

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 72 December 2019

For Avington, Easton, Ichen Abbas and Martyr Worthy





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[Largest display of upscale Woodbury's] didn't feel like it was doing well, especially now, could've used the extra money to [reduce]

[illegible]Kingsworthy
Laundry

Environ Biol Fish (2015) 98:1735–1745
 DOI 10.1007/s10641-015-0325-2



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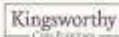
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NOT JUST STOVES!

Kingsworthy
Foundry

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DOI: 10.1002/anie.200500000



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WELCOME to the Valley News



...and to another edition packed with books to read, events to attend, reports of all kinds and exhortations to recycle, vote, take the bus and generally be even better citizens!

We seem to be happy in the Valley to celebrate both the American import of Halloween and the traditional celebration of Guy Fawkes; both were excellent reasons for outdoor partying this month. They provided a welcome distraction from yet another election - all the information about where to vote and why you should is on page 39, including our own local example of why a pre-Christmas election date is complicated (the Panto beats the polling station oh yes it does!). The News remains impartial, so we have fewer contributions from our local politicians this month.

Local traffic issues are touched on in a number of articles this month, including the perennial problem of sharing local roads originally meant for occasional horse drawn traffic between increasing numbers of bicycles and vehicles of all kinds, some of them travelling too fast. When we first moved here thirty years ago I met an old lady who could remember, as a child, walking with her mother from Alresford to Winchester (to see her father in the hospital) along the unmetalled road which is now the B3047. Back then I suppose the railway would have taken much of the traffic, and now that is a successful recreational walking route (see page 10)...who knows how soon there will be other unimaginable changes! In the meantime, while we await a tramline or a monorail, Vernon

would like to encourage us all to consider the bus (page 25).

We would like to use a photo you have taken of something or someone local on the front cover next month. Please send it in, as Jenny Sloan did with her lovely photo of rosehips used on the cover this month. Could you be Food Spy (see pages 33 and 35) next time you eat out? Please send your contributions to itchenvalleynews@gmail.com.

The next edition of the News should reach you before Christmas and the deadline for contributions is therefore earlier than usual - by 10 December (see page 11).

Next month's editor is Tony Gaster.
Verity Coleman

Itchen Valley News

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Please send all contributions for January 2020 by Tuesday 10 December. 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 Jenny Sloan, other photos from various contributors.

What's On



Friday 6 December

Children's party

Itchen Abbas Church

See flyer on Page 7

Saturday 7 December

Elgar's The Kingdom

performed by the Waynflete Singers and friends, with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Tickets from the Cathedral Box Office.

Wednesday 11 to Saturday 14 December

Easton Pantomime

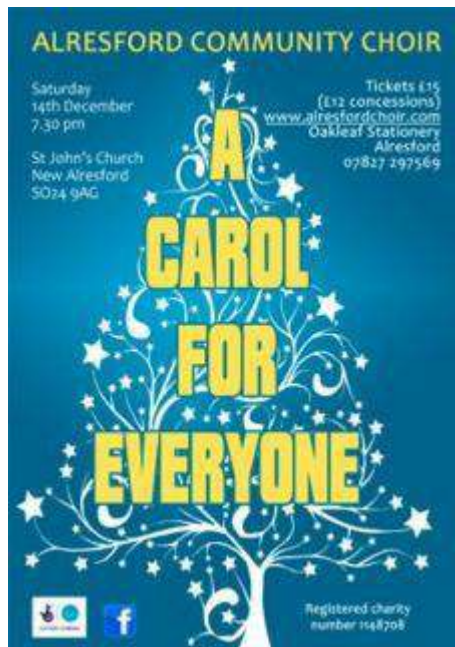
See flyer on Page 23

Saturday 14 December

A Carol for Everyone

Come and join Alresford Community Choir for a traditional Christmas concert in St John's Church, Alresford. There will be new seasonal songs and

carols from the choir's growing repertoire and many familiar carols for everyone to sing together - it isn't just for the choir! The concert is always a sell out so please book your tickets early. Doors open 6:45pm, the concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £12-£15 each from Oakleaf Stationery, Alresford and www.alresfordchoir.co.uk



Wednesday 18 December

Itchen Valley Choir

Christmas concert See flyer on Page 7

Sunday 22 December

Carol Singing

in aid of Winchester Hospice Appeal

The roads are very dirty. My boots are very thin.

I have a little pocket to put some money in.

Knock on the knocker, ring on the bell.

Please give us a copper, because we've sung so well

(Mummer's carol)

We will be keeping up the tradition of singing carols in Itchen Abbas. Please meet at Rodney and Joan Dartnall's house from 6pm for festive drinks before visiting houses around the village. We will arrive at Little Hayes Lane (by kind permission of the Cooper family) at 7.30pm to sing carols with neighbours gathered there. Families welcome, especially newcomers, music provided. Wear warm clothes and bring torches. More information from Joan Dartnall 779538

Save the Dates 2020 & 2021

25 April 2020 Martyr Worthy Plant Sale at Chilland

6 June 2020 EastonFest

13 June 2020 Party to mark 20 years since the opening of the new Itchen Abbas and Avington village hall.

18 June 2020 Sparkling Preview at St Mary's Easton

19-21 June 2020 A Festival Of Gardens & Flowers in Easton and St Mary's

1 - 4 July 2020 Southwood Players open air play at Southwood House. Open air theatre at Avington Park:

19 July 2020 Sherlock Holmes

16 August 2020 Twelfth Night

30 August 2020 Easton Fete

12 September 2020 Itchen Valley Flower Show

19 September 2020 The Building Ball 7pm, at the David Roth Memorial Cricket Ground, Easton. Village Hall fundraiser.

Tuesday 24 November 2020, Saturday 30 January and Friday 26 February 2021 Martyr Worthy lecture series

Valley views and reviews

A Halloween thank you

This year's Halloween has been such a success. We all had so much fun running around the village of Easton knocking on everyone's doors.



