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WELCOME to the Valley News

It's been a particularly busy time for me as I am renovating bedroom and bathroom. As we stripped out the old cupboards, I was horrified at the poor standard of the electrics. It's a reminder for all of us to be careful as to whom we choose for such work. This month my co-editors have all come up trumps with interesting articles. Even our politicians give us food for thought and their support is important, both keeping us informed and alert to wider issues. Steve and Lisa mention cycling which is an ever more popular activity. What a pity that we have so few dedicated cycle ways. Then there are environmental issues mentioned by all. I wonder how many people here have electric cars and where can they be charged? Unusually this month we have two interviews, firstly with Russell Gordon-Smith our new city councillor and then with Alex Pease.

Ladies feature well with the cricket team and the marathon runners. Still our pages continue to be full of articles about activities proving this to be a community with lots of energy. One of the joys of village life is that we all contribute in different ways, also keeping our wonderful village halls and churches in good shape. Pubs, that third leg of essential village activity, also feature. I'm just grateful that I can walk to my local (the Plough) for an excellent meal.

We feature gardens and gardening, well isn't that what country is all about? I certainly enjoy my garden and last month we had baby owls in residence. Certainly it's lovely to look out of the

bedroom window on a sea of trees, shrubs and flowers.

I'm glad Vernon has raised the topic (again) of the mobile phone signal. It amuses me when government talk of 5G yet I can only get 3G. We are so far behind in this technology.

lune is the time to be out and about and we feature many activities taking place over the summer. As one who had to go to Thailand for a vitamin D top-up, it's obvious we all want to be outside in our forthcoming hot summer!

Please do continue to support our advertisers and mention that on the Itchenlist if you've had a good experience. Next month's editor will be Verity Coleman.

Tony Gaster

Treasurer

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What's On

Wednesday, 19 June, at 9.30-11.00am, Charity Coffee Morning

Courtesy of Rick Stein, 7 High Street Winchester in aid of Home-Start Winchester. Join us for coffee and cake.

Sue Gentry

Thursday, 20 June at 11.00 am Upper Itchen Valley Society Walk by the Itchen at Ovington

Roger Harrison, who owns a stretch of the Itchen at Itchen Stoke Mill, has very kindly offered to take a limited number of members on a walk along the riverbank at Ovington. This is a special opportunity, not only to experience a different view of the river but also to benefit from Roger's wealth of knowledge on everything connected with his part of the river. The walk will start at 11 am from Itchen Stoke Mill and parking will be available.

If you would like to join this small group please contact Simon Broadley si.b@outlook.com

UIVS Committee

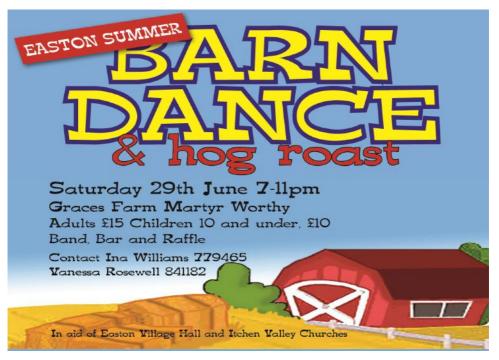
Saturday 22 June 7.30pm

Holy Trinity church, Winchester

The Winchester Chamber Orchestra, whose members include two from the Itchen Valley, is holding its annual summer concert in June.

The programme includes Schubert's





Overture in the Italian style, movements from Mendelssohn's Incidental Music for A Midsummer Night's Dream, Haydn's Clock Symphony (no. 101) and Chanson de Nuit by Elgar.

Vernon Tottle

Saturday 14 July

Avington Car Boot Sale

See Avington Park website for details

Easton Sixes - 26 July

The Easton Cricket Sixes Tournament will be held on Friday 26 July with the village tug of war taking place on the Thursday evening before. 8 teams will again compete for the prestigious Easton Sixes Trophy!

Launched in 2013 these events have been an overwhelming success with over 400 people attending. Please come and join us.

All the funds raised by these events

went towards the newly formed Easton & Martyr Worthy juniors academy, a development initiative aimed at providing coaching and mentoring for the club's talented roster of players aged 13 - 21.

www.eastonsixes.com Lucy Wolfe

Jeep for Heroes Charity Event - Postponed

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances the charity event advertised in the April 2019 issue has been postponed. Mark "The Tank" Spencer hopes to reschedule the event sometime in the future. Thank you to anyone who has donated to this event via the JustGiving page, your donations are very much appreciated Helen Backshell

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Sunday, 25 August, 2pm to 5pm, Easton Fete

The Easton Fete is a well established family event that has become a staple part of the summer calendar.

Once again, it will be held on the **Bank** Holiday Sunday (August 25) and it will be bigger and better than ever before! It will held at the Easton Village Hall and Cricket Ground (SO21 IEN). Come and join us for a great family afternoon with plenty to see and do. This year we have vintage tractor rides, a magic man and lots of children's games and races. Come and browse our stalls, enjoy afternoon tea with home made cakes or treat yourself to a glass of Prosecco and some strawberries.

We also have a licensed bar and BBQ. This year we are running the following stalls, please contact the named volunteer if you can contribute or help on the day:

BOOKS - Sophie Goodall (779931) (children's books) and Paul Russell (779818) (adult books)

CAKES - Judith Mezger (779272)

JEWELLERY AND ACCESSORIES - Iris Lacey (779707)

TOMBOLA - please contact Lyn Russell before dropping off bottles to her (779818)

TEAS - Ina Williams (779465)

WI - Jill Croft (779453)

All monies raised are equally divided between the Easton Village Hall, the Easton and Martyr Worthy cricket club and the Itchen Valley churches. If you are able to help either on the day or beforehand, please let us know; this is a great village event and relies on everyone's support. Lyn Russell (779818) Sophie Goodall (779931).

