

# Valley <sup>ITCHEN</sup> News

Issue 78 June 2020

For Avington, Easton, Ichen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



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# WELCOME to the Valley News



First of all I must thank our contributors as we continue to miss what's on and what's been on, except the VE day celebrations featured in several places. I am particularly grateful to our elected representatives who have found time to write about matters of interest. This month we have two contributions from young people, a poem and an article about plague. Ah yes that seems to feature in different places!

Many of us are truly lucky to have large gardens. It's difficult to imagine those who have to survive in city tower blocks in this lockdown. Supporting local business is something we can all do. I am very pleased the Plough is again offering food. I do miss my pint! I have heard it said about returning to normal but I do wonder. Will large scale flying ever resume? I'm getting used to daily church by zoom but it's not the same, oh, and that hair cut.

Community seems to be working well here and that is a good thing. I've been using zoom three times each day and it's just about acceptable. It allows some sort of sharing. However I also see for the over 70s, it stretches our abilities in this computer-driven age. It would be difficult to imagine life without such technical support. Much discussion centres around when can we meet again. Such a seemingly simple issue of schools reopening is fraught with controversy. It's clear, even the experts have much to learn.

Being stuck at home has challenged my cooking skills (there's no recipe this month). Mary Berry has been a strong influence so roulade has often been on

the menu. It's quite delicious and easy to make. And the egg yolks get made into lemon curd, which provides a tart.

Outside the gardens have just been wonderful but I see more care is needed if we have a bonfire. It's a pity that so much garden machinery is noisy, far louder than anything allowed in industry and I wonder why. Nature has been fantastic in recent weeks and we are all allowed to enjoy a good walk, much better than the gym! See how many hares (page 19) or hedgehogs (page 10) you can spot.

Next month's editor is Verity Coleman. *Tony Gaster*

## Itchen Valley News

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## VE Day 8 May

It is widely felt that work expands to fill the time available, but it also has to be true that planning contracts to fit the time – often leading to extra work later down the line! The plan to deliver a ‘tea bag’ to as many of those who were alive on the original VE Day as we could identify was conceived by



Yvette of the Itchen Valley Parish Council on Tuesday and implemented on the Friday. Fortunately it coincided with plans to deliver a ‘little something’ to the guests who come to Cameo so an embryo plan was in place, but linking it with VE Day lent urgency to the scheme. Red Radish Catering



generously donated clotted cream, butter, jam and tea bags, as well as the bags to put them in. The Frankland family packed the bags, Patrick collected and packed self raising flour and delivered it to cooks who did not have sufficient supplies, Becky Clark designed and printed the leaflet, Yvette and the Cameo helpers team fired up their ovens and everyone racked their

brains to think who might be old enough to qualify.

We apologise to anyone who was missed out – we did our best and put an appeal out on the wonderful Itchen List, which generated some surprising results. Not everyone looks their age in the Valley!

The deliverers all reported an enjoyable time taking the bags round their local areas and an especial thank you is due to the wife of one parish





councillor who leapt into the breach at the last minute. Tea parties were enjoyed in balmy sunshine all round the Valley and judging by the many phone and email thank yous the whole exercise was much appreciated.

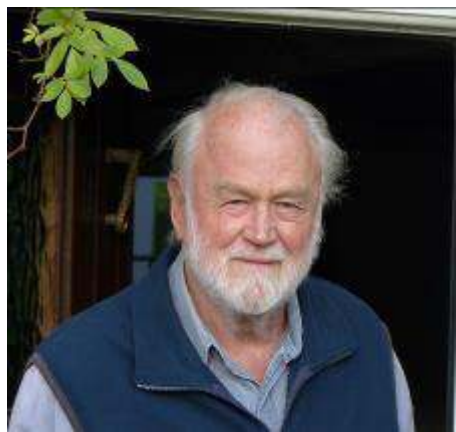
*Charlotte Appleby*

## VE Day memories

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*From Roy Napier:*

The other day I was asked what I remembered of VE day. A very reasonable question since at that time I had just turned 13 but I was forced to admit that I remembered absolutely nothing. That seems odd because I remember a great deal of normal life,



home, friends, school etc. Masses of detail. We lived in a place called Gerrards Cross, a fairly spread out commuter area about 20 miles from London. Indeed at school we assiduously stuck flags into wall maps to follow the progress of various campaigns. So we must have known that it was nearly over and got very excited. Nothing like that rings a bell with me now.

My only real memory of the end of the war is the great Victory Parade in London but that was a lot later, after the war had finished on all fronts. We had a splendid view of it from my father's office in Oxford Street and if memory serves, it was a huge parade with contingents from all Allied forces. It was really exciting and I particularly remember the Indians and Gurkhas. The first time I had ever seen such a thing. Very nostalgic though for my father who had served in the Indian Army division in the Great War.

This was probably the biggest military parade ever held in London and a lot of it must have been filmed and would be accessible now.

*From Mark & Nicky Stent:*

I went and asked Mark about where he and Nicky were on V.E. Day. Mark, having been born on 4 January 1929, he was aged 16 years. He was at school at Charterhouse, Surrey when the boys heard the announcement of peace; they all went ballistic. Several large boys went and rung one of the biggest bells in the school, by pushing it, as all the ropes had been taken away because of the war. The school was overwhelmed with happy boys, then they all disappeared and the School was empty. Mark went home to his parents who lived in Elstead, 4 miles away. Nicky was 15 years old, born on 18 January 1930. She lived in Horsham,



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Sussex . On VE Day she travelled to London with her two sisters Ann and Hazel. They stood along the railings, outside Buckingham Palace to hear the King's speech and see the Royal family come on to the balcony.