The highlights for me were the baby slugs and the spooky sounds that greeted us in Church Lane. I would like to thank everyone in Easton for making Halloween the best.
Charlie Wolfe (aged 9)



Easton WI

In November, members and guests were treated to a very enjoyable musical evening with Tony and Sandra Hurlin and members of the Itchen Folk Band who entertained us with traditional and contemporary songs. We joined in with the choruses and enjoyed Tony's amusing anecdotes of their 'lives in Folk'.

We will be enjoying a Christmas lunch in early December, and then another year of friendship and interesting talks awaits us.
Sallie Peake



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Come and join us for our Children's Christmas Party



Friday 6th December

4.30pm - 6.30pm

Itchen Abbas Church

We will have lots of fun activities including festive games, decorating our Christmas tree and plenty of festive food.

There is no charge for the party but we would love families to bring an unwrapped present for a less privileged child who might not otherwise receive a present.

RSVP - admin@itchenvalleychurches.org

Itchen Valley Choir

Annual Christmas Concert



7.45 pm

Wednesday 18th December 2019

in

Itchen Abbas Village Hall

This year we are creating a party atmosphere for all to enjoy. We will be singing some old favourites together with seasonal cheer and as always audience participation adds to our special concerts.



Admission £10 at the door



Guy Fawkes night at Easton



Easton fireworks were a huge success - as always. We arrived dressed for storm and tempest but in fact all we had to face was soft rain - and showers of multicoloured stars. Hot dogs, including a vegan option, sold like hot cakes and families and friends mingled around the village hall before the splendid display.

Charlotte Appleby

Charity Christmas card shop in the Guildhall



Christmas is coming – and the Charity Christmas card shop has been in operation for an amazing thirty seven years! Located in the Tourist Information Centre at the Guildhall, the shop is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm until 17 December. Over fifty charities are represented and there is a wide variety of cards to suit every taste. Some have local scenes and some have been designed by local artists. As the shop is entirely run and staffed by volunteers, 100% of the proceeds go back to member charities. The Mayor, Councillor Bell, opened the shop and was pleased to see that two of the charities she is supporting were included.

Keep in touch this Christmas and support a charity with cards from the shop.

Barbara Baynes

Avington Park Golf Course



Thursday 14 November saw past Captains Lin Derrick and Dave Rice-Smith present a cheque to Winchester Hospice in respect of funds raised during their captaincies. The total amount raised was £5,049 which is an unbelievable amount for a small but delightfully formed 9-hole golf course

in the Itchen Valley. This is a very friendly club, which is evidenced by the way the members came together to support this worthy cause. If you haven't played there yet – give it a go.
Tricia Griffith, Secretary

Neighbourhood Watch AGM

The Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association AGM was held on Tuesday 8 October at Alresford Golf Club. We were pleased to welcome John Dick from CrimeStoppers, giving his very last presentation before retirement. CrimeStoppers is an independent charity, partly funded by the Home Office and totally separate from the Police. Anyone can contact CrimeStoppers by phone or online to report a crime or suspicious incident, completely anonymously. All valid calls will be passed to the Police for action, often within minutes of receipt. We receive numerous complaints that the Police 101 service is not satisfactory, mainly because of long delays in answering. Some of this is due to the cutbacks; staffing covers both 999 and 101, with 999 taking priority. The Police do have to take some personal details, to minimise the repeat timewasters. CrimeStoppers offers an easy alternative to 101, as they do not ask for any of your details. It is much used to report drivers over the drink limit and suspicions of drug dealing. Another activity is their MOST WANTED list, always available on their website crimestoppers-uk.org, using the faint slider button to scroll down to Hampshire. The team travelled the county during the year with a giant screen, displaying the mugshots of the MOST WANTED and it has had good results in terms of arrests.

Rhys Griffiths, our PCSO, gave us crime statistics and said that, as this is a low crime area, even a small increase can appear as a crime wave. What is clear though is an increase in thefts from motor vehicles, many of which can be avoided if the public remove valuables and lock their vehicles. Recent CCTV footage shows car doors being tried by thieves and the locked ones being left alone.

All anti-social behaviour and drug incidents should be reported to the police 101 or CrimeStoppers. Please do tell the Police, don't just post it on social media. You will not necessarily receive a response, but the report will allow them to record where incidents are happening and direct their resources as appropriate. Incidents can now be reported to the Police online and from your mobile. Use REPORT or TELL US ABOUT from the home page at www.hampshire.police.uk. We need to try to fill a number of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator vacancies to keep our 100% record. The Co-ordinator needs to be aware of the needs of their Watch residents, especially the vulnerable ones, but serves mainly as a point of contact for incident reports and for advice when asked for it. Anyone who feels they could help in Easton, Itchen Stoke or Martyr Worthy should please e-mail contact.adnwa@gmail.com.
Andrew Black

Pumpkin season comes round again in Avington

To everything there is a season, and for Avington October means pumpkins. The 2019 annual pumpkin party was held at the home of Penny and Dave Russell, last year's winners of the



biggest pumpkin competition. It was generally agreed to have been a splendid evening, well attended by Avington residents old and new.

Dave Lucas reads out the scores after the weigh-in and this year's winner again, Penny Russell, is too embarrassed to show her face as she tries to get a grip on her pumpkin. Could it have been a fix?