EASTONIANTE PROPERTY OF THE PR

Beatles at The Cricketers

On the first Friday in May an enthusiastic audience was treated to an evening of Beatles music at The Cricketers performed by a group of Easton chaps: Vijay Amarnani, Chris Ellis, Chris Kennedy, Guy Meredith and Steve Percy, at least one of them under the age of sixty. "We liked the idea of singing a whole evening from the Fab Four as their songs are great fun to play and so well known" said Guy. The impromptu band covered the 60s songbook from Love Me Do to Hey Jude via Yesterday with a Little Help from My Friends after A Hard Day's Night. Steve remarked "I heard Love Me Do in a record shop in Birkenhead when it first came out in October 1962 when I was studying for my "O" levels.

The thought that I would be singing it in my local pub almost fifty-seven years later is astonishing but delightfully bonkers".



The verdict of one appreciative punter on the night was "What about an evening of Everly Brothers or Buddy Holly?" There's a thought!

A hat passed around during the final strains of Hey Jude yielded £100 for the Easton Village Hall building fund.

Alex Percy

Easton W.I.

Our AGM was held in May and Nikki Ellis came to tell us about Hobbs Rehabilitation, which has ten locations in the south of England, one based in Bridgetts Lane, Martyr Worthy. Physiotherapists give specialist treatments for neurological injuries such as stroke patients, MS and Parkinsons and sports injuries, providing residential in-patient rehab in Liphook where patients receive 24 hour care with 4 hours therapy daily. Caroline Taverner came to encourage us all to increase our core stability and gave us balance exercises to gauge our abilities, with a little test at the end, which members passed with flying colours. She runs a class for Older Adult Exercise in Easton Village Hall on Thursday mornings.

Kyrene continued the meeting with information on several outings and the sad news that Joyce Yeates, a long serving member, had died recently and three members attended her funeral in the New Forest.

The Committee provided a delicious sushi supper in celebration of another successful year of outings, learning and friendship.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 13 June at St Mary's Church, Easton with an introduction to Campanology. Sallie Peake

Easton & Martyr Worthy's W10 Ladies on 'sparkling' form!

W10 Easton Ladies cricket team aka "Prosecco Cricket" has kicked off its third season with a win. Great news for newly signed sponsors, rural property specialists BCM, who are



kindly providing them with kit for their 2019 W10 Campaign.

Under the expert coaching guidance of Mark Low and Toby Randle, pictured above, this 20 strong squad of ladies has been training hard over the winter season, in a bid for glory in this year's W10 series. The initiative was launched by Hampshire Cricket and the ECB to introduce ladies of all ages to the game and has gone from strength to strength since it started 3 years ago. In the Itchen Valley alone there has been a huge rise in women keen to pick up a



bat for the first time and give the game a go.

This latest win (their first!) was against Twyford W10 Ladies. Highlights included a score of 44 runs by powerhouse Charlie Gloyn. The skipper, Jo Shropshire, is thrilled with the progress her squad has made "Such an achievement, particularly as all the team are new to playing cricket. Our positivity, commitment and enthusiasm has paid off and in our first friendly of the season, the ladies evidenced teamwork at its best". The WIO Series will soon be underway with Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club scheduled to host a W10 festival on Sunday 9 June at the David Roth Memorial Cricket Ground. You are most welcome to come along and support!

Our new city councillor

Lucy Wolfe

Russell Gordon-Smith was elected in May for a three year term as one of our three City Councillors along with Lisa Griffiths and Margot Power. The Itchen Valley News asked Russell to give us some background on his new job.

Tell us about yourself in 50 words I have worked as a landscape architect and urban designer for the last 40 odd years and I still work 2 or 3 days a week. Some of my work has been overseas in the middle east and in Africa which has given me a perspective on the world and its problems. Landscape architecture is very much about protecting the environment and the problem balancing this with development. Essentially it is problem solving, a skill I will bring to my new role. I was born in Hampshire on my grandmother's farm and I have



lived in Alresford for 25 years. I read history at university and it is still a subject that fascinates me. (More than 50

(More than 50 words supplied!)

What geographical area do you cover as city councillor?

I am elected for the Alresford and Itchen Valley Ward. This runs from Easton in the west to Bishops Sutton in the east. To the north it includes Gundleton, Bighton and Northington. A wide area as I can attest as I and the team knocked on a large percentage of the doors. I shall endeavour to attend parish council meetings and to pick up on particular local concerns.

Have you been given any specific responsibilities in the council?

I have been appointed to the Licensing Committee and to the Scrutiny Committee. Licensing includes not only obvious items such as hackney cab licences and pubs, but also casinos, scrap metal, public events and also health and safety issues. Scrutiny covers analysis of policy issues at a strategic level and researching to identify options. It also includes monitoring policies to see how they actually work. It would seem to be a good way of learning more about the processes of local government. It has been suggested that I might be able to make some contribution to the development of the next local plan. I will give an update on about my committee work in a few months.

What areas of council policy do you hope to influence?

I know the environment has come increasingly to the forefront of the media recently, but it has been an issue I have been involved in since 1971, the same year Greenpeace started. I would like to see more trees planted as I have seen the disappearance of elms in my lifetime and now ash trees are going. The River Itchen is degraded when it is one of our treasures, I want to work to see it in better condition. Wearing my urban design hat, I would like to influence regeneration in the city, Station Hill and Central Winchester. These opportunities for development have to be carried out correctly and with a long term view.

