

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 69 September 2019

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy





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[Largest display of upscale Woodbury] didn't have it, but was doing well, especially on the clothing side.

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Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 1997*



WELCOME to the Valley News



Noise has been very much on my mind in recent times. Sometimes the country is anything but quiet and peaceful. I know some have been disturbed by Boomtown though in the articles I was given this month, noise has not been an issue there. Building work seems to go on and on around us, one project for almost two years. Then there is some garden machinery, particularly of the two-stroke variety. It is clear constraints applied in industry do not apply to everyday life in the country. This magazine serves to keep you in touch with events and issues. It also offers reports on what has happened. I continue to be grateful for our elected representatives who continue month by month to submit copy, informing us of their concerns and also bringing our attention to future issues. I would like to pay particular tribute to our parish councillors who have to get involved in a myriad of life's trivialities yet some, like the recent invasion of the Couch Green recreational area, can be very serious.

There's certainly no shortage of activity in our community, be it boules, gardens, singing, walking or just having fun.

This is also a caring community and from time to time we have appeals to help those less fortunate in our society. I come back to Boomtown and am hugely impressed to see the efforts organisers have made on environmental concerns, litter and recycling being of paramount importance to us all. Boomtown is a key event and of course causes us some disruption but I thought this year

every effort was made to minimise that. We have two articles from the Mitchell family (pages 23 & 25).

One of the community events for older folk in the Valley is Cameo (story page 39).

Many of us use the Itchenlist to flag up issues or to dispose of unwanted items. I know for some, this can be frustrating yet it's a great source of information on incidents such recent trees down. However, I still ask readers to look at our advertisers who continue to support this publication financially. Enjoy the remaining days of summer, Halloween is not far off! Our next editors are Lucy & Fi.

Tony Gaster

Itchen Valley News

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

What's on

Tuesday 10 September

Bridge and Tea 2-5pm. 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 (see below).

Saturday 14 September 10-6pm Ride & Stride

in aid of Hampshire & Islands Historic Churches. Anyone wishing to walk or cycle for this charity contact Vanessa Rosewell on 01962 841182 for more details. St Mary's Church, Easton is holding a coffee morning between 10-12 noon on the 14th, please support this, funds for the Historic Churches.

Tuesdays 17 Sept - 3 Dec

Alpha course, 7.30 - 9.30pm, St John's Church. Advert see page 15.

Friday 20 September Starlit Trail

In aid of Wessex Cancer Trust.

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

Sunday 29 September

12 noon. Harvest Lunch at Easton Village Hall following Harvest Parish Communion at 11am at St Mary's. Everyone Welcome. Contact Vanessa Rosewell on 01962 841182 for more details.

Friday 11 October, 7.30pm

Charity Quiz Night in aid of Home-

Start Winchester in Itchen Abbas Village Hall. For tickets including a Ploughman's supper at £12.50, call 01962 851177 or email info@home-startwinchester.org.uk
Sponsored by Rothmans Accountants.
Sue Gentry

Wednesday 9 October, 6-8pm

At East Stratton Village Hall, Church Bank Road, SO21 3XA. In this illustrated talk, Jenny Uglow explores the contradictory genius of Edward Lear, a man of great simplicity and charm, adored by children, whose humour masked epilepsy, depression and loneliness. In his own time he was as famous for his brilliant natural history paintings, landscapes and travel writing, but he is now best loved for his 'nonsenses', from limericks to love songs like 'The Owl and the Pussy Cat' and 'The Dong with a Luminous Nose'. There is a special connection with East Stratton, as Lord Northbrook and the Barings were among Lear's closest friends and patrons.

Jenny Uglow's *Mr. Lear: A Life of Art and Nonsense* was the winner of the Hawthornden Prize for 2018 and was shortlisted for the Waterstone's Book of the Year. Tickets: £20 (to include wine and canapes) from Alex Macpherson 01962 735562. Or search the artfund.org website under events.
Alex Macpherson

Heritage Open Days longer, stronger than ever!

This year's Heritage Open Days look like being another triumph. An even greater number of events – **147** – are on offer over a longer time span – **10 days!** Events take place not only in Winchester but also in Alresford,

Southampton, Selborne, Chawton, Kingsworthy, Romsey, Hursley, Ropley, Swanwick and Northington. Places for the bookable events are filling up fast, indeed, some are already sold out, but don't worry, there is plenty more to see and do. Whether visitors are interested in costume, food and drink, archaeology, music, drama or poetry there is something for all ages. Not only the past but the future is on show – the open greener houses give people a chance to find out how to save energy and Alastair Stewart is discussing the impact of new technology on news coverage.

It is amazing that such a programme can be put together by a team of volunteers and it is even more of a triumph that it can all be **free**, thanks to the lead sponsor, Winchester College and many others. However, donations will be welcomed and there is one fundraising event on Thursday 12 September when Martin Biddle will be explaining *Why did the Anglo-Saxons build a church in the middle of a ruined Roman city?* at the Discovery Centre; tickets for this are £14.

Some of the events are bookable in advance from the website, a few highlights are listed here but there are many, many more:

Steve Jarvis: Winchester Through Postcards - Saturday 14 September
Hampshire Firearms Collections - Thursday 19 September

Dr Tim Hands: The Path to Keat's Autumn - Thursday 19 September
University of Winchester Chapel
Tours by Design Engine Architects - Friday 20 September

Alastair Stewart 'Shifting Sands in News Coverage' - Friday 20 September

Jane Devonshire 'Food, Masterchef &

beyond' Saturday 21 September
Hursley House Sunday 22 September.
For other events visitors are invited to just turn up on the day: • Food & Drink Exhibition and Extraordinary Women Exhibit - throughout festival. • A Celebration of Hampshire Treasures at Great Hall on 14 & 15 September. • Eel House Open Day in Alresford on Sunday 15 September. • Winchester College Treasury on 19 to 22 September. • Winchester Cathedral Open Evening on Thursday 19 September. • Weorod on Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 September.