Penny Flemons

Watercress Way presentation at the Upper Itchen Valley Society AGM

With only half an hour to outline the aims, challenges and successes of the Watercress Way charity to the members of the Upper Itchen Valley Society, trustees Jackie Porter and Kim Adams managed a passionate whirlwind resumé. Members, despite their local knowledge, were interested in the wider vision of the Watercress Way, which Kim illustrated with a series of carefully chosen images. She explained the history of the charity, which has

been run by just a handful of trustees from its inception in 2016.

The charity's aims are much wider than creating just a walking path. Local communities are linked by the mainly off-road route, based on the Mid Hants and Didcot - Newbury - Southampton disused railway lines and joined together by historic livestock droves. Separate routes are available for cyclists and horse riders as well as walkers.

Kim outlined some of the heritage and ecology, ranging from telegraph poles to scarlet elf caps. She was proud to outline the latest improvements to the existing 26 mile route based on Top Fields in Kings Worthy, opening up the Sutton Scotney railway bridge and a project to enhance access for all at Couch Green. She also explained the range of events for adults and children. The latest volunteer recruits are two Peter Symonds students living in the Valley who have offered regular weekly help. They will be improving signage as well as offering practical support in conservation projects (basic clearance of summer growth and log pile construction to encourage invertebrates).

The charity recently gained national recognition with an award from the CPRE for outstanding community service (see November IVN Page 8 for further details). However, the trail is not just about people - for example dormice habitats are to be enhanced as one of the 2020 projects. There is scope to plant new trees along the disused tracks, which will help global efforts on climate change. During the question and answer session it was clear that greater co-operation would be beneficial between the various charities and societies acting to conserve and enhance the environment



of the Upper Itchen river corridor. Lastly the audience was given a chance to use the charity's QR code

projected on the screen, to access the website directly from smartphones (*if you can get a signal!* - Ed). QR codes will be used for new interpretation posts, funded by the Newitt legacy. There will also be more 'Stop a while' benches along the route.

Kim Adams

Please write early for Christmas!

As is customary, we aim to get the January edition of the magazine printed and distributed before Christmas. To allow this to happen we need to close the books earlier than usual.

The final date for the receipt of articles for the January 2020 issue will therefore be Tuesday 10 December. Please help the editorial team at this busy time of year by doing your best to make this deadline.

Something useful in your Christmas stocking?

If, despite the best efforts of the Itchen Valley News team, your January issue of this magazine doesn't drop through your letterbox in time for Christmas, you can always read it on the internet. It can be found on the community pages of the Itchen Valley Parish Council website and also on the Itchen Valley News Facebook page.

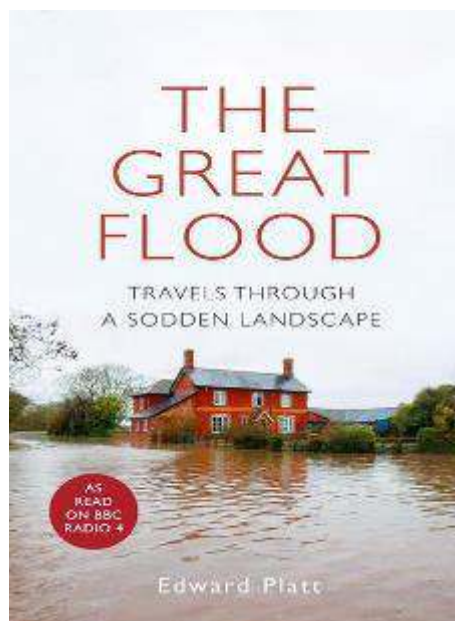
So if Father Christmas puts an iPad in your stocking, you can check it's working by reading the magazine online.

Vernon Tottle

Chief Editor, Itchen Valley News

The Great Flood

Travels through a Sodden Landscape by Edward Platt



The Great Flood, our son's third published book, is about his travels through England and Wales in areas most prone to flooding. Over the course of four years he has walked (and floated) through areas of Somerset, North Wales, West Midlands, East Anglia, Yorkshire, Essex and the Thames Valley and talked to residents and officials.

The book interweaves personal experiences of affected people with historical events and legends. It builds a fascinating picture of the dislocation

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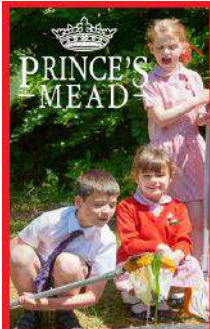
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and costs of being flooded, as well as the determination of individuals over the centuries to cope with floods and restore their property and lives. Flooding has always been with us and will most probably increase with the effects of climate change and population growth. The difficulty that the authorities and communities face in managing these events is considerable. Beautifully written, this book will be of great interest to all who have an interest in the environment and the impact of flooding on people's lives. It is published by Picador at £16.99 in hardback, and is available now, having just been read on BBC Radio 4 as Book of the Week.

John and Liz Platt

From the Parish Council



Three things have recently been drawn to our attention. Two are of immediate concern. The third is further away but may in

the long term be something that will affect us as Itchen Valley residents. The first is that, thanks to the vigilance of a resident of Easton, we have been alerted to the fact that the telephone boxes in Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy are once again under threat of removal. The telephone box in Avington should be safe as it has been listed. However it is still possible that all four boxes could lose their telephones. There are two questions. Do we need telephones in these boxes? Do we wish to keep these boxes in our villages? The answer to both is yes. At present mobile phone

coverage for some networks is poor in the Valley and in some places non-existent. There are many visitors to the Valley, cyclists, walkers and those who use the playing fields at Couch Green. Until there is good network coverage it is essential that the public telephones are available for use in emergencies.