I have learnt how widespread the concern is on the speed and volume of traffic through the villages. I think something can been done about the speed, even if the volume is a more difficult issue. It seems madness to me that we have to wait for fatalities before anything can be done. We do not accept this attitude, with air travel and the rail network.

I would like to do something to persuade people about the foolishness of sitting in their cars or vans with the engines running, damaging their wallets and our lungs at the same time, for no purpose, besides being against the highway code.

How do you expect to be helping the residents of the Itchen Valley?

My committee work will have some bearing on life for local residents, but more specifically I shall endeavour to attend all parish council meetings, as they give one an insight into local concerns. Residents can contact me directly over their concerns and problems. I have had already some casework to sort out. Not very easy to foretell what will turn up on the next day.

How can we contact you?

My City Council email address is rgordon-smith@winchester.gov.uk and my mobile phone is 07803168155

It's all done by mirrors

If you've ever watched the local news on ITV, you may have wondered why some news items cover an area far wider than the southern area mapped out by the BBC. I too thought this rather odd until I went on a visit with four other residents of the Itchen Valley to the ITV studios in Whiteley near Fareham.

It turns out that this innocent looking modern office building houses a team of professionals who cover an area stretching from Dorset in the west to Kent in the east and up as far as Oxfordshire in the north. Three separate local news programmes are produced every weekday to cover this large area – and all are hosted by the same two presenters. It is at first a puzzle as to how three programmes, all broadcast at six o'clock, can be introduced by the same people. It only became clear when we saw how two of

the three programmes are recorded earlier that afternoon, leaving only one of them going out live.

Sometimes two of the three areas have a common story and in those instances transmission comes together at a prearranged time with recorded news changing to a live presentation. It all necessitates complex scheduling, split second timing and a team of around ten people working feverishly behind the scenes during the broadcast to make sure it all goes without a hitch. So when a presenter says "Joining us in the studio we have Mr X" Mr X is probably miles away, having recorded his contribution earlier that afternoon. Even the weather girl records her presentations of maps and charts in advance, calmly remaining seated in her studio chair whilst the forecast is transmitted.

Yes, it's all done by mirrors but with such precision that you really cannot be sure if what you see at home is live or recorded. It all feels live - and maybe that's what matters.

Vernon Tottle



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From our MP

Spring saw the third mass cycle ride in Winchester and it was lovely to take part once again, this time



with young Emily.

Organised by **Cycle Winchester**, an energetic campaign which simply aims to make Winchester better by bike, it saw several hundred of us form a cycle train around the one-way system in town.

The event is important but it cannot, of course, be an end in itself. The bottom line is that action speaks louder than wheels and one thing we need to see is more than a few yards of dedicated, safe, cycle ways in the district if we're going to turn Winchester into the cycle city it should be.

That is vital if parents like me are going to have the confidence to do this much more often with our children, in the city for sure, but also across the district including here in the Itchen Valley. How many of us would feel comfortable at present cycling with our little ones along the main road through Itchen Abbas, let alone let them go that way to school or to visit friends? It all reminds me of a piece of work I was involved in during my early time as our MP, as Vice Chair of the All-Party Cycling Group. The Get Britain Cycling inquiry was huge and produced a weighty report full of recommendations for central and local Government. One key aspect came under the heading "redesigning our

roads, streets and communities" and said local authorities should seek to deliver cycle-friendly improvements including segregated cycleways that keep vehicles and cyclists apart. Progress has been made but not enough and not here.

You can find more on this and see that landmark report

at www.stevebrine.com/cycling Secondly, and sticking with the Green Winchester agenda I have pursued for more than 12-years now, I have already used my new position on the backbenches to speak out on the environment and it was during a debate in the aftermath of the Extinction Rebellion protests I called for a **new Green Deal** in our country.

We absolutely should set our sights on the net zero emissions target on which Ministers have asked the Committee on Climate Change for advice. As I said in the House of Commons, a new Green Deal is about tackling one of the biggest issues we face in getting there retrofitting existing housing stock. It's not all doom and gloom about things we need to give up or pain we need to feel. Better insulated homes benefit the environment but they save us on energy bills at the same time. It's an issue I will be robustly pursuing in Parliament!

You can follow my work in this area, and find links to the social media connected to GW

via www.greenwinchester.com Finally, see my reaction to the latest Brexit developments, via my website at www.stevebrine.com but please 'like' my Page at www.fb.com/ SteveBrineMP for **instant** updates.

Steve Brine MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

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The Valley Gardeners: May's contrasting gardens

The May sunshine shone warmly on The Valley Gardeners when we visited two very contrasting gardens. Our first stop was Ramster Hall garden, an estate of 20 acres, laid out in the 1890s.

At this time of year, it is filled with towering rhododendrons and azaleas that are framed by a backdrop of stately trees including 100 year old maples and American gum trees. The whole garden was a magnificent sight as we hit the peak of the rhododendron flowering cycle and the colours were breath-taking. The delicate new leaves of acers shimmered with bright greens and reds in the sunlight and there were new vistas of colour and texture around every bend in the paths. After a couple of hours rambling around Ramster, accompanied by birdsong, we enjoyed a delicious lunch al fresco and headed off to our second garden.

Tilford Cottage garden is just what its name suggests: a small but exquisite cottage garden nestling into the Surrey hills. Our hosts Pam and Rod Burn were warm and welcoming and showed





us every facet of this charming hillside gem. Rod Burn is an engineer turned artist and both these life skills are hugely evident in the structure of the garden and the quirky, surprising and entertaining artistic features and follies that crop up throughout the garden. You could truly call this garden a labour of love, as it was carved out of a field and has been tenderly developed and enhanced over the past 20 years. Overflowing with character and charm,

every tiny corner has a delight awaiting the visitor and we spent an hour and a half meandering down the terraces towards the peaceful river Wey at the bottom.

