

Valley ^{ITCHEN} News

Issue 73 January 2020

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



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WELCOME to the Valley News



It's a huge privilege to be part of the editorial team. I would particularly like to thank Vernon, who is encouraging, helpful and supportive. Also behind the scenes is Penny who helps with design and does the covers. I think the buzzword is teamwork.

Well it's been an amazing struggle to try and fit in all the contributions when on the 10th of the month we even contemplated a smaller edition. We have to start a little earlier this month and it clearly catches out some people. So my thanks for all the contributions and my apologies if a bit of trimming was needed here and there.

It's astonishing how much activity there is in this community and judging from the reports, a good time was had by all. There is an absence of political contributions due to the elections but I feel sure everyone is still working just as hard. One issue which I felt needed airing was the proposed incinerator. Having done some research into this, I can assure readers that it is a complex topic. Not all the correct information is in the public domain. I think most of us feel the idea is wrong from every standpoint.

I was also persuaded to include an article published in our neighbouring magazine about a green Xmas which I hope you will enjoy. Church related activities figure strongly: a marriage course, choir, parties, the meaning of Christmas and something about a former rector. We also hear news about a revamped flower show so watch this space.

This time of year would be nothing without panto, so we have a two page

report about *Robin Hood* and perhaps a more modest event called *A Christmas Knight*. We also have recipes and a plea for support from the cricket club.

Could I make a plea to contributors for bright photos and it helps if they are sent to us separated from text. We can't edit pdfs in our Publisher software, only convert them to image files.

May I wish you all a memorable Christmas and a New Year that brings health, happiness and some excitement. Next month the dynamic duo of Lucy & Fi will be editing.

Tony Gaster

Itchen Valley News

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Please send all contributions for February 2020 by Wednesday 15 January. All material is published in good faith and the Valley News cannot be held responsible for any information given or views expressed; neither can it be liable for any loss arising from the use of any information or advertisements contained herein. The Editorial Team reserves the right to refuse or amend articles or advertisements submitted for publication. Printed by Greenhouse Graphics of Basingstoke.

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What's On

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 alive 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.

Joan Dartnall (779 538)

Thursday 9 January Easton WI

New Year – New Ideas. Why not give your local WI a visit?

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 9 January 7.15 at Easton Village Hall when we will be hearing about The History of the Watercress Line.

Members enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch at the Cricketers in December and our secret Santa raffle raised money for The Salvation Army. Resolutions form the basis for all WI campaigns, and in January members will be considering five:

- Potential stem cell donor registration

- Female crash test dummies
 - Ending modern slavery
 - Time to talk about death and dying
 - Protection of our precious Helium
- Each Institute will select one to go forward to the AGM next June.

Sallie Peake

Saturday 4 April Boules

Calling all Boules Players in the Itchen Valley and all of you who would like to play but have never tried.

To the tune of Jingle Bells!

Grab your boules, don your coat, you may need gloves & hat

*We're playing boules at the Village Hall
cos that is where it's at.*

Come & join the fun. More info in February and wishing for some sun! Pop the date in your diary - a fun day for all the family to raise money for the Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall. Open to all standards of pétanque / boules from none to tons!

Jenny Sloan

Lent Lunches 2020

Lent lunches will be held in the Valley on the following Fridays in 2020: 28 February; 6, 13, 20 & 27 March; 3 April.

The charity chosen for the Lent Lunches is Emmaus Hampshire, a homeless charity based at Bar End.

They have some exciting developments planned – more details to follow.

At the moment we have hosts & venues for 28 February and 3 April, and I would really appreciate offers to host some of the Lunches in March – ideally spread out over the four villages.

Many thanks.

Stephanie Gretton

*Bridge House, Martyr Worthy, Winchester
SO21 1AS*

01962 779379

Save the Dates 2020 & 2021

21 March 2020 Easton & Martyr Worthy Safari Supper

25 April 2020 Martyr Worthy Plant Sale at Chilland

14th May 2020 Upper Itchen Valley Society 50th Anniversary Summer Party in the garden of Martyr Worthy Place

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

23 June 2020 Valley Boules "Triples" - four villages knock-out competition at Easton

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
And more to come next month!

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

Festive Fun at Itchen Abbas Christmas Fair

There was some early festive spirit at Itchen Abbas Village Hall, courtesy of the parents and children of Itchen Abbas School, who put on their annual Christmas Fair. This year was, as ever, a great success with copious amounts of mulled wine and mince pies, along with some fantastic craft stalls, a very popular custom printed T-shirt stall, a dress-up photobooth and most importantly, a visit from Father Christmas. The Christmas decoration stall, donated by 'Wild at Heart', was a popular choice for 'stocking' up on Christmas crackers, gifts and cards. Children willingly parted with their hard earned pocket money to take the once-a-year opportunity to pelt their teachers, Mr Bogan and Mr Robbins with snowballs (an honourable sacrifice for the funds raised). The assortment of outdoor games, run by the Martins kept the children busy, allowing the parents to make the most of the winter BBQ and café.





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The generosity of the valley's WI was astounding – Jill Croft's home produce stall would give any artisan deli a run for its money. The stall was stacked with jars of jams, chutneys, mince pies and beautiful homemade aprons and woollen toys. Clearly some very talented ladies in the Valley! The stall alone raised nearly £350 for the school (a record I believe).

Several of the children from Itchen Abbas School showed their budding entrepreneurial skills, volunteering to make and sell their own produce at the fair. There was an impressive selection of wares ranging from cool key rings, bird feed biscuits, beautiful snow globes, tasty savoury snacks, Aloe Vera plants, cookies and to top it all off, a pic-n-mix sweet stall. Between them, they raised a fantastic £160! They were even more pleased when they each received the Head Teacher's Award for



their efforts!

The fair is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the school. This year the fair raised an incredible £3,000 which will go towards funding much needed outdoor equipment and facilities. Thanks to everyone who helped at the fair, donated generously and came and had fun. Until next year... Merry Christmas!

Jake Ridley & Rachel Cowling

Bird of the Month



This month I've chosen a Great Tit on a feeder to remind us that at this time of the year birds appreciate extra sources of food, and also to mention the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch which will take place on 25-27 January.

Elaine Labram

Tiddler Joke

Submitted by
Eddie & Jessica
Gloyn:

Question: What
do you call a cow
with no legs?
Answer: Ground
beef!!!



The Marriage Course

In January 2020, we will be running a course in St John's church, Itchen Abbas, which aims to strengthen marriages. *It is not aimed at marriages in difficulty – it is about prevention rather than cure.* Lucy and Alex Pease ran seven of these courses over the last 20 years and tell us that the couples who took part had a lot of fun in the process.