*I am grateful to Henry Labram and Judith Mezger for assisting with these. - Ed.*

## Easton W.I.

Easton W. I. is on hold as are all our lives! The most important thing is to take care and remain safe and we will be hoping life has returned to some sort of normality by September.

We have a brilliant programme mapped out for 2020/21 and cannot wait to meet again and enjoy our monthly meetings.

We are hoping to run an online Quiz in June and enjoy a glass of wine together from the comfort of our own homes. Some of our local residents will be speaking to us in the coming year and we will be able to learn more about their businesses and lives. We will also



be holding a Basketwork Workshop later in the year which may reveal hidden talents within our members! Do come and join us when we are able to meet again!

*Kyrene Beames,  
President*

## Jackie's County Corner

I hope you are all well and coping with this new world of physical distancing. Hopefully you are able to use IT to reduce the impact of social distancing too. I hope your broadband is up to the job.

Whatever your role, thank you for all your work to date and in the future months.

**Please call 0333 370 4000 (9-5, everyday):** if you have a problem related in any way to the Covid 19 that you can't manage for yourself. It could be anything from food problems, caring responsibilities, electricity payments, or a fear of domestic violence.



You can also **refer yourself to the Basics Bank** if you cannot afford food. I also have access to a *small amount* of emergency funds for individuals and charities - please contact me for details.

Both the City and County websites have details of grants for businesses too.

If there was one problem that I could solve, I'd like it to be easier to secure an online food shopping slot for shielded people. But I know that volunteers are doing an amazing job: thank you.

**Operation Resilience resurfacing work.** You will see operatives carrying out the simple tar and chip work to cover rural roads from mid May, taking advantage of the lockdown quieter time.

**Bonfires arose as a problem** in the earlier, warmer weather of the lockdown. Their prevalence seemed, at least in part, to be fuelled by the County's decision to close the Recycling Centres. With others, I campaigned to see these re-open. The County relented and service resumed mid May. The City Council's door-to-door glass collection service is extremely popular, but bring-to glass sites are also filling faster during the lockdown! WCC has installed a Tetra Pack recycling bin in Winchester's Cattle Market Car Park.

We are all experiencing the stress of this 'nasty virus' as my grandson calls it. **A new helpline has been set up in conjunction with MIND for 11-17 year olds.** Open from 3 to 8.30pm, Monday to Thursday young people can call 0300 303 1590 for mental health help and support.

**Footpaths are being well used at the moment** - and the County is identifying those that are suffering from

intensive use, but they cannot get the materials necessary to solve the problem. So, if you see a makeshift repair please be tolerant! The car parks in the County Country Parks are now open too.

**By the time you read this, some children may be back at school:** it's a huge logistical challenge and one which, as a Governor of a school, and Charity trustee of a pre-school, I am well aware of the challenges and risks, including both health and financial. I have been working with the County Council in my role as a Children's spokesperson. Huge thanks goes to the teaching staff and cleaners who are working daily, even through school holidays, to support families and key workers and children at home.

**The County and City councils are now working remotely,** which makes low carbon living an easier aspiration, but I'd like to resume Councillor Surgeries. Meanwhile, please remember you can call me or email: we can arrange to talk by phone or in cyberspace until our daily lives go to the new normal. My details are below. Please don't rely on Facebook- there are so many groups- I don't want to miss your query.

**A new system for Planning Applications is now being managed by HCC** after a challenge against 1999 case law, which is relevant to this area. Now, if a Planning Application crosses over both the local district and the National Park, then the County Council will be managing the application on behalf of the district, in consultation with the National Park. It gets more confusing for the public every day!

Cllr. Jackie Porter  
[Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk)  
tel/text 07973 696 085



# **To anyone who is facing hard times financially at the moment due to the current crisis.**

The local charity Winchester Villages Trust has been given donations by local Christians to benefit those in the Itchen Valley Parish who are in financial need at the moment and the Trust would like to invite residents to apply to receive funds.

The money is available to be used either as a temporary stopgap (perhaps because of a cash flow crisis until the self-employed or other grants start in June) or as a permanent gift for those who won't be receiving aid from other sources. For instance, you might need it to pay for a grocery delivery or pay a bill. The Trust is only empowered to help individuals or families, but if, for example, you need help for your business to survive during this crisis, help may still be available from local Christians.

It is available immediately and is not conditional on your income, size of house or any other measure.

If you are in need at the moment for any reason please contact the WVT Trustee Penny Russell at [penny@flemons.co.uk](mailto:penny@flemons.co.uk)

or

Revd. Alex Pease (01962 791010) [rev@ampease.co.uk](mailto:rev@ampease.co.uk)  
for more details.

All discussions will be kept in strict confidence.



**Winchester Villages Trust**

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## About a Hedgehog

Three weeks ago, I went to the vet with one of my rescue hens and returned home with my hen and a



Hedgehog! As I was leaving Mildmay Vet, a woman turned up with a hedgehog that she'd found running around in circles on Peter Symond's playing field in obvious distress. My vet Zoe checked him over and from his scratched nose it was clear that something had attacked him, maybe a dog or cat, but as he had rolled tightly into a ball, it was hard to assess him fully. He needed to be looked after for a few days and as I had an uninhabited Hedgehog House in my garden, and love Hedgehogs - who doesn't, I brought him home with me. For the first few days he slept a lot, tucked into



a leaf and moss bed in his new house but when he finally came out to eat and drink properly, I noticed that his left eye seemed to be missing, with the eye socket looking terribly raw and painful. But with more help from Zoe and a lot of advice from Rita at Greenman Wildlife Care in North Waltham and by checking him, feeding him and administering his medicine morning and night, he began to improve. And so two weeks after his arrival when I found him on top of his Hedgehog



House, obviously having tried to escape, and with nose and eye having healed, I knew it was time for him to go on his way. So last Friday, which happened to be the sixth day of National Hedgehog Awareness Week, I took him to an area away from busy roads and released him up in the fields and hedgerows beyond Easton. So if you see One Eyed Peter, do say hello to him. And please drive carefully ... and PLEASE don't squash him.