Tea and flapjacks were taken, while soaking up the sun on the terrace before reluctantly tearing ourselves away to return to the Itchen Valley after a glorious May day in the Surrey hills.

Catherine Hahn

From the Parish Council

We have now held both our Annual Parish Meeting and our Annual General Meeting. Thank you to all who came to the APM. The talk on Dark Skies was



both interesting and thought provoking. If we need to get the benefit of dark skies when planning improvements to our homes, we need to think about how we should minimise light pollution. There are guidelines available and when commenting on planning applications the Parish Council always requests that these are followed. Unfortunately, as we found out from our speaker, these are not statutory and therefore not easy to enforce.

There was a lively question and answer session at the end of the meeting. Details of this can be found with the draft minutes on our website. Please note that no individual names of those who asked questions are recorded. We have been told by our internal auditor that this is necessary to comply with data protection regulations (GDPR). Some of the questions were concerning short term issues that have now passed. Among long term ones were two that warrant a brief explanation. First why does the Parish Council appear to hold relatively large funds in reserve? The answer is twofold. Some items which we plan to buy such as pieces of play equipment are of a cost for which there is a need to save up for more than one year. Also it is a necessary requirement that there is a contingency fund ready to meet the need that might arise for unforeseen spending. A good example is if there were sufficient candidates to

necessitate a contested election for Parish Councillors then the Council would be required to make a substantial contribution to the running costs; hence the need to have funds in reserve. Normally this figure is set at approximately half the annual precept. Secondly at the end of the meeting a number of people raised questions regarding planning. To summarise, the Parish Council uses the guidelines in documents such as the Parish Plan and the proposed South Downs National Park Plan, which is due to be fully adopted in the near future. It has to be noted that we are only one voice and it pays for individuals to send in their own comments as well. It is often frustrating when it appears that the planning authorities take little or no account of documents like the Parish Plan let alone any comments made, whether they are in support or objecting to an application. From speaking to councillors from other parishes they have very similar feelings on this issue. We will therefore continue with them to make our dissatisfaction known in the appropriate quarters.

The Annual General Meeting is always very much a business and administrative process; signing numerous documents from acceptance of office to declaring zero election expenses! That done, various roles and portfolio holders have been agreed. Please see our website for details of these and to whom to refer to on specific issues. At present there are only six councillors and to be quorate at either of our two committees, our internal auditor has informed us that we must have at least three councillors attending. Therefore until we have more members all six councillors are on both committees. Advice on



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numbers of representatives from each end of the valley is being sought by our clerk and once the situation is clearer, it is hoped that we can ask more residents to join us.

Looking forward, new plans are nearing completion for the M3/A34 link. These have taken account of the concerns raised at past consultations. Safety, noise levels, water management, cycle routes and various environmental issues have been considered. There will be a further round of consultations at the beginning of July (at present planned for 2nd July). Once again it is intended to hold a number of events at various locations from the Guildhall in Winchester to venues closer to home. As before there will be a virtual drive through to experience using your computer. When you see the numerous factors, rules and regulations that have to be considered it is clear that to come up with a practical, equitable and financially possible solution is a very complex task and definitely a job that should be left to the experts involved. The projected time schedule is for work to start in 2021 and be complete by 2023. When the inevitable disruption caused by construction work is over we should have freer flowing traffic giving us easy access to Winnal and the major roads network. It will have all been worth it. Patrick Appleby, IVPC Chairman.

Jackie's County Corner

Does your child have a favourite school lunch?

Pizza is popular, and fish & chips of course!

School meals are set to rise by 10p in the Autumn, bringing the price to £2.40 per day. The higher cost of ingredients (sourced in the UK) and



minimum wage increases have prompted the County Council to charge more.

Will you be able to cope with the increased charge? Is your entitlement to Free School Meals still valid? Please contact me if this will be a problem for you.

'County Lines' is the euphemistic term used to describe the massive and growing 'industry' of child exploitation as gang masters enlist young people to become drug mules, delivering dangerous drugs out into the shires. It is estimated that the value of this drug peddling in the UK was £37 billion in 2018. ACE children (those who have Adverse Childhood Experiences) are particularly at risk of being exploited in this way. If you are at all concerned about a child being exploited, please call the Police or Children's Services on 0300 555 1384, more details on the website.

I'm aware that this is a heavy subject for a village magazine, but we should all be aware of the impact of County Lines and drug use in Hampshire. County Councillors of all colours who care about children have committed to informing residents about the impact of drug use by rich and poor.

lt's a terrible fact, but our county demographic makes Hampshire a worthwhile target for gangs. If you are purchasing 'recreational drugs', you are contributing to this industry. Please stop.

For some time, I have been working with County officers to increase the likelihood that **new residential roads are adopted**. Now we have a change of administration at the City Council, I will be bringing this issue to the Local Plan debate. Developers can't be forced to have roads adopted, but not doing so puts another financial burden (as well as Council Tax) onto residents and risks hidden poor workmanship when links into mains services are made. If this affects you, I'd like to hear your story.

Do you want to purchase an electric car but your home arrangements prevent you from charging it? If we want to act on the climate emergency, this is one box we need to tick. This was raised during canvassing and I will be pursuing the challenge: how to put an electricity charging point into the road for your car if you don't have an allocated parking space or drive.