Please visit our website for the full programme and to book winchesterheritageopendays.org or pop into Winchester Tourist Information Centre. And remember every event is **FREE!**

Charlotte Appleby



Party to say thank you to Andrew Impey for his work for the church



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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

Next year:

25 April 2020

Martyr Worthy Plant Sale at Chilland
18 June

Sparkling Preview at St Mary's Easton
19-21 June 2020

A Festival Of Gardens & Flowers in
Easton & St Mary's

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.

Avington Car Boot sale

Just about everyone in the village in the run up to 14 July and on the day of the event put in a huge effort to make the Car Boot Sale the resounding success it was.

All, from the planners, those who contributed with plants, cakes and bric a brac, those who sold them, the Village tent erectors, the car parkers, those on the gate, the collection and counting of the money and those

running the stalls, worked very long and hard. The usual amazing good humour, kindness and consideration we all expect from our community was evident throughout. Others in the Valley made contributions, too, and we are grateful to them.

Special mention should really be made of our wonderful Sarah Bullen who allowed the event to happen. She made sure the field was ready – no mean feat – mapped it out efficiently to make it easy for sellers to park and was present the whole time to ensure that any problems were immediately sorted. This all despite having a popular show at Avington Park an hour later to get rolling! We in the planning group feel so privileged.

Judy Thomas

Boules – the final.

The Valley League competition finished with a new champion, Martyr Worthy. They had not featured on the Dick Hewitt Trophy before but this year they triumphed with a flourish.

At the end of round two, Easton had led with 5 points, Avington and Martyr Worthy were equal on 4 each and Itchen Abbas on 3. All could win (possibly jointly), though some needing more skill or luck than others. On the day scheduled for the final, Tuesday 30 July, there was rain intermittently. Avington and Itchen Abbas decided to risk the weather and, with the refreshment tables set up indoors, their match proceeded. Although three of the individual games were decided by a wide margin of 13-3, the overall score was balanced evenly at 2 games each – bringing their final scores for the season to Avington 6, Itchen Abbas 5.

The following week the decider took



the week and arrived at our first stop, Hauser & Wirth, in glorious weather. As gardeners, we were particularly interested in the large perennial meadow designed by Dutch superstar landscape gardener Piet Oudolph (pictured below). The soft naturalistic shape of both the borders and planting within them are a feature of Oudolph's work, which is often called the New Perennial movement. Within this horticultural philosophy, plants are chosen for the rhythm they create over all the seasons. Thus they must look as good in decay as they do in

place at Martyr Worthy Manor, courtesy of John and Nicky Barber. An excellent spread was provided by MW and enjoyed by the players and many spectators from both villages. Easton lost two games before the break but came back strongly to win the third - cumulative scores for the season at that stage Easton 6, Martyr Worthy 6. There was only one game left and the tension rose as the play crept slowly upwards to reach 8-8. But then MW powered ahead to take the game with a 13-8 win. This confirmed their success for the year and they were duly presented with the Dick Hewitt Trophy for 2019. This was the first time Martyr Worthy had topped the league since it began in 2000. Congratulations to them and (dare I say it?) they were worthy winners.

Ralph Matthews

The Valley Gardeners: A Somerset sojourn

The Valley Gardeners set off westwards for a day out in Somerset on 14 August. Luckily we picked the only sunny day of

the first days of spring. Oudolph has created meadows of all shapes and sizes in such diverse locations as The High Line in New York City, RHS Wisley and Trentham gardens in Stoke-on-Trent. There is also a world class art gallery at Hauser & Wirth which is currently featuring work by Ursula Hauser that focuses on female artists. We had a guided tour of the highlights of this exhibition. Ursula Hauser founded the gallery with her husband Iwan Wirth in 1992.

After lunch we called in to see Charles Dowding at his home in Shepton Mallet (pictured right). Having heard all about his extraordinary vegetables when he visited us in Itchen Abbas in February, we were keen to see them for





ourselves and we were not disappointed! As a vegetable grower myself I felt a mixture of admiration, envy and deep depression as I gazed over Charles's endless beds of every vegetable and fruit you would care to name. All were healthy to the point almost of indecency, were bursting with vigour and colour and looked totally mouthwatering. All this is achieved without recourse to chemicals or pesticides and of course his garden is totally organic. He applies compost to his vegetable beds once a year and will get 2, 3 or even 4 crops within a season. If you are interested in improving your vegetable growing skills (and results) I can highly recommend Charles's website which is chock full of information and tips. <https://www.charlesdowding.co.uk/> We wended our way back to Itchen

Abbas dreaming of flowing seas of grasses and Echinacea or succulent stands of Swiss Chard and ruby red tomatoes. It was quite a day in the garden!

Catherine Hahn

From our MP

Last month I wrote in the Itchen Valley News about the **schools in Winchester** debate I held in Parliament recently. You can



read more about that, and the wide range of issues I covered, at www.stevebrine.com/schoolsdebate Far from stopping there however, I and a group of concerned MPs are making clear and robust representations to the

new Prime Minister. We all support the f40 campaign which calls for significant change in the allocation of Government funding to local authorities and schools because we represent constituencies that receive some of the lowest levels of education funding in England and we want an urgent review of the current system. So we were pleased to hear the new PM talk of “levelling up per-pupil funding” for primary and secondary schools as he entered No.10. My job now is to clarify what this means in practice and ask robust questions from the backbenches on behalf of those I represent. This is what a strong and experienced MP does and how I can leverage my near decade in Parliament to the benefit of Winchester. Secondly, while I may have left my role in Government as Public Health Minister earlier this year, my interest and work on many of the things I care about has not stopped. One part of that is my involvement in an exciting new **independent commission that aims to end HIV transmissions** in England within the next 10 years. The HIV Commission has been created by the UK’s leading HIV charities, Terrence Higgins Trust and the National AIDS Trust. I will be one of its commissioners. You can find out more

at www.hivcommission.org.uk. Finally, as well as all my other activity throughout the year, each Summer while Parliament is in recess I set about my **Summer Tour** including pop-up surgeries, supermarket surgeries (pictured) and meeting constituents door to door. In addition, this year, I am also conducting a short residents’ survey which gives you even greater chance to tell me what’s on your mind. You can find out more about the tour and complete the survey at www.stevebrine.com/summertour2019. As Parliament returns for what promises to be one of the most intense sessions in years, you can see my reaction to the **latest Brexit developments** (and priorities for the new Prime Minister) via my website at www.stevebrine.com.

