wore a beautiful tricolore sash, which seemed an appropriate expression of how we were feeling at that moment. The evening seemed to be very much enjoyed by all and we look forward to the next Parish Ladies Supper in the spring.

Lucy Pease

Youth Options– Bling it on!

Over 100 people came to Easton Village Hall to drink coffee and buy jewellery, hats, bags, scarves and homemade cakes on 1st October. Many thanks to the amazing generosity of those who donated 'bling', made cakes, and came on the day, as we raised over £2,500 in support of Hampshire based youth charity, Youth



Options.

Debbie Burns, Deputy CEO at Youth Options said "this was a great event, not only for raising money, but also for raising the charity's profile - we are really grateful to the volunteers, the people who donated and everyone



who came along.”

As so many accessories were kindly donated, and there was limited amount of space to display everything, there may be another event of similar format, maybe with a glass of wine in the evening, to allow those with daytime commitments to come along.

Janet Gray & Lucy Collis

Letters to the Editor

Ramblings

Dear Editor,

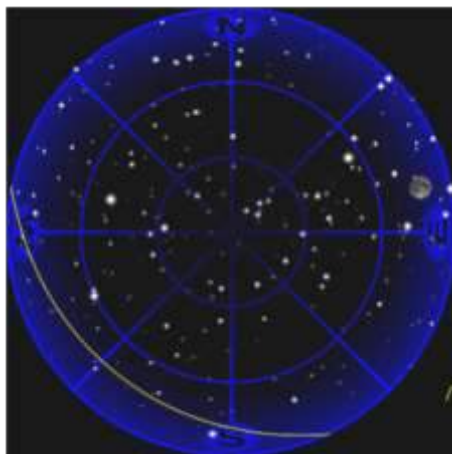
Many thanks for your recommended walk in the December issue of the Valley News, which John Prince and I did this morning. Done in reverse - bus to Hyde, walk down to The King Alfred and back along your route (with slight variations) to The Cricketers for lunch - but no shopping in Winchester! I have been meaning to do this walk for ages, and seeing it in print was the spur. Time (excluding bus travel) – one and a half hours from pub to pub (with some ambling and small diversions) and, as you say, easy walking - and delightful.

Ralph Matthews

Something for your readers– and their children.

On Christmas Eve, the International Space Station will glide overhead just after 5pm. It's the third brightest thing in the sky and looks like a star flying by. It travels at 17,100 MPH, or about 5 miles a second and is as big as a football pitch.

It'll rise in the West and disappear in the South, rising just above the horizon, so not directly overhead. For Easton, that is roughly starting from the direction of Winchester and ending in the direction of the Winchester Science Centre. It might be a bit tricky



to see around the hills on that side of the village though.

As long as it's a clear night, you can wave at the astronauts. For the younger children, it could of course be Santa and his sleigh, but seeing a space ship should be just as exciting :-)

Details below for those that can understand elevations and azimuths.

| | Time | El | Az | Range |
|-------|----------|------|----------|---------|
| Start | 17:17:45 | -43° | 126°(SE) | 9253km |
| Peak | 17:20:01 | -47° | 125°(SE) | 9911km |
| End | 17:22:16 | -52° | 124°(SE) | 10513km |

Paul Beardow

Poppy Appeal

A very welcome contribution from the Remembrance Sunday church collection and some further donations gave us a final result for the 2015 Poppy Appeal of £3,344!

Renewed thanks to everyone who supported the appeal.

John Harris



Next month's editor

This will be Team Lucy Wolfe and Fi

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Broadband Update

I attended a meeting with other local technologists organised by Jackie Porter with the HCC program manager for Super Fast Broadband delivery and his BT opposite number. I thought I would pass on what I learned and generate some interest in the options available to those for whom having speedy and reliable Broadband is a necessity and not a luxury.

The BT option which is fully funded by BT and HCC will deliver speeds between 10Mbps and 80Mbps from the Internet and about 20% of the rate achieved back to the internet provided your premises are within 1000 metres of the green cabinet opposite the Cricketers Pub in Easton (139 connections) or for EOL's in Itchen Abbas within 1000 metres of the Exchange. The nearer you are the higher the speed that is technically possible though as with all things there are other considerations which will reduce this speed such as how much capacity your ISP pays for out of the BT network and into the internet.

Also, since this solution still uses copper wires, now running high speed traffic in proximity, interference between signals on adjacent wires can cause signals to be resent multiple times until they are correctly received (crosstalk), which rises as more connections run through the cabinet.

That said, users in Itchen Abbas already connected and adjacent to the cabinet are getting bandwidths at the highest levels. The really good news for Easton is that all properties within the village are within 1000 Metres of the cabinet and so are capable of getting a much better service than is currently available.

For those of you who cannot wait until 2018 there are two viable options to obtain faster broadband earlier.

It is possible to come out of the HCC funded program and self fund by contracting with BT Openreach direct as a community. This has the potential to reduce the delay to between 12 and 15 months meaning delivery of Super Fast Broadband at least one year earlier and possibly 18 – 24 months earlier if the program slips. For Easton it would cost in the region of £25k and £30k to accelerate delivery on a one off cost basis.

There is a fledgling wireless line of site Broadband offering going live in January for Chilcomb. Subject to finding a repeater mast location in the Easton village area and obtaining line of site from your premises to this mast it should be possible to get up to 60 Mbps both up to and down from the internet through installation of a receiver not unlike a small SKY dish on your house, an outbuilding, or in the garden. Reliable in all weather conditions provided leaves and tree branches can be avoided this could be available in Easton by Easter.