The red K6 telephone boxes are of an iconic design and have become a recognised feature of our traditional rural villages within the South Downs



National Park. They should remain so. If eventually they do lose their telephones, who will look after them and for what else might they be used? Mini libraries or a place to house a defibrillator have already been suggested. Any further ideas are welcome. We will be discussing telephones and telephone boxes at our December Full Council Meeting. Please see the website for details. More than one resident has raised the issue of cars speeding through the Valley. This has long been a problem but now seems to be getting worse, especially through Easton and Avington. In the past it has been suggested to carry out speed checking as happens in Itchen Stoke. However this has to be funded and last time there was insufficient support for it to be considered viable. So far there does not seem to be a significant desire to

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revisit this idea. Another suggestion is for speed limits in Easton and Avington. Apart from whether such limits would be obeyed and how they will be enforced, there is the point that speed restrictions will result in a noticeable amount of extra signage. This is not just at the start and finish of restricted areas but also repeater signs every two hundred metres. A third suggestion is advisory signs like the 'twenty is plenty' ones. The Parish Council will be discussing this issue at its Full Council Meeting on 5 December. Come and let us know what you think. Details including the agenda will be found on our website at least three clear days before the meeting.

Thirdly you may be aware that there is a proposal to locate a very large waste incinerator plant north of the A303 near Barton Stacey. The global issues of incineration and, in the context of climate change, whether it is the best answer to the disposal of waste are well beyond the remit of a parish council, but there are some local issues which may affect us and we are on the list to be consulted. One concern is, depending upon wind direction, what are the risks of pollution and fallout on the locality and how will these risks be mitigated? A second concern, and more prominent, is how much increase in heavy traffic is anticipated? As expressed earlier this year, the present design for the M3 junction 9 project is far from safe. Depending on the final design, an increase in heavy traffic coming up the M3 and heading north onto the A34 to reach the incinerator site on the A303 could be worse and not good for residents of the Itchen Valley. You can find out more about this proposal on www.wtiharewood.co.uk. This is a large project and subject to different

planning procedures so will take some time but do talk to us and to your County and City Councillors about it.
Patrick Appleby

For the love of singing

Local singer Vernon Tottle agreed to be the subject of this month's strand.

When did you start to sing?

Almost by accident I went along to my University Gilbert & Sullivan Society's first meeting of term. I had gone expecting to



hear something quite different but found I enjoyed the music on offer – and by the end of the evening I had even joined in a couple of the choruses.

How did this interest progress?

I took part in my first ever stage show, *Yeomen of the Guard*, the following summer term as well as dipping my toe into Choral Singing with *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony*. My audition for a better choir was rejected so I took a few singing lessons, just what I needed to make my way a couple of rungs up the ladder.

And in later years?

I sang in a concert version of Puccini's *Turandot* at university that went "on tour" to Cambridge (amazing music to sing) but only years later did I get my first solo stage role, as the voice of the dictation machine in *The Pajama Game* at the Theatre Royal in Winchester.

Did you have to learn to read music?

My parents had insisted that I learn to play the piano at an early age – and I hated it. I was allowed to stop when I

passed my 11 Plus exams and I did so immediately. But having learnt to read music for the piano, this skill came in very useful for singing – though pitching notes and intervals is something else! I definitely don't have perfect pitch.

Is there another reason why you love singing?

As many readers will know, I tend to speak with a stammer. For some reason this goes away when I sing, maybe it's the rhythm of the words. But it does feel good to be able to communicate without any hesitation.

Is it just the singing that you love?

When I'm on stage, it's great if there's dancing, especially tap. Alas, choral singing doesn't usually encourage any movement so I have to restrict myself to swaying very minimally from one foot to the other. But just entertaining an audience is something that I love to do; amazingly they sometimes even pay to listen!

What is your message to anyone who might like to sing?

Go along to any singing event and talk to the organiser. Most groups are always pleased to have additional members, even people for whom singing is a new adventure. Only really posh choirs will ask you to audition so go for a local group first.

What's coming up next for you?

Amazing that you should ask that this very month! The Itchen Valley Choir has got its annual concert in Itchen Abbas village hall on Wednesday 18 December (see page 7), a very enjoyable evening for all the family with some audience participation. And I'm also part of a trio entertaining the Winchester U3A for half an hour at their pre-Christmas social afternoon.

Vernon Tottle was talking to Verity Coleman

Raising money for Raleigh

In February 2020 I will be participating in an expedition with the charitable organisation Raleigh International to Tanzania for ten weeks. The expedition has three components: a community project: living and working with local communities improving access to water and proper sanitation; a conservation project helping to protect the vulnerable environments and combating climate change; and finally an adventure component, when we will trek through the country testing our abilities to work together.

As half the world's population is under the age of 30, Raleigh stress how the creativity and energy of youth is crucial to striving towards their global goals. You can find out more from their website.



As part of my fundraising I am selling Itchen Valley jute bags. costing £7.50 each. I would be really grateful if you felt able to support Raleigh International either by buying some bags or by donating to my expedition at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jack-woosnam

Many thanks

Jack Woosnam 07507 968581



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St Peter's and St Stephen's (Winchester)
and St Gregory's (Alresford)

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30pm Midnight Mass with Carols (St Peter's)
5:30pm First Mass of Christmas (St Stephen's)
8:30pm Midnight Mass with Carols (St Gregory's)
10:30pm Midnight Mass with Carols (St Peter's)

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am Mass (St Peter's)
9:15am Mass (St Stephen's)
10:30am Mass (St Peter's)
11:00am Mass (St Gregory's)
6:00pm Mass (St Peter's)

BOXING DAY

10:00am St Stephen's Day Mass (St Stephen's)