The course starts on Wednesday 22 January and continues once a week with a break for half term. There are seven sessions in total. Each evening lasts about 2 ½ hours and includes supper.

The format is as follows: the church is set up rather like a restaurant and each evening starts with a candle-lit supper for each couple at their own table. Whilst still sitting at your tables, there is then a DVD talk given by Nicky and Sila Lee (authors of The Marriage Course and other family life resources). During the DVD, there are opportunities to discuss the topics raised, together as a couple. There is enough background music and space to provide privacy for each couple.

We hope to create a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere, so that the evening feels like going out on a date. There is no charge for the course but we do welcome voluntary contributions to cover the cost of the manuals and supper.

Please note that there is no group discussion and no requirement to disclose anything at all about your relationship to anyone else.

Many of our friends have completed The Marriage Course, and their enthusiastic feedback has encouraged us to run it here in Itchen Abbas. This

is what two of those couples say:

"We did The Marriage Course after five years of being married. It was fantastic at helping us re-focus on making our marriage the best it could be, in identifying bad habits we had fallen into and giving us helpful tools to breathe new life and energy into our marriage - especially where we had been guilty of just taking each other and the quality of our marriage for granted."

"We found having the space to invest in our marriage and address the neglected or trickier areas of our marriage, in a neutral space, invaluable. Doing the course has breathed new life into our relationship in a way we hadn't anticipated."

We are really looking forward to doing the course ourselves and would love as many other couples as possible to also benefit from it.



Please contact
admin@itchenvalleychurches.org if you would like more information about how we will be running the course, or if you would like to hear more from couples who have attended the course. If you want to know more about the content of The Marriage Course please look at the website on www.themarriagecourse.org.
James and Julia Wright

The Marriage Course

Seven sessions to help couples strengthen their relationship

No group work -
It's like a date night



The Itchen Valley Parish is running The Marriage Course in the new year, it will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday nights starting on 22nd January at St John's Church, Itchen Abbas and running for 7 weeks with a half term break.

Each session will start with a meal with your partner, then a talk via DVD and an opportunity to discuss this privately between you both.



Please let us know if you would like to attend:
admin@itchenvalleychurches.org

A Christmas Knight

Christmas came early this year at Martyr Worthy Village Hall, with a magical performance on a wet night in late November of Proteus Theatre/Scratch Built's new production "A Christmas Knight" performed by Nick, a versatile story teller, with the help of a variety of puppets, all made by himself.

The hall was full with excited children and their parents and grandparents. "When's it going to start?" came a small voice from the front, half-way through the introduction. They were soon caught up in the adventures of Jack, the greengrocer's boy, who, frustrated by his efforts to grow



rhubarb in the middle of the Winter, decided instead to enter the Knight Trials held every year at Christmas. These involved a lot of jousting, archery and eating, accompanied by some enthusiastic audience participation, and were won of course by Jack. His reward was to go in search of the monster threatening the village. This turned out to be a dragon who wasn't quite so frightening after all and indeed took rather a liking to Jack's rhubarb ice cream, very cooling after breathing out a lot of flame. So, surprise, surprise, thanks to Jack, the village was saved.

The show was a great way to start the Christmas season for those attending, particularly all the children who gathered at the end to try out Nick's/Jack's armour and other essential jousting equipment.

Guy Green

The Valley Flower show

A progress report:

Although it's hard to imagine an event in mid-September next year whilst we are in the midst of Christmas preparations, I wanted to let everyone in the Valley know how plans to revive the Flower Show are going.

Our team of eight volunteers has met twice now to cogitate how we envisage the new-look show will be. We have reached one conclusion at least - a new name! The name is **Itchen Valley Flower and Produce Festival**. After the title, we will have **supported by The Valley Gardeners** in a smaller font. This is to indicate that 7 out of 8 of us creating the show belong to the Club and for the first year, funds from the Club will be used to set up and run the show.

Another thing which is changing is the day of the week. We have decided to go back to holding the event on a Saturday after many people asked us to do that.

The word "festival" in the title is designed to indicate inclusivity and suggest a celebration of all things to do with flowers and produce. We would like any one-upmanship to be left firmly at home although healthy, good humoured competition is definitely encouraged!

Our team believes very strongly that the flowers, fruit, vegetables and other home produced goods will be judged not by strict, prescribed show rules

and criteria but rather from a consumer's point of view. For example, take the humble runner bean. At many shows, the longer and straighter the bean, the better – that will be a winner. Some beans at some shows are a crazy length and one can only imagine how tough and inedible they would be. Our perspective is, would that bean be good to cook and eat and is it of a standard that everyone who grows beans could aspire to?



Developing that theme, we have decided to change the way the entries to the festival are judged. We favour the rather more egalitarian way of self-judging over the long held practice of inviting “professional” judges in to choose between entries. I think many of us have been hugely disappointed in the past to be criticised (and marked down) because our pot label wasn't 100% straight when the jam may well have been heavenly!

So, like the two very successful Valley Gardeners' Spring flower shows we held a few years ago, there will be a system of judging “of the people by the people”, as it were.

We have yet to write our full show schedule but flowers, fruit, vegetables, cookery and preserves will certainly feature. As the festival is designed to celebrate local growing and producing,

we will also encourage retail producers from throughout the valley to show and sell their wares and of course there will be refreshments to enjoy at the festival – all locally sourced of course.

There will be a number of attractions at the show – some raising money for local charities – these are being worked on at the moment so I will send out another update in a few months' time with more detail. Local people with particular skills and/or interests will be asked to come and demonstrate their expertise or pass on their knowledge

Children will be an important part of the festival and members of the team will visit all five schools in the valley early next year to update, enthuse and encourage teachers, children (and parents too, by extension!) to get the next generations of gardeners, growers, bakers and creators to become involved in our festival.

So all in all, I hope this gives you a flavour of our new festival which will be unveiled on Saturday September 12 2020 in the Itchen Abbas & Avington Village hall. Please save the date in your diary and do come and enter one or more of the classes or hone your judging skills by viewing the entries whilst enjoying the great community spirit we are hoping will accompany the new Itchen Valley Flower and Produce Festival.