Subject to the location of the repeater mast this solution could also be available to Martyr Worthy and Itchen Abbas EOL households at least on the southern side of the B3047.

Please come to a couple of public

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meetings in January on 13th at Easton Village Hall and 14th at Itchen Abbas both at 8 p.m. The purpose of these meetings is to understand the appetite for speeding up Super Fast Broadband provision in both communities and we hope to have formal quotations from BT for option 1. Also Gigabeam will present their solution and talk about what has been achieved at Chilcomb to allow us to gauge viability and build enthusiasm for their service.

Chris Ellis

Comings and goings:

Anne, Fred and Phyllis Gillson have left No 1 Grace Farm Cottage to move to Dorset. Elaine and Bill Loader have moved from Lone Barn to 1 Grace Farm Cottage, Martyr Worthy, and we welcome Geoff and Nada Farris to Lone Barn. We also welcome Nigel and Rebecca Rudyard and Sam (14) and Hazel (11) who are renting Jasmine Cottage in Easton.

Judith Mezger

Winchester Constituency Update

A very Happy New Year to all readers of the Itchen Valley News!

I may be working inside Government these days (at the Department of Health of course) but my interests at Westminster remain varied and I always try to give a sense of that in these columns. Last month for instance, I sat as part of unique inquiry into body image convened by the All Party Group led by the MP for Romsey. It looked into the use of underweight models on both the catwalk and in advertising and followed extensive media coverage over the London and New York Fashion Weeks, and the

French example where they have legislated to prevent designers using models with a BMI of less than 18.

We heard evidence from a range of experts, including Rosie Nelson, Instigator of the Change.Org petition securing 150,000 signatures, and Hayley Hasselhoff, the International Plus Size Model. I learned so much on a subject that should interest us all, not least those of us with young daughters, and the group will now produce a report to go to Ministers. You can find out more via www.stevebrine.com/bodyimage

Secondly, a little noticed announcement from last month's Autumn Statement was a rather neat idea that has ending up helping a key local charity helping women with breast cancer. You may be aware of an ongoing row we are having with the European Union over VAT charged on women's sanitary products. In short, we want these 'essential' items to be zero rated but that is not possible under EU law so we levy the minimum possible, 5%. So while we argue the toss with Brussels, the Chancellor announced he is going to use the £15 million a year raised from the 'Tampon Tax' to fund women's health and support charities. The first £5m will be distributed between Eve Appeal, SafeLives, Women's Aid and The Haven Breast Cancer charity which has now opened its 'Wessex Haven' in Hampshire.



Readers will know of my long-term work in this area and will be as thrilled as I am that we are able to do this. Every cloud really does have a silver lining! More: www.stevebrine.com/breastcancer

Finally, I have spoken out again on the subject of term time holidays from school. This has not made me hugely popular with my colleagues at the Department for Education but they have this one wrong, or at the very least, have created unintended consequences which they need to put right. There is no question that children need to be in school but Government should trust teachers, and parents, and allow more flexibility – especially in the early primary years – than at present. I remain on the case arguing for a compromise. More: www.stevebrine.com/westminster

You can find more information about my wider work as your MP in Westminster and the constituency, via the website or on 01962 791110.

Steve Brine
MP for Winchester & the Itchen Valley

Jackie's County Corner

Happy New Year!

After the rush of Christmas, there will be a lot of waste that needs to be disposed of; from the turkey bones to the Christmas tree, and the inevitable question - what can we put into the recycling bin - and when is the recycling centre open? The County Council's role is to manage the waste from that point. Many of the recycled materials don't have the value that they used to have, so it costs tax payers' money. It's simple: to save money, we must all create less waste, and be encouraged to re-use items rather than buy new ones.

As part of the Local Government cuts

imposed on us all by National Government, the County Council is trying, yet again, to cut £1.2million off the cost of getting rid of our waste. So, they are going out to consultation on this subject again, just a year after the last, with the intention of cutting the recycling services available to residents.

Alresford's Recycling Centre is the smallest of the 24 bring-along sites in Hampshire, recycling just 2000 tonnes of waste per year. Alton and Petersfield are also low on the list so they are at threat too. Winchester recycles just under 10,000 tonnes and is 11th on the list.

This is your chance to have your say. If we want to keep the Alresford site open, we will have to make sure that everyone knows how important it is to us. There are options in the paper for all sites including Winchester too.

Please take part in the HW RC consultation which starts on the 25th January for six weeks, by going to www.hants.gov.uk and put 'have your say' into the search section - or contact HCC or me for a paper copy if you prefer.

(Don't forget the **library consultation is still open too, until the 16th January.**)

On a positive note, the County is renegotiating what can be recycled with Veolia, its recycling partner, at the separating plant near Alton. I would like to see glass and textiles included in the list for our green bins here in Winchester district, and the chance to recycle food waste too.

Today, I have met with Bespoke Biking and Community First Wessex who run Bikeabout to talk about expanding bike hire and rides in the area. Heather Evans has done a great job in developing opportunities for leisure



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cycling in the city and national park, encouraging new adult riders too. WinACC, (Winchester Action on Climate Change) is keen to see more opportunities to ride bikes and maintain bikes at the Bike Hub. So, if your new year's resolution is to get out on the bike, but you or your bike are a bit rusty, why not pop into see Heather's team at St John's House? www.bespokebiking.com

Broadband is moving along- but very slowly! There was a lot of very technical description on the Itchen List when faster broadband delivery dates of Jan to September 2018 were quoted on the website!

So, I asked a team of local experts to join me to talk to BT Openreach and HCC about the practicalities of speeding up delivery of faster broadband for 140 + homes in Easton and the 130+ homes on the Exchange Only Lines (EOL) at Itchen Abbas.