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

The Itchen Valley choir is now recruiting new members

If you already sing in a large choir, maybe you would prefer something a bit smaller. The Itchen Valley Choir is based in Itchen Abbas and as a small choir, we can offer you individual attention should you need it and also the opportunity to perform as a soloist in its annual winter concert.

Alternatively, if you’ve never sung before, this is your opportunity to learn whilst amongst other seasoned performers. There’s no audition and you can pick things up at your own pace whilst we rehearse alongside you. Every summer, the Itchen Valley Choir combines with other local groups to perform in either Winchester Cathedral or Romsey Abbey. Next summer, in May 2020, the choir will be part of the Winchester and County





Music Festival's production of Verdi's Requiem in the cathedral.

If any of this interests you, please come along to our first rehearsal on Wednesday 4 September at 7:45 pm in Itchen Abbas Village Hall. You will receive a warm welcome. For further information please telephone me on 01962 791101, email ivcshub@gmail.com or see our Facebook page.

Lynda Denyer

Fred Haslam 1930—2019

FRED. What can we say? Scientist, captain of industry, friend, colleague, dad and papa. He was a highly intelligent, intellectual and very successful man but also a very private and modest man too. This was made clear to me when he explained to me that he didn't want a boring biography or boastful account of how brilliant or successful he was, but we couldn't let the moment pass without briefly describing his exceptional and very interesting life.

Fred was born in Cheshire in 1930, the

eldest son of a distinguished scientist whose career spanned the British nuclear programme and the development of Teflon. Dad was awarded a county scholarship to study chemistry at Manchester University and took up his place following serving his National Service at the age of 17 with the RAF. After his chemistry degree Fred moved to University College London where he took a second degree in Chemical Engineering before completing a PhD in studies related to rocket propulsion, supported by the Unilever Foundation. Fred's love of science continued throughout his life and it was difficult to keep up with his encyclopaedic knowledge of everything from the properties and uses of graphene to the applications of gene editing, which he discussed with his consultant at great length at his last appointment. I'm not sure who knew more!



After managing to avoid being blown up in the highly dangerous world of phosphorus and phosphine with Albright and Wilson, Fred was invited to join BAT with whom he stayed for the rest of his working life, rising to Head of Research and finally the

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company's Chief Engineer. His career was intrepid and eventful. His work took him to over 80 countries and he survived at least three potential air disasters, kidnapping in Argentina, revolutions in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala, three earthquakes, the KGB and Las Malvinas! His packing list was always the same - a few items of clothing and vast quantities of whisky and digestive biscuits on which he survived.

Despite this adventurousness, Fred remained a very cautious traveller when it came to family holidays. On the few occasions that we took an aeroplane, he would insist on us getting to the airport with a minimum of five hours to spare, but our trips mostly involved long car ferry trips to Europe with a small tent or caravan packed to the gunnels with dried packet food, tens of cartons of long life milk and many packets of water purification tablets, as you could never be too sure. Fred was quietly proud of his achievements, particularly his ability to make the best Victoria sandwich ever but strangely these really didn't matter to him at all. He truly believed who you are is more important than what you are or what you have amassed. The quality of the person was most important and integrity was to be valued above all else.

He was an old-fashioned man with old-fashioned values, a lifelong supporter of Medecins Sans Frontieres, yet open to and interested in all the developments emerging in the modern world. He was also very mischievous and great fun too.

In his younger days he looked very like and was often mistaken for Marlon Brando which he rather enjoyed. We always wondered whose name he



signed when giving autographs. He genuinely was routinely stopped on aeroplanes, usually by American ladies of a certain age demanding attention from this "film star"!

He loved cricket and it is perhaps no surprise that he waited until England won the Cricket World Cup before he died.

Fred met Eirlys, the love of his life, when they were both studying at Manchester (a real life brief encounter on a train) and they remained devoted to each other for 63 years. But the Fred that we will remember most fondly is the quiet thoughtful man who was engaging and interesting. To whom people came when they wanted advice (which was offered to those who didn't ask as well) He didn't wear his heart on his sleeve, believing emotions were private, but he felt things very deeply and cared very deeply. Fred loved Martyr Worthy, the church and the valley, he loved playing boules and being involved with the village hall and the PCC. He loved his family and was immensely proud of his grandchildren Olivia, Jack and Flora, who he would do anything for, but most of all he loved Mum.

Sally Johnston and Jo Bickford Smith

A full account will be found on the church web site –Ed.

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From the rectory



From the trivial to the terrifying!
Does life ever feel like that?
We go through some wonderful periods of things all falling into place -

periods of great triumph - but when you work and work for an objective and achieve it, then do you ever get the feeling that the victory is all a bit empty and that life can, even at its best moments, seem a bit trivial?

Then, on the other hand, out of the blue comes some ghastly situation - a close relation dangerously ill, a friend ruined, a marriage broken. Suddenly, we feel that we have not understood life at all; the veneer of being in

control is torn away and the chaotic brokenness of human life is revealed. We ask ourselves 'Why?' 'Why me?' 'What is the point of it all?' 'What have I been doing for these decades working, working away either in the office, on the site, at home?' 'What was it all for?'

If you ever find yourself asking these questions, then you will enjoy Alpha. We are running Alpha again in Itchen Valley Parish beginning on Tuesday 17 September at 7.30pm at St John's Itchen Abbas. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions designed to enable you to explore some of these big questions from a Christian perspective. We give you supper and then there is a video followed by an opportunity to talk in a group. It's great fun. Come to the first session and see if you like it. Let me know, if you are interested, so that I can arrange catering.