*Juliet Howland*

# IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP

Even if you normally look after yourself perfectly well, the COVID-19 outbreak has made life harder for everyone.

If you need help to get food, medicine or you are finding it hard to manage without anyone to assist you **please call**

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## Itchen Abbas Primary School

The children of Itchen Abbas Primary School may not have been at school during lockdown but have still been working very hard and we are incredibly proud of them. The teachers have been using Google Classroom to set work and keep in touch. The children can message each other, speak to their teachers and upload their work through this online facility. It is really helpful for them to be able to see the familiar faces of their teachers and classmates. Continuity and reassurance are so important during this time, and also enjoying their class story together each day.

The children have also been thinking of the wider community and the older people in particular who may be feeling lonely during this time of isolation and missing their families. They have each been given a name and the children are writing letters, poems, stories and drawing pictures and sending them regularly to their new friends.

We are incredibly proud of all of our staff at this time who are working so hard to make sure that not only the children working at home are being helped, but also those coming into school to teach the keyworkers' children. Their cheerfulness and willingness to undertake anything that is asked of them is amazing and is what makes our school the wonderful place it is.

Last week we were all very excited to come together for our first ever whole school celebration assembly via Zoom. A child from each class was congratulated for their work and attitude and we heard from their teachers, parents and classmates about why they deserved this award at this time before hearing from them. It was lovely to see all the faces of the children, teaching staff and governors celebrating the children and coming together for the first time as a school. We are looking forward to more opportunities to take part in assemblies in this way.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents for their kind words and amazing support during this time, all of the teaching staff for their limitless enthusiasm and adaptability and for our WONDERFUL children, of whom we are so proud.  
*The Governors of  
Itchen Abbas Primary  
School*



Whole School Assembly, Zoom Style

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## From the Parish Council.

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Those who follow the Itchen list should have already seen several postings regarding the two planning applications by Southern Water for a “temporary pipeline”

to take water from springs near the Candover stream and pump it seven kilometres into the river via the fish farm in Itchen Abbas. Apart from where it has to cross under roads, driveways and entrances to fields, this pipeline will be above ground. The aim is that in time of “severe drought” it will supply extra water into the Itchen. To put it directly into the Candover stream will cause a problem for the white crayfish that live there. It is claimed that this pipeline will only be needed as a temporary measure over ten years until an alternative water supply can be found for Southampton, for example a desalination plant.

That may sound all well and good but think what it will be like in reality. The concept is that the pipeline will be put in place each time a severe drought is anticipated and then removed once it has been decided the drought is over. When not in place it will be stored outside in a number of depots.

Installation and removal operations are likely to take several weeks, possibly more than a month, with large heavy vehicles blocking the lanes and churning up the countryside. When in place the black pipe with an outside diameter of over half a metre will be a scar across the rural landscape. The intention is to lay it along the hedgerows which during installation and removal will be disruptive to wildlife and if in place at the time of year for hedge cutting,

make that impossible. When stored in the outside depots it will still be an eyesore. Worst of all the final overground section will be within the South Downs National Park and will run from the Watercress Way (The Old Railway Line) down to the B3047 in Itchen Abbas. Southern Water are not committing themselves to exactly where they intend to put this length of pipe. It could be anywhere from the driveway to opposite the fish farm entrance, (footpath 34, see the photograph) to the woodland in the grounds of The Old Rectory which would be even worse. Over ground it would be an eyesore and contrary to the prime purpose of the National Park. In the woodland area each operation of installation and removal would cause permanent damage to the trees and be detrimental to the wildlife habitat. To put it underground in this area is not possible unless there is a wish to destroy most of the trees. If you care about the countryside, our setting within a National Park and if you have not already done so please send in your objections without delay.

There are two applications:-

The scheme inside the SDNP is at; SDNP/20/01352/FUL.

The scheme outside the SDNP is at; 20/00731/HCS and is being dealt with by HCC

The Parish Council has, along with others, already submitted its objections. As there have been changes made to the scheme we are making further comments to supplement of our objections. Although the official date has passed, there has been an indication that later comments will be taken into account. Numbers matter and if you do not object now it will be too late to raise an outcry and complain if and when the pipeline goes

in.

Whilst the Covid 19 lockdown continues, we are still seeing what else might be done, passing on information and ideas. Local neighbourhood groups seem to be working well and the sense of community lasting. One great success has been the 75 VE day celebration with “goody bags” sent to the over 75s. Thanks go to Yvette from the Parish Council and Charlotte from Cameo for organising this event, Red Radish Catering who provided, tea bags, cream, butter, jam and the bags in which to put it all, Beccy who produced and printed the leaflets and all the helpers from scone bakers, to bag fillers, to deliverers. (please see article on page 20). As lockdown is slowly eased there may be even more walkers in the Valley. We are looking to see if there are any further ways to help distancing on the footpaths. In the

meantime please keep to the paths and respect the countryside. Everything is now beginning to grow. The Parish Council will be using the Lengthsman to keep as many paths clear as possible and will be employing him for extra days but we cannot do it all. Therefore a reminder to all those with rights of way across their land, can they please keep the paths clear and see that overgrowth is cut back.