The conclusion of the meeting was that any fibre options offered by BT will take at least nine months to deliver, so we agreed as a team to investigate the precise demand in both communities for faster services and the other options available. You are invited to join us at

8pm on the 13th January (for Easton residents at the Village Hall) and the 14th January (for EOL lines in Martyr Worthy and Itchen Abbas at Itchen Abbas Village Hall) to look at the options and to decide whether and how we go for a faster (self funded) service delivered before 2018.

If you can't join us, but want to be kept informed, please let me know.

Councillor Jackie Porter

01962 791054 Jackie@jackieporter.co.uk
 text:07973 696 085 www.jackieporter.co.uk

From our City councillor



For Winchester City Council, and for the city itself, 2016 is likely to be a critical year. It should be the year when the battles over Silver Hill and Station Approach and other major developments which together will fundamentally change the city, will be decided. Given that the two main parties have been pretty much aligned in their view on these schemes, the opposition to the uninspired and insensitive bureaucratic approach taken has only come from individual concerned councillors and, of course, the public. The support from so many wonderful (intelligent and perceptive) people in Itchen Valley has been the essential foundation to the campaigning Nicky and I have undertaken, and intend to continue with until the job is done.

Our particular focus just now is with protecting the archaeology on the site, which is thought to be of 'international' significance. The approach we are promoting is that the site should be fully excavated before any new development is devised, so that if they

do find the Roman baths or any of the other archaeological assets that the experts think might be there, they could be contained within an exhibition centre and the rest of the development designed around it. It doesn't take a Merlin to realise that Winchester could make much so more by proudly exhibiting its history, than it could by building a few more shops.

Other things that will make this a critical year for the Council will be the adoption of Local Plan Part 2, which will effectively fix planning policy and site allocations for a 20 year period to 2031. Also coming up, is 'devolution' whereby a number of Hampshire authorities are looking to team up with each other jointly to provide services all in the name of efficiency, ie. cost cutting. There is currently a lot of negotiating being done to see who can come up with the best plan that central government will accept. Lastly, and I'm sorry but it wasn't my idea, there will all-out city elections in May. There is to be a cull of councillors, reducing 57 to 45 in total, and I am hoping to be one of my party's three candidates in the newly-formed city council ward of Alresford and Itchen Valley (including Bishops Sutton), but more of that anon.

Best wishes

Kim A Gottlieb

Winchester City Councillor For Itchen Valley

07795 494919

kim@gottmail.com

Parish Council Report

We have been setting our budget for the coming year, keeping in mind, apart from the regular items, the variety of special



ones which may come up in the near future. The potential value of a Neighbourhood Development Plan is still being considered as is the Strategy for Open Spaces and play equipment. On the latter, following an inspection of the play equipment at Couch Green, we have been advised that on health and safety grounds it should be fenced in. This will happen soon and is a significant cost, which may delay the purchase of other items. However there is little choice and safety for children playing has to be a priority. A watching brief is being kept on proposed devolution of powers but as a council serving a relatively small population, and hence a relatively small budget, projected proposals may not have any significant effect. A letter has been written in support of Winchester City Council's stance on the sale of Council and Housing Association property in our area. We will also be expressing our views on various consultations that have come up from libraries to street lighting. Hopefully those individuals who take an interest in such matters have done so as well. A change that will happen soon is the rules on transparency. These should give more access to Parish Council information and modifications will need to be made to the web site. Another item for the budget.

And finally a little bit of space for bus shelters. After site visits with South Downs National Park Authority we have agreement for us to organise new floors for the three new shelters they provided. The funds that were earmarked as our contribution to the project can now be spent on this work. We may be lucky and see the work done quite soon but if we get cold weather there may be a delay until early spring.

Patrick Appleby. Parish Council Chairman.

Itchen Valley Church Services



The collections at our Christmas Services will be split equally between the Winchester Churches Nightshelter and The Sunshine School in Jerusalem, which Rebecca visited.

Sunday 3rd January

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

Sunday 10th January

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

Sunday 17th January

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

Sunday 24th January

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

Sunday 31st January

| | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|
| 8am | BCP Holy Communion | Itchen Abbas |
| 10am | Parish Communion | Avington |

Ministry Team

Rector

Rev Amanda Denniss 779832 amandadenniss@gmail.com

Curates

Rev Alex Pease 791010 rev@ampease.co.uk
Rev Rebecca Fardell 809264 rebecca.itchenvalley@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mr Tony Gaster 779110 tonygaster@btinternet.com
Mr Gerry Stacey 620263 gstacey@easynet.co.uk

Parish website: <http://itchenvalleychurches.org.uk/>

Itchen Valley Churchwardens

St Mary's Easton: Anna Burness 779993, Theo Mezger 07775 908014
St John's Itchen Abbas: Charlotte Appleby 779778, Tony Gaster 779110
St Swithun's Martyr Worthy: Andrew Impey 779645, Robin Greenwood 79540

Letter from the Curate's Cottage

'Good Christmas?' 'Yes, great thanks, all the family together, you know, good fun!'. How wonderful....!



The jollity spreads down the office corridors and around the kitchen tables, as the children play in the background. And for many of us, this will all be true. We **did** have a great Christmas! We really **did** love having the family to stay! It was marvellous to celebrate Christmas in the Valley, where we do Christmas so well every year!

But perhaps for some of us, it was not really all that marvellous at Christmas. Perhaps Uncle Jerome did hit the booze too much and really upset the apple cart. Perhaps the wonderful family feast that we were hoping that Christmas would be this year did not turn out the way that we were expecting, and hoping it would be, when we started planning it in October or November. So disappointing!

