

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 68 August 2019

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyn Worthy





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Levin, David; Kuperberg, Gidon; Hersh, Harry; doi:10.1112/j.1365-3113.2007.03779.x
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WELCOME to the Valley News



August is the traditional holiday month. Some local magazines take a break then, but like the Windmill Theatre 'we never close'. I wonder how many readers are too young to get that reference? I hope that this edition will nevertheless get read while you laze in the sun or rush from activity to activity. Whatever you are doing in August I hope that it will be enjoyable and that you will store up happy memories of real life, no matter how depressing the world and national news may be.

In the Valley and in Winchester and Hampshire more widely we have an amazing range of activities on offer. Some are in aid of charity, some are free, it is amazing to think what time and energy has gone into making it all happen - thank you to all the noble organisers. The Easton Fete is always a terrific day out, even if you are not able to help (see the appeal for cakes etc. on page 39); do go along and join the fun. If you have moved from the Big Smoke (aka London, or anywhere really), invite your friends who still live there to come and see how it is done in Hampshire.

There are some serious issues highlighted in this month's magazine; in particular the proposed changes to the M3/A34/A33 junction will have an impact for many years to come and deserve serious consideration. Please read what your local councillors have to say about this and do make your views known to Highways England by responding to the consultation. We do not want another Cart and Horses situation, this time the scale is far

greater.

One of the 'themes' of this edition is wildlife. The question of plastic finally rose to prominence a few months ago - but how much are we all actually doing to change our usage? (although I noticed that you are now encouraged to take your own cup when you go to give blood). Wild flowers have got onto the agenda, both nationally and locally. This time many of us are able to make a real difference and I predict that next year there will be many more wild verges along the B3047. Small steps maybe but at least in the right direction. Next month's editor is Tony Gaster; do send him a tiddler joke!

Charlotte Appleby

Itchen Valley News

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Please send all contributions for September 2019 by Thursday 15 August. All material is published in good faith and the Valley News cannot be held responsible for any information given or views expressed; neither can it be liable for any loss arising from the use of any information or advertisements contained herein. The Editorial Team reserves the right to refuse or amend articles or advertisements submitted for publication. Printed by Greenhouse Graphics of Basingstoke.

Cover photo by Lucy Pease, other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Fridays in August 9.30-11am 0-6 year olds' playgroup at Easton Village Hall

The toys at Easton Village Hall are out to play! Come and have some summer holiday fun with your friends. Please bring a grown up (tell them there will be tea). £2 per family. For more info please contact Nikki Young youngnikki@outlook.com

Hampshire Open Studios August 17-26

280 venues will be open across Hampshire, for details see <http://www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk/> but close to home Mansard Artists are taking part again at The Studio, Mansard House, Easton Lane, Easton SO21 1DQ Jewellery, paintings, mosaics and much more.

Open each day 11-5 pm

Jean Wheeler

Easton Fete Sunday 25 August

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

This year it is being held on the Bank holiday Sunday 25 August at the Easton Village Hall and Cricket Ground (SO21 1EN).

Come and join us for a great family afternoon with plenty to see and do. This year we have vintage tractor and donkey rides, a bouncy slide, a magic man and lots of children's games, races and a novelty dog show. 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.

All monies raised are equally divided between the Easton Village Hall, the

Easton and Martyr Worthy cricket club and the Itchen Valley churches.

Sophie Goodall

Annual Brockwood Park Car Boot Sale Monday 26 August

Brockwood Park, Bramdean SO24 0LQ (direction signs from A272) in aid of Home-Start Winchester

Gates open 8am. Car Boots £10, Vans & Trailers £15 Admission by donation, Refreshments available

For more information call 01962 777624, 07886 905237 or email anne.macpherson@home-startwinchester.org.uk

RicNic: 28 - 31 August

RicNic Hampshire is returning to the Theatre Royal in Winchester for a stunning new production of Thoroughly Modern Millie. Performances will take place between 28- 31 August 2019. www.ricnic.org.uk

Tuesday 10 September

Bridge and Tea 2-5 In aid of a new church room at St Mary's Easton

At Dymoke House, Easton

Sara Janssen janssensara@hotmail.com 779337

13-22 September

Winchester Heritage Open Days 2019. Amazing free activities and opportunities to see local buildings not normally open to the public

Tuesdays 17 Sept - 3 Dec

Alpha course, 7.30 - 9.30, St John's Church See page 24.

Friday 20 September Starlit Trail

In aid of Wessex Cancer Trust Page 9.

Saturday 28 September

Syrian Supper Club pop up in Itchen Abbas. Cocktails, supper and a speaker to be announced, with profits to support Syrian refugees via The Hands Up Foundation. Contact Verity Coleman mumgod@aol.com

A large, stylized sunburst or floral design in black ink is centered behind the word 'EASTON'. The design features long, flowing petals or leaves radiating from a central circle. Scattered around the sunburst and the text are various small, hand-drawn insects, including bees and beetles, and sprigs of foliage like dandelion leaves and ferns.

EASTON FETE

**SUNDAY
25TH
AUGUST**

2 - 5PM



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Save the Dates

Saturday 19 October

Quiristers concert at St Mary's
Twyford in aid of Winchester GoLD

Saturday 16 November

Quiz in aid of Barnados at Itchen
Abbas Hall.

Saturday 23 November

Proteus Theatre Company
production "A Christmas Knight".
Martyr Worthy Village Hall.

Wednesday 11 to Friday 13

December at 7.30, plus two
performances on **Saturday 14**
December, Easton Pantomime

25 April 2020

Martyr Worthy Plant Sale at Chilland

26-28 June 2020

Easton Flower Festival and Open
Gardens, **25 June 2020** Champagne
preview evening

Open air theatre at Avington Park:

19 July 2020 Sherlock Holmes

16 August 2020 Twelfth Night

Please send your future event dates
to itchenvalleynews@gmail.com.