There will also be two reconciliation services in
St Peter's leading up to Christmas:

the Family Penitential Service on

Saturday 14 Dec at 11:30am

and the **Parish Advent Reconciliation Service** on
Monday 16 Dec at 7:30pm

All are welcome





*You are warmly
invited to the
Itchen Valley
Christmas Services*

Sunday 1st December at 4pm

Christingle Service

St John's Church, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 15th December at 4pm

Carols in the Barn

Grace's Farm, Martyr Worthy

Christmas Eve at 4pm

Crib and Carols

St Mary's Church, Easton

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm

***First Communion
of Christmas***

St Mary's Church, Avington

Christmas Day at 10am

Parish Communion

St John's Church, Itchen Abbas

For full details of all of our
services please see
www.itchenvalleychurches.org



Itchen Valley Churches

1st December

8am	BCP Holy Communion	St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
10am	Advent Parish Communion	St Mary's, Easton
4pm	Christingle Service	St John's, Itchen Abbas

8th December

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

15th December

8am	BCP Holy Communion	St John's, Itchen Abbas
4pm	Carols in the Barn	Grace's Farm, Martyr Worthy

22nd December

10am	Parish Communion	St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
6pm	Evensong	St Mary's, Avington

24th December

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

25th December

10am	Parish Communion	St John's, Itchen Abbas
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29th December

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

Rector

Revd Alex Pease
 rector@itchenvalley-churches.org
 01962 779845
Days: Sun, Mon, Tues
 & Weds.

LLM

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

Parish Administrator

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

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

Letter from the Rectory

It's all coming very, very soon. All the preparations are being made. Everyone is going through their time-honoured rituals. We all have a key role to play, a role that makes a difference. What happens at the end of it all will say something about who we are, who we aspire to be, and set the framework for all our most important decisions going forward, which will affect our children's and grandchildren's future, not to mention our own. It's exciting.

But is it Christmas or the General Election that I am talking about? There are many reasons why not to hold a General Election on 12 December – it's probably cold, it's undoubtedly dark for much of the day, there will be those who get depressed or grumpy at this time of year and some may vote accordingly. It's not as easy to persuade people that a bright dawn lies just over the horizon, when all people can see is slush or rain and the journey to and from the polling station is in the dark.

Everything, of course, is complicated by the back story about Brexit. Like the first few bars of the soundtrack from *Jaws*, we are constantly brought back to the less than melodious unfinished insistent business of Brexit. We are returned over and over again to a reality of division and even hatred of those of different opinions to ourselves, which we just cannot shrug off. Some of us have managed to demonise those of a different opinion to ourselves to such an extent that we actually believe that they are hateful, rather than just people like us, but who hold a different opinion. This is particularly sad because so many of them are, or were, our friends and even close relations. Whatever the



result of the election, whatever the result of any subsequent referendum, we fear that these emotions, like the furies released by Pandora, may never get back in the box and the relationships may be permanently damaged.

But despite the gloom, there is something to be joyful about. On Christmas Day we celebrate that the Creator of the Universe came to live amongst us, in a family, in a village called Bethlehem, as a baby in a crib. Because we are so familiar with the story, we can easily forget its significance. The person who made you and who made me, chose to live among us, in a village! He lived in the sort of community that we live in. Ultimately, he died in great suffering to carry the consequences of our dislocation with God, what theologians call 'sin', which is at the root of all the problems that we face in the world, including even the unpleasantness stirred up by Brexit. Jesus knows us and yet he still loves us and died for us, even while we were still sinners. In fact, surprising as it may seem, he loves even those Brexiteers, even those Remainers, who some of us may be tempted to abuse, just as much as he

loves us. It is the main thing actually that we, as humans, all have in common. He wants us to mirror that love that he has for us, in our love for one another.

It's difficult to love strangers. We can easily imagine all sorts of things about people that we don't know. We can demonise them and call them all sorts of names. But in a village, we can and do actually get to know almost everyone, with their strengths and weaknesses, whether we agree with their opinions or not. In our villages, our neighbours are not strangers. Our neighbours are not going to disappear, they are not going to be out of sight and out of mind, they will still be living next to us, after any encounter that we may have with them in the pub, or on a dog walk or while resting between scenes at the Panto. So we are wise to learn to be circumspect in how we express ourselves to them and about them, particularly on contentious subjects like Brexit. Ultimately, we realise, it's more important that we maintain that relationship than getting our opinion across. Just as we don't poison a pool which supplies our drinking water, so it matters how we get on with those who share our community.

In the 1990s Hillary Clinton wrote a book while Bill Clinton was President. It is called *It takes a village* and was written to encourage people to recognise that we live in an interdependent world. We should, she argued, be 'more village' in our approach to others. The title is a reference to the old African proverb that 'it takes a village to raise a child'. She describes her own upbringing: 'Our community was a visible extension of our family. We were in and out of our friends' yards and houses constantly.

We played softball, curb ball, and.....we staged elaborate team contests modelled on the Olympics....there were plenty of....caring, responsible adults who did their best to see that all the children in the community were getting the attention that they needed.....adults looked out for us, made sure we had enough to do and a place to do it'. It's an idyll which sounds quite like the life today in our Itchen Valley villages. It's certainly what we want for our children in this community in which we have put down our roots. Our children encounter so many of our neighbours in the wonderful life that we lead here, it's so important that we, their parents, are on good terms with them. We can and do make it a priority to ensure that we are.