Catherine Hahn

The Valley Gardeners

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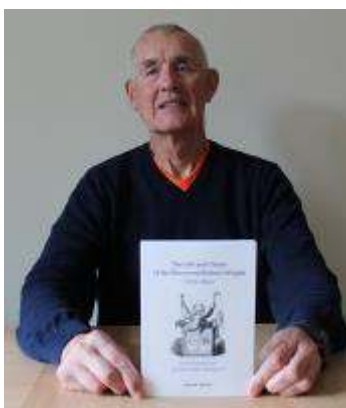
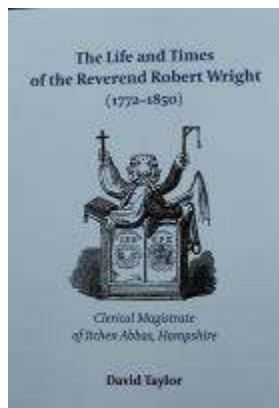
Retired Hampshire history teacher, David Taylor, has recently published a biography of a controversial Itchen Abbas clergyman who also served as a county magistrate for 42 years. The Reverend Robert Wright (1772–1850) was a well-known pluralist rector who rubbed shoulders with Wellington, the Dukes of Buckingham and Chandos and Palmerston and was also an acquaintance of Jane Austen's family. Wright liked to project himself as the 'friend of the poor' but the evidence suggests he was a much more complicated character. He was traumatised by the agricultural riots of 1830 and subsequently adopted a rigid and unforgiving attitude to the labouring poor. Wright was a conscientious magistrate and played a significant role in the administration of the county and the dispensing of justice. During the early nineteenth century, clerical magistrates came under fire from the radical press but this did not deter Wright from

achieving an almost perfect attendance record at the Hampshire Quarter Sessions.

Much of Wright's pastoral work in the parishes of Itchen Abbas, Ovington, Boarhunt and Southwick was carried out by his son, the Reverend Robert John William Wright, who acted as his curate until he became the Chaplain at the County Gaol and Bridewell in 1836. Wright (Junior) was still in post when the new prison on Romsey Road was opened in 1849. However, he was dismissed when a complaint he made to the governor about alleged mistreatment of inmates was leaked to the press.

Robert Wright was above all a staunch defender of the establishment and the agricultural interest which made him a target of William Cobbett's *Weekly Political Register*.

Mr Taylor said that the book had been a 'labour of love' but it was high time a full account of Robert Wright's remarkable life was placed on record to be built on and challenged by future historians. In researching the book, Mr Taylor said he had gained inspiration from Hampshire local historians, Barry Shurlock and Ruscombe Foster, and his past students at the Henry Beaufort School in Winchester.



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The Life and Times of the Reverend Robert Wright (1772–1850): Clerical Magistrate of Itchen Abbas is 220 pages long and has 10 maps and diagrams, 13 tables and 22 plates (many in colour). It is priced at £10.99 and is available from the Laurence Oxley Bookshop in Alresford or by emailing callosaeducational@gmail.com

Eirlys Haslam 1931-2019

Eirlys was born in Coventry to rather elderly Welsh parents, her father Edward, an engineer and her mother May, a businesswoman. Her first language was Welsh; she didn't speak English until she started school and she blamed this bilingual state for her very interesting spelling at times. She had a very loving, happy childhood. She was a lively little girl who loved to sing and dance. Her parents' kindness was demonstrated by their welcoming of a child of the kinder transport into their family. Peter, a Jewish refugee from Danzig, came to live with them in 1937 and stayed with them for the duration of the war. Life, however, changed beyond recognition when their house suffered a direct hit, exploding and collapsing on top of them during the bombing of Coventry in the notorious operation Moonlight Sonata that destroyed Coventry cathedral. Only five other people in their road survived, Eirlys, her parents and Peter being dug out from the rubble after eight hours. Eirlys struggled with extreme claustrophobia for the rest of her life as a result of this experience and as a family, we never took a lift! They lost everything except



for the family Austin 7 and for many nights after that, all four of them piled into the car and drove out into the countryside to escape the bombardment, sleeping in village halls. On leaving school Eirlys then studied for a domestic economy teaching degree at Ormskirk College, part of Manchester University. She was quite a girl and a bit of a daredevil as a student enjoying gliding and tennis parties and she was also dedicated follower of fashion!

It was on a train travelling to college that she met Fred. She did admit to us that he wasn't her first admirer but that poor individual had a purse and she couldn't marry a man with a purse!

A few weeks later dad's chemistry society crew thought it a good idea to spray the girls on their rag week parade float with a spurious red liquid concocted in their lab. Eirlys and her friends had illegally borrowed their lecturer's gowns in an effort to emulate witches as was befitting cookery students, but the said gowns were reduced to threads upon contact with the toxic chemical. Returning them to the lecturers wasn't a very positive experience! Somewhat amazingly she qualified and became a well-respected teacher. She worked in all sorts of schools ranging from the sister school of Rodean to St Johns in Southampton docks in the 60s where she used to take in our shoes and vests for the poor children who had none, which in turn made us the poor children who had none! Her final position was head of domestic science at Bitterne Park

Secondary School where she had many hair-raising incidents including separating 6ft boys brandishing kitchen knives - quite a feat for someone so vertically challenged.

As you may also have gathered, she was a very enthusiastic cook. When we were small, every day she would collect us from school in her mini and there would always be some concoction on the seat. She would also make beautifully iced wedding and celebration cakes.

Eirlys was frequently on a diet and was always falling for the lure of so-called wonder products. One day she appeared in the kitchen wearing newly purchased special shorts which required filling with air, Michelin-man style. The idea was for her then to run around the garden in them. We all howled with laughter at them and needless to say the wonder shorts were returned. I don't think we ever stopped teasing her about them!

She had a real zest for life and Eirlys loved her life in the Valley, especially if it involved chatting. She was devoted to us and her grandchildren Olivia, Jack and Flora.

She was in essence a true tiger if anyone hurt any of us, or let us down, but a pussy cat if she liked you. Her smile would light up a room whenever we came in, truly an example of unconditional love. There was nothing she wouldn't do for us whether we wanted her to do it or not.

Sally Johnston

The Itchen Valley Parish Choir

About two years ago, the Rector asked how he might go about bringing some choral music into the worship in the

parish, partly as a counter-balance to the contemporary worship in some of our other services. Alex's vision was simple – use choral music to bring people to Christian worship and into the community of the Itchen Valley Parish.

The idea was to have three services a year and appeal to singers in the parish to join us, even if they were singing in other choirs. We have just three rehearsals before each service, with the expectation that most singers will get to at least two of them, and commit to doing some homework on the music. We have sung a wide range of music from baroque to contemporary and the 25 members have risen to the challenge magnificently, supported by the parish's excellent organists.