Alex

Revd. Alex Pease

rector@itchenvallychurches.org

Well, I never!

One of the joys of the English language is discovering the origins of well-used phrases or sayings, the original meanings of which have become lost in the mists of time. An interesting number of these was recently brought to my attention by a very engaging guide during a fascinating tour of the Crumlin Road Gaol in Belfast.

Prisoners in the gaol were required to do work, one task of which was to strip used ropes to make twine which would then be sold, giving rise to the expression *money for old rope*. Also, the Governor's office was the only room in the whole gaol that had a carpet. So, if a member of staff were accused of a disciplinary offence, they would have to

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appear before the Governor and were said to be *on the carpet*.

The use of the word *cat* is often believed to refer to that instrument of punishment, the cat-o-nine-tails. Thus *to let the cat out of the bag* refers to preparing to lash an offender and *has the cat got your tongue* refers to victims of the punishment being so traumatised afterwards that they temporarily lost the power of speech.

My favourite example from the Belfast tour was the derivation of the word *hangover*. This apparently has its origins in public hangings in the city. These were very popular spectacles and would draw large festive crowds intent on a good day out. Much alcohol was consumed on such occasions, leading many to be unfit for work the following day, with revellers said to be suffering from a *hangover*.

My immediate reaction to the above explanations was to believe that they all sounded very plausible. But are they true? I don't know but I'd like them to be.

Stephen Percy

Our wild valley

A microcosmic world under our feet or on our book shelves. Well I have to admit we didn't see this creature in the Valley this summer but in the lost green world of the Wildlife Centre at Cardigan, heading down a narrow gorge made of slate we stumbled on arachnida of the tiniest sort - a pseudo scorpion. However this creature could be found in any place with leaf litter, or by the sea, grassland or even in our homes - yes pseudo scorpions are tiny but they eat a lot of good things for us such as clothes moth larvae, carpet beetle larvae, ants, mites and booklice. The prey has a very sticky end, being

caught by the long pincers, and melted by venom into a goo ready for eating! A 3 year old girl on our expedition found it under a slate rock, and it took the rest of us with magnifiers and such like just to even see it, let alone catch it! They belong to the same class of animals as spiders – the arachnida; and are known as pseudo-scorpions as they look exactly like scorpions but without the stinging tail. Size and colours can vary, range from 2-8mm, yellow to brown and new species could quite possibly be found in the UK. Out of 27 different species, at least 12 are common (buglife collects records if you do find any). Also hiding under the slate were coastal centipedes (longer and thinner than normal ones), shiny millipedes, very fat wood lice and coastal bristletails found here as we were near the tidal river. Both small and large people enjoyed the busy invertebrate life on a micro scale.

Sophie Rogers.

From the Parish Council.

Although we do not have meetings in August unless there is an emergency, there is still plenty happening. This year it has mainly been in the aftermath of the travellers occupying the Playing Fields at Couch Green. Ditches with banking on the field sides, modified access gates and further fencing are all being considered. Much of this work should soon be underway.



It is also a time to look forward to consider priorities and projects for the future. First is the area around the bus shelter and phone box in Itchen Abbas.



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The ditch at the side of this area needs regular attention and there are thoughts as to what might be done to improve it. Where it has been cleared in the past there is a lot of spoil that needs to be removed and the whole area made to look more attractive. Perhaps this is another place for wild flowers. Please let us know your thoughts. As can be seen the bus shelter is in need of some “tlc” and this is also under consideration. Let’s hope we still have a bus service. Returning to Couch Green Playing Fields, there is still the question as to how they can be improved and provide better facilities for sport and recreation. Investigations are ongoing to procure suitable temporary storage for the football club who currently use the field on a regular basis. In the longer term consideration is being given as to how to provide something more permanent, as well as literally creating a level playing field. Naturally such a project will require major funding which is a big task in itself. On a global scale, a hot topic has been climate change and the environment. Central government, Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council have all made commitments to reduce carbon emissions, with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by set dates. You might ask what can we do



as a Parish. Some might reply very little but remember every little bit, however small, will help. To the observant, it can be seen on an individual basis some are already making progress. The Wild Flower Verges Group is a good example. Wild flower verges provide much needed habitats for insect life as well as requiring less cutting and therefore reducing the output of carbon dioxide from mowing. Quite a number of properties have fitted solar PV panels. Others have solar heating panels. Does anyone have both? The question is how should we in the Valley continue to encourage everyone to think about these issues and what actions can be taken to address them? The Parish Council has already begun to look at how we might tackle this. One suggestion is to get together a group of interested parties to share and promote ideas and advice on reducing carbon emissions plus other environmental issues. Would you support such an idea or even better, be willing to participate as a member of a group? Or do you have other ideas? Please let us know.

Patrick Appleby.

A good walk (with pubs)

I lured a group of friends from London with the promise of walking along the Itchen and we set out in mixed weather to walk from Cheriton back to Abbots Worthy. After leaving the cars tucked into a hedge in Hill Houses Lane we took the Wayfarer’s Walk towards Tichborne House, with stories of the dole and the claimant. Accompanied all the way by the background thump of the bass from Boomtown, we crossed onto the Itchen Way at Vernal Farm, joined the Kings Way and then over the A31 to



walk into Ovington. As we decided we were a bit early for lunch at the Bush, we had a drink in their lovely garden and then walked over the bridge and down the path between two carriers of the river. At Itchen Stoke we turned left over the water meadows and along the footpath until we came out at Yavington Farm. From there we turned left onto the Allan King Way, up the hill and right alongside the Stent's fields – we identified borage growing but were stumped by the crop on the other side of the track that was subsequently identified as quinoa!

The thought of coffee nearly tempted us into the golf course club house as we were in the middle of a sharp shower but we didn't want to miss lunch service in The Plough, so we pressed on past the gates to Avington House and St Johns Church. In spite of being a group of ten wet people with a wet dog in tow, we were made very welcome at The Plough and fortified with sandwiches and beer.