Perhaps tensions, which were below the surface all year, came bubbling inconveniently to the surface. Perhaps we had rows with our parents or our children. Perhaps the holiday was a time when we reflected on where we are in life and found that things haven't moved on one little bit since last Christmas, despite all our efforts.

Perhaps we said things that cannot be unsaid. Perhaps we massively overspent our Christmas budget and we are starting the year in debt, which will take months to sort out. Perhaps, the New Year is starting with regrets about the past or anxiety about the future.

The truth that we so often forget, in our family celebration, is what, or rather who, we were celebrating. And that truth won't go away – that Jesus Christ Son of God, the Creator of the Universe, was born in Bethlehem some time two thousand years ago, was crucified and was raised from the dead. OK, so what, you may say? The whole point is that he died so that He could carry the pain of all our regrets about the past and all our anxieties about the future. And He will do so, if we will only just let Him....

I have often been struck by Psalm 18 'The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold...'. You know these words really only mean anything when life is difficult. When out swimming on a still calm day, when everything is going our way, we don't need a rock to cling to. It's only when we are caught in a storm, when we cannot cope, when we fear that we are going to drown, in the misery of our regret or stress of our anxiety. Then we need a rock. And it had better be a solid one!

If you are feeling at all as I have described – if you have the New Year blues, turn to the One who can carry them for you. The rock we can cling to. He can take the strain, even when we cannot.

And if we let him, it really will be a Happy New Year.

Revd. Alex Pease



Tiddler Joke

Q - What do you call an underground train full of Professors?

Ben De Laszlo, 8 years

Think about it as you turn the page - Ed

A - A tube of Smarties!

No-one got it at the CAMEO meeting, congratulations if you did! If you know any Tiddlers who would like to send in their favourite joke and a photo please email itchenvalleynews@gmail.com, we would love to hear from you. Ed



Itchen Ramblings – Blow away the cobwebs on New Year's Day!

This circular on/off road walk takes about an hour and a half at a pleasant amble which might be the pace of choice on New Year's Day (!). There is some road walking to begin with and at the end and a couple of inclines. Starting at the Cricketers car park in Easton, head out of the village on Chapel Lane towards Easton Village Hall and continue on that road heading in the direction of the Neptune (aka Percy Hobbs) roundabout. After about 20 minutes, you'll see a gravel lay-by on your left opposite Fair Lane which runs uphill to the right. Beside the lay-by you'll see a gap in the hedge and a finger post pointing up the side of a large field. Walk up this hill and when you reach the top enjoy a breather and the view! Continue forward over the crest of the hill where the fields join and down the track on the other side. At a T-junction of tracks, turn left and follow the track downhill with hedges and fields on either side. At the bottom, the track continues on with a sign saying Private – at this point, look to

your left and you will see a metal chain stile that opens in middle (known as a Rambler's gate) heading into some woods. Go through the stile and continue on the path through the woods bearing right when the ground levels out, following the edge of the large arable field. The path will eventually bring you out onto the road in Avington opposite Lake House. Turn left, down the hill and over the cattle grid into Avington Park. Continue to follow the road through the Park, up the hill and over the second cattle grid. Continue on the road down the hill through the woods and on into Easton. You have the option of continuing through the village until you reach the Cricketers and where you started or you could cut



down the side of the Chestnut Horse, go through the kissing gate, across the field and out the other side onto Easton Lane. Turn left and you will reach the Cricketers.

This walk will burn 524 calories of Festive excess with the added bonus of a clearer head!

Lucy Wolfe



Trout Spawning

If you happen to be on the public footbridge on the river in Martyr Worthy during January, cast a glance into the water both up and downstream close to the north bank and you may well see pairs of wild brown trout spawning in the gravel. This year it may be easier to see them as the gravel has been recently jetted to release any silt deposits in the riverbed, which can be so detrimental to successful spawning. The trout eggs, having been laid in the silt free gravel, will hopefully remain well oxygenated until April when they emerge out of the riverbed as tiny fry, seeking somewhere to hide from any predator. The wild brown trout on the Upper Itchen spawn later in the winter than any other trout, giving them the advantage of laying eggs that will not hatch until there is plenty of new weed growth in the river to provide that protection. A successful spawning period is vital to any wild trout fishery that does not stock with farmed fish.

Simon Fennell

New Year Resolutions – Zumba Style!

1 - Eat lots – you will burn it off in class!

2 - Drink lots - maybe keep that glass of wine 'til *after* class; alcohol doesn't always aid coordination!

3 - Attend lots of classes – the better you know the music, the more you'll enjoy the routines!

4 - Smile and laugh lots – laughter is the best medicine especially at this time of the year!

5 - Forget your inhibitions – make 2016 the year you 'just do it' (..still talking zumba here!)

6 - Forget the gym – music can lift you without any equipment!

7 - Forget the 'no pain no gain' jargon. Exercise at your own level – injury is no fun.

8 - Travel the world – zumba music is from all continents.

9 - Make new friends – all classes friendly!

10 - STOP making excuses – come to Zumba! What are you waiting for?!

Still not convinced? Ring me Sue Russell on 07947410394 or email me sue@plays-r-ussell.com or check out my website

www.zumba-around-winchester.com

Happy New Zumba Year!