We sang Evensong on the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day – a very special day indeed. In Lent, jointly with Fr Mark Hogan who leads the Roman Catholic Parish which covers the Itchen Valley, Alex led an ecumenical Stations of the Cross - *Stainer's Crucifixion*, a musical setting of Jesus's journey to Calvary, was interwoven into the service in a way which brought an emotional theme to the Passion. At Pentecost we sang Evensong again, including the moving '*Do not be afraid*' by Philip Stopford, which the choir sang with extraordinary skill and intensity. And on Advent Sunday this year we sang at Parish Communion using a modern,





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prayerful and melodic setting of the sung parts of the service.

So what next? We would like to bring more people into the choir. If you like singing, do come and join us. We also want to involve the congregation more through joining in the Eucharist settings and learning more music, chosen and sung to enhance the worship.

Tim Tyler

07921 512974 and 01962 736490

Dreaming of a Green Xmas

1 November

Promised to be organised and start early this year. Am undertaking my first Eco-Xmas to help save planet. Made notebook from unwanted paper - reverse side of payment demands from ethical bank. Licked lead of recycled pencil, put down names of nearest and dearest for presents and compiled great long Xmas card list. Elated with proof of own foresight, had a glass or four of local wine to celebrate. Put lists in safe place.

1 December

Found lists after long search.

First priority: presents. Determined to avoid impulse purchases and buy only

best ever presents. Spent day in mail order heaven. Ordered Freeplay Wind-up Torch for Zak, natural massage oils for Sooz, organic hamper with extra sherry for Gran, fab hemp bathrobe for Dad, FSC bird table for Mum, books on making boomerangs and automata for the nieces and adopted a few acres of rainforest for Pete coz he's already got everything.

Hmmm. Still need hundreds of small presents for distant relatives et al. Had brainwave - mustn't forget.

5 December

Cards. Pulled out stash of Xmas cards received last year and cut out the more tasteful designs. Measured up pieces of handmade Nepalese paper from women's co-operative and stuck designs on with solvent-free glue. Wrote 'Merry Eco-Christmas' type

messages. Started to make own envelopes but ended up in terrible mess. Decided to re-use old envelopes and stamp with festive potato prints in natural paints. Warm, tingly feeling - reminded of childhood. Posted second class - more sustainable for bank balance.

10 December

EVERYBODY has remarked on cards. Overall impression was fab despite odd snort of laughter, particularly from boyfriend.

16 December

Top idea today. Have invited lots of mates over for communal drinkies and

festive food preparation. VERY Jamie Oliver. Everyone to bring ingredients, aprons and a bottle of something.

17 December

Urgh. Rescue Remedy required for worst hangover ever. Staggered into kitchen to find **SPLENDID** mince pies, Xmas pudding, brandy butter and the like. Mess indescribable, but all worth while. **EVERYONE** phoned to applaud brilliant evening and suggest doing again next year. Am over the moon and larder is full.

18 December

One week to go.
Mail order prezzies arrive. Wrap everything in pretty pink of the Financial Times, dug out of neighbour's recycling box. Where did the potato prints get to?

Now time for rest of prezzies. Dashed down to whole food store and came back with bulging string shopping bags. What better than delicious hand-made fudge? Set to work with messianic zeal.

19 December

Fudge everywhere. Even ceiling VERY sticky. But top result, if somewhat solid. Made recycled brown paper packages to look like Xmas crackers and decorated with glitter (not eco-friendly, I suspect). Next year will extend culinary repertoire and move into potted plants in painted tin cans. Am discovering hidden artistic talent and - hurrah - have completely avoided Xmas Shopping Hell.

21 December

Food and booze. Went to local Farmers Market and stocked up on

organic wine and local cider plus lovely local Xmas tree with roots. Bought huge organic turkey, happy sausages and seasonal fruit and veg from nearby farms. All packed into rucksack with mistletoe hanging out of top. Much festive banter from onlookers while cycling home.

22 December

COMPLETELY forgot Xmas decorations. Ran out of DIY energy, so bought fairtrade ones. Can use most again next year, but also found fab chocolate decorations. Sadly ate most on way home to cope with Xmas shopping stress.

Christmas Eve

Panic, panic. Harbour wicked thoughts about buying pre-packaged supermarket Xmas in a box next year.

Christmas Day

Perfect. Have unleashed unimagined creativity and become shining example to consumerism-obsessed friends. Nearly suffered mutiny when refused to turn heating on, but handed out hand knitted Himalayan socks and cider brandy in nick of time. Very little rubbish but glad to have lots of Xmas treats for wormery.

Tired and sleepy now, but basking in glory of first Eco- Xmas attempt. Will do **EVEN BETTER** next year.

Contributed

Eco-Friendly Xmas Links:
www.greenguideonline.com
www.naturalcollection.com
www.cat.org.uk
www.greenstat.co.uk
www.soilassociation.org
www.hdra.org.uk

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Itchen Valley Churches

5th January

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Family Worship

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

12th January

10am Parish Communion
6pm Evensong

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

19th January

8am BCP Holy Communion
10am Valley Worship

St John's, Itchen Abbas
St Mary's, Easton

26th January

10am Parish Communion
6pm Evensong

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

Rector

Revd Alex Pease
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)

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

Churchwardens

Robin Greenwood 779540
Sara Mason 779169
Vanessa Rosewell 841182
Theo Mezger 779277
Tony Gaster 779110
Nick Owen 779162



Children On A Sunday

The Ark meets each Sunday apart from the first one of the month when the children take part in the All Age Worship which is directed towards their age. So whether you are in Bubbles (3-5) Splash (6-8) or Extreme (9-11) our team of leaders and other shipmates will be keen to see you. We have some great materials and we will be finding out more and more about Jesus. It is always amazing and so much fun – so please do come! For more information contact Beccy - admin@itchenvalleychurches.org

What does Christmas mean in our world today?

We are experiencing for perhaps the first time a politics-free issue in our January magazine. Yet I enjoy learning about the work of those involved in politics and some of it is hugely important to all of us. So, I am using some space here to reflect on something non-political: the meaning of Christmas.

In my working life I travelled the world. I remember in the mid 90s discussing with a group of young Chinese what Christmas meant. Almost universally at that time two responses were: party time and presents. I'm just back from Thailand and was horrified in the local shopping centre to see signs up about Christmas and canned carols. I'm firmly of the view that this is because over there, Christmas has nothing whatsoever to do with Christianity but a lot to do with commerce. It's all about making money. Thai people are predominately Buddhist and 25 December is a normal working day.