We waited for the rain to ease, then retraced our steps for a short way to pick up the footpath north of St Johns Church, with the opportunity to absorb the sight of the new mansion on

our left. Straight on along the slope above the river, past the remains of Lord Grey's cottage, and along beside the Great Wall of Chiland took us to Chiland Lane, where we headed straight on over the fields to Martyr Worthy. We had a look at the flowers in St Swithun's church (from Fred Haslam's funeral), then leant over the bridge at the end of the lane before



Itchen Valley Churches

Sunday 1st September

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Family Worship

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

Sunday 8th September

10am Parish Communion
6pm Evensong

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

Sunday 15th September

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Valley Worship & Patronal

St John's Itchen Abbas
St Mary's Easton

Sunday 22nd September

10am Parish Communion
6pm Evensong

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

Sunday 29th September

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion

St Mary's, Avington
St Mary's, Easton

Rector

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rector@itchenvalleychurches.org
01962 779845

Days: Sun, Mon, Tues & Weds.

LLM

Mr Gerry Stacey
gstacey@easynet.co.uk
07554 438973

Parish Administrator

Beccy Clark
admin@itchenvalleychurches.org
01962 779845
Mon-Fri, 9am - 1pm (term time)

Churchwardens

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Sara Mason 779169
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heading on along the north bank of the river, over Easton Lane, across the fields and under the motorway and on to Abbots Worthy where we awarded ourselves tea and cake! We had the usual dispute about the number of kilometres/miles/steps as everyone had a different number on their device, but mine said 12.3 km/7.6 miles/21,689 steps, so I decided that was the answer.

Verity Coleman

Jackie's County Corner

What a weather challenge this Summer break has been! So many recent worthy charity events have had to contend with rain and wind.



We were lucky enough to have two dry days to set up stalls for Citizens Advice, and then Street Reach at Winchester's car boot sale over the summer. Charities can apply to Winchester City Council to run the Car Boot Sale, collecting the day's stall revenue. It is a really good opportunity to advertise your charity as well as making money.

You can also apply for a grant through the County Councillor Grant scheme, using this link.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>
Please contact me if you'd like details of either scheme.

School holidays were originally set to allow families to help with the harvest. Now, they are tied up with tradition and broadly Christian holidays. Do you think the dates of school holidays should change? Now the County is only guaranteeing free school transport for children after their fifth birthday.

Some families in rural communities have been experiencing difficulties getting children to their first days at school. If this has affected you, please contact me.

The weather gave Boomtown a challenge for organisers this year too. When I visited the site with fellow councillors, I saw thousands of happy visitors and talked to operators at the impressive central HQ for the police, emergency services, traffic management teams, security, waste collection and recycling and other vital services. The organisers placed huge emphasis on recycling this year and on our official visit, we saw sorting of rubbish onsite for processing. One challenge is to get local retailers to stop selling 'disposable festival kits'. Boomtown wants festival goers to take their tents etc. home. Thank you for your comments both positive and negative. I have fed these back to the Environment and Traffic teams.

I have mentioned the Commission 2050 in previous months - as the County Council has been looking into the future to determine which services will be needed as technology and demographics change. The final presentation will be at a televised Council Meeting on 23 September, so that residents can see the presentations and debate on the day online.

Finally, I hope that you submitted your



responses to the junction 9 consultation. With both Winchester and Hampshire declaring a Climate Change Emergency, our formal responses have reflected that. We await the next stage of Highways England proposals, with a full appraisal of the environmental impact, as well as future traffic predictions.

Cllr Jackie Porter, www.jackieporter.co.uk

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Say it with...

Flower arranging keeps us in the present moment, so we can enjoy the here and now and therefore it is a very relaxing experience.

Say it with... is bringing its floral café to Easton village hall on Tuesday 17 September 10:30 am to 12pm, here you can relax as Zuzi will guide you through making your own floral arrangement. There is no prior



experience needed to do this and anyone can take part no matter your age. Zuzi who runs Say it with is very experienced at working with people who live with dementia and she is also trained in horticultural therapy.

As well as being guided through making a flower arrangement, you get a hot drink and slice of cake to enjoy too.

Zuzi says: "Floral cafes are a great place to relax, socialise and get creative with flowers. I will guide you to make your own flower arrangement which you will personalise and can keep or give to someone special."

At the moment there are floral cafes running in Old Alresford, Kings Worthy, Colden Common and Eastleigh.

Zuzana Tracey-Burner <https://sayitwith.co/>

Impressions of Boomtown.

Thanks to the good offices of Lisa Griffiths, four of us from nearby localities were able to spend a Sunday afternoon visiting this year's Boomtown Festival. We started with a tour on buggies, then on foot and after that, if we wished, left to wander on our own. On getting there, the first impression is just how vast an area the site covers. The second is the amazing level of organisation behind the Festival. The logistics are enormous. We visited the control room which was well staffed, equipped with radio and CCTV links and aimed to cater for every conceivable contingency. The staff there and elsewhere on site were friendly and helpful. Another visit was to the special area for children, which was really good. It was relatively quiet,





plenty of space and a great variety of entertainments. Moving onto other sites, the set building was to a very high standard. Again impressive given the relative short time in which they have to build each set. Although busy, it did not feel overcrowded and everyone seemed happy and well behaved. Food was readily available and in great variety. I was castigated by one of my companions for eating a bacon roll and not being more adventurous!

On the subject of food, one of the few downsides was the amount of litter it produced (only in some places). Don't blame the organisers who were doing their best, providing and emptying bins as well as employing an army of litter pickers. It is more a question of how do we educate people of all ages not to drop litter and produce legislation that discourages environmentally unfriendly disposable containers.

The only other comment would be a request for a few more direction signs, especially on where to find the right exit. At the end wandering on my own and finally deciding it was time to leave I went in the wrong direction and twice



ended up at the wrong gate. I began to feel like Bill Bryson in his description of getting lost in Welwyn Garden City. (Third time lucky I found the right place.) Overall I was impressed.

Patrick Appleby

The magic of Boomtown!

My legs are aching from walking and dancing and my voice is hoarse from chatting over booming baseline but I have a big smile on my face, laughter and lightness in my heart.