Despite the lockdown and not holding our annual meetings, other end of year tasks have been carried out. We continue to hold our council meetings by Zoom. If you want to find in detail more about what has been done, our minutes are on our website, as is the annual report. Be warned, it is quite long.

Happy reading.

*Patrick Appleby.*







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## Tony's Ices melt hearts in Easton!

After another week of lockdown and home-schooling, there were smiles all round when Tony's ice cream van visited Easton. With pre-ordered ice creams of 'Ice cream tubs' and 'Whippy Trays', ranging from Crunchie to Fizzy Mix and Ferrero Rocher, the iconic van, complete with memory inducing music, delivered its ice delights directly to the front door. This initiative has a heart-warming history. The ladies behind the wheel are the daughters of Tony Lampietro. Tony delivered ice cream to the Winchester community for 25 years. When he passed away his children, Nicole, a support worker in the NHS and Natasha, an accountant, were so attached to the van that they couldn't bring themselves to sell it. Years later they decided to resurrect his business



at weekends around their day jobs. "It was emotionally challenging but also rewarding as we got to meet so many of dad's regular customers throughout Winchester and truly got a feel for the reputation he's built up throughout his years". The business has now been going for four years but due to the current situation, this year is especially challenging. "As a family we needed to think outside the box and work out how we could reach our regular customers but also keep them safe". The idea of a contactless delivery service was born and it's been very well received. As Nicole says "Up until three weeks ago, I didn't have any social media presence. Since then I have over 800 followers on my Facebook page and honestly couldn't have done this without the loyal, kind and generous regular customers spreading the word throughout Winchester, but not only them, also the new customers who I am meeting along the way such as your lovely village". It's hoped that Tony's ices will become a regular sight in the valley. You can find more about this service on their Facebook page or Instagram. For delivery information and to place an order, contact them on 07502 242256. Minimum order £10, which you pay online.

*Lucy Wolfe*



## Our Wild Valley : Haring about.

Brown hare spotting is just about being lucky. My first encounter this year was cycling back down from a recce of the flowering state of the bluebells in mid April. Two hares came haring fast up the road towards me, followed by other cyclists. One hare stopped just in front of my wheel. At last I saw all those beautiful hare paintings in a face which was halted by fear; what a

portrait it was, with amber bullets for eyes. We stared each other out until it dashed off into a narrow path through the hedgerow, where eventually both hares found their escape.

Our local fields have also proved lucky. I walked around the corner of a hedge and a hare nearly ran into me. It bounded off and joined three others in the corn field. They milled about for quite a while but then quite casually two of them started to box. I hadn't seen this since the days of badger surveying around Stonehenge in 2004 when I spent time walking field boundaries, watching hares bouncing around and generally getting into fights (the hares not me)! This work was for the new building of the visitor centre, which did get built. At the time surveys were already underway for the road tunnel, with building work for this beginning in 2021 (possibly).

I tried to take photos of the hares in our local fields but this didn't work as I was still figuring out the new camera. But the animals kept casually popping into the centre for a box, while others

watched. I had to leave them there, still busy, flitting about, paws up and bouncing around using up a lot of energy. It is typically a female that is fending off the advance of a male, or testing him to see how tough he is. Mating happens between March and September and they can have up to 4 litters so they still could be quite active in early mornings in summer months before they are disturbed.

Quite often more females can be watching to also check out the male and when you see them in a

coordinated ring around the boxers it can look rather strange. Hares are usually solitary animals, they don't live in a burrow but lie up in scrub or long grass in shallow depressions called 'forms'. To keep safe these animals are built to run and are very powerful - look at those legs, and they have been recorded running up to 45mph. Their pale

coloured fur gives them good camouflage, especially needed when with their leverets. These are born fully furred and eyes open ready to run, but the mother will need them to sit tight all day until she returns with food (soft grassy shoots including wheat and barley leaves). Fox is the most common predator.

### **Wild Valley Verges - Facebook page up and wilding!**

Calling all photographers and walkers/ cyclists/ riders of all ages with camera or phone. If you have been getting out into the countryside more recently and have spotted plants, insects, birds, mammals or other wildlife please do have a look at our new Facebook page for 'Wild Valley Verges' where you can share your photos and wildlife stories.



Naming plants can be challenging at times, but we want to encourage all ages to see if they can remember/ learn a few: spot it, know it, name it and care for it.

Helen Ellis-Brown designed for us some very smart signs that we are using with our 'Adopt a Verge' scheme - please sign up. We can advise on managing your verge or patch of grass appropriately for encouraging wildlife. Wishing everyone a safe June.

*Sophie Rogers*

## CAMEO

This stands for **C**ome **A**nd **M**ee**t** **E**ach **O**ther. It consists of a short lunchtime service followed by a delicious two-course lunch, home made by the team. The invitation is extended to all over 65s in the parish, and their carers or a friend or family member if appropriate. It is free and so enjoyable that several people who have had to move out of the parish still come and join in each month. Lifts can be organised for those who do not drive. We are of course in recess at the moment but we are keeping in touch with our friends as much as possible. In normal times Cameo takes place on the third Tuesday of each month, in St John's Church, Itchen Abbas, taking advantage of the splendid re-ordering of the

building and addition of the kitchen and toilet carried out when Nick and Lavinia Owen were at the helm.

If you would like to know more please give me a ring - 01962 779 778, or talk to any of the wonderful team.

*Charlotte Appleby*

## Ducks

At this time of the year we had to have a photo of ducklings! Normal clutch



size is 12 but many are lost to predators such as herons, pike or otters. Mallards, the ancestors of the domestic duck, are dabbling ducks, upending as they feed.