I wonder therefore why a very deeply important Christian religious festival should suddenly impact in Asia. Then, as I reflect further, I wonder in Britain today if a Christian Christmas really has much of an impact, in marking of the birth of Jesus. No other Christian festival has been taken over by commercial pressures. Even here in our own community, around late summer, pubs and restaurants are advertising to "book early for Christmas". Sadly, I also fear that many families who are less well-off feel the commercial pressures and spend more than perhaps they should.

So then, what does Christmas really mean, besides presents and parties?

Singing carols? Well I do plenty of that. The Christian message for Christmas is possibly best summed up as being about love and hope. It's that simple. It's that powerful. And this message does change lives.

Happy Christmas.

Tony Gaster, Reader Emeritus

Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club

needs your support!

Project Title - Effect the provision of power to the Dave Cooper Memorial Garage which houses valuable Ground Maintenance Equipment

Message from Tesco

Congratulations!

We're delighted to let you know that your application to the Tesco Bags of Help grant scheme has been successful and your project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores during January, February and March 2020. The available funding is up to £2,000 for first place, or £1,000 or £500 for second and third place.

What happens next?

Our project, along with the two other successful projects in our region, will go forward to a vote in Tesco stores where their customers will decide the outcome by voting for their favourite project each time they shop. Voting will take place from Wednesday 1 January 2020 to Tuesday 31 March 2020. The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £2,000, the second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500 (or the amount that was requested up to these values).

Stores to vote on our project

Please see below a list of stores taking part in the voting on your project. Feel free to share this list of stores amongst

your supporters and within your community.

- Kings Worthy, Springvale
- Winchester Extra, Winnall
- Harestock
- Winchester Express, High Street
- Alresford
- Winchester Esso Andover Road

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here: www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk

To our supporters: To vote, you will need to make a purchase within the above listed Tesco store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction. Please choose Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club.

Trevor Foreman

Soft Amaretti

Makes up to 28

(can be made in one egg batches and smaller amaretti)

3 medium egg whites

200g granulated sugar

200g ground almonds

1 tablespoon Amaretto

Flaked almonds to decorate.

Set the oven to 170degrees, (gas mark

4) Whip up the egg whites until stiff.

Pour in the amaretto. Gently fold in 200g granulated sugar and 200g almonds until it develops a soft

marzipan consistency. Using two dessert spoons, measure out generous spoonfuls of the mixture onto non stick paper.

Return to each, rolling them in your hand to form a ball, and replacing on the sheet. (They won't spread too much further when cooking)

Sprinkle them with untoasted flaked almonds.

Cook for about twelve minutes or until soft golden brown. Leave to cool on the rack before serving - best eaten on the day of making! Start to finish 20 minutes!

If using large eggs, use 210g of the dry ingredients - it will make better balls!

This also works well when cooked in small quantities: 1 egg, 67g sugar & almonds, makes 7.

Jackie Porter

Instant Cordon Bleu sauce

Whoops! I had roasted two pork chops in the oven, boiled the potatoes and greens and was about to serve it all up when I realised there was no sauce or gravy. Pork chops can be a little dry and a sauce is such a sensible accompaniment.

Quickly I got a saucepan, added some white wine (just cheap cooking-standard wine) and boiled it hard for a couple of minutes to cook off the alcohol. I added some of the potato cooking water and a chicken stock cube plus a little Dijon mustard and stirred until dissolved. A quick boil for another minute to cook any starch in the stock cube and then a slurp of double cream before gently heating it back to a simmer and pouring it over the pork. A very quick sauce that couldn't really be much tastier or pleasing to the palate.

Sue Sheph

Jackie's County Corner

It was a pleasure to celebrate the work of the 36 Police Youth Commissioners; all of the appointed young people are under 18 years of age. Ben (shown with me here) was a confident presenting conference delegate. Find out more about cyber safety on #GoFISH with especial support for young people and parents on www.safe4me.co.uk



It gave me an opportunity to discuss again how we can report crime online. Calling 101 is the phone line or go to www.fearless.org : Crimestoppers anonymous website.

- The Wheelabrator application : My Stage 2 consultation response and the link to the County Council's response are on my website and page 33 of this magazine.

- Please don't forget! Apply for primary school places by 15th Jan 2020. For more details, including 'in-year admissions' search School Admissions on the hants.gov.uk website.

- The County publishes a schedule for gritting and priorities for snow clearance. You can see more detail by going to www.hants.gov.uk. Click the 'Roads & Transport' icon and search 'Salting and Gritting Guidance'. Please check your local grit bins too. Reporting details are in the lid: check the material is still usable, and note the grit bin number for efficient refill.

- If you hear of anyone deciding between 'heat or eat' please ask them to contact me (in confidence of course). I am a Food Bank referrer and in contact with charities who can help.

- We in Children's Services looked again at the CAMHS service and Home

Schooling at our recent Select Committee. If you home-school your child, I'd love to talk to you about the experience. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service presentation was very depressing. If anyone in your family needs this service they will know that once treatment is started, it is generally excellent but in reviewing their services to see how they could improve it, the reviewers came up with One Version of the Truth: There is a clear demand and capacity gap. The funding means they just cannot cope with numbers asking for help.

- 2021 brings the next Local Plan 2036 for Winchester District. This will include matters that relate to HCC too: minerals and waste planning, cycle and walkways, new sustainable developments, upgrade of energy infrastructure, more trees and green spaces. Please sign up for news of this local plan by request to planning@winchester.gov.uk. Newsletters come out every quarter. Happy New Year!

Jackie Porter www.jackieporter.co.uk
Telephone/text: 07973 696 085, email: jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk twitter: @JackieLibDem

Robin Hood

Adding to her long list of successful productions, Anna McGowan's latest offering – *Robin Hood* – was yet another triumph.



While Susannah Duke's gallant Robin is standing up for the many, not the few, the Sheriff of Nottingham – Steve Percy at his most evil – is only in it for himself. Aply assisted by his nasty henchmen – Ina Williams as Rant and Elloise Clarke as Wreck – he tries to carry out a cunning plan to steal Maid Marian, the winsome Daisy Macleod, from her true love, Robin, and marry her himself.



In the meantime, the Merry Men provide plenty of laughs and Will Turner is hilarious as the dame, Gran. Friar Tuck – Iain Macleod in a body suit – and Little John, a wonderfully resonant Chris Ellis, bring added dramatic weight to the proceedings.