Boomtown brings together more than sixty thousand young (and a few oldies like myself) in a musical, creative, happy throng for a long weekend in our lovely Valley.



It must be a gargantuan project building the city of Boomtown every year. The setting is spectacular both in its enormous size and in its attention to detail. Around every corner is a different world from Dickensian Old Town to opulent Paradise Heights to grungy Downtown. The main stages are mind-blowingly massive and the lights and lasers just get more awesome and imaginative every year. But what really makes me happy is how lovely and friendly everyone is and the magical oneness that happens when we all come together.

In five days with excited people jostling



for space near the stage, queuing by the loos, getting hot and wet with rain, tired and razzled, free-spirited and playful; there was not one bad word, shove, scowl, shout or insolence. The atmosphere was fun, friendly and fluffy through and through.

I have asked around and all agreed and had reports of so many random acts of kindness. I had just arrived at the West Gate, when a gust of wind took my stripy top hat and it flew and swirled, tumbled and tore down the hill. In an instant there were several



lads racing after it and only too delighted to restore it with a smile and a flourish!

Charlie Freemantle was dismayed to lose his phone at the huge stage RELIC. His friends rang it, someone answered, and in minutes a security guard reunited him with it.

Amber, my daughter, was sitting on the grass at Boomtown Springs waiting for a friend and during half an hour she was asked four times if she was ok and needed help with anything.

I hung out with James Woosnam and felt like a celebrity! So many people chatted to us and bantered with him about his tramper wheelchair, saying 'nice wheels' and 'can I jump on please?'



Festival goers were seen picking up rubbish and queuing in the rain on the last day for the recycling centre. The staff were helping take down tents and guiding lost people to their cars with cheery encouragement. I heard that the wasted tents and rubbish was decreased by 70% this year!

I think festivals such as Boomtown truly bring us all together, bring the best out of us and spread the love and joy and peace that we all so need and that our younger generation know how to give.

Emma Mitchell

Boomtown Fair – Leave No Trace

In 2018 it was estimated that 23,500 tonnes of waste were produced at UK festivals, only a third of which was recycled. If UK music festivals want to survive in an age of increasing environmental concern, they must confront this daunting challenge. Boomtown Fair has surpassed minimum requirements for preventing its environmental impact by not only encouraging recycling and zero waste, but by integrating this as part of its renowned storyline. Attendees paid a £10 eco-bond deposit when purchasing a ticket which required them to return a bag full of rubbish at the end of the event. Food vendors encouraged customers to bring their own containers and gave them discounts to do so. Plastic bottles were banned from being sold on the site and people were asked to bring their own reusable bottles to be refilled at the many free water sites.



The festival progressed further than this by integrating the awareness of the environment into the very theme of the festival. Each year is a new chapter in the story of the city of Boomtown and this creates the premise for the

entire festival, reflecting contemporary issues. Starting with the discovery, urban development and democratisation of Boomtown, the 'town' has progressed through to eventual revolution and rise of corporate companies.

This year was named Chapter

II: A

Radical

City. On

the official

website it is written, 'Who will save us?

No one but ourselves! The time is now

to become a player in the game of

survival and the most urgent and epic

chapter in history. We must become

the change we seek!'. This was visible

through the construction of the stages

which all featured plants breaking

through the buildings; the environment

fighting back. Vast numbers of posters

and LED signs encouraged attendees to

care for the site and to 'leave no

trace'.

Although there is still much further to

go, Boomtown is pioneering in

progressing festivals in a responsible

and sustainable direction. The theme

clearly had an effect on those who

were there as evidenced by a 70%

reduction in campsite waste. More than

that, 'citizens' left the site as part of a

community who were encouraged to

face the climate challenges ahead.

It is my 5th Boomtown and like many

of my friends in our 20s it makes a

huge difference to us to go to a festival

that makes positive steps to protect

the planet and spread the desire to

respect our environment.

Amber Mitchell



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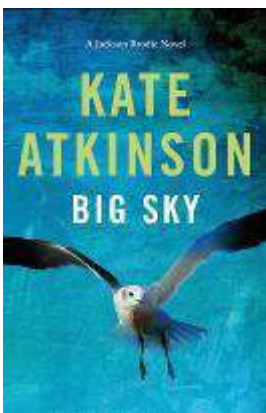
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Book Review: 'Big Sky' by Kate Atkinson

This novel is the latest by Kate Atkinson in her series about Jackson Brodie who is a private detective, although he tries to avoid using this title - as *'it had too many glamorous connotations (or sleazy, depending how you looked at it). Too Chandleresque. It raised people's expectations.'*

He is a former soldier and police officer and, like other fictitious characters in this genre, is something of a maverick who has led a chaotic life.



He is also interesting as he seems to reflect so many of the feelings that many of us, middle-aged and beyond, have about Life in the Twenty First Century but without appearing

crass or reactionary. Atkinson says that 'Jackson's never felt that need to abide by the law because the moral imperative will lead you by the nose, as far as he's concerned.'

If you have not read the other novels about this man, it's a good idea to begin with 'Case Histories' although I read the first three books in reverse order and still found them fascinating. As well as being gripping thrillers, these novels provide a wonderful sense of place. 'Big Sky' is set in North Yorkshire seaside towns - with which Atkinson has been familiar all her life. The novel is full of details that create a

mood both of the surroundings and of the people in it, many of whom are trying to escape their past. In particular I love Atkinson's creation of two of the major characters - Crystal and her stepson Harry. Her depiction of their life together with Crystal's young daughter is positively palpable and the cosiness of the home Crystal has created is all the more fascinating as the plot reveals what lies beneath. Harry has two holiday jobs, one at Transylvania World - an attraction on the pier - and another at a theatre called The Palace and these two venues are hilariously described. In fact, Atkinson says that this is the funniest book she has ever written.

It is and SO much else.