*Elaine Labram*

## Letter from the rectory



A recent poll by YouGov found that fewer than one in ten people want Britain to return to "normal" after lockdown is lifted. Can a

few short weeks really make people feel that differently? What is it they don't want to go back to? And what is it they really want instead?



Many are not clear yet what they want instead but the changes have been enough to show them that they don't really like what went before as much as they thought they did. Or to be more precise they are realising the cost they have had to pay for the 'good' things they had.

The trigger, of course, was what had been lost, or rather replaced by something better. The realisation that the skies were clearer with almost no aviation, that the air was cleaner. People found they could breathe more easily.

They could see further.

In a village in India it was reported that they could now see the Himalayas. Something apparently no one

under sixty could remember because of the air pollution.

Many felt a stronger sense of community and despite social distancing felt they were more in touch with friends and family. In terms of news, climate change has taken a back seat; after all journalists can't cope with more than one headline story at a time (anyone remember Brexit?). But increased sightings of wildlife and a greater appreciation of nature have made us increasingly aware that the health of people and the health of the planet are inseparable and that it's time for radical environmental, social, political and economic change.

As you might expect there is no agreement here. Some see it as a period of decline, others see it as an opportunity. People are trying new things and noticing differences, at home, in their work and in communities.

What has happened is so significant in

impact and ramifications that I don't feel our communities will ever be the same again. My sense is that the Church as a community needs to be open to step into the spaces that this creates as well as being alongside their communities in living through the challenges that will grow out of this.

We need to think of more ways we can reach out to the wider community, especially the lonely and isolated. We

need to step forward and throw the moneychangers out of the Temple. It is a chance for the church to reconnect with communities and forge a new and more cohesive role in society.

It should be easy to keep the good and make something better out of this you may well say, after all that's what 90% want. Just a warning though, I suspect that the 9% who want a complete return to 'normal' may include some of the wealthiest and most powerful and prove a real stumbling block unless we all work together.

*Gerry Stacey LLM*

## Comings & Goings

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Congratulations to Lou & Quentin James of Church Lane, Martyr Worthy on the safe arrival of Harriet, a sister for Evelyn. Also congratulations to Georgie & Rob Adam of Chillandham lane, on the safe arrival of Rufus, a brother for Otilie, Wilfred & Merryn. Welcome to Mary & Malcolm Hogg, parents of Lucy de Laszlo of Chilland House, who will be moving into Chilland cottage.

*Simon & Lucinda Ffennell*



Tribute to V E Day from



m Avington House

## A Journal of the Plague Year

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by Daniel Defoe.

At the time of the Great Plague in 1665, Defoe was five years old and so can have had only imperfect memories of that time. He therefore researched minutely all available records of that pandemic and in his pursuit of journalistic realism he uses the persona of the rather anonymous H.F. to recount, with unsentimental realism, life in London in 1665.

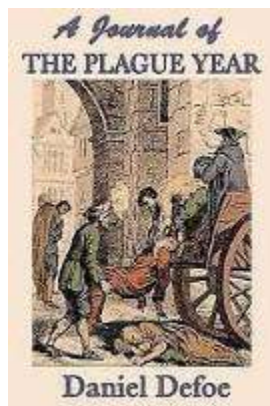
Although Defoe/H.F. seems to have a rather didactic purpose and gives an excessive number of details, he also provides a vivid and distressing account of the effects of the plague as it spreads from the areas of St. Giles and Long Acre towards the City. H.F. wonders if he should leave London and travel with his brother into the country. He feels guided by God to stay - the churches are regularly full, often using the services of Dissenting preachers - and he is also concerned about abandoning his saddlery business. The choice is to save his ailing business or to save himself. His decision to stay in London means that he witnesses and starkly describes horrific events.

He also tells a rather wonderful tale of three men, "an old soldier, but now a biscuit-maker, a lame sailor, but now a sailmaker, and a joiner." These three decide to try to escape to the country. They have been given an aged horse on which they manage to pack a tent, made by the sailmaker, and other provisions. The account of their vicissitudes, their amazing courage, fortitude and their self sufficiency is enthralling. It is also a tale of the kindness of strangers. Although this book is obviously not

light reading, it is an absorbing if sometimes repetitive account of a time which has obvious parallels with our time in 2020.

Mercifully, we are blessed with the NHS and with modern hygiene. H.F. describes how, as the plague died down at the end of the year, every householder who could afford to do so burned fires in each room in an attempt to purify the air: "Two or three were pleased to set their houses on fire and so effectually sweetened them by burning them down to the ground." This is a rare, wryly humorous comment in an account of dreadful times.

Clare Gaster



## From our MP

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Many constituents have rightly observed to me in recent years what a time this is to be in Parliament.

They are not wrong and it has tested us all like never before. The past few months have of course been simply awful for everyone and, none more so, than those directly impacted by **Covid 19**. Our prayers remain with them and, as I said in Parliament, our thanks and respect continue for our key workers locally.

Whether it be physical or mental



health, society, economy, travel - our market linked pensions in the long-term – I suspect we have yet to feel even half of the impact of this pandemic.

But we are determined it will not take our country backwards and hit hardest those least able to cope, which is why I have supported the Government help available to support businesses, workers and individuals, of course recognising the vast cost and debt incurred.

When I spoke in the House of Commons last month, in the first major general debate about Covid19, I called on my friend the Chancellor to extend the furlough scheme and ensure flexibility lies at its heart. I did that after speaking with a large number of constituents, local businesses and those who speak for them and have been working hard to convey the view of Winchester to the heart of Government.