Barn dance

On the evening of the hottest day of June, many people were seen converging on Graces Farm by tractor & trailer, all terrain buggy, bicycle, walking and car for the much acclaimed Easton Summer Barn Dance, and they were not disappointed. The band were superb and had most people up and dancing, especially after a lovely supper provided by Paul Moffatt who did the hog roast and all the delicious salads from the ladies of the Itchen Valley, well coordinated by Jill Croft. Lynn Russell and Iris Lacey worked hard with their team providing a well stocked bar and many jugs of iced cold water.

Our thanks go to Michael Gray who provided his barn and his helpers who collected and returned the tables to the hall and to the sponsors:- The Cricketers, Hall and Woodhouse brewery (Chestnut Horse), Jude's Ice Cream, K Rosewell Welding and King's Worthy Foundry. Thank you to everyone who came along to this great event run by The Hall Committee and Itchen Valley Churches.

Vanessa Rosewell



Winchester Heritage Open Days 13-22 September



Three cheers! Winchester Heritage Open Days are back, even longer and stronger than before. We now have **ten** days of interesting, exciting and stimulating events to look forward to. This year is the celebration of **Hampshire Open Days' 25th Anniversary!** Look out for events on Keats200 remembering his visit to Winchester, People Power, the First 100 Years of Women in Law and the centenary of Women's Engineering Society. And if that isn't enough there is a little more fun with a Food & Drink theme too.

There are activities for children and families, opportunities to see buildings and spaces for free that are normally not open to the public, or are charged for, performances, exhibitions, activities and tours and new for this year are Craft Skills Workshops.

Booking is required for some of the events so you will need to look online and you can do this at

www.winchesterheritageopendays.org from 7 August. The amazing thing is that all this is FREE, thanks to the hard work of the volunteer organisers and the generosity of lead sponsor Winchester College and many others.

You are bound to find something to appeal to you and your family, and why not invite friends who are not lucky enough to live in Hampshire to come

and join in the fun.

Some of this year's highlights ...

Talks

Steve Jarvis: Discovering WWI and WW2 War Memorials

Andrew Bentley: The Curious Case of the Curious Herbal

Dr Tim Hands: Winchester Poet Power, the Path to Keats' Autumn

Dr Becky Peacock: History of the Watercress Line

Stuart Rippon: Barton Stacey and the Swing Riots

Alastair Stewart: Shifting Sands in News Coverage: film,digital & social media

Sue Anderson-Faithful: Winchester Women and the Girls' Friendly Society

Emma Muscat: Dining at Downton Abbey, 1920s Food Laid Bare

Jane Devonshire: 'Food, Masterchef and beyond...

Walking tours

Huw Thomas: Peninsula Barracks

Sue Anderson-Faithful: Winchester Women's History Walk

Discover the Chesil Rectory & so much more!

Performances

City Museum: 'Votes for Women'

Quiristers Open Rehearsal

Great Hall: Tudor Music

Blue Apple: The Best Words in the Best Order, a Poetry Road Trip

Behind the Scenes

Abbey House Open Day

Alresford Museum: Vintage Fire Engine display

Gilbert White's House & Gardens

Open Greener Houses

Chesil Theatre: 'Behind the Little Red Door'

Family events

The Royal Oak: History presentation & medieval games

Brass Rubbing at Westgate Museum
Hyde900: Medieval tile workshops

Activities

City Museum: 'Votes for Women'

Bespoke Biking: Bike Tour of
Winchester

For more information, programme and
bookings visit:

www.winchesterheritageopendays.org

Winchester Tourist Information
Centre, Winchester Guildhall, High
Street, Winchester, SO23 9GH

Charlotte Appleby

Starlit Trail 20 September

We're inviting
people to join us on
a Friday evening 5k
starlit walk through
the historic city
centre of

Winchester. Starting
from the prestigious

Guildhall, participants will take in some
beautiful landmarks and enjoy live
entertainment as they make their way
through the pretty streets. The route
will end back at the Guildhall where
we'll raise a glass and toast everyone's
success with fizz and nibbles!

Wessex Cancer Trust is a charity
passionate about providing free and
local emotional support to anyone
living with cancer in the Wessex area,
and last year helped 11,000 people. By
taking part in the Starlit Trail and being
a fundraising star, walkers' efforts will
have a direct impact on people living
with cancer in their local communities.
More information can be found on our
website: www.wessexcancer.org.uk/starlittrail2019

Catherine Lawry

Wessex Cancer Trust

*Starlit
Trail*

National Garden Scheme

As we come to the end of what we
hope will be another successful year
for the Hampshire NGS, there are still
a few more gardens open for your
pleasure during August/September.
Here are just a couple of gardens open
within 15 miles of Itchen Abbas.

Berry Cottage & Thatched Cottage Alton GU34 3EG

Two quite different gardens next door
to each other. One a small organic
garden with year round interest, whilst
the other is 1 1/2 acres with borders
bursting with cottage garden plants and
chickens and ducks wandering around a
walnut tree. Both properties 16C (not
open) and close to Massey's Folly and
the 11C church.

Open: Sundays 18 August and 1
September 2pm to 5pm: Combined
Admission £8.00 children free:
Homemade teas.

Bere Mill Whitchurch RG28 7NH

On the Upper Test with water
meadows and wooded valleys, this
garden offers herbaceous borders, bog
and Mediterranean plants, as well as a
replanted orchard and two small
arboretums. Features include Japanese
prunus, peonies, roses, and semi-
tropical planting. Open Sunday 15
September 1.30pm to 5pm :
Admission £5.00 children free:
Homemade Teas.



Wowzat!

Congratulations to the Easton & Martyr Worthy Ladies W10 Team (aka Prosecco Cricket) who ended their summer season as runners up in the Plate Final of the W10 series, narrowly missing out on victory by just one run in the Final against IBM Hursley.