Sue Russell

The Practical Gardener

Looking back on 2015 here are 10 successes:

1 – Roses have never been so colourful
2 – The longest season for flowers that I can remember

3 – Wonderful fruit crops, both quantity and flavour

4 – After a wet 2014 a decent period of dry weather and plenty of sun

5 – The biggest pea crop I've ever known

6 – Winter raspberries to die for

7 – A great pile of leaf mould requiring absolutely no work

8 – Woodchip mulch which really does cut down on weeds

9 – Amazing flowering shrubs with wonderful colours

10 – A new tripod ladder which makes access safe and easy

And the other side:- failures or difficulties:

1 – Non germinating carrot seeds (3 varieties)

2 – Two stroke machinery that refuses to start

3 – Broken gear box on a new mower

4 – Pigeons attacking everything including brassicas

5 – Bits in commercial compost which should not be there

6 – Rats from the footpath

7 – Ivy on trees and shrubs

8 – Black spot on roses if you forget to



spray

9 – Cucumbers in the greenhouse which die suddenly

10 – People telling me they have no problems!

Happy gardening in 2016.

Tony Gaster



Winchester Cathedral Refectory Rota 2016

I would like to let all our new residents know about the voluntary work done in the Cathedral, by many of the ladies and gents here in the Itchen Valley.

There is a new management company now running the catering for the Cathedral, and we send a small team, usually 4 or 5, once a month.

The refectory serves wonderful coffee, cakes and lunches, and we help out by delivering the food and clearing the tables.

It is a great way of meeting new people and expanding your phone book and really is not every month, as we have quite a large group so we can share out the dates.

Please call me or email me if you want to find out some more. I have the dates for 2016 and will be drawing up the Rota for next year very soon.

Sarah Robinson,
d.robinson436@btinternet.com, 779907



Two years and counting

695 copies of the Itchen Valley News are printed every month.

These are read by at least that number of local residents and as the magazine starts its third year of

publication I would like to thank all of you for opening the pages each month and reading what we have compiled for your information and enjoyment.

These copies don't just drop through your letterbox by accident but are delivered by a team of around fifty volunteers who walk or drive to every household in the parish. In turn I would like to thank all our distributors for going out in all seasons and in all weathers to make sure the Itchen Valley News gets through.

All the copies are produced by our printer in Basingstoke and he only does this because we pay him every month.

This relies on our advertising team getting in sufficient revenue from our advertisers and on the magazine's treasurer for looking after our funds. Few in number but great in impact, I thank you too.

Without the computing and artistic skills of the sub-editors you would be reading 44 blank pages. The job of a sub-editor requires patience, clear thinking and a modicum of humour along with an appreciation of the printing deadline that ever so surely catches up with you on a Sunday evening. The magazine's five sub-editors deserve a really big thank you.

And finally, without the continuing support of our contributors, these 44 pages would be very dull. We see our role as that of telling you what will be



happening followed by reporting on what actually did happen. Add a few articles of general local interest and you have the Itchen Valley News. But someone has to write the words that fill the pages and I must thank everyone who has contributed in whatever way, whether regularly or only once, to the content of the magazine.

Thank you and a Merry Christmas to you all.

Vernon Tottle

Editor Itchen Valley News

Itchen Insight

Name: Fred Haslam

Age: unbelievable

Occupation:
BSc, PhD, Dipl.
Chem. Eng; FI
Chem. Eng.;
Scientist and
Engineer

Life: Born in Cheshire, 30 years in the Valley, 2 universities, 11 Group Fighter Command. Worked in 83 countries, both 3rd World and behind the Iron Curtain. Chair of Martyr Worthy Village Hall in its centenary year; Secretary of 2 PCCs and Martyr Worthy Churchwarden; Parish Councillor. Walked the Pilgrims' Way.

Surprise snippet: Accidentally missed my flight to Bangalore on an Airbus 320 which crashed on trying to land with the loss of all on board!

Champagne moment: Flying to Washington at Mach 2.2 on board Concorde.

Favourite place: The Cricketers on Wednesdays when all matters of



World Importance are dealt with.

Best things about the Valley:

Village chatter, Grange Park Opera, my Victoria Sponge and EIRLYS.

Worst thing about the Valley: My broadband speed (1Mb/s)

Favourite book and TV

programme: Winston Churchill by Boris Johnston; Great Canal Journeys with Prunella Scales and Timothy West

Valley Volunteers

Lucy Collis very kindly agreed to talk to me about her experience of Volunteering.

- How long have you been volunteering?

I joined Youth Options in 2008 after meeting Mike Gretton, the chairman of Youth Options who also lives in the valley.

- What's your role and what does it involve?

I am a trustee which involves going to meetings 6 times a year and helping out on 'special projects.' This year it is the 'Next Steps' project for young people leaving foster or residential care who need extra support to move forward in their lives. I help fundraise for the charity and for the 'Next Steps' project.

- Why did you choose Youth Options/How did you get involved?

I chose Youth Options because I feel strongly that the best bit of luck you get in life is the family you are born into. I feel very lucky as I had a good experience and would now like to 'give



back' to those who are less fortunate. I believe in the importance of the community and I want my children to see me helping others who have had different life experiences to themselves.

- Brief description/history of the organisation

Youth Options was established in 1937. It is a charity that helps children and young people in Hampshire. It focuses on those who are at the edges of our society: children in care with no support; and disengaged children and young people facing issues such as exclusion from school, substance abuse and anti-social or criminal behaviour. Through programmes that encourage, educate and stimulate, Youth Options gives these young people the self-belief to take a more positive part in society. If you would like any more information on this charity's history please look on its website:

<http://www.youthoptions.co.uk/about-us/history/>

- What would you say are the main challenges facing charities and in particular Youth Options today?