I think this Christmas we, who are so fortunate to live in the Itchen Valley, have an opportunity to show, by our example, our friends and relations (and even those we engage with online) how to be 'more village' in the approach we take to others we encounter; how to be circumspect in expressing our opinions on political matters, how to treat others as if every encounter matters; how to relate to them as if they were living next door and as if keeping a good relationship with them was precious, not only to us, but also to our children. So, in short, two slogans for Christmas 2019: #everyencountermatters! and #bemorevillage!

Perhaps we in the Itchen Valley might be a model for how to behave generally towards our fellow Brits. In doing so, we will show that we know that the people we encounter daily are loved as much as we are by the Creator of the universe, born in a stable on Christmas Day.
Alex Pease



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Remembrance Day parade at Itchen Abbas

11 November 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the first Remembrance Day held after the First World War. This year it was the turn of Itchen Abbas to host the annual parade of the Itchen Valley Branch of the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial by St John's Church. In bright autumn sunshine, eleven members of the branch together with a large contingent of parishioners and their families gathered to pay homage to the fallen. Running the parade for the first time since becoming Chairman of the Branch a year ago, Major James Young, formerly of the Grenadier Guards, set the tone for the occasion and also read out the names of those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice during the two World Wars. In a moving ceremony



special touches were provided by our long serving Standard Bearer Ted Budgens, Andrew Salmon sounding the Last Post on his trumpet, and Rev Alex Pease saying the traditional prayers. A contingent of Sea Cadets from TS ITCHEN, the Winchester Branch of the Sea Cadets, greatly added to the occasion. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Parish, the children, the Sea Cadets and, in a touching new development, by the children of Itchen





Abbas Primary School who had made their wreath by hand.

On completion of the parade, those present moved into St John's for the Annual Remembrance Service with its familiar and moving hymns and prayers and a thought provoking address about Captain Noel Chavass VC and Bar; the only man to be awarded the Victoria Cross twice in the First World War.

Rear Admiral John Lang

Parking without tears

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

I avoid all of this aggravation by using the bus to get into town. Here in the Itchen Valley we are fortunate to have a regular bus service that runs six days a week. The number 67 bus goes along the B3047, stopping every few hundred

yards. The return fare to Winchester is £5.60 (it's free if you have a bus pass) and this gives you a ride directly into the bus station opposite the Guildhall. No need to find a car parking space, just get off the bus and walk around the city centre. Recent funding reductions have meant that fewer services run on Mondays and Thursdays but if you go on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday you have a regular two hourly service. The bus leaves Itchen Abbas (opposite the village hall) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 0753, 0923, 1153, 1353, 1623 and 1723. It passes the Easton bus stop about five minutes later. Your return journey leaves the bus station at 1130, 1300, 1500, 1650 and 1750.

On Mondays and Thursdays the bus leaves Itchen Abbas (opposite the village hall) at 0753, 0923, 1353, 1623 and 1723. It passes the Easton bus stop about five minutes later. Your return journey leaves the bus station at 1130, 1500, 1650 and 1750.

The service on a Saturday is even less frequent and leaves at 0823, 1123, 1423 and 1723, returning at 1200, 1500 and 1750. All this information appears every month on page 40 of the Itchen Valley News.

You can find out if the bus is running to time (it usually does) by visiting the Stagecoach website and clicking on "Live Bus Arrivals".



If you've never used the 67 bus before, make this December your opportunity to find out how relaxing and convenient the service actually is – and then make it your default mode of transport into Winchester.

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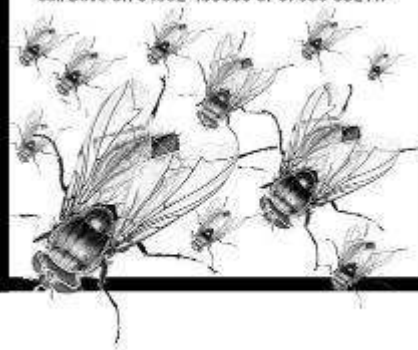
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Speeding on the Valley roads

I have seen correspondence from Avington residents about speeding. My main concern is the main road through Itchen Abbas, the B3047. This is now a well-used road, a busy commuter route, a popular cycle route and an occasional bus route. In the time I have lived in Itchen Abbas the speed limit has been reduced from 40 to 30. I know a lot of people who are not locals are against this. But those of us who live here and choose to walk through the village need the law to be respected. We have a village school with added dangers to those attending from speeding traffic. For reasons best known to the authorities, the provision of footpaths has no logic. We have two in Shelley Close, rarely used, yet nothing when you turn west on the main road until Chilland, which then benefits from a footpath. I've never seen a speed trap in our village and when it's at Couch Green, it's heavily advertised. I don't understand why motoring law is so well abused and ignored. On a different but related safety issue, in last month's IVN, it was pointed out what should be worn at night to be seen. Yet the favourite colour for cyclists is black and few wear gear that enables them to be seen more easily. In the days of low sun levels, cyclists can often be completely obscured. Now that new rules seem to allow cyclists at night to have any form of lighting: flashing, powerful LEDs, head torches and more, they can more easily be seen. Interesting that only motorists are made to have dipping lights. I understand that there have been few accidents here but is that a good reason for inaction, or do we all just blame Brexit?

Tony Gaster

From our City Councillor



Bins. The new contract continues to surprise us, if not delight. The change of times still catches me out. Some homes were

deemed unsuitable for glass collection, you can check if you are on this list by entering your postcode and house name at www.winchester.gov.uk We are reviewing these areas - please let me know if you are affected. The vast majority of us are now having our all waste collected but some problems persist; report every one please.

Again, I am able to thank you for not being rude to the binmen, they are doing an essential job in all weathers. You were generous with support in the very hot weather, and have been sympathetic in the current challenges.