How do you manage your food waste? I'm particularly keen to hear from flat dwellers. If you have a good idea about reducing waste, you may be able to get a grant to follow it through. Go to www.hants.gov.uk, and search grants for more details- or contact me direct.

Schools and young people have been asking for crossing points at entrances to their towns and in Winchester. A pelican crossing (PEdestrian Light CONtrolled) or a Zebra crossing tends to have two functions; it enables everyone to cross safely and slows down traffic just a little. I am really pleased that the Public Health County Department has recently assigned an officer to every

planning authority to ensure communities are planned for residents to live more healthily: crossing points are one way to reduce the barrier to more walking and cycling.

Cllr Jackie Porter
Telephone/text 07973 696 085
Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk
Twitter @JackieLibDem
www.jackieporter.co.uk

New Itchen Valley News treasurer



I am pleased to announce that Henry Labram has volunteered to take over as treasurer of the Itchen Valley News. The position was vacant following the sad death of Andrew Kennedy and I had been standing in on a temporary basis.

Thank you Henry. Vernon Tottle Chief Editor, Itchen Valley News

Itchen Valley Churches

Sunday 2nd June

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

Family Worship St Mary's, Easton 10am

Sunday 9th June

10am Parish Communion St John's, Itchen Abbas

6pm Pentecost and

Sung Evensong St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Sunday 16th June

BCP Holy Communion St John's Itchen Abbas 8am

Valley Worship 10am St Mary's Easton

Sunday 23rd June

10am Parish Communion St Swithun's Martyr Worthy

6pm St Mary's Avington Evensong

Sunday 30th June

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

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Revd Alex Pease

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Days: Sun, Mon, Tues & Weds.

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Sara Mason 779169

Vanessa Rosewell 841182

Theo Mezger 779277

Tony Gaster 779110

Nick Owen 779162

Parish Administrator

Beccy Clark

admin@itchenvalleychurches.org

01962 779845

Mon-Fri, 9am - 1pm (term time) www.itchenvalleychurches.org

Alex Pease in conversation with Tony Gaster

Alex, you came to faith quite late in life, can you describe this experience? We were living in Tokyo and decided as part of the ex-pat experience the family should visit the local church. From that came Alpha, a course which was to change our lives and we became Christians. On return to the UK, one of our best friends got in serious trouble in the USA. We decided to do what we had learned on Albha, which was to pray about it. Extraordinary things happened at the last possible moment absolutely convincing me that God is actually there, was listening and will intervene in our lives if we ask Him. Alex. You felt called to ministry whilst living in Kilmeston, so what was the trigger? We had a succession of clergy and were beginning to wonder if we would get a replacement. I felt that God was challenging me to do this and became more and more excited by the prospect as I explored further. My parish was in vacancy when the time came for my ordination, so I was invited to come to the Itchen Valley to serve my curacy under Andrew Micklefield.

Alex, you have only served in this parish which is quite unusual? Yes, but I have felt called to the people here. Ministry is about being with and among the people of your community which over time I have come to know. I feel my ministry is best served here.

Alex, you are an evangelical. How do you feel that meets the needs of all the people here? The Church of England is a broad church and the parish system that we have means I minster to all in my parish. It's very important to keep the traditional forms of worship alongside a more modern approach to ensure everyone can feel they have access to



worship and music which enables them to draw close to God. Here we use the Prayer Book, Common Worship and informal worship. I try to maintain a balance. Alex, the Church is both a place for worship and a focus for community, how important do you see these today? In one sense I act as chaplain to the community. I don't just act for or visit church people. Church must be outward facing. It's not about entertaining people but much of what we do will appeal to those who don't worship with us as well as church members.

Alex, are we doing enough to bring Jesus into people's lives? Everyone is looking for answers to questions such as identity, meaning, happiness and death. lesus is already acting in people's lives, on how we live, on how we might face a crisis. Ministry and evangelism are something to be shared by all members of our church. Alex, the number of clergy is reducing so how are lay people meeting this challenge? The real church is what is left when the vicar leaves. So, the role of lay people is hugely important, and I want to encourage lay people to lead services and even preach occasionally, particularly the younger members of our church community. But it is a difficult question of discernment as to who I invite to do this. It's all a question of where the heart is. Getting lay people involved is just inevitable given that my position is no longer full-time, so already on some Sundays there are others ministering here.

Alex, might I ask you about money. Are we succeeding with the current needs? This for me is really a spiritual issue. Of course, we need regular giving and I would prefer that the excellent fund-raising the we do was for specific projects and for particular charities rather than for our operating costs but that needs more people to give regularly to cover our general expenditure. But essentially how much people give as a proportion of what they have is a spiritual issue. The more real Jesus is for them, the more seriously they take this.

Alex, finally what about our church buildings, such a loved feature of villages? I have no doubts whatsoever that we need to care for and to keep all our church buildings and that they will all continue to be used as I expect that the church will grow in numbers over the next few years.

Alex Pease & Tony Gaster

From one of our City Councillors

The Election result for WCC was not the outcome we were seeking, however I am still an elected Councillor for Alresford & Itchen Valley, here to represent the views of residents, assist them in Council matters and speak out for Parishes or the Town as requested.

Running: An obsession which has had to slow, due to twisting my ankle whilst dog walking! If you need some encouragement with a group to run with, on Facebook you can find "Alresford Couch to 5k" which already has 139 members and only started up a few weeks ago. I haven't lost any weight, but I have changed shape, and the mental space it gives me is uplifting even if some days running feels a

struggle. This is my time and space, whether that's 30 minutes or an hour. Think about what you do for yourself – totally for yourself.