Youth Options had its funding cut by 40% following the financial crisis when local government took austerity measures. £1.3 million a year is needed so fundraising is our biggest challenge. We aim to raise £50,000 this year from fundraising events and individual donations. We are lucky to have Mike Gretton and Rolls Coleman (YO Treasurer) living in the valley as well as a small fundraising group who have just formed and I would love to hear from any others who would like to join us. Please email me for more details at:

lucyvarcoe@gmail.com

- Like many you are a busy



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mother and this must be time consuming - What do you get out of volunteering/why do you do it?

I am a big believer in the theory that if you give a busy person a job they will get it done! It is important to me for my children to see that I am working hard and to realise that although they are very privileged, not everyone in society is. I do not want them to take their lovely lives for granted. As I said before, I want to give something back to the community. I enjoy mixing with other parts of the society and seeing other areas of the county.

- What are you working on at the moment/what's the current project?

Currently I am working on helping the 'Next Steps' raise extra cash to fund a well needed weekend away for young mothers to Butlins. The whole weekend for approximately 20 families would cost £1000 and would be a fantastic break for these young people.

*Ronnie Johns. Please contact me on :
purpleronnie11@hotmail.com if you would
be happy to talk to me about your
experience of being a volunteer.*

Entrepreneurs of the Valley



Mark Low

This month the spotlight is on Avington resident, Pure Spain Founder, Mark Low, who founded and manages Pure Spain. From paella to perfume, olive wood to olive oil, a taste of Spain can be found right here on our doorstep. Pure Spain offers a comprehensive

range of Spanish gourmet food, fine wine, kitchenware, olive wood, perfumeries and Spanish inspired gifts and hampers. Pure Spain is primarily a website based business, with a small retail outlet in Dorchester. They also sell through Amazon and notonthehighstreet.com, as well as local food & gift fairs.

Dionne Sanders and Lucy de Laszlo got chatting to Mark recently ...

What led you to setting up Pure Spain?

I married into a Spanish family and it was not long before I became a fully signed up Hispanophile, developing an interest in Spanish food, wine and culture. Having worked as a marketing consultant for many years, I was keen to use my skills & experience to exploit the opportunities that the internet has to offer. An online business selling Spanish products that are not readily available in the UK was the answer.

How long has the business been up and running, and can you tell us a little about the early months of Pure Spain?

We spent 18 months sourcing Spanish products direct from small suppliers in Spain and developing an e-commerce platform before the Pure Spain website was launched in 2009. Spain had never been that good at publicising its wonderful and varied products compared with European neighbours like Italy and France, so initially it was a case of educating the UK market, particularly about authentic Spanish products. With an online business, creating the website is the easy bit – getting people to visit your site and buy is another issue altogether! The last 5 years have been spent working towards increasing traffic to the website, finding the right products and ultimately building a trusted brand.

What do you enjoy most about running your own business?

Obviously the freedom to make your own business decisions and grow a business from scratch is very rewarding. It's not a 9-5 job and that has huge advantages from a family perspective. We get orders everyday online and I still get a kick every time someone buys something from our site.



What has been your most unusual order?

We delivered 250 paella sets to a global technology company to support a presentation they did in Barcelona!

Pure Spain in the press

Pure Spain has been recommended by Rick Stein as a supplier of "all things Spanish" in his recipe cookbook SPAIN. The Observer GOOD magazine recommended its Vizcarra Ribera del Duero red wine.

Next year Pure Spain will be exhibiting at the Alresford Watercress Festival, Alresford Show, Romsey Show and Winchester Christmas Market.

Mark has kindly offered local residents a discount of 10% for orders. Use the code ITCHEN at the checkout.

www.purespain.co.uk or phone 01305 458166

If you are a local entrepreneur and would like to talk to Dionne and Lucy about your business please email itchenvallynews@gmail.com. Ed

Waste Collections over Christmas and New Year

There will be changes to the collection days over the holiday period. Bins will be collected as follows:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Friday 25 Dec | No collection |
| Monday 28 Dec | Black bins (no garden waste) |
| Friday 1 Jan | No collection |
| Monday 4 Jan | Green bins |
| Friday 8 Jan | No collection |
| Saturday 9 Jan | Black bins (no garden waste) |
| Friday 15 Jan | Usual day for green bins |
| Friday 22 Jan | Usual day for black bins plus garden waste plus Christmas trees |

Details of waste collections are always shown every month on page 40 of this magazine.

Buche de Noel

With or without the chestnut purée a favourite recipe over the last 40 years !

Ingredients for 6 to 8 portions

- 2 medium eggs
- 2 oz (55g) caster sugar plus more for dusting non-stick paper
- 2 oz (55g) plain flour
- half level tsp baking powder
- 6 oz (170g) plain chocolate
- 1 (15oz) (415g) can unsweetened chestnut purée
- 4 oz (110g) butter
- 4 oz (110g) icing sugar
- 2 tsp coffee essence or strong coffee

Method

1. Prepare a moderately hot oven (400deg F, 200 deg C, Gas Mark 6)
2. Draw around base of an 11 in by 7 in Swiss roll tin on non stick baking paper. Cut paper half inch out from line, crease paper on line. Grease tin and press paper down into tin; grease paper.
3. Place eggs and caster sugar in a bowl over pan of hot water; whisk together until thick and mixture leaves a trail when whisk is lifted. Remove bowl from pan and whisk until mixture is cool.
4. Sift together flour and baking powder; carefully fold into mixture, cutting through with a metal spoon. Pour into prepared tin and shake gently to level mixture. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in centre of oven, after which cake should have risen and shrunk slightly and should spring back when pressed with fingertips.
5. Cut a piece of non stick paper 1 in. bigger all round than the tin; sprinkle thickly with caster sugar. Invert cake on to sugared paper. Quickly loosen sides of paper, then carefully peel off paper on bottom of cake. Trim edges of cake with a sharp knife. Make a cut halfway through the cake 1 in. from and parallel with, the long side from which cake will be rolled.
6. To make a firm start to the roll, press half-cut edge down and hold with one hand; using the paper, roll cake firmly with the non stick paper inside. Hold cake for a moment, with non stick paper around, to set cake; leave to cool completely on a wire rack.
7. Break up chocolate and place in dry basin over a saucepan of hot, but not boiling, water. Stir gently until chocolate has melted.