The subsequently announced extension, to the end of October, of the furlough scheme is plain common sense as is the change to allow some part-time work for these employers. This flexibility is crucial if we're to keep businesses not just alive but 'match fit' and ready to trade fully when it is safe to do so. I will go on making representations to Ministers. I haven't of course held back from challenging the Government where I think that is needed and I have led the line nationally in seeking parity between those on PAYE and self-employed workers. I will go on making the case for those left out of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and thank the many constituents (and people from around the country) who have helped me in that work. In other news, and there is plenty, I

continue my campaign as I promised, to fight for our **early years providers**.

They were struggling with the unintended impact of the free 30-hours entitlement and recent rises in the national living wage long before the pandemic. I am using all my experience to fight for this sector as I did in the last Parliament around school funding. And finally, you would be forgiven for not knowing all that much about the issue of **nitrates in the Solent**.

However, it is a huge problem and has created deadlock across much of the housing industry in our area and is perversely prioritising greenfield over brownfield development. Local councillors have tried their best but this requires national attention which is why I raised it in Parliament recently and am working urgently with fellow MPs and Ministers on new guidance. Find my page for instant updates on my work in the constituency and in Westminster.

Steve Brine

*MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley*

## Eric Hobbs RIP

---

Under the special circumstances of coronavirus lockdown, eight of us said goodbye at Test Valley Crematorium to Eric Hobbs, a lifetime resident of Easton.

Eric Alfred Hobbs was my Great Uncle and what a truly great man he was.

99 years ago my Great Grandfather Charlie Hobbs helped to build number 3 Chapel Lane, Easton Village, and this house became the Hobbs family home. Uncle Eric was the seventh of eight children born in the house and he lived there his entire life, becoming one of the oldest residents in Easton.

As a child he attended Easton school and at 16 was called up for National

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Service at RAF Calshot. He was responsible for the service and repairs of the Air Sea Rescue boats and signed up to serve an extra year, serving three in total.

He went on to work for Green & Carter as a groundsman for many

years. He was a huge Hampshire cricket fan and took great pleasure in playing for Easton and Martyr Worthy. He enjoyed a drop of Southern Comfort and was a regular at his local the Cricketers, where he had many friends and in years past he had helped set up the pub and change barrels. He enjoyed his garden and with help from uncle Francis would grow a variety of vegetables.

Uncle Eric was a character, who was loved by his family and friends. He told a good story but didn't mince his words, he called a spade a spade.

Losing him during this crisis robbed us of saying our final goodbyes, but I believe he knew we were thinking of him and praying for him until the end. All in all he had a pretty good innings but was bowled out too soon.

God bless you uncle Eric, rest in peace.

*Lorraine Bradbeer*



New dawn in the Itchen Valley - anti-frost candles at the vineyard

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## The Practical Gardener

I can't resist showing a pic of my new clematis (below). Gardening is always an adventure and even the experts today admit to things not quite going as they should. Well I can first share with you concerns from some in the Valley Gardeners about growing beans. It seems this year seeds have been reluctant to germinate. I have certainly experienced that and I have no explanation. I started with 3 new packets of seed, grown in propagators and germination was patchy. Not so with broad beans sown months ago. I wondered if temperature was an issue so bought my propagators into the workshop out of the sun. Things have improved a bit.

I'm writing this so folk may not be discouraged when things don't quite go right. In my greenhouse now, as I write, I have over 300 seedlings, seeds and small plants. What I can say with confidence is that some flowers are



dead easy and totally reliable: cosmos, marigold, aster, sunflower and antirrhinums to name a few. Whereas petunias and geranium are, in my view best left to experts. If you want to get children involved in such activity, it's really important to choose seeds that are easy and reliable to grow.

In the vegetable garden, what's outside is all doing well. This year, I am trying butternut squash and aubergine in addition to pumpkin and courgette.

The potatoes are well away. I've been surprised at folk offering early varieties to plant now. Too late, in my view, I want to harvest earlies in June and I am sure not to be disappointed. Such an easy crop to grow and we all have our favourites. It's all for the flavour!

Many of us will have been caught by the May frosts. Not just one but several cold nights. Someone wrote about not casting a clout till May is out, wise words. I lost a lot of marigolds, strangely in random parts of the garden, yet nothing else was affected. Again, I can't explain that. I also don't have the patience to put huge sheets out over what I have planted.

However, I did keep the heater on standby in the greenhouse.

Last month I shared experiences with many on-line suppliers. I should report, out of the blue, *Mountfolly* nursery got back to me but I had lost confidence in them. Plants delivered by post are always a risk; sometimes they arrive

While all activities in the village halls are suspended, booking information is given in case you wish to make a reservation.

Easton Village Hall Ina Williams 779465 or [evh.booking@googlemail.com](mailto:evh.booking@googlemail.com)

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### Martyr Worthy Village Hall

Lucinda Ffennell 779701 or [simon@ffennell.plus.com](mailto:simon@ffennell.plus.com)

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### Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

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## Itchen Valley Churches

At this time we will be broadcasting our services online at 10am each Sunday, the post with the link will be left on our website each week, so if you are not able to tune in on Sunday, you can do this at any time afterwards. The link for the service will also be sent to all followers of the church website - to become a follower please add your email details in the box in the bottom right hand side of our home page so that you can be kept up to date on what the church is doing.

We may not be able to gather as we normally do, but we're still here if you need prayerful or practical support.