It's been quite a journey for the Valley team who are all new to cricket. The W10 initiative was launched by Hampshire Cricket and the ECB to introduce ladies of all ages to the game. In the three years since the team was formed, they've gained a reputation for being fun and friendly. In May, facing their third season, they had never won a game. Commitment from their sponsors rural property specialists BCM and superb coaching from Mark Low has clearly paid off. Soon 'fun and friendly' were joined by a couple of new adjectives, 'formidable and fierce'. The Plate Finals day at Calmore Cricket Club in the New Forest saw the Ladies win four matches in a row before facing IBM Hursley in the Final. Captain Rashmi Bhintade steadied the ship and Abbots Worthy's big hitter Carolyn Milles and Easton's Emma Mitchell made the boundaries look tiny. There was solid bowling and batting from Avington's Vicky Low and wickets fell as Lucy 'Big Bad' Wolfe bowled with pace and precision. As coach

Mark said proudly "It all came together on the day". The Team would very much like to thank Mark, E&MWCC and the superb groundsman for supporting them. Roll on next year ... we're aiming for the Cup!!
Prosecco Cricket

Cricket Club Update

Easton & Martyr Worthy CC has been having a busy summer in 2019. The cricket club currently fields three senior cricket sides on Saturday afternoons from May to the end of August in the Hampshire Cricket League. We have practice and nets on a Thursday evening – and anyone who would like to be involved should come down to the club on one of these days to watch the game or train in the nets. Results this season have been positive – and at the midpoint of the season we find the First team mid-table in the County Division 1 League after 5 wins in their first 10 games; the Second Team is at the top of Regional Division 1 Central League after 6 wins from 7 games; and the Third Team pushing for promotion from CD2 Central after 3 wins from 5 games. All are welcome to practise, play and support our games and you can contact myself or the Club Secretary (Seb Stannard) if you would like any further details.

We also have a very active Junior



The U9 B team



section at the club that provides cricket for children from the age of 7 upwards. This starts with the All Stars programme (for the youngest) and continues with games for the U9, U11 & U13 age groups. We play matches on a Sunday in leagues for boys and girls teams – and combined teams in certain leagues. We train on a Monday & Tuesday evening and any parents wanting to find out how their children can participate should contact the Juniors Administrator, Frances Skipwith.

The cricket club exists because of the support of the players, parents and its generous partners; in particular we should recognise the assistance of Jude's Ice Cream for their support of the Juniors over the last few years. A massive thank you to Jude and all our other partners who have offered financial, or other support, to the Cricket Club this season.

Our club is all about active participation, enjoyment and sporting achievement – and we are proud to be involved with our local community. If you want to be part of the Cricket Club - whether as a player or a valued supporter - we would love you to get in contact with us.

Our contact details are all on the club website www.emwcc.co.uk.

Adrian Lee – Club Chairman

Seb Stannard – Club Secretary

Frances Skipwith – Juniors Administrator

Cricket Glory for Valley

Congratulations to three of our younger residents who are raising the cup with pride after helping steer their school team to victory in the ESCA Cricket National finals. Having won the regional heats to represent the South East: Hughie Lewis (Avington), Ben De Laszlo (Chilland) and Tommy Lott (Martyr Worthy) travelled to Oakham in Leicestershire to face four other teams in the national finals. Coached by Ashley Wright, whose parents Jean and Tony live in Avington and captained by Hughie Lewis, the team showed a huge amount of grit and determination to dominate this highly competitive competition.



If the talent of these youngsters is anything to go by, the future of Hampshire County Cricket is in safe hands!

Lucy Wolfe

Boules League round 2

It was a beautiful sunny evening for round 2 of the Boules League. Martyr Worthy were at home against Avington and Easton were hosts to

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Itchen Abbas. Spectators had come to support their village and enjoy the delicious refreshments. There was all to play for because, at the end of round 1 in June, all four villages were equal, having won 2 games each.

At Martyr Worthy three of the games seemed rather one-sided as one team or the other beat their opponents by a sizeable margin of 13-3. The fourth was much closer, with Avington eventually overcoming the MW team by 13-10. However, whatever the margin in each game, the overall result was balanced, as it had been in round 1, with both villages winning two games each - score 2-2.

At Easton there was more variety in the individual scores. In the first game IA were trailing but, bit by bit, managed to level at 12-12 and then scored the extra one point needed. In their next, their attempts to bomb a well-positioned Easton boule were all wide of the mark and left a big gap into which Easton placed their remaining boules close to the cochonnet, scoring 5 points for that throw, giving them a big lead from which IA never managed to recover. The two other games were also won by Easton bringing the result for the evening to 3-1 in their favour.

So at the end of round 2, Easton lead with 5 points, Avington and Martyr Worthy are equal on 4 and Itchen Abbas have 3. There is one more round to go – in August.

The differences are small and things could easily change in the final

round. Who will take away the Dick Hewitt Trophy?

Ralph Matthews

Boules Triples Event

On Tues 25 June, two teams from each of the four Valley villages met at the Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall along with many supporters, to battle it out for the Nigel Graham Maw Cup.

The first three rounds saw Itchen Abbas A team comfortably win their group. Since the other three teams were all tied on points, there needed to be a countback on points scored during the games, and this saw Martyr Worthy A take second place being 2 points ahead of Easton A.

In the other group, Martyr Worthy B team won outright and Avington and Itchen Abbas were tied for second place. Again it went to the countback which put Itchen Abbas B just 2 points ahead of Avington for second place.

With plenty of food and drink available, the supporters were ready for the semi-finals and the final. The weather was still quite balmy and the seats remained full of contented people!

The draw put the IA team A against IA B whilst on the other piste MW A were pitted against MW B. Two exciting games saw MW A beat their B team but the Itchen Abbas teams needed an extra end to decide which of them would go through.