If using chestnut purée sieve into a bowl. If not, the same quantities of butter, icing sugar and chocolate are sufficient.

8. Cream butter and icing sugar together until light and fluffy, add melted chocolate and coffee and mix together. Beat in chestnut purée.

9. Unroll sponge and remove paper. Spread cake with one third of chocolate mixture, taking mixture almost to cut edge. Roll up. Cut one quarter of cake, diagonally from one end of Swiss roll.

10. Place cake on silver board, and place cut side of piece of roll against centre of Swiss roll to make a fork in the branch.

10. Spread remaining chocolate mixture over cake to cover completely. Mark with a fork. Sprinkle with icing sugar and decorate with Christmas figures or holly.

Chill until ready to serve.



Can be kept in fridge 4 days or it can be frozen. To freeze make up to end of step 7 but do not cut roll. Wrap in cling film and freeze. Freeze remaining chocolate mixture separately. Thaw overnight in fridge, decorate when required

Gail Mann

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Easton Village Hall News

In 2016 we would like to introduce you to some of our regular users as we are celebrating 5 years of our fantastic facilities.

First up is Emily Bray Pilates. Emily who is a trained physiotherapist joined us shortly after opening our doors in 2010. Here is what she has to say: My classes are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-10am at Easton Village Hall.

The classes focus on maintaining mobility and flexibility of all joints as well as strengthening the deep 'core' abdominal muscles. The classes are fun as well as challenging and are aimed at beginners to advanced level using a range of equipment from heavy weights to foam rollers. Each exercise can be adapted to your individual need depending on initial level of fitness or medical background. Anyone who wants to reduce back pain, gain improved core stability, maintain flexibility or tone up other muscle groups would benefit from the classes.

Ina Williams Booking Secretary

Education needed

I am planning to set up a home education group for secondary school aged children (11-15 ish) which will probably take place one day a week in Easton Village Hall. I would love to speak to anyone who might be interested in teaching a small group on either a regular weekly basis or for a short course ... or even just for an occasional workshop! The most important qualities I'm looking for are:

- a passion for your subject(s), which may or may not be academic
- the ability to inspire and motivate young people, understanding that, as they are home educated, they have the

freedom to "vote with their feet"!

- an interest in project-based and self-directed learning, and willingness to take a cross-curricular approach (eg. facilitate a project on, say, 'climate change', integrating learning around maths, science, humanities, literacy, art, etc)

- the ability to encourage the children's active, hands-on participation in their own learning, so that they learn by doing rather than just listening (no "chalk and talk" please!)

In addition to the usual academic subjects, I'm particularly keen to talk to anyone who could offer learning opportunities around:

- nature study - bushcraft - conservation - environmental management - environmental art - etc
- digital photography
- yoga - mindfulness - possibly Tai Chi
- alternative therapies - eg. an insight into homeopathy, herbalism, acupuncture, energy medicine, etc
- healthy nutrition
- music - dance - drama - etc

But I'm open to any ideas or suggestions so this is just the starting point! And most of all I need people who are kind, caring and charismatic, capable of inspiring young people and earning respect. If you'd like to help shape a different kind of education, please email me in the first instance and give me an insight into your relevant experience, skills and qualities. **Please note, you don't have to be a qualified teacher!** As the roles will be self-employed, it'd be good to know the kind of hourly rate you'd expect to receive.

Equally, if you are home educating your child(ren) and would like to get involved, please also get in touch.

Thanks very much and I'll look forward to hearing from lots of you!

Jb Pheam jorheam@gmail.com

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WEDNESDAY 9:45 – 11:15am

THURSDAY 9-10am
7-8pm

FRIDAY 9-10am
4-7:30pm



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Pilates with Emily (starts 5th)
Sally Stanyard's Dance School
Moo Music
Pilates with Emily (starts 7th)
Sally Stanyard's Dance School
Authentic Pilates (starts 8th)
Sally's Dance & Drama class

Other bookings

Wed 13th 20:00

Thur 14th 19:00 – 22:00

Sat 16th 10:00 – 14:00

Sun 17th 15:00 – 17:00

Sat 30th 10:30 – 13:30

Broadband for Easton update

WI meeting

children's party

Easton residents' Tea Party

children's party



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Thursday – 7 – 9.30pm Whist Drive

Others

Sunday 24th – am The Ark Sunday
school

Sunday 31st – 3pm children's party

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Alresford Surgery News - December 2015 Christmas closure

The Surgery will be closed on Friday 25th & Monday 28th December & Friday 1st January.

Outside surgery hours urgent medical care is provided by Care UK. The service is available by telephoning **111**. They may see you in a surgery based in Winchester or if necessary arrange for a doctor to call at your home.

111 is the NHS non-emergency number. It's fast, easy and free. Call 111 and speak to a highly trained adviser, supported by healthcare professionals. They will ask you a series of questions to assess your symptoms and immediately direct you to the best medical care for you.

NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones



CPRE Hampshire launches new campaign for South Hampshire Green Belt

On 13th November 2015, ahead of the devolution negotiation held in London last week and 65 years after the concept was first mooted, we called on the county's Leaders to forge ahead with a new Green Belt for South Hampshire.

Did you know that Hampshire has almost no Green Belt, apart from around the Avon Valley and New Milton? However, it 'nearly' had a substantial Green Belt around the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton on a

number of occasions.

As it stands, the devolution plans contain a proposal to increase housing delivery but with the reassurance of a Green Belt option. We want this to stay and for local authority leaders to gain the Government's commitment to Green Belt on behalf of the public.

Our Chairman, Dee Haas sums up the situation: *"South Hampshire would benefit greatly from a new Green Belt which would create a more cohesive structure for the big cities while allowing them to grow and develop in a sustainable manner. The Devolution proposals of 2015 now give Hampshire authorities a chance to revisit the plans of some 65 years ago and commit to a Green Belt designed to meet its five basic purposes, all of which accord with the South Hampshire Strategy of today."*

To find out more about this campaign please read our briefing paper available from the website. We have sent it to all 15 of Hampshire's Council Leaders and their Chief Executives, along with other key stakeholders. Our Chairman and representatives from our district groups are holding a series of meetings with Hampshire MPs about this campaign and other strategic issues. These include our suggested solutions to problems with the requirement for Local Plans to show a five-year housing supply.

Nicola Revolta



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Sesawho? Sesame

“Aisle 19, left side, unit 11 shelf D.” That’s what Erica in Customer Services at Tesco told me the other day. Despite a bookshelf full of cookery books in the kitchen at home, I still like to browse the supermarket websites for new recipe ideas. I had found a Tesco recipe for a “Korean Beef Bowl” and one of the ingredients was Sesame Oil. I looked in the larder and found a bottle of Smoked Sesame Oil – with quite a pungent odour. Not really the item I thought would go well with this recipe.

So on my next shopping trip I looked on the shelf at the various oils – and alas all I could spot was the same Tesco Smoked Sesame Oil I already possessed. So before leaving the store I called in at Customer Services. “Yes, we do have some non-smoked sesame oil. It’s in Aisle 19.”

Now Aisle 19 isn’t the oil, vinegar and spice aisle that I had browsed earlier. It’s the one parallel to it with pasta, rice and cook-in-sauces. At the far end of the shelves is the Polish section and next to that is the Indian and Chinese speciality section. This display has 10kg bags of rice and 1 litre bottles of soy sauce. Quite different in appearance from the more genteel Indian and Chinese section opposite that has Tesco written large on most of the packaging, this area has bottles with Chinese characters and ingredients printed in Urdu.

And in the midst of aisle 19, to be precise on Unit 11, shelf D I found pure sesame oil. Unsmoked and just perfect for my Korean Beef Bowl. Not only that but also cartons of Banana Fruit Juice – hard to find much nearer than on the shelves of Carrefour in Calais.

Next time you’re in Tesco (other supermarkets are of course available) do have a browse in Aisle 19. You might surprise yourself.

Vernon Tottle

Our wild valley:- Awaiting New Year Blooms!

As I write this we are still waiting to see if the conference to reduce CO₂ emissions will come off in Paris; with more 'will' from 28 EU countries plus 79 others from Africa, Caribbean and the South Pacific, than ever before to solve massive differences in history, commercialism and science. Paris ministers and helpers are reported to have been amazingly positive. It looks like there will be some sort of legally binding contract, to be reviewed every 5 years to enable countries to deal with CO₂ reductions. The EU is going to pay 475 million Euros towards climate action in partner countries up to 2020. They are aiming for a limit of 1.5 C on global warming. We shall find out by Christmas what they have achieved on paper, and by 2020 whether it's for real; for the South Pacific Islanders and sea ice, let's hope so.

To encourage take up of CO₂ by plants, more forests could be and have been planted. They act as a big sink, like the oceans, and slow up the release of CO₂. Early blooms and pollen is also what our pollinators need; and what farmers depend on. Crocus are great, snow drops too, fruit trees, Ribes pink, Pulmonaria, primroses; we have many around us here in the valley. There is a great urban project in London, habitat links for pollinators; planting flowers in parks and waysides to link up green habitat. Watch this space in 2016 for

more flowers in the valley, for more (wild) life and more fun! Merry Christmas!

PS. The photo is from a plant collection in the massive herbarium of the Natural History Museum that I was



lucky enough to visit recently. This specimen of ragwort (there are many different sorts of ragwort, not all are noxious weeds!) of the fens in Norfolk, is now extinct there (and I think throughout the UK). It was not the only one.

Sophie Rogers

Spring has sprung?

A number of people have mentioned seeing daffodils in bud, but this one, by The Plough Inn was fully out - in early December!



Local monthly information

Waste collections in January

Black bins on **Saturday 9th** and Friday 22nd. Green bins on **Monday 4th** and Friday 15th and 29th. Garden bags collected only on Friday 22nd.

Library

Visiting on Friday 15th January.
Itchen Abbas 11.00 am Easton 11.45 am

Cameo

On Tuesday 19th January.

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School term timetable operates from 4th to 31st January:

Weekdays to Winchester:

07:53 09:23 11:23 13:23 16:23 17:23

Weekdays to Alresford:

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

School holiday timetable operates from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd January:

Weekdays to Winchester:

07:53 09:23 11:23 13:23 15:23 17:23

Weekdays to Alresford:

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

Saturday service (same for the whole month)

Towards Winchester:

08:23 11:23 14:23 17:23

Towards Alresford:

09:19 12:19 15:19 18:09

No Sunday service

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