The children in their various guises are a delight, as ever. A fabulously tipsy Maddie Woosnam, Griselda the Irish gypsy, predicts the happy outcome from the start and King Richard – a noble Robert Hall – returns from the crusades to reclaim his kingdom and save his people from the draconian taxes imposed by the sheriff. The sheriff himself is railroaded into



marrying Gran, a greater punishment than being thrown into jail for his misdemeanours.

In time honoured fashion, wedding bells are in the offing for Robin and Marian as the curtains close, together with the other lovebirds – Dorothea (Sharron Gordon) and Alan-a-Dale (James Young) - and all is well with the world.

Apart from the unforgettable acting, singing and dancing, credit must go to all those who worked so hard behind the scenes. Judy Bishop's marvellous scenery, the amazing costumes provided by Jill Croft and Helen Smyth, Beth Smith's impressive choreography and all the make-up artists' talent helped to make the panto such a success. Countless others helped to pull it all together, including Iain Gordon and Chris Kennedy on lighting, James Woosnam who provided the



sound effects, the curtain twitchers and scene shifters and Charlotte Appleby who did a sterling job as the prompt. Thanks go to David and Mary Purser for organising the ticket sales, to all who worked front-of-house at every performance and to the stalwarts who looked after the bar.

Last but not least, many thanks to the ever faithful John Purver for once again providing such brilliant musical accompaniment.

Well done, everyone!

Alex Percy

Thanks to Chris Ellis for the photos taken at the dress rehearsal - Ed



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Our Wild Valley - Wilder our hedgerows.

On my way back from picking up Itchen List goodies, I noticed the hedgerows appeared stark and darkest brown against the background of horizontal grey rain. It all looked pretty windswept and wild. It is nice to see some hedges with a wide verge beside them, and even better when the hedgerow is almost a woodland - here shown below is I guess a copse planted parallel to the road - 5 trees wide, trimmed a bit but wonderfully messy and wild, fly-tipping excluded from this photo!



To manage our habitats we can have very prescriptive procedures, such as for floodplain grassland where wetland plants create a dynamic habitat that can cope with floods and drying out because of the amazing soil and hydrology system below. On a course in the Somerset Levels which I joined in November we studied a 1m deep soil core and this mud looked and felt like chocolate cake. We did all but taste it. It was amazing stuff and at the base about 1500 years old.

The species-rich grassland on the Somerset Levels had been saved as the fields were part of the conservation

area designated for wintering birds (EU legislation made these Special Protection Areas) - lapwing here in their thousands.



I'm reading at present 'Wilding' by Isabelle Tree (also she is on Desert Island Discs as a podcast) in which she describes the gains of not having targets or specific species to conserve, but to observe the process of letting land do as nature does by sitting on their hands. This is where my love of messy scrub and hedgerow comes in (perhaps not everyone's cup of tea!). Blackthorn suckers rapidly spring up as I know to my cost on the verges, but if unmanaged this widens the hedgerow. It all becomes denser, more luxurious in depth and diversity, a fantastic place for wildlife. (see www.hedgelink.org.uk) Wilder our hedgerows, wider our outlooks, reduce targets and paperwork, increase observation and 'sitting on hands' approach. Lets try to fit this in, where safety and space allow, in nature and ourselves in 2020.

Do record any wildlife noted in 2020. There are numerous apps including irecord, ispot, mammal tracker, one for asian hornet, one for stag beetle and igeology too.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy New year.

Sophie Miller

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From the Parish Council

Good news, we have another Parish Councillor, what's more, a representative from Easton. Steve Percy has been co-opted at our last meeting. Steve is known to many of you as one of our star actors, playing everything from the Sheriff of Nottingham in this year's pantomime to a vicar in *The Importance of Being Ernest* with the Southwood Players. That means we are now a council of nine with one space left. Someone else has expressed interest so we might soon be up to a full complement of ten. In last month's edition of the Valley News three topics were mentioned: the Wheelabrator incinerator at Barton Stacey, telephone boxes in the Valley and speeding cars. We discussed all three of these at our December Full Council meeting. Starting with the incinerator project, it has to be made clear that this is at a consultation stage. It is worrying that, despite what is stated on Wheelabrator's website, they have not sent a letter to the Parish Council. This point will be made to them. There is not enough space to list all the Itchen Valley's concerns with this project as well as those of other parishes nearer to the site. Jackie Porter has produced a document which outlines these concerns (see page 33). I recommend everyone to read it. The Parish Council submission is on similar lines plus pointing out the fact that we were not properly consulted. As matters progress, we will endeavour to keep you informed. The threat of the loss of telephone boxes is another great cause for concern. Although the Easton box has been saved from removal there is still a threat that BT will try to get rid of it in the future and the boxes in Itchen

Abbas and Martyr Worthy are still at risk. In the first instance we are requesting BT to keep all four boxes in operation on the grounds that there



is a need for them in the case of accidents and also for emergency use, for example for someone who has to flee their home or wishes to make a call (e.g. to Childline) without being overheard, especially since mobile phone signals are so poor in much of the Valley. Depending on the response from BT we will see what further action may be necessary.

Several people have raised the problem of speeding in the Valley, especially in Avington & Easton. Please remember, as the Highway Code states, the speed limit is an absolute maximum. Drivers MUST NOT drive dangerously, drive without due care and attention or drive without reasonable consideration for other road users. Remember you should adapt your driving to the appropriate type and condition of the road. We have mainly country roads and many are single track lanes. 60mph is not a safe speed. If as residents we keep down to a safe speed it should set an example and encourage others to do the same. The Parish Council has decided on a course of action but it is not yet appropriate to publicise it. However, as matters progress, when appropriate you will be kept informed. In the meantime a number of suggestions have been made that can be considered but more are welcome. So, if you have any ideas please come and talk to us.