The Citizens

Advice Bureau provides a free, confidential and impartial advice on issues debt, benefit claims, housing, legal agreements, consumer rights - in fact pretty much anything. It is partly funded by WCC to assist residents but is also a registered Charity. Its goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whatever problem they face. Perhaps you might leave it a gift in your will or make a regular contribution to assist those in need? Volunteers are qualified to answer your questions, so they are an excellent first place to call, for free! You can email them at advice@winchesterdistrictcab.org.uk or telephone 03444 III 306.

Winchester Criterium: A warning, or an invite to attend. On Sunday 9 June, Winchester will be very busy with cyclists. It's a great spectacle with professional cyclists young and old, as well as those who just ride the route for fun. You have to be entered to ride the route, but it's a good day out with lots going on.

SHELAA (Strategic Housing and economic land availability assessment): The plethora of sites submitted to WCC for the next phase of the local plan, which is about ensuring we have a continuing land supply for housing and economic growth, is underway. The next meeting is due in June to review the submissions and look at where any allocation might be possible, if required.

Land submitted in no way has any permission for development, it still has to be approved as part of the local plan and the strong local plan currently in place for the District means we are able to resist further attempts for development of sites.

Police and Crime Panel (PCP): As you will be aware, one of the increases in your Council tax this year was by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). This was approved by the PCP as the funding is allocated to recruit over 200 officers and PCSOs for the County.

The PCC is working with the Commissioner to ensure there are more police officers who will be visible in our communities, hence the recent visit to Arlebury on 27 April. In the coming months, a new 101 system will be released; we are promised this will greatly improve the service! We certainly hope so.

You can report incidents on line, but if a crime is on-going use 999. Cllr Lisa Griffiths Ward Member for Alresford & Itchen Valley - Winchester

City Council Email : lgriffiths@winchester.gov.uk Telephone : 01962 469854 or 07545

375632

Supermarket recipe of the month – for guests!

I now have several lever-arch files full of recipes that I have found on the internet. I mark every recipe I use with stars. Some get none at all, the equivalent of don't even think of doing this one again, whereas others get two or even three. The truly exceptional ones get three stars plus the ultimate accolade – good enough for guests! Sainsbury's recently published a very



simple dish titled "Smoked haddock and leek risotto". But from the fairly basic ingredients and the pretty simple method comes a dish worthy of guests, be it for those familiar with your hit and miss cookery or for the ones you want to impress. OK, a risotto has to be tended continuously whilst cooking and once cooked it needs to be served immediately so prepare it only for diners who are already in your house or who live just over the road. Yes, do use the white wine marked as optional and do cook it until fully absorbed as it gives a sharpness to the dish, complemented by the lemon juice added at the end. And yes, do make sure your stock is simmering away in a separate pan next to your risotto so it can be added a ladleful at a time without cooling the mixture as it cooks.

Alas I forgot to take a photo of the finished dish so the one displayed is from the Sainsbury website — and indeed that's what it looks like. Just a shame that the printed page cannot convey the depths of flavour and the looks of satisfaction from your guests! Sue Sheph

Chestnut Horse: Reshod and awaiting new rider!"



The Chestnut Horse in Easton is undergoing extensive refurbishment. At the time of going to print, the brewery Hall & Woodhouse has not responded to numerous enquiries about what's going on. However, those working at the site have been more forthcoming. An impromptu tour revealed significant works inside and out, including new oak floors throughout, complete redecoration and installation of central heating. Outside, work is taking place at the rear to replace and extend the decking and seating area. By the time you read this, these works





the pub will reopen and who will be running it, we'll have to wait and see! Lucy Wolfe

The National Garden Scheme in Hampshire

Founded in 1927, to fund the work of district nurses, over 90 years on our volunteers continue to raise money for a group of nursing & caring charities.

The snowdrops,



spring bulbs and bluebells have been and gone but now we have June to look forward to. June and July are the busiest month for our fantastic Garden Owners, who so generously open their garden gates to the general public. Here are just a few gardens, open in June and close by.

Lower Baybridge House, Winchester SO21 IJN

A garden on chalk designed and planted by the owner. Features include a sunken lawn bordered by classical flower border, a hummocky shaded evergreen border and a hillock meadow. A lavender walk leads to a kitchen garden enclosed by espalier fruit trees. Also open grassland with mown pathways and a wilderness area for bees. Warm sheltered walls for climbers, a choice of areas to sit and enjoy. Open: Saturday 8 June 1.00pm to 5.00pm. Admission: £3.50 children free. Homemade teas.

Bramdean House, Alresford, SO24 OJU

Beautiful 5 acre garden best known for its mirror image herbaceous borders. A large and unusual collection of plants and shrubs giving year-round interest. I acre walled garden featuring prizewinning vegetables, fruit and flowers. Small arboretum. Many hardy Nerine cultivars, post recent trial in association with RHS.

Open: Sunday 9 June 2.00pm to 4.00pm (Also open By Arrangement - email owners) Admission: £5.00 children free. Homemade teas.

5, Oakfield, Eastleigh, SO5O 4RP A ½ acre garden full of interesting and unusual plants with predominately woodland beds of rhododendrons, various species of foxgloves and

aquilegia. A pond with rockery, water cascade and flower beds formed from the intermittent winter streams, accommodate moisture loving plants. Mixed herbaceous border and a collection of shrub and pillar roses with a backdrop of impressive ramblers in the trees.