Clare Gaster

Volunteers needed for Winchester Well-Being lunch clubs, which are held in the Baptist Church Hall, Swan Lane, Winchester on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are very short of volunteer helpers, especially on Thursdays. If you are free from 10am until 1pm, even if it's only once a month, and would be interested in coming to help, or if you first want to find out more, please speak to Carol Bailey (WinBap Mission to Seniors) 01962 868770.

Tiddler Joke

From Henry Goodall, Easton.

- Why are frogs happy?
- They eat whatever bugs them.





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People of Faith, the Church and being a Christian

In our world today, we talk about three great faiths: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. It's interesting what words mean now and how they apply. I can't say much about Judaism or Islam but I have been a Christian all my life. I was taken to church as a child by my father and confirmed at the age of twelve which I suppose then made me a member of my church. Christianity, as in many human endeavours, has a great variety of expression. There are the very formal and structured and the very informal and unstructured. Being a follower of Christ, a believer if you like, can therefore take many forms.

I was brought up in the Church of England, so I'm an Anglican. I have very little experience or knowledge of other churches or expressions of faith. In that sense my judgement is coloured.

People today often refer to "the church" and by that I suppose they mean an organisation. The Church of England is quite special in that it is governed by parliament. Church rules, law or canons are part of the laws of England. It might explain why the organisation is so bureaucratic. The whole structure of the CofE (the Church) is unbelievably complex. To my mind, having learnt a bit over the years, it's absurdly unnecessary. To many, both within and outside the Church, it's largely irrelevant.

Humans are great at making organisations and structures. So we talk about "people of faith" and "churchgoers", describing those who belong or not. The Church is governed by synod. Every city, town or village in England is part of a parish: we are in the Itchen Valley parish, in the deanery

of Alresford and the diocese of Winchester. The Church gives almost autonomous power to its bishops and to parish clergy. In some senses, the nearest comparison might be the army. But politicians can sack a general, to remove a bishop is almost impossible. The local vicar or rector in a parish is responsible for all the souls in that place not just church members. I am firmly of the view that this person is a key figure.

Today, the Church is obsessed by numbers, having allowed membership to fall away in the 1960s. When I was young, it was expected that you went to church every Sunday; today you are a regular attender if you go monthly. The Church is also a huge landowner but for the most part, we only look at or consider church buildings. The Church has a duty to maintain its heritage but today in many places that's just a struggle for the local people. Yet this activity dominates what is done and the continual need to raise funds is a priority. About forty years ago the CofE financed parishes, provided clergy pensions and local parishes contributed almost nothing. Today that has totally changed and now local parishes have to pay their share. Unlike the piper we don't however "call the tune".

Many church buildings are not fit for purpose. They are often cold, dark and uncomfortable. Bringing such buildings into a 21st century lifestyle often meets unbelievable opposition. In rural areas such as ours, buildings can be very important to people. There is a history, often close family ties and a sense that things should stay as they are. However, I have witnessed in our community a great many people wanting to support the church buildings, keep them in good shape and open. In that one sense we are very

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School of Dance	Fri	1530	Sat 0900		
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,	Sunday 1700		Alex	07814 678155
Panto rehearsal	Wed	1930		Anna	01962 779350
NCT Yoga	Wed	10.30 & 1800		Janet	07973 855107
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blest.

For good or bad, the Church fulfils various roles in the community not done by any other organisations: marriages and funerals for one, Remembrance services, school assemblies and just a place to meet. In medieval times, the church was a community building. Today that is starting to reoccur quite widely and I feel strongly that's good. I hope to develop this in a future article.

Tony Gaster, Reader Emeritus

Food Spy

Consistency is a virtue. Having been to The Bush Inn at Ovington in June for a wedding anniversary meal, we returned again in July to take mother-in-law out to lunch.

Consistency was not only evident from the ever-friendly and welcoming bar staff, it was also quite apparent from the output of the kitchen. Though the menu had changed between our two visits, the range of menu items on offer was still quite extensive and sufficient to tempt even the most conservative of palates. I recall that in June we arrived outside the season for game and therefore the venison on the menu was no longer available. I cannot however remember what, in the end, I chose to eat on that occasion, save that it was cooked and presented in the best possible way. This time, three of us chose the chicken with Dolcelatte sauce with the other guest going for fish and chips. Once again, both menu items were cooked to perfection, and if you think



chicken and cheese is an odd combination, yes it is but not the way The Bush does it! Whilst the dessert menu has limited choice, I can usually rely on something made of chocolate or lemon and on both occasions these two choices were not regretted. The melting chocolate cherry fondant was perhaps a little sweet but the presentation was impressive whilst the lemon and coconut cheesecake was definitely a hit.

In addition to the food and the pleasant dining atmosphere, what most people remember about The Bush is the opportunity to take a walk alongside the River Itchen. On a sunny day, this is a most delightful encounter that only adds to the general enjoyment of dining at The Bush, a consistently positive experience.

Food Spy

Wildflower of the month

Loosestrife. A perennial that likes its roots in damp soil, maybe near a pond. *Courtesy of Jenny and Keith Sloan.*





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Defibrillator Awareness Course.

On almost the hottest day of the year, 30 people gathered in Easton at Brew with a View, with Ina's delicious cakes and tea, to hear Paul Abbott explain how to use the defibrillator recently installed on the wall of the village hall. For those who were unable to attend here are some of the actions needed in an emergency. **Danger** Ensure that the scene is safe for you and others.

Response Check the casualty needs help. **Talk** to the person, touching them if necessary. If there is no response **Shout** for help, do not leave the casualty and **phone 999**. Check the **airways** are open and clear. Look, listen and feel for normal **breathing**. If no normal breathing is found send someone for the **defibrillator** and start **compressions**. Place two hands on the chest and compress 5-6 cms 30 times, pause and repeat.

When phoning 999 the operator will ask for your post code (the defibrillator is SO21 1EN) and give you the code to open the yellow box. Take the machine to the casualty, fix the electrodes (pads) to the patient and follow the audio instructions from the machine. Should you need further human assistance, the operator is able to call people in the vicinity who will come and help.