Away from roads and industrial sites, what we enjoy about where we live is the countryside. The natural

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	Sally	01962 776562
	Fri	1530	Sat 0900		

Brew with a View	Wed	1500 - 1700		Ina	01962 779465
Dionne Yoga	Tue 2000	Fri 1000	Mon 0900	Dionne	07961 888676
Mahjong / U3A	Tue	1400 - 1700		Anne	01420 563393
Yoga for men	Mon 2000	Wed 0845	Sun 1900	Alex	07814 678155
Panto rehearsal	Wed	1930	Sun 1600	Anna	01962 779350
Yoga with Helen	Mon	1400		Helen	07703 278892
NCT Yoga	Wed	1030 & 1800		Janet	07973 855107
Older Adult Exercise	Thu	1130 - 1230		Caroline	01962 779796

Martyr Worthy Village Hall

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

Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

Details of bookings and real time availability are now available on our website.
www.iaavillagehall.co.uk Hall Manager Alex Bellisario
manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk 07947 191229 Village hall callbox 01962 791021

Regular Bookings

Montessori	Mon to Fri	08.30	Caroline	01730 829377
Zumba	Fri	10.00	Sue	07947 410394
Pure Circuits	Mon	19.30	Juliette	07799 890860

Rugby Tots	Tue 10.00, Wed 10.15	Phil	03453 133258
	Thur 15.50		

Ladies Short Tennis	Wed	14.30	Arminel	01962 779611
Pilates	Wed 09.15 & 18.00	Aimee	07546 941489	
Choir	Wed	19.30	Gary	01962 732350
Badminton	Thur	19.30	Mike	07887 503345
Swing It Dancing	Thur	21.30	Neil	07825 709691
Qi Gong Tai Chi	Tue	19.00	Emma	07863 203630

environment has become a topic of great interest to the general public. The Parish Council has been considering if this is something that should be facilitated, either through knowledge or by direct action. It could be said that a start has already been made with the support and encouragement of the Wild Verges Group but more can be done. Some ideas for community involvement in “wilding” the environment are well described by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife trust in their video. They are also hosting a free workshop at the University of Winchester on 7 January 2020. If you are interested, book a place at the Team Wilder Workshop through Eventbrite.

As the year ends and the new one begins, please could everyone make a resolution that if they want to make a point or raise an issue with us, they should go to the Itchen Valley Parish Council website and send an email to the appropriate Councillor or to our Clerk. The addresses are all there along with the roles of each Councillor. If you are not sure which Councillor to contact then send your email to the Chairman or the Clerk. As much as we might like to, we are not permitted to use the Itchen List to reply as Parish Councillors.

Happy Christmas & New Year.

Patrick Appleby

Comings & Goings

We welcome to Chapel Cottage Easton, the Odell family: Felicity and Iain, Ethan (10), Lana (8), Theo (6) plus Melot (12 yr giant schnauzer). We say good bye to Christine Wheatley and family who have moved to Kings Worthy.

Judith Mezger

The Six Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas, the
Itchen Valley News thanked
The lady who brings in all the ads.
On the second day of Christmas, the
Itchen Valley News thanked
The chap who guards the money
And the lady who brings in all the ads.
On the third day of Christmas, the
Itchen Valley News thanked
The front cover artist
The chap who guards the money
And the lady who brings in all the ads.
On the fourth day of Christmas, the
Itchen Valley News thanked
The two magazine distributors
The front cover artist
The chap who guards the money
And the lady who brings in all the ads.
On the fifth day of Christmas, the
Itchen Valley News thanked
Five editors
The two magazine distributors
The front cover artist
The chap who guards the money
And the lady who brings in all the ads.
On the sixth day of Christmas, the
Itchen Valley News thanked
The forty four deliverers who put it
through your letterbox
Five editors
The two magazine distributors
The front cover artist
The chap who guards the money
And the lady who brings in all the ads.

* * * * *

Merry Christmas and thank you to
everyone who contributes in any way
to the Itchen Valley News

*Vernon Tottle
Chief Editor*



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This response to the Stage 2 Consultation does not require the simple matter of an objection or support: the consultation invites response.

As the County Councillor for the division covering Sutton Scotney and nearby communities in the north of Winchester district, there are a number of points I wish to make and information I need to know and/or be reassured on *before* the DCO (development consent order) application is even made.

1. The impact of the site on the Highway network: the A34 and A303 are frequently closed by accidents. The application and the staff at the Sutton Scotney consultation stated that if this were the case, the lorries would stay in the queue on the trunk roads. This is unlikely and impractical if the road is closed. Lorries cannot enter a junction/ stay on the road and will use narrower roads to travel to and from the site. The junction design onto the A303 was designed for light traffic. Additional traffic, arising from the transportation of 500,000 tonnes of waste, would make this a junction with heavy traffic use, posing an unacceptable risk to the public as heavy, slowly accelerating lorries meet vehicles travelling through the junction at 70mph on the A303

2. The waste is described as industrial/ commercial. What is the exact expected input, where does it go now and from where will it come? You state the waste will come from an average time of 2 hours away, but this is an average. What is the maximum distance? If the waste stream changes in the next 25 years as the number of recyclables increases, will the waste need to come from

further afar? I would like to see a current and projected waste profile over at least 10 years.

3. The health implications of the ingestion of particles, relative to the size of those particulates are becoming ever apparent. WCC wants to know how the emissions of the site are managed, and monitored, what are the measures to monitor, and how particulate matter (PM) of 10, 2.5 and in the future 1.0 micrometers diameter (and possibly smaller) are managed and filtered out. How is this process future proofed?

4. With Wheelabrator's record of compliance in other countries not being good, what exactly is Wheelabrator's record of non-compliance in the UK and how can this be prevented at this plant?

5. WCC and I would like more clarification of the water cycle of this plant, in particular the 'source' of all water in, the journey of 'water out as steam', water collection, and what will be the receptor of the 'water out' noting it will be potentially water containing contaminants?

6. What alternatives were considered in the choice of site? It is a restored greenfield site (restoration by Raymond Brown as part of their permission). Dicot (old Power station) would seem to be a better option with better road infrastructure and better placed to cover the south of England.

7. Good practice in the guide for



incineration and large scale energy projects states that the heat generated at this site should be directed towards a use. Although it states it is *available*, there are no *planned* uses. How will Wheelabrator address this?

8. Though connection to the National Grid is not included in the DCO application, the connection is of vital importance at this site, and needs certainty. Pylons are not acceptable. We need to know how and where the link will be constructed, and the form it will take.

9. Is there a local and national need for this site at all? (HCC has been asked to provide information too.) WCC will query this in their submission too.

10. I believe there is a case to seek another public consultation round including schools and residents to show these issues have been addressed before the applicant seeks a Development Consent Order.

Cllr Jackie Porter.

Christmas Party in church

After school on Friday 6 December, St. John's church was filled with over 40 children and their parents. There was a lot of noise and a lot of fun! A large craft table was a hive of activity with children making beautiful Christmas tree decorations, sparkly wooden hearts, and memory lanterns, on which the children wrote happy memories. Party games also ensued, such as fancy dress relay races and the children tying themselves in a human knot. Hannah Barber led an awesome drumming session for many keen young drummers (just in case it wasn't noisy enough). Meanwhile babies and toddlers tried to enjoy a more peaceful moment, if that was possible, towards the end of the church.