Open: Saturday & Sunday 22 & 23 June 2.00pm to 5.00pm. Admission: £3.50 children free. Homemade teas. Pat Beagley

Tiddler joke

If you put shopping in a shopping bag, rubbish in a rubbish bag and tea in a tea bag, how do you carry a hand bag? Vernon Tottle 66¼



The word "tiddler" has been hijacked for this issue and I hope real tiddlers will emerge for next month. Those who know me well will imagine I can also compete with humour! -Ed



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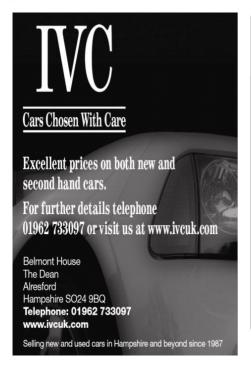
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Marathon Achievers

At least three wonderful people from the Valley completed the recent London Marathon: Claire Hunt, Matty Stent and Georgie Ffennell. Here are pictures and stories from them. Very well done from all of us!

Matty Stent writes:

I ran for Sebastian's Action Trust who are a charity that offer respite holidays for children who are very ill and their families. They have a purpose built facility in North Waltham, the first of its kind, designed to care for children whilst enabling them to spend precious time with their families. We first got involved with them as we sometimes welcome families (through the charity) to stay in the holiday cottages we have on the farm which are fully accessible/ wheelchair friendly etc. It was my first marathon and I raised £1,350. See my photo below, not a particularly good one but the only one I have!



Claire Hunt writes:

In January this year I felt compelled to run the London Marathon and raise as much as I could for Children with Cancer. As my husband Richard will vouch for me I passionately HATE running, so this was going to be a very big mental and physical challenge. It was a quite a journey. I started my running training in mid-lanuary and was very dedicated clocking up 136 miles before things went wrong. From mid-March I was told by a physio that I was not allowed to run anymore due to a nerve pain. However, I was determined to get to the start line even if it meant walking the whole thing, mainly to honour people's generosity in sponsoring me.

On the day to manage the pain, I decided that I would walk two out of every three miles. Ironically walking was far harder than running but I knew I could not risk running all the way. The first two miles particularly were hell walking, seeing everyone run and the crowds cheering them so I had to put my head down and just walk! In the end I stopped the walk / run combination and ran the last six and did it in 5 hours and 25 minutes. According to my watch I ended up doing 26.9 miles! Back in January, I obviously planned to run the whole thing but after the nerve pain in March I was delighted to have just completed it and actually manage to run 12 of the 26 miles. An amazing event and I can't believe how much I actually loved it! Through the incredible support of so many kind people I have so far raised well over £7,000 for Children with Cancer. Running for such a great cause got me through. If anyone felt they wanted to support such an amazing charity please go to www.virginmoneygiving.com/clairehunt

GEORGIE STORES

Georgie Ffennell pictured here, also with the family.



The bank, the parish council and the pac

It all started with proving my identity. I had become treasurer of yet another charity and the bank sent me a card, a card reader and a PIN in the post. To avoid any fraudulent access to the account, I was then sent a further access code by text. For most people in the world this wouldn't present a problem but in the depths of ltchen Abbas, in particular in the dip of the landscape by the village hall, as many of you will know, there is almost zero mobile phone signal. Living in this dip myself, I have a similar lack of signal in my house and it gets no better in the garden.

Anxious to make use of the access code before it expired, I put on my coat and shoes and walked up the road, under the railway arch, sharp right up the footpath beside the old railway line until I reached the height necessary to achieve line of sight with a distant transmitter. The code arrived and I scurried back home to enter the magic letters and numbers to prove I was who I said I was.

"Any questions?" asked the chair of the Parish Council at the recent Annual Parish Meeting. "Any chance of improving the mobile phone signal in Itchen Abbas?" I responded, explaining my recent tale of woe. It was generally agreed by those present that there was little chance of this happening and maybe I should get a newer phone. My current model, bought in the heady days of youth for my 60th birthday and the bee's knees at the time, was now deemed too old to function in modern society. It didn't have wifi calling and shock horror, it was only 3G. (this article continues on page 32)

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An extra G would apparently make all the difference.

I looked around, consulted friends and read umpteen websites for advice. It seems there is a thriving market in second hand phones that are pretty well as-new models that have been traded in by users wanting the most up -to-date device. Selecting a make and model of phone and finding one online as cheaply as possible turned out to be fairly easy; selecting a service provider and a tariff proved to be less so. The SIM cards are free to obtain in the post, but not all providers and tariffs are equal. I hadn't ever made much use of my old phone, keeping it really for occasional communication when away from home, so a monthly contract wasn't needed. I quickly found out however that very few Pay As You Go providers offered the luxury of wifi calling, the precise reason for getting a new phone in the first place. As far as I could tell, though I may be misinformed, only "Three" offers this luxury as standard on their basic PAYG package. I duly paid Three my £10 initial top-up and got a Porting Authorisation Code (PAC) from my old phone company. I had got used to my original phone number and didn't want to change and the PAC system, I

was told, works faultlessly.

Not in my case. On the day it was supposed to get transferred, the old number magically appeared on my new phone – but it remained embedded in my old phone as well. So I could ring out from two phones, both of which gave the same caller ID, but inbound calls persistently went to my old phone and my new phone refused to ring. Walking round with two phones in my bag continued for a couple of days until, after several phone calls, it appeared that the problem was with my new provider for not telling the old provider that the switch had taken place. Eventually the problem was solved and I got a text on my new phone, at home (yes, at home !), telling me it had been fixed.

So, if you struggle with no mobile phone signal at home, the situation can be improved but you need to do some research and be patient.