### Rector

Revd Alex Pease - [rector@itchenvalleychurches.org](mailto:rector@itchenvalleychurches.org) - 01962 779845

### LLM

Mr Gerry Stacey - [gstacey@easynet.co.uk](mailto:gstacey@easynet.co.uk) - 07554 438973

### Parish Administrator

Beccy Clark - [admin@itchenvalleychurches.org](mailto:admin@itchenvalleychurches.org) - 01962 779845

[www.itchenvalleychurches.org](http://www.itchenvalleychurches.org)

dried out or damaged. So far, I have been pleased with *Suttons*, who always let me know when things are dispatched. I buy gazanias and geraniums from them every year. My local lawn expert has been round with the spring feed and weed. It means the lawn clippings cannot be composted from the first three cuts. This is essential to know because one year I forgot and the remnants of weed killer in my compost did some harm. I'm not sure how things are covered when such clippings go in the green bag for collection. There is a noticeable difference in the results and if you want a really good lawn, it does need such attention.



This year, I remodelled a cage for my brassicas and used a fine mesh netting which will keep the cabbage whites at bay. Whilst I am pleased with the result, getting into this cage is quite tricky. There is always weeding to do. However, I am hopeful of a good crop of broccoli in June. I think in the growing of vegetables, there's another chance for education. Peas do not come from nature in a frozen plastic bag! It's really good for children to see how nature works, even if they don't want to get their hands dirty. Lastly about weather. It's been dry, oh so dry, so watering for many plants is



needed. Onions don't like it too dry but I have been watering all my crops twice weekly. Harvested rainwater or recycled water can be used and that's another area that needs national attention. I'm a firm believer that all new homes should have water storage but it requires a change in the law. Perhaps not practical in all areas but we should make a start, Happy Gardening! Tony Gaster.

## Martyr Worthy Plant Sale – Swan Song

---

This year has put paid to many well-laid plans including that of the Plant Sale. Katherine Impey and Sophie Parry, together with their dedicated band of helpers, toiled through all weathers to produce a spectacular range of plants in hope of a bumper day on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. But it was not to be. Back in March a final plan was evolved in an attempt to at least offer some sort of opportunity to those living in the immediate area to buy some plants and a system was devised offering an ordering and delivery service via the Itchen List, thus limiting contact to a minimum number of helpers. After just one day of "trading" that plan was scuppered because of the Prime Minister's





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announcement and again the Plant Sale was in limbo!

Hard work kept the plants watered and tended during the hot weather in the hope that more trading could be achieved. During the time lapse, the ownership of Chilland changed hands so thanks are also due to the new occupants.

With the lifting of restrictions last week, we have finally been able to complete the balance of orders that flooded in after the March advertisement and this has resulted in over £4,000 being raised for the Itchen Valley Parish – an amazing total in the circumstances and almost beyond wildest hopes.

*Pauline and Lee Tovell*

## New Book on Covid

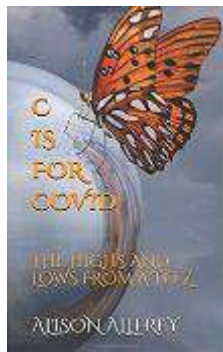
Covid-19 came like a thunderbolt as we entered 2020. It has turned our way of life, our health, our families, our

communities, our economy and potentially our future upside down. Faced with this monumental challenge, how have we Brits responded, what has made us laugh or cry and how might we remember it?

Step into the first hand reflections of a mother, daughter of doctors, and non-essential worker. Time on the loo has never been so well spent.

Alison will be contributing 20% of the profits to the Hampshire Medical Fund, which is financing key equipment for hospitals in Winchester, Basingstoke and Andover in record times during the crisis.

*Nathalie Paterson*



## The Stain of Sadness

by  
*Imogen Barot*



Painful times of sadness, fear and uncertainty

The loss of loved ones gone forever

The sad song of sorrow hangs in the air

The hole of silence of a loved one  
who used to be there

The nightmare of sorrow always here

The repetitive story of families torn apart

Of people wishing they could go back to the start

Instead they are here, dancing in the dark

The stain of sadness and cold night air

The fear for others who always care

The melody of emotions that hang in the balance

The ruins of silence where laughter once stood

The empty seat at the dinner table  
where a loved one once sat

The empty shoes that lie on the mat

The unworn jumper, made out of cotton

And the memory of a loved one who  
will never be forgotten.



# A History of Pandemics



## Can we learn from the past? Part One

These are pretty weird times, but it is not the only time that the world has been affected by a

global pandemic. The Black Death, also known as the Bubonic Plague, had three large breakouts in the last two thousand years. The first in Egypt and the Middle East in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, the second was in Europe in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century, and third and final breakout was in China and India in the late 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Bubonic Plague is caused by bacteria named *Yersinia Pestis* and often thought to be spread by rats. Recent research has shown that bubonic plague is spread by fleas that have bitten the rat then bit the human. The disease was passed on from human to human by coughing and sneezing, and the bacteria would then get into the lungs. The symptoms started with aches, extreme tiredness, a bad fever, coughing and sneezing. Then buboes (large swellings) start to form around the armpits, neck and groin area and

people also start to cough up blood. Finally, the buboes burst and then the carrier dies. It was a brutal and extremely painful disease and had a very high mortality rate.

The 14<sup>th</sup> century outbreak of the plague is the worst recorded pandemic in history, killing between 75-200 million people, wiping out over half of Europe's population. It was devastating mainly due to the lack of scientific understanding. Many of the cures and precautions taken made the illness worse rather than better. One of the more logical ones was that they believed if they burst the buboes it would release the bacteria. Doing

this was counterproductive as they would probably be using a dirty poker to burst it leading to the wound being infected and so the patient then dies of sepsis instead. Leeches to drain the blood or eating a spoonful of ten-year-old treacle every day were a couple of the more inventive suggestions along with prayer and self-flagellation.