MW A playing against IA A produced a

nail-biting final which almost had the crowd on their feet! At the end, not only was a torch



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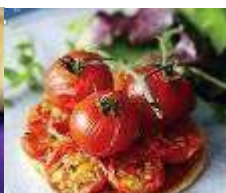
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required but also two unbiased umpires from the other two villages to decide that the Itchen Abbas boule was closer by a millimetre to the cochonnet than that of MW.

Ralph Matthews then presented the victorious IA team with the Nigel Graham Maw Cup and thanked Itchen Abbas for hosting as the sun went down on the 2019 Boules Triples event.

Jenny Sloan

The Practical Gardener

We English do spend a lot of time talking about our weather

but it has been very changeable and from cold and wet we have hot and dry. It does make things more difficult and endless watering is a time-consuming task. Yet nature gives us ceaseless pleasure and at this time gardens reach their peak.

I have reflected on lawns recently and the time they demand. Plus, many of us use specialists for treatment and this does not come cheap. All the mowing equipment is costly, plus the fuel then there are the edges. I'm often irked by the different advice from those people who claim to know better. Right now, my own is advising watering regularly but is such activity justified? Frankly, I'm glad the growth has slowed a bit.

Reader will know I'm also experimenting – it's what engineers do. So after seeing the lawn edges crumble, I bought some 4mm steel strips and will see if these can improve things.



Steel is expensive but there is a local stockholder in Winnall. At least the steel strips are relatively easy to lay.



For those with good taste, well that's everyone I hope, it's harvest time. The peas have been magnificent and as the plants finish, I plant a second crop. My new cage has kept predators away, even a chance rabbit. As the broad beans finish I follow those with different brassicas, all needing protection from pigeons. It's true brassicas are hard work but I've had some lovely broccoli and cauliflowers. I plant purple sprouting broccoli, late sprouts and savoy cabbage now for next spring.

It's also time to harvest onions, shallots and garlic, crops requiring minimum effort and maximum return. Anyone can grow onions and they are predator resistant. Another related crop is leeks which can still be planted now but they will need water.

The soft fruits have been surprisingly good but I failed to prune my gooseberries hard so that picking some of the crop has been almost impossible. Big job needed with the secateurs at the year end. It's a key issue when fruit growing to ensure it can be easily harvested. I was distressed to find a dead thrush in some temporary netting over loganberries. It reminded me to be more careful as these birds love red fruit.

In the greenhouse, ventilation has been key and I also have an electric window fan on a thermostat. The first red

tomatoes were Big League and they were big, contrasted by Sungold, small and sweet. Even the cucumbers are prolific, after a slow start. I always grow a short variety as it is less strain (lower weight) on the plant.

I must compliment Homebase on their annuals, both quality and price and my hanging baskets have never looked better. However, most annuals need regular watering in dry weather.



Last month I suggested we should always read the packet before sowing. So my 12" Cosmos have now reached 2 feet. Some dwarf marigolds are twice the height specified. Deadhead if you want more flowers. Now is the time to buy seeds for next year. Look around as many garden centres have half price offers.

I'm a great fan of compost, my own that is. But it needs sifting to remove stones and pieces of wood. It's best done when not too wet and recent sunshine has been a help. 44 full buckets of compost sifted and 4 buckets of rubbish for the bonfire. Big job but much more satisfying then the gym and more useful too.

Thought for the month: how much plastic do I not use by growing my own?

Happy Gardening!

Tony Gaster

Our Wild Valley : Days like being on holiday.

After we quickly diverted our family bike ride from Avington Lane due to a cycle race, we turned left, under the bridge, don't wake the dog, straight ahead up Northington road and onto the foot path on the left. Many will know this popular track, dogs and blackberry pickers, walkers and horse-riders. In mid July the flowers are waist high and it took some accurate cycling to stay on the narrow path. Our boy while cycling said it's just like being on holiday! Those that know him will realise just talking while cycling was a pretty amazing thing as he has only got going talking this year due to amazing effort at Itchen Abbas Primary School and speech therapy. But really he summed it all up. The butterflies fluttered onto purple heads of great scabious, knapweed and the paler lilac of field scabious. The skylarks and



Field scabious on our verges now.



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goldfinches tweeted overhead while a young buzzard in the distance squawked like a seagull. The sky was pale grey/ blue and a fresher air made the day seem early, new and ready for exploring.

Exciting moments past the badger set, spotting likely holes and paths and even berry-filled poo! The woodland edge appeared dark and ground clothed in ivy made sounds soft suggesting the outside world had disappeared.

We popped out onto Chillandham Lane and cries of we know where we are! led to further excitement of nipping up to Couch Green swings. Thank you to everyone and to the parish council for making it so clean and safe again.

Wishing everyone some days like holiday, whatever sort of holiday is your favourite.

Sophie Rogers

Bird of the Month

The population of little owls is decreasing alarmingly so it was great to see this one recently in the Itchen Valley. They often hunt in the daytime and in Spring especially their regular “hoot” can be heard.

Elaine Labram



Wildflower of the month

This one is easy - foxgloves!




From our MP

Supporting local schools remains a major priority for me so it was really great to lead a special ‘Schools in Winchester’ debate in the House of Commons recently. My speech covered funding, capital projects, teachers’ pensions, the work of PTA’s as well as high needs provision and was contributed to by a number of headteachers from across my constituency where every school bar one is either ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ at the current time.

As well as the Teachers’ Pension Scheme - employer contributions are due to increase to 23.6% this year and I challenged the Minister to provide long-term funding certainty given the increase is only confirmed to be met by Government for 2019/20 – I majored on funding issues of course.

In particular the challenge of increased per-pupil funding alongside a reduction



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in the lump sum across Hampshire to bring it in line with the national funding formula - a decision taken by the Hampshire Schools Forum a few years back. The truth is, it has created winners and losers depending on the size of the school, and this is a particular challenge for small rural schools.