Vernon Tottle

The Practical Gardener

Dry seems to be the way the weather is, so watering will soon be necessary, in fact all my vegetables have needed water so the recycling system is in full use. Nights have still been quite cold which I am sure means some plants are not yet growing as they might. I am





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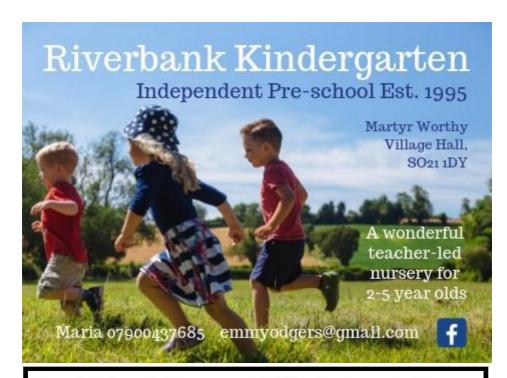
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disappointed by the potential fruit crop. Surprisingly not the plums which are first in bloom but apples and pears. We wait and see.

Whether you grow your own or buy plants from the garden centres, now it's the time for much activity. I'm often asked where I buy and what my recommendations would be. I've shopped online for small plants for many years but last year I felt the quality and packing was not good enough. I can't support any of the suppliers. Last year I spent quite a lot with Suttons who had a sale and everything has worked out well and proved to be of good quality. I'm less sure about Thompson and Morgan whose quality control department is poor. I would not use Hayloft again.

Local garden centres vary quite a bit, but I have found Homebase good value though you can never be sure one day to the next what might be available. Hilliers is always reliable but expensive. George Beckett has been very good. Finding staff to help in these places can be difficult.





So the dear old greenhouse has been in constant use. I'm still sowing and bringing on small plants. Seeds germinate much faster in warmer weather but enormous care is needed with watering. It's so easy to do too much or not enough. And for this activity, automatic systems are hopeless.



Now to compost. I produce a lot of my own and also buy quite a bit. During sowing I use seed compost, always from a well-known brand. But, it has to be sieved and sometimes there are surprises: stones, large lumps of earth, twigs and the rest. So I always use a sieve for the compost for any seeds or small plants.



I'm not a great fan of chemicals in the garden but if roses have blackspot, I don't know of another solution. And it's time to spray now and often. I sadly still have issues with whitefly and sometimes spraying is needed although I do have two bug-eating plants in the greenhouse. I guess with any chemical, the issue is how does it affect us and then the environment which of course includes birds and insects. When I'm weeding I usually have a friendly robin very close by, always hopeful that something will come its way. So the cold weather zapped all my marigolds, planted out at Easter. No worries, they are very easy to regrow. Nothing else seems to have been affected except perhaps the fruit trees.

Earlier in the year I spoke about growing easy vegetables. Well, onions are doing well and I spent 10 minutes in 3 months weeding. As for the potatoes,



they will be ready for harvest in early June and I spent 30 minutes since planting just earthing up. My peas and beans are in flower and under netting. It does make it difficult for weeding. The broad beans also need supports and have to be tied in regularly, so more time is needed. But the flavour will be worth it.

Happy Gardening! Tony Gaster

News about the Nightshelter

We kick off with a special mention of Nightshelter supporter Ben Burfoot, whose #MoreThanASleepingBag running challenge took him all the way to the London Marathon, where we're thrilled to say that he set a new World Record for running in a sleeping bag, all in aid of the Nightshelter!

As we start a new financial year, like many charities, we look back at the last 12 months and assess our impact. Our full financial review and statistics will be published later in the year at our AGM and Supporters' Evening (save the date for Wednesday 13 November!), but we are pleased to report that last year we helped 97 people out of

homelessness by giving them access to the safe, warm, and secure temporary home that the Nightshelter provides, plus all our wide-ranging support services. As one of our residents recently said, "Getting a bed at the Nightshelter made me feel that there is hope in rebuilding my life."

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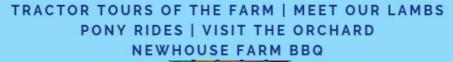
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Tracks to Alresford

The 27th National Festival of Toy Trains will be held on Saturday 15 June at Perins School, Alresford 10.30 am -4.30 pm. There will be over 23 vintage and modern Toy Train layouts and 90 Sales Tables making the show the largest of its type in the country. Favourites such as Hornby 0 Gauge and Tri-ang 00 Railways with Minic Motorway will be joined by Hornby Dublo 2 and 3-Rail, Trix, LEGO, Continental O Gauge, Lone Star and Bowman Live Steam. There is a special 50th Anniversary Layout celebrating of the end of Playcraft Railways that were sold in Woolworths in the 1960s and even a Prisioner TV Series themed layout. Alresford Save the Children Group will man the door and Local Scouts organise the refreshments and BBQ. Live Music and Real Ale make this a day to remember. You can also visit the Watercress Line which is



having its annual War on the Line Weekend. Vintage Bus Rides will also take visitors to the Old Alresford Fair. It is a great family day and free children's voucher can be downloaded from www.alresford-toy-trains.org.uk Bob Leggett

Local monthly information

Waste collections in June

Black bins and green bags on Friday 7 and 21 June. Green bins on Saturday 1 June and Friday 14 and 28 June.

Cameo

On Tuesday 18 June.

Farmers Market in Winchester Sunday 30 June (just one this month) Parish Council Full Meeting Thursday 6 June MW village hall

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

School term timetable operates all month.

Mondays and Thursdays to Winchester: 07:53 09:23 13:53 16:23 17:23 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Winchester:

07:53 09:23 11:53 13:53 16:23 17:23 Mondays and Thursdays to Alresford: 11:49 15:19 17:11 18:09

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Alresford:

09:49 | 11:49 | 13:19 | 15:19 | 17:11 | 18:09

Saturday service (same for the whole month.

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

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

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