Although the cures weren't that smart, people did understand that the disease was spread airborne from person to person, so they did create a few ways of stopping the spread of the disease. For example, they used the bird like masks that are commonly associated with the Black Death. In their beaks they would have a filter system which they filled with herbs and other scented things. The smartest way of protection, I think, was their invention of quarantine. The disease came into

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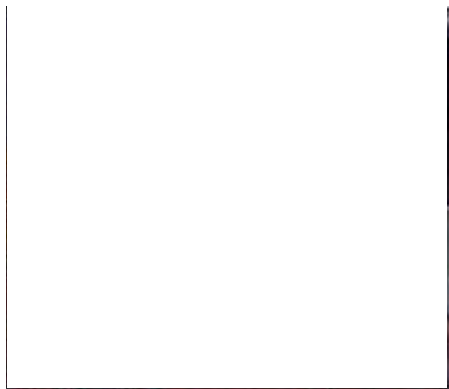
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Europe from trading ships coming from China and Asia, and so in Italy they would leave the trading ships out in the bay for 40 days (quaranta giorni – hence the word quarantine) until they were allowed to dock. The disease eventually stopped when the survivors who had developed immunity passed that onto their children.

Next month – a comparison of the plague and corona virus.

Ned Wolfe

## Run out of books to read?

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When I was child, as a family we had very few books of our own. But my parents encouraged me to read and our weekly trip to the library in Bristol was the window to another world of literary adventures.

Alas, at the moment all libraries are closed so whatever paper books you have on your shelves at home are likely to be the ones you'll be reading again

and again. However, if you have internet access there are literally millions of volumes available to devour. Sadly, many of these only come from online bookshops where you are required to pay for the privilege. This is where BorrowBox comes into play, a free lending library where your subscription has been paid for by the County Council.

It's pretty easy to sign up via the HCC Library website using your library borrower's card number via the "Borrowing from your local library eBooks and eAudiobooks" link. You are limited to a total of five eBooks either being read or reserved so if you are reading a series of novels, for example, you can have the next four lined up ready for when you finish the current volume. Depending on how many other readers want an eBook, just like a normal library not all items are available for instant borrowing but, unlike the physical library, it costs nothing to place a reservation.

You can browse the entire collection if you wish but I often pick ones from the moving conveyor belt along the top of the webpage. This method gave me two random novels from BorrowBox only last week. *The Time Travel Diaries* by Caroline Lawrence is a ripping adventure in ancient London really written for children but great for adults too and *The Man Who Didn't Call* by Rosie Walsh is a multi-tissue romantic novel with so many twists and turns that I couldn't figure out the likely ending until the last couple of chapters, and only then did I figure out the relevance of the first chapter!

If you can get online, do sign up and have a go. A world of reading awaits you!

Vernon Tottle



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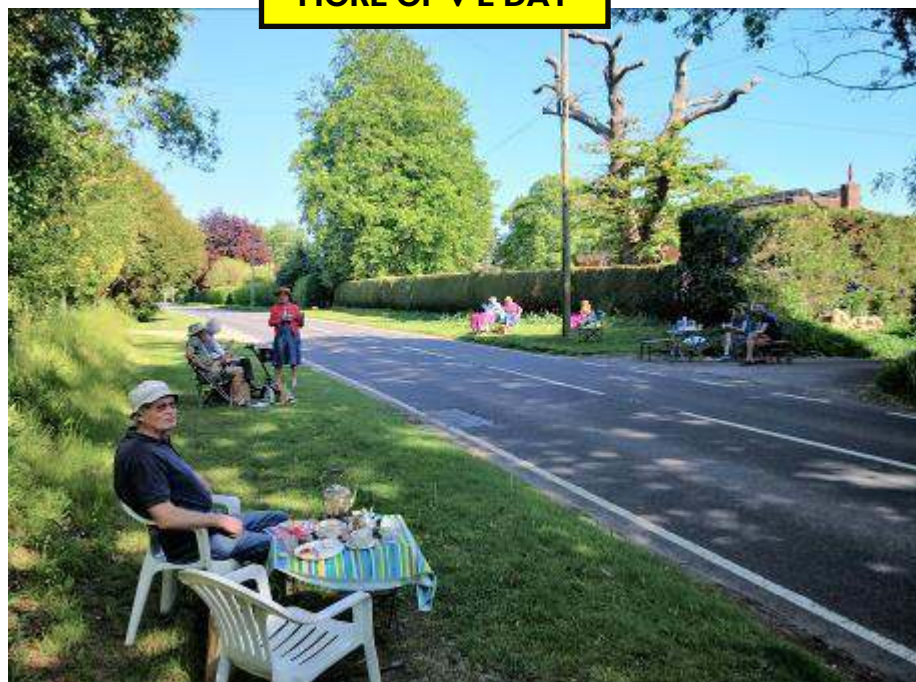
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**[nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk](https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk)**

Help is available if you have a medical condition which makes you vulnerable to COVID-19, especially if you are over 70. You also qualify if you are pregnant or have a disability.

Royal Voluntary Services is a registered charity 1015888 (England) and 900389243 (Scotland).



## Local monthly information

### Itchen Valley area waste collections in June

Black bins and green bags on Friday 5 and 19 June. Green bins on Fridays 12 and 26 June. Glass boxes on Friday 26 June.

### Cameo

Now cancelled.

### Farmers Market in Winchester

Now cancelled.

### Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 4 June. Virtual meeting accessible via Zoom.

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