Hopefully Paul gave all those present the confidence to use the defibrillator in an emergency and remember 'it takes just five minutes to save a life'.

There was also a request for a further course in basic first aid which we would be happy to run later in the Autumn. If you would be interested in attending such a course please contact either Judy Bishop 01962 779205

judybish@hotmail.com or Lyn Russell
01962 779818 lynrussell@yahoo.co.uk
Judy Bishop

From our city Councillor

On-street Parking. Hampshire County Council needs to seek income from every asset they have and roads are very pricey to maintain.



Winchester Council has been asked if it wishes to continue to manage the on-street parking, profits to be made and shared with the County Council. Winchester Council intends to do so; residents and visitors are the users of on-street parking, and those of us that have experienced private parking companies would not want to inflict that on anybody. We have a better understanding of the very local difficulties for both residents and employers around parking and the impact that can have on lives and incomes. We have experienced enforcement teams that are in town anyway to manage off-street parking. It makes sense to optimise their time by managing both on and off-street parking.

Consultation on a long-promised Parking strategy for Alresford will start soon. Issues include: Short term free parking outside shops with effective enforcement to ensure turnover of spaces. This will need both revenue and capital investment. Objections to this include – more, and ugly street furniture, and 'as soon as shoppers see a machine, they will drive on through to Sainsbury's or Tesco's'. The Timed ticket machines in Winchester, although not quite Heritage, are

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sympathetic. We have to make enforcement as efficient as possible, using technology where it helps.

Resident Parking spaces: we see that blanket resident parking zones just move the problem further from the town centre, that would help nobody. As part of the strategy, we will have to consider if small areas restricted to one car per household could be set aside for resident parking. This would be only for those with no prospect of providing one off-street parking space. Electric vehicles: charging leads crossing pavements are not an acceptable method but if we manage turnover of spaces for charging from the street light network, ownership becomes possible for those with no off-street parking.

Alresford Parking is not just an Alresford problem. The residents and businesses from villages use Alresford as well and are essential to the economic viability of the town centre. This is not 'another tax on motorists'. Hampshire needs to make some money to pay for essential services, including care of the vulnerable. My priorities would be different from Hampshire's, but we have to do what we can from where we are.

Green Waste Bags v Green Waste Bins: following the windy weather, several green bags have gone missing, and they can be a danger to traffic. Changing to bins would create a storage issue for some, and those areas that do use bins seem to have a chargeable green waste service. However, residents without gardens are subsidising those with gardens. Hydration and Water Bottle refill: a water fountain has been installed in Winchester. Would we like something a little more modest? And with a dog bowl, of course.








Planned Roadworks are still coming as a surprise to some of us. Please look at <https://roadworks.org/> You need to click on the downward arrow top right to get advance warning.

Margot Power

The Practical Gardener

This is the time to enjoy gardens at their best, that is if you like flowers, shrubs, trees and produce. I realise today gardening is quite a heavy and demanding task. It is one of the reasons that I have shown how easy it is to grow certain vegetables and the value of freshness and flavour. I guess those who disagree will still buy a bottle of wine for under £4. Weeding is definitely a chore as is dead-heading but both are so necessary in the growing season. I'm still battling pests: pigeons who roost in the fruit trees and break the fine branches, whitefly which are impossible to kill and wasps who devastated the plum crop. I've had to pick plums not quite ripe to get any crop and have never seen such a wasp attack before. One friend said napalm would solve the problem! My new cage is super successful, not just against birds but butterflies, mice and the odd rabbit. I can also use slug pellets safely. Tape is not the universal answer. The greenhouse has



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excelled this year but you can't go away. It needs daily attention so a bit of a millstone. I am still sowing crops like lettuce and perennials which have flowered brilliantly this year.

We probably all have some lawn and for many of us, just a patch of green to walk or play on. Specialists have all sorts of tricks and access to fertilisers and weed-killers that we don't have.



They do make a difference but care is needed with any weed treatment as the chemicals stay around for a long time so grass cuttings can't be composted. It always pays to be careful and think about the environment.

Happy Gardening! Tony Gaster.

Comings & Goings

Welcome to Nicky & John Barber, with children Harry (recently married to Portia) Ben & Hannah who have just moved into Martyr Worthy Manor, along with 2 dogs, various chickens & a flock of Welsh Mountain sheep, having previously lived in Twyford.

Welcome also to Louise and Ruairaidh Collins. They have moved into Old Post Cottage in Itchen Abbas following their wedding in July.



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Cameo 100 gatherings

CAMEO stands for Come And Meet Each Other and was named by the then rector, Andrew Micklefield. It celebrated its 100th gathering in August and because it is the holiday



season the theme was France and French. After a short communion service led by Alex, we ate delicious French food organised by a French Valley resident, Nora Haywood. We were entertained by a delightful French singer, Muriele Allexandre,



and we all did our best to look 'chic'. Blue and white stripes predominated and berets were worn by many. We were joined by Andrew Micklefield and Rebecca Fardell and also by Vernon, who has now set up the tables 100 times (not counting all the



other events for which St John's is used!). We remembered those who have already been promoted to a higher sphere, having blessed us with their company at earlier lunches.

Lavinia Owen, who has so brilliantly run CAMEO since its inception, was thanked both by the guests and the helpers and the really good news is that CAMEO is heading on into its second century. There is a fantastic group of folk, mainly ladies, who prepare and serve lunch in a relaxed and happy atmosphere. Come And Join In if you are over 65.

Phone Lavinia on 779162 for a warm welcome.
Charlotte Appleby





Robin Greenwood presenting Emily Windsor-Aubrey with a gift following 21 years organising the church cleaning at Martyr Worthy.



Local monthly information

Waste collections in September

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 13 and 27 September. Green bins on Friday 6 and 20 September.

Cameo

Tuesday 17 September.

Farmers Market in Winchester

Sunday 8 and 29 September.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 5 September. Easton VH.

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

School term timetable operates 4 - 30 September.

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

School holiday timetable operates 1 - 3 September

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:

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

No Sunday or bank holiday service

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas.

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