The major focus however was on high needs funding, given so many local schools are seeing a marked increase in the needs of children, especially with regards to social, emotional and mental health. Sure Hampshire has received an additional £6m in High Needs block funding but it clearly cannot keep up with demand. In 2014 there were 5,500 pupils with a statement across Hampshire; in 2019 there are 8,300 with EHCP's (Education, Health and Care Plan)! If you add to this how stretched CAMHs (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and the Supporting Families

Programme are in our area we have the perfect storm in my opinion which says clearly we need so much more support in our schools to stand with vulnerable children and their families - who are often of course highly vulnerable themselves. Our teachers are doing an incredible job but, as I said in Parliament, right now it feels like they are expected to be housing officers, mental health professionals and even nutritionists and that's not sustainable.

I closed the debate with a plea to the Schools Minister, and the incoming new Prime Minister, to produce a long-term funded plan for schools as has recently happened for the NHS where I was until recently a Minister. You can read and/or watch my speech, which didn't pull any punches, at www.stevebrine.com/schoolsdebate Finally, it may be a City Council issue but the extremely warm weather of

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10am Family Worship

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

Sunday 11th August

10am Parish Communion
6pm Evensong

St John's, Itchen Abbas
St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Sunday 18th August

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Valley Worship

St John's Itchen Abbas
St Mary's Easton

Sunday 25th August

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6pm Patronal Evensong

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Steve talking to the Itchen Abbas School Council

June / July has so far this year been matched by a total debacle when it comes to our bins being collected. For some reason, one of the most basic functions of a local council has fallen down and I've noticed a marked increase in casework from bemused constituents. If you've experienced a problem where you live, I want to hear from you so I can raise it with the new leadership at WCC.

As we move into the summer period – and the autumn to come - you can see my reaction to the latest Brexit developments (and priorities for the new Prime Minister) via my website at www.stevebrine.com but please 'like' my Page at www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP for instant updates.

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

From the Parish Council

Good news, we have co-opted two more people onto the Parish Council. Chris Jeffes who was on the previous Council but due to the outdated eccentricities of our electoral system

the numbers who could be elected from Itchen Abbas and Avington were restricted to four. However we have been informed this rule does not apply to co-opting. Amongst other tasks Chris will be taking on his former role of looking after long term work on improving our footpaths. Our other new Councillor is Loulou Stirrup from Avington. It is good news to have another member of a younger

generation join us. She will be joining both our committees.

Thank you to all those who sent kind messages regarding our handling of the difficult situation we faced when a group of travellers occupied the playing fields at Couch Green. It was several days' hard work so thanks to all my fellow Parish Councillors and our Clerk for the effort and support they gave at that time. Especial thanks must go to the Valley Resident who had long experience of this kind of situation and emailed extremely helpful advice without which the outcome might not have been as satisfactory (it is unfortunate that GDPR prevents us naming this local hero). An exact figure for the cost of the incident, including the clean up operation, is not yet available but is likely to be in the region of £3,000. It is hoped that some of these costs may be recovered from our insurers. We are now looking at ways in which it may be made more difficult for



travellers to gain access to the fields. For the present while travellers are still in the area the car park is being kept closed. It is unfortunate that when travellers were in the area and being made to vacate a site in Winchester no information was given in time to make their access to Couch Green more difficult. Had an early warning been given there is a good possibility that a great deal of time, effort and money could have been saved.

A recent planning application came before the Planning Committee in Winchester. This application had received approximately twenty submissions of support from local residents as well from the Parish Council who gave both written support and spoke in support at the planning meeting. Despite this support the application was rejected on the casting vote of the chairman. The planning officers had recommended rejection although it appeared the only reason they could give was the subjective view that they did not like it. It was clear at the meeting that there were some members of the Planning Committee who were reluctant to vote against the views of the Planning Officers. It was unfortunate that the views of a significant number of local residents and the support of the Parish Council were of little or no concern to the Officers and a number of members of the Planning Committee.

Many residents have attended the consultations regarding the proposed M3/A34 link at junction 9. Despite the fact that this project does involve use of land within the Civil Parish and will affect many residents, no consultation has been arranged within our Parish, which is disappointing. There are two major concerns. The first is the distance and hence time available for

traffic coming from Winnall and heading onto the A33 to cross the north bound traffic travelling from the M3 onto the A34. Following the concerns raised last year the distance has now been increased to 625 metres. At an earlier meeting with Highways England, this year, we were also told that traffic would be restricted to 50mph. It was agreed that they would give us the calculated available time for traffic from Winnall and heading onto the A33 to cross over the stream of traffic heading north directly from the M3 onto the A34. So far at the time of these latest consultations Highways England have failed to provide this information. Furthermore we were also informed at one of the consultations that the proposed speed limit on this section of the link had been raised to 60mph. In the absence of Highways England's estimate of the "crossover time" my own calculation is that at 60mph there will be less than 23 seconds and at 50mph there would be close to 28 seconds, approximately 22% more time. The two points are marked A and B on the plan on the facing page.

If it is not possible either to keep these two streams of traffic separate, or to increase the distance any further, then it is essential to restrict the speed to 50mph or less and to see that there are sufficient measures for it to be rigorously enforced.