As part of our **Climate Emergency** plans, Winchester City Council intends to pilot a new build scheme to Passivhaus standard; we were able to attend a presentation for Officers and Councillors. The principles are applicable to both domestic and commercial buildings; 58% of the Winchester District emissions in 2017 were from commercial and domestic energy use.

The Royal Institute of Surveyors Whole Life Carbon Assessment of built structures shows that only 22% of our carbon is in the 'use for purpose' of buildings; 73% is used in the raw materials, transportation and manufacture; and 5% in end of life management. This highlights the importance of careful maths when considering the destruction of an



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existing building for new build, where retrofitting energy conservation measures may be better for carbon reduction. This is on the agenda for Winchester Council as well.

Our next **Councillor Surgery** is 0930 -1045 on Friday 6 December, at Alresford Community Centre, by kind permission of the Trustees.

Cllr Margot Power

Our Wild Valley: The tree and the robin.

So this is the result of asking the kids what I should write about for December - 'the Christmas tree,,,,no the robin!'. See the photo - small robin attached but be sure the real one in the garden was better looking.

Our tree loves its new pot, the third of its life with us over seven years, and not only do we love the tree, we love watching Dad competing in his own 'strongest man competition' every year as he lifts it over the door step in early December. I think the tree is quite happy indoors for a while as long as it has a pint of water every day. It's finest admirer is the cat Buster who loves to sit at its base and chew on the decorations.

In the olden days deciduous trees in the garden or woodland were dressed up as people thought that as the leaves were falling off in winter, this meant the spirits had left them. By dressing up the tree in brightly coloured cloth the spirits were attracted back, and each year this worked as every Spring leaf buds burst open with new life. There was an old story about a monk who chopped down an oak tree which split open and a young fir tree grew up out the middle. This was the Holy tree as houses were built of the fir, and it was



the sign of endless life for its leaves are evergreen. The monk said gather around the fir tree in your homes and surround it by loving gifts and rites of kindness.

I found the robin's red breast came from the robin being the only animal in the shed to help Mary keep a fire going and keep warm. The robin added twigs to the dwindling fire and flapped his wings so close to the heat his breast turned red. Mary blessed the robin for his help. We now call his breast the more realistic colour of orange but before the 16th century there wasn't a name for the colour orange; luckily the fruit arrived and the name came from there.

Wishing everyone a very happy time with your own traditions of decorating your home and have plenty of time to surround not only the tree but your family and friends with love and rites of kindness.

Sophie Rogers

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
Sally Stanyard School of Dance	Tue	1615	Thu 1830 Fri 1530 Sat 0900	Sally	01962 776562
Brew with a View	Wed	1500 - 1700		Ina	01962 779465
Dionne Yoga	Tue	2000	Fri 0945 & 1100	Dionne	07961 888676
Mahjong / U3A	Tue	1400 - 1700		Anne	01420 563393
Yoga for men	Mon	2000		Alex	07814 678155
Panto rehearsal	Wed	1930	Sun 1600	Anna	01962 779350
Yoga with Helen	Mon	1400		Helen	07703 278892
NCT Yoga	Wed	1030		Janet	07973 855107

Martyr Worthy Village Hall

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Riverbank	Mon Wed Thur	8.30am to 3pm	Maria	07900 437685
Kindergarten	Tues & Fri	8.30am to 1pm		

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Rugby Tots	Tue 10.00, Wed 10.15 Thur 15.50		Phil	03453 133258
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
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Food Spy Part One

Food Spy has been super busy this month - out and about in two different local pubs!

Cart and Horses, Kings Worthy

The Cart and Horses is locally famous for giving its name to the notorious junction about which there has been so much discussion. It is a huge pub, and has just been very stylishly refurbished, with plenty of parking at the back.

Food Spy and friends were going to an early evening lecture and wanted an easy meal afterwards, so we booked the Cart and Horses for eight people. Then we were ten, then fourteen, and finally we were edging towards thirty! The Cart and Horses staff were endlessly obliging, and we agreed their function area would be the best answer (it used to be the bowling alley).

We had been asked to choose in advance from an astonishingly comprehensive menu – fortunately on the night we had brought a list or chaos would have ensued! The staff were cheerful and efficient and dealt with all the complications very well – when the dust settled there was only one dish that hadn't been ordered.

The food is obviously cooked to a price – it is very good value, but not gourmet standard. Pub spy ate a prawn cocktail and a formulaic lasagne and chips. Others reported good fish and chips. The wine list is short but serviceable.

The pub is very popular and clearly meets its market very well, as it seems to be busy most of the time.

So it was great for good value food and friendly service but it won't be getting a Michelin star any time soon.

Food Spy

The Practical Gardener

We've heard a great deal about climate change and many are working on useful initiatives. It seems a pity to me that a subject of such importance is not treated seriously by those who actually might make change happen! However, this is a gardening column and I really do think gardens can make a difference. Many of us in the Itchen Valley have good sized gardens. So surely we should all try and do our bit.

I've written about trees before and they seem to me to be something of a priority. They all need managing and no tree is everlasting even though one yew in the local churchyard is said to be 1000 years old. Some people are more adept with a chainsaw than secateurs. But if a tree needs to be taken down, then shouldn't we consider planting a replacement or two? Isn't the wanton removal of trees something akin to vandalism? Look at all the fuss created by HS2 going through historic woodlands. In our own gardens, trees are as much a heritage as the house itself, and hugely important in the natural ecological cycle.

I buy much of the food we eat. Brexit has made me focus much more on where it comes from. Why do we need



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to import apples from France or strawberries from Holland? So I am a huge supporter of home production and that goes for all fresh food. With a very little effort we can all grow some food in our own gardens. I have tried this year to suggest those things which are simple. Let me list them again: onions, potatoes, leeks, beans, beetroot, lettuce and tomatoes. For fruit consider apples, autumn raspberries and currants. I've seen modern, small trees, which take little space, producing good fruit crops. Not only are home-grown products tastier but have no air miles and more importantly no plastic packaging.