Then the food arrived and it was spectacular. Nora Haywood, Katherine Impey and Vanessa Rosewell had prepared the most incredible creations from cucumber and carrot Christmas trees to strawberry and cream Father Christmasses. They were easily Michelin star quality. For a short while there was relative peace whilst all the children enjoyed feasting, finished off with mince pies and ice cream.

The evening drew to a close with Julia Wright sharing a short message on "The Greatest Gift of All", where she drew a parallel between Jesus and an iPhone – a potentially life changing gift, but only if we know how to switch it on, or in Jesus's case, ask Him into our hearts.

Every family who came to the party brought with them a gift. These have been donated to The Salvation Army. They will distribute these gifts to children who would otherwise be without presents this Christmas.

All in all it was a great success. Noisy and chaotic perhaps, but definitely a lot of fun, with many smiles, great conversations, and much laughter. For some people it was their first time inside St. John's church, so it was wonderful to give them such a lively and warm welcome.

The party wouldn't have happened without Tim Clapp masterminding and orchestrating the whole thing.



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And we would like to say a huge thank you to many others who also made amazing contributions: Katherine Impey, Vanessa Rosewell and Nora Haywood for their Michelin star food; Karen Clapp, Claire Hunt and Sally Parker for their wonderful craft table; Hannah Barber for her genius drumming (and being a human climbing frame to 40 children); Vernon Tottle for being so accommodating and helping with the logistics; Beccy Clark for her legendary admin skills and flyer creations.

Julia Wright

The Practical Gardener

So now is the perfect time to think about sowing and planting. Many flowers and vegetables can be sown in January in a warm place. An indoor windowsill is considered a safe place if you don't own a propagator. I shall start with sweet peas, broad beans and tomatoes. Later in the month I move on to peas and lettuce and a whole range of flowers, but just the easy ones. Some seeds are quite slow to germinate, I don't know why but that's nature. Growing your own plants from seed is somehow very satisfying. It's almost like you have created something. Be bold, give it a try. Get the young ones involved!

Do you have the killer instinct? Moss on roofs, in lawns and on paths is not welcome. Time for action! The first probably needs a chemical treatment involving ferrous sulphate and the moss dies and goes black – horrible – then you're supposed to rake it out. On a roof, it needs scraping off only because it can block gutters and downpipes. A pressure washer is the solution to clean paths.

All the experts will give advice about winter pruning roses, fruit trees, clematis and other shrubs. I'm no expert but I think pruning is good for the winter months as long as it is frost free. I have just cut down my bush roses which I think keeps them more stable in the winter but I will do a final prune in March.

My leaf sweeping activity has been in full swing. I'd like to recommend a tool which uses no petrol or electricity and makes no noise: yes, the garden lawn rake. I did a test in my orchard and can say it took no longer doing it by hand plus I had a free work out, so no need to go to the gym, yet another saving. Seriously though, do look hard at new battery powered tools. I've been really pleased with mine; instant power, light weight and easy to use. What's more the lack of noise means you don't disturb those around you!

Happy Gardening!

Tony Gaster.

From our LLM

I was prompted to write this after reading a survey report from the United States. It probably won't come as any surprise, given what we know about Donald Trump's views, to discover that recent data from the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication suggests that only 64 percent of Americans think global warming is real and caused by humans. But what did surprise and concern me was to read that the same research project found that the figure fell to 44% amongst evangelical Christians.





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The Bible tells us in Genesis that man was created to have dominion over the earth, or rule over it as more modern versions say. So how can Christians fail to recognise their responsibility when it has clearly been given by God? Further research led me to some surprising results.

Unbelievably one conservative Christian argument is that God just wouldn't let human activities ruin his creation. Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma said "God's still up there, and the arrogance of people to think that we, human beings, would be able to change what he is doing in the climate, is to me, outrageous." This belief that climate change is caused by God is based around the concept that we are approaching the end times and it is part of the apocalypse. This is of course pure arrogance as Matthew says in 4:36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only".

So the Bible is clear until Jesus comes again we must accept our responsibility for looking after the earth. From a Christian perspective, we have free will to make decisions and must live with their consequences. This is, after all, the Christian solution to the theological problem of evil. "Are bad things happening? Yes, all the time, everything from someone starting a war to deciding to get drunk and drive will have consequences for innocent bystanders.

Climate change is just another wrong, another problem, brought on by flawed humans exercising their wills in a way that is less than fully advised. It's a casualty of decisions poorly made.

But more than the earth itself, Christianity places a strong emphasis on caring for the weakest and most vulnerable among us. That gives us even more reason to care about climate change because it is affecting people. And according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change it is disproportionately affecting the poor, and the vulnerable, and those who cannot care for themselves by threatening food supplies, risking worsening violence and increasing the displacement of vulnerable populations.

So ultimately it comes down to this, If you believe that God created the world, and gave it to humans as this incredible gift to live on and take care of, then why would you treat it like rubbish? We can ask him for help but ultimately it is up to us.

Gerry Stacey

IA & A Village Hall needs a Treasurer

I have been treasurer of the hall for almost seven years and am hoping someone will come forward and offer to take up the role. It involves recording all receipts and paying the hall's bills, just like other similar treasurer roles. In addition we use the Hallmaster system to match receipts against rental invoices and this adds to the interest of this voluntary position. There is an efficient bookkeeping system in place designed by Vernon Tottle - and he and myself would always be available to help with any problems.

Please contact me if you are at all interested in finding out more !!

*Sue Hitchen, 779516 or
suehitchen1@hotmail.com*

Cameo Christmas Lunch

Fifty people sat down to the Cameo Christmas lunch that included turkey, pigs in blankets, stuffing, sprouts, roast potatoes and bread sauce. This was followed by mince pies with brandy butter, satsumas, chocolates and coffee or tea.

We were wonderfully entertained by singers from Itchen Abbas school. Lavinia Owen thanked everyone for their support.

If you are over 65 and would like to come to the Cameo lunches next year you would be most welcome – please ring me on 779 778

Charlotte Appleby



Local monthly information

Waste collections in January

Black bins only on Monday 6 January.
Black bins and green bags on Fridays 17 and 31 January. Green bins on Saturday 11 and Friday 24 January. Glass boxes on Saturday 11 January.

Cameo

Tuesday 21 January.

Farmers Market in Winchester

Sunday 12 and 26 January.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 9 January. IA&AVH.

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

School term timetable operates 6 - 31 January.

Mondays and Thursdays to Winchester:
07:53 08:20 09:23 13:53 16:23 17:23

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Winchester:

07:53 08:20 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

On 2 and 3 January it is likely to be a Saturday service.

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

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