The second major concern to Valley residents is noise produced by traffic on the elevated sections. At present there do not appear to be any clear definitive plans available to show how this problem will be addressed. Many Valley residents will already be aware of the noise of traffic from the M3 when there is high atmospheric pressure. Unless steps are taken to



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prevent traffic noise from the present proposed design then noise levels are likely to be higher and more prolonged. The Parish Council will be making its submission on these points to Highways England. However it is extremely important that as many people as possible do the same. This is a situation where numbers count. Therefore please make your own submissions as well; this can be done on line at:- <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m3-junction-9-improvements-statutory-consultation/> or by using the consultation forms which can be obtained from the Guildhall in Winchester, at Tesco and hopefully we may be able to have some at our Village Halls. I also have a small number of copies. Please note the deadline for making submissions 27 August. This may be the last chance to make our voice heard on these issues. From a number of paragraphs above it may have been seen that there is an underlying sentiment in this report. It is simply that when dealing with some authorities there is a feeling that within them there are elements who have an attitude that the views of local residents and the Parish Councils who represent them are of little consequence and can be ignored. Such an attitude can hardly be described as being in the best interests of democracy. All that can be said is that we are not alone in thinking this. At meetings with other parish representatives many similar feelings have been expressed. Work is already in progress to try to improve this unsatisfactory situation but it is an uphill struggle. I hope that we have your support.

Patrick Appleby.

City Councillor Reports

From Russell Gordon-Smith M3 Junction 9 Improvement Scheme

A modified version of the original scheme has been submitted for Public Consultation.



There is an exhibition with more information on 10.30 – 4.30 at Tesco Winnall on Saturday 3 August. A brochure is available at the Guildhall, Discovery Centre or in the foyer of Tesco, Winnall. Information about the proposal and the response form can be found from online.

Comments to be returned by 11.59 pm, 27 August.

Candover Drought Scheme Pipeline:

There are three existing boreholes close to the Candover Stream near the





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Wool Pack Inn at Totford. The scheme consists of installing a pipeline running 6 km from these boreholes to Itchen Abbas.

The pipeline will be of 500mm diameter steel pipes bolted together. For most of its length the pipe will lie on the ground. There will be about twenty buried lengths where it will pass under roads, and some other locations. The flow of water along the pipeline joins the River Itchen at the fish farm at Itchen Abbas. This point has been selected as it already contains concrete basins and sluices, which will stop the flow of water causing problems of scour as the flow enters the river. Pumping stations are needed along the route. The maximum abstraction will be 27 million litres per day.
Russell Gordon-Smith

From Margot Power

Rats! The warm weather has provided perfect breeding conditions for vermin. Feeding the birds brings beautiful wildlife into our gardens but if the remnants are left out after dusk the dirty furry pests will grow fat and multiply. You can reduce the health risks by clearing any leftovers each day. How can we reduce the **waste** that goes to landfill or incineration? Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle can be more difficult to do than to say. Charity shops, garage sales and Emmaus are a source of untold treasure at reasonable cost, and give us space. The Mens Shed in Alresford can mend most equipment, and repurpose anything else; Freecycle Winchester allows effective acquisition and disposal of all household goods, plants, garden equipment and excess building materials; local online groups save road miles. (*Itchen List!* - Ed)
But what about when you need to

clear a house (or a shed!) as quickly as possible? You will want to deal with the emotional items yourself but then – various charities offer a house clearance service at a cost, and you know the items will be reused where possible. There are various local companies offering the service as well. Always check the validity of the Waste Transfer Licence at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers> it needs to be an Upper Tier licence unless a charity. If your household goods are found in a fly-tip site you are liable to prosecution. Next Councillor Surgery – Friday 2 August, 0930 -1045, Alresford Community Centre, by kind permission of the trustees.
Margot Power

Straight from the Horse's mouth - The latest on Easton's Chestnut Horse Pub

There's been much anticipation (and speculation) about the re-opening of The Chestnut Horse. At the time of writing, the finishing touches are being made and a fresh start is imminent. If looks are anything to go by, the pub will offer something a little different than the usual gastro pub feel. It's brighter, lighter with a slightly modern twist, while still keeping its country and classic charm. In terms of food and drink, again we're looking at new territory, albeit sourced locally. One of the highlights will be offerings from the grill. Ever heard of 'low and slow'? Basically, it describes a method of cooking meat slowly at a low temperature, retaining flavour and tenderness. Traditionalists should not be alarmed, the usual pub classics also



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have a place in the repertoire along with vegetarian and vegan options. The main aim is to provide an open house with food and drink on offer throughout the day. They're expecting to open from 11am, seven days a week. Whether you're popping in for a coffee, a glass and a bar snack or something more substantial – there will be something for everyone. To give you a little taster, bar snacks will include olives with chilli and thyme, humus with flatbreads, deep fried chicken skins with horseradish and starters and small plates may include dishes such as asparagus tabbouleh with peas and pine nuts, Iberico baby back pork ribs, lamb kofta, burrata on sourdough. As mentioned, the grill offerings will be plentiful; for example, treacle glazed pork belly, skinny chops and classic burgers. As for puddings, prepare to salivate - jaffa cake baked alaska, butterscotch pecan pie, and key lime pie will no doubt prove popular. On the drinks side the focus is on easy drinking with a selection of beers, including draft and some lighter session ales.

Among those most excited about the venture are Andrew Caldwell and Matt Jenkins, who are the new faces of the business. They've been busy forging relationships with suppliers locally, including Moonroast coffee, The Long Barn, Winchester Gin Distillery and Laverstoke Farm.

Andrew has been involved in the restaurant and bar industry for around 30 years. He was Managing Director of the company behind the Pitcher & Piano bars and has been involved in Michelin star establishments such as The Goose in Britwell Salome (Oxfordshire) and The Brackenbury in Hammersmith.

Matt, who will manage The Chestnut

Horse, started working with Andrew last year.

Originally from Farnham, he spent six years working in Dublin, where he fell in love with the hospitality industry. He was head



hunted by Andrew and looks forward to bringing his passion for mixology and music to the Itchen Valley. Stand by for special nights of music and food, including Pizza and a Pint and Aperitivo Thursday. There'll also be a Burger of the Month – again something for everyone.

Matt is looking forward to being a part of the community and getting to the know the Valley better. He loves the countryside, so our special corner of Hampshire should suit him well.

We are blessed with some great pubs in the Valley and many will be pleased to see The Chestnut Horse back in the line-up.