In parallel, we should all be composting, and vegetable waste from the kitchen is an important part of that. A word of caution: rats can smell some fruit waste from a very long distance. So I put all kitchen waste first in a plastic dustbin with a secure lid to rot a bit before going into the compost heap. Again, this effort is also helping the environment.

I think those of us who have children should also do some educating. It's key to get the young involved early. Gardening knowledge is something to be shared and passed to the next generation. Be careful of experts: what works for you in your garden is really what matters.

One of the photos I've included shows my overflow area with very healthy plants, and I've just added new ones at the front. The cage keeps out most predators and also leaves from the adjacent beech tree.

Happy Gardening!
Tony Gaster.

Food Spy Part Two

The Plough, Itchen Abbas

This village pub has been through a lot of changes in recent years, some of which were pretty bad. However, the arrival of Ashley Young a few years ago has made a big difference. This is our village local, so we can walk to it and also take the dog. It's a friendly place with a large restaurant space, a smaller bar area and plenty of outdoor seating. My first motivation in visiting a pub is the beer. I'm pleased to report that there is a good selection and the guest beers change often, so there is always something new to try. I am never disappointed.

Meals are best described as "good pub food". What is served is close to good home cooking. You don't come here for a gourmet dinner but the price reflects that. The menu is not large but varied enough to provide a choice for most tastes - red meat to fish and vegetarian. I just adore the fish and chips. The presentation is just fine and

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choice changes. I've heard it said that vegetables should be served "on the side" but they are not. You can always ask for a smaller portion. Desserts are a delight but not adventurous. Ginger ice cream is a favourite.

There is adequate parking but care is needed when leaving, as the sight lines

are not good to the B3047. My only criticism is that sometimes the staff are very busy: maybe that means there are too few. The Plough is an enormous asset to the village and beyond. I rate it 5 star and judging by the number of regulars the formula here is just right. Most days you do need to book for the restaurant.

Food Spy

Bird of the month

It has to be the robin! Not only has the robin long been associated with Christmas, it cheers us up through winter with its beautiful song...almost the only bird to sing continuously through the winter.

Elaine Labram





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Election information

The candidates for the Winchester constituency elections on 12 December are

George BAKER Labour Party

Steve BRINE The Conservative Party Candidate

Paula Wendy FERGUSON Liberal Democrats

Teresa Mary SKELTON The Justice & Anti-Corruption Party

Polling stations will be open from 7 am until 10 pm at Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall, Martyr Worthy Village Hall and The Holiday Inn at the Percy Hobbs Roundabout.

Easton Village Hall will not be in use because the pantomime is taking place that week, oh yes it is, and most residents of Easton will have to travel up to The Holiday Inn to cast their vote. Do check your Polling Card to make sure you set off for the correct venue!

Remember Mark Oaten!

There are certain moments in time when anyone you ask can say “Yes! I remember where I was when I heard that had happened.” Man landing on the moon, Princess Diana’s death, the Great Train Robbery. Yes, I remember all those events and where I was when I heard about them. I also remember the aftermath of the General Election in May 1997. I was at work all day and surreptitiously kept turning on the radio to find out who had won the Winchester seat. No internet in those days, no websites, twitter feeds or even mobile phones to tell you the result as it happened. Yes children, once upon a time there was a world like that!

All day long I listened and still no answer. It wasn’t until I had cycled home that afternoon that I heard the result back at my house. Mark Oaten had won the seat by two votes from the sitting MP. For the next couple of days almost everyone I met was saying either “If only I had bothered to vote I could have changed the result!” or “I’m glad I voted or we’d still be lumbered with our previous MP!”

That Winchester election went down in history as the closest ever parliamentary result, even though it was later overturned by the court after a claim of malpractice in the counting of spoiled votes. All the double and triple checking that went on during the count and after it even revealed that one person had voted twice, a scenario that wouldn’t otherwise have been picked up. An eventful time for Winchester and especially for the returning officer! The political allegiance and subsequent parliamentary career of Mark Oaten is not the point of the story, but it does show that every vote counts. If three more people had voted for the sitting candidate, Mark would have been a nobody. But because they didn’t, he became a celebrity, winning his next election with a record majority. So if you are entitled to vote, no matter where you place your cross on the ballot slip, please do vote on Thursday 12 December. Let’s make the Itchen Valley parish the one with the highest turnout in the Winchester constituency, if for no other reason that Vernon asked so politely!

Thank you

Vernon Tottle,

Chief Editor, Itchen Valley News

Wildflower of the Month



Black mullein, *Verbascum nigrum* -
photographed locally on 3 November
Verity Coleman

Tiddler Joke

What's the best thing to put into your
Christmas cake?

Your teeth!

Patrick Milles (5) Abbots Worthy



Local monthly information

Waste collections in December

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 6
and 20 December. Green bins on
Friday 13 and Monday 30 December.
Glass boxes on Friday 13 December.

Cameo

Tuesday 10 December.

Farmers Market in Winchester

Sunday 8 and 22 December.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 5 December. IA&AVH.

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

School term timetable operates

1 - 20 December.

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

Once the schools have broken up it is
likely to be a Saturday service until the
new year - but the bus station was unable
to confirm this at the time of going to
print.

Saturday service (same for the whole month.

Towards Winchester:

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

Towards Alresford:

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

No Sunday or bank holiday service

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas.

Times are 5 minutes later (or earlier)
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