Lucy Wolfe

Too Young to have to Care

There are over 370,000 young in Britain who, often unnoticed and unthanked, give up much of their childhood to caring for ill, disabled and often dysfunctional parents and siblings. Winchester and District Young Carers is not just an escape and refuge for more than 150 of them, where they can meet, relax and have some rare fun. It is also a leader amongst care organisations in providing structured

Easton Village Hall Ina Williams 779465 or evh.booking@googlemail.com

Authentic Pilates	Mon	0900 & 1830	Fri 0830	Judy	07774 899909
Ems Bray Pilates	Tue & Thu	0845		Emily	07876 033893
Yoga with Helen	Mon	1400		Helen	07703 278892
Easton Playgroup	Fri	0915		Nikki	07980 303499
Brew with a View	Wed	1500 - 1700		Ina	01962 779465
Dionne Yoga	Tue 2015	Fri 0945 & 1100		Dionne	07961 888676
Mahjong / U3A	Tue	1400 - 1700		Anne	01420 563393
Yoga for men	Mon	2000 - 2130		Alex	07814 678155
NCT Yoga	Wed	10.30 & 1800		Janet	07973 855107
Older Adult Exercise	Thu	1130 - 1230		Caroline	01962 779796

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Pure Circuits	Mon	19.30	Juliette	07799 890860
Rugby Tots	Tue 10.00, Wed 10.15 & Thur 15.50		Phil	03453 133258
Boules	Tue	18.00	Jenny	01962 779813
Ladies Short Tennis	Wed	14.30	Arminel	01962 779611
Pilates	Wed 09.15 & 18.00		Aimee	07546 941489
Choir	Wed	19.30	Gary	01962 732350
Badminton	Thur	19.30	Mike	07887 503345
Swing It Dancing	Thur	21.30	Neil	07825 709691

learning in well-being and self-confidence to enhance their abilities in school, caring and life skills. The advertisement on page 35 invites volunteers to help with activities and just to give these youngsters a look into a normal healthy life. Do have a look at the website at www.winchesteryoungcarers.org.uk and see what we try to achieve for these disadvantaged young people. Alternatively if you feel you could add value as committee member do have a word with me.

Nick Owen 779162

Wild Valley Verges – turning the B3047 into a bee road!

We had an excellent meeting last month to launch our Adopt a Verge initiative, and were very pleased with the support from neighbours and from our local politicians.

We are campaigning to encourage and expand the local verges managed for wildlife. Our Adopt a Verge scheme offers a package: a rake (for raking off cuttings), a green bag (for composting) and yellow rattle seed (for planting in the autumn – see below) to anyone who would like to look after their own verge or one nearby. If you would like

to help but don't have a suitable verge we hold regular working parties – please get in touch on wildvalleyverges@gmail.com.

Our next door county, Dorset, has been taking a lead in modern verge management, and we are working to persuade Hampshire to leave verges for wildflowers where possible – please add your voice by raising the issue with your local councillors.

Here is a short guide on how to manage verges, garden edges, orchards or any suitable area for wildflowers:

If your verge is cut by the council, try making signs to alert the Man on the Mower that you are managing it for wildflowers and maybe talk to the contractor. Even after a cut you can make a difference by raking off the cuttings to reduce the fertility of the soil so that the wildflowers can compete more successfully with the grasses. We are currently preparing suitable notices.

If you control the cutting on the area that you are managing for wildflowers, cut before the end of March if it is currently mainly grass, and rake off the cuttings (put them into your compost or into the green bag for collection). Cut again sometime between mid July and the end of September, and again rake off cuttings. If your area already has wildflowers you may want to delay cutting until after the flowers have seeded, so just cut once between mid July and the end of September. Keep an eye out if big tussocks of grass begin to take hold. By raking and removing all the cuttings no more nutrients are being added to the soil, making it less fertile. This is what is needed to encourage wildflowers to get going. The big tussocky grasses and nettles thrive on lots of nutrients, so hopefully the more they are mown and removed,





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even dug out, the less they grow.

Common flowers around our area that your verge might already have include oxeye daisy, common knapweed, giant scabious, field scabious, bird's-foot-trefoil, lady's bedstraw and low growing ones such as clovers, ground-ivy and selfheal. Small narrow leaved grasses such as fescues are nice, and a variety of plants and colours is ideal.

You might want to try to reduce nettles, docks, hogweed and cow parsley by regular strimming; you might even try weeding them out.

Add the yellow rattle seed in November by stamping the seed into the ground. You can collect the seed, or email the Wild Valley Verges team for some. Yellow rattle is parasitic on many tough grasses, and thus lessens the vigour of strongly growing grass and gives more delicate flowers and grasses that are less susceptible to the parasite a chance to get going.

Please take photos and share your positive wildlife sightings with us!

Verity Coleman

wildvalleyverges@gmail.com

Pigeon post haste

In the July edition of the Itchen Valley News we showed how our resident gardening guru, Tony Gaster, constructed an anti-pigeon cage out of wood and netting to protect his beans and peas and other vegetables. His version cost over a hundred pounds and I wondered if I might achieve the same effect a bit cheaper.

I too have had my vegetables attacked by pigeons. The first peas that I sowed were nibbled as soon as the green sprouts appeared above the soil and this also happened to the second sowing. In desperation I turned to the internet and on it I found some

recommendations for reflective holographic tape (search for "bird scare tape"). I bought a roll of this for just over £2 and strung it up between some bamboo canes above my peas. I also let a few strands dangle down to blow in the wind.

Doing this had an amazing affect. My third sowing of peas wasn't attacked by the pigeons at all and the plants were able to come to full-size without any further injury. Encouraged by these results I put the holographic tape above and around my beans and extended the system over the strawberries. To date I have suffered no crop damage from any birds although the system seems to have no effect on slugs or blackfly.

Tony's cage is certainly robust, looks very neat and workmanlike and will keep even desperate pigeons at bay but my tape seems to work well and is a lot cheaper.

Vernon Tottle



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For more information on volunteering with us visit

www.winchesteryoungcarers.org.uk

or call 01962 808339 – we'd love to hear from you!





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Belshazzar at Grange Festival

Handel wrote his oratorio *Belshazzar* in 1744 at the height of his powers. Since then, it has fallen into relative obscurity, but the imaginative staging at this year's Grange Festival shows how successful it can be when presented as an opera. The opera tells the story of the fall of Babylon at the hands of Cyrus the Great, and the release of the captive Jews after the death of Belshazzar. This production owes much to the Grange's partnership with Harry Christophers' *The Sixteen*, celebrating their 40th anniversary this year.

The chorus is central to the action of the opera, appearing at different stages as the exiled Israelites, the court of Belshazzar or Cyrus' invading army. The sheer energy of their movement is breath-taking, not least in the orgy scene which leads to the famous 'writing on the wall' which serves to

terrify Belshazzar himself. Much of the credit for this goes to director Daniel Slater and choreographer Tim Claydon, together with the sheer professionalism of *The Sixteen*. Of the soloists, Robert Murray as Belshazzar and Claire Booth as his mother Nitocris were the stars for your reviewer; Murray somehow manages to be cowardly and attractive at the same time, perhaps modelling himself on a contemporary politician? With *Belshazzar*, the Grange Festival has completed a trio of productions that shine with star quality, and augur well for the future success of this world-class company on our doorstep. If proof were needed, one of our leading opera critics describes the production as 'the bullseye hit of the country-house opera season to date' - a rare five stars from the ever-demanding Rupert Christiansen of the *Daily Telegraph*.

Peter McManus



Claire Booth (Nitocris), Robert Murray (Belshazzar) with the Sixteen and the Grange Festival Chorus. Photo Simon Annand



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Boomtown News

The hours they are licenced to play music are as follows:

Wed 7 August: 11:00 - 23:00

Thu 8 August: 10:00 – 00:00

Fri 9 August: 10:00 – 04:00

Sat 10 August: 10:00 – 04:00

Sun 11 August: 10:00 – 00:00

Contacting the Festival During

Event: Tues 6 - Mon 12 August

PHONE: 24HR Residents Hotline: 01962 678 606. (*Operational from 7am on Tuesday 6th August until 11pm on Monday 12th August*)

Please call for swift response from festival team, e.g. security, waste management, etc.

EMAIL: During the event please use eventcontrol@boomtownfair.co.uk to email urgent queries to the event.

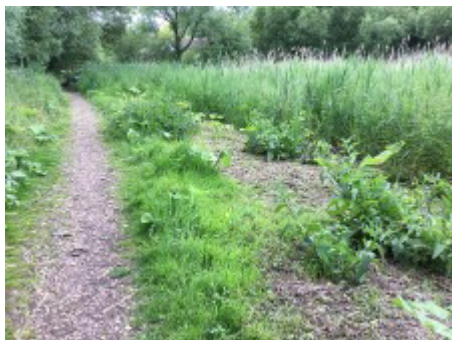
Contacting the Festival Pre-event Sat 3 - Mon 5 August

PHONE: Residents Hotline: 01962 678 606. (*Operational from 10am - 5pm: Out of hours please leave a message on the answerphone*)

EMAIL: You can also contact at local_community@boomtownfair.co.uk as per usual.

More wild news

In keeping with the Adopt a Verge movement in the valley I have been strimming a section of the water meadows adjacent to the public footpath that runs between the main river and the carrier in Martyr Worthy. There are many attractive chalk stream plants such as comfrey, meadowsweet, yellow flag iris and great willow herb that thrive in damp conditions, but need a helping hand to



compete against nettles, cleavers, and bindweed. A little strimming and weeding out of these less desirable plants will hopefully in time let more light in and give the chalk stream plants a better chance to flourish. But it won't happen overnight.

Simon Ffennell.

A Call for Your Help.

The 'Cake Stall' and 'Teas' at the Easton Fete are hoping for bakes of any size or shape from tortes and tarts to other tantalising titbits. Plus for the 'afternoon tea' section sweet and savoury delights like tray bakes, cookies, sandwiches, mini cakes, scones and quiches.

Please contact me on 779465 for noting your interest with further instructions (delivery etc) to follow closer to the fete!

Ready Steady BAKE

Ina Williams

More River News

On Sunday 7 July a very special Baptism service was held, with baby Raife being baptised in the river at Easton. The cover photo shows the newest member of the church family being welcomed by one of the oldest



(Mark Stent) and the photo above shows Dad Phil holding the baby while Alex Pease carries out the baptism.

Alresford Surgery News

Child immunisation call letters are sent out early, to give parents/carers plenty of time to book for their immunisation. If you are in any doubt of what age your child should be for the immunisation you can check the schedule in your child's red book or by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/childhood-vaccines-timeline/>

italk provides talking therapies to those aged 16 and over. The service works with people with mild to moderate mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety. A range of treatments is offered, including 1-2-1 support (via telephone or face to face), groups and workshops and computerised Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (cCBT). It is free to access

and accepts both self-referrals and GP referrals. You can self-refer to the service and even book directly on to some of their groups online by visiting www.italk.org.uk



Local monthly information

Waste collections in August

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 2 and 16 and Saturday 31 August. Green bins on Friday 9 and 23 August.

Cameo 100th Anniversary

On Tuesday 20 August.

Farmers Market in Winchester

Sunday 11 and 25 August.

Parish Council Full Meeting

No meeting in August.

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

School holiday timetable operates all month

Mondays and Thursdays to Winchester:
07:53 09:23 13:53 17:23

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Winchester:
07:53 09:23 11:53 13:53 15:23 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:
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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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