

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 81 September 2020

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WELCOME to the Valley News



As I write, still in August, there is a distinctly autumnal feel in the air. This strange year is now into its last third and shows little sign of becoming any less strange. However, this edition of the Valley News is full of stories about nature, both wild and cultivated. There are magnificent photographs of plants and animals - we have many talented contributors. You will also see photographs of people - some of the glittering party people of Easton celebrating the reopening of the Chestnut Horse. The other pubs in the Valley have also been busy - how many of us have taken up the Chancellor's offer to eat out to help out?

The What's On section is meagre but not bare - do please take part in as many of the events as you safely can. The litter pick is not glamorous and will be less attractive this year without the WI tea and cake, but those of us who have been privileged to undergo lockdown in such a lovely place do perhaps have an obligation to do what we can to keep it lovely.

The play at Southwood House will be huge fun. It is a murder mystery, a domestic comedy and a period piece, set in the days when a man stood up when a woman entered the room!

One of the events bravely continuing is Heritage Open Days. Much of this, but not all, will be on line and an enormous amount of work has gone into producing it all. Do have a look, I am sure you will find something of interest. Although not in the Valley itself, the West Meon Music Festival deserves support. Professional musicians have been badly hit by the restrictions and

the Festival has made a brave decision. It clashes with the play but both are on for more than one day so it is possible to go to both. Buy your tickets soon; I predict they will sell out.

The Covid app described on page 31 is very easy to manage and provides immensely valuable information to researchers. I urge you please to download and use it if you have a smartphone.

Next month's editors are Lucy and Fi, so do please send in contributions - and maybe your reviews of the events announced in this magazine.

Best wishes for the new term to those in education - and their parents.

Charlotte Appleby

Itchen Valley News

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Cover photo by Charlotte Appleby, other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Not much, unfortunately, so do join in what there is!

Heritage Open Days 11 - 20 September

Also online. See pages 22 and 23

Murder for Southwood Players, 11, 12 and 13 September

See pages 8 and 9 for more details and book your tickets soon.

Circular walks around the whole Watercress Way Aug-October 2020

The charity is starting a series of seven guided walks, Covid permitting! We cover most of the marathon length trail. We have suggested pubs / cafes for any walkers to book in to individually. Together with help from our DoE volunteers, we are writing up the walks to go on our website <https://www.thewatercressway.org.uk/walks/>



West Meon Music Festival, 11 and 12 September

West Meon church is happy to host a socially-distanced audience of up to 65 for three concerts on 11 and 12 September. The three short concerts (no intervals to avoid unnecessary social contact among the audience) on Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening will include such favourites as Mozart's *Piano Quartet in E-flat* and Beethoven's *String Trio in G major*. Saturday afternoon's concert is a tribute to the plight of the musician in lockdown, with each member of the quartet performing their favourite solo work – a Bach cello suite, a chaconne



The Primrose Piano Quartet

for violin, one of Brahms' piano intermezzi and Stravinsky's *Elegy for Viola*. There will also be a distinct French flavour to the programmes with works by Fauré and Chausson reflecting the Primrose Quartet's next planned CD to be released in 2021. The quartet's recording has been highly recommended on Radio 3's *Record Review*.

Full details of the concert programmes can be found on the festival website (www.westmeonmusic.co.uk) with online booking now available for tickets at £15 for main aisle seats and £12 for side aisles. Given the limited number of seats available, early booking is recommended and concert goers will need to indicate whether they are booking tickets for a single household or bubble to meet track and trace guidelines and allow seats to be preallocated. If you are unable to book online then please contact the box office on 01489 891055 for alternative options.

Sue Scholes

www.westmeonmusic.co.uk

26 September - The Great British September Clean

See page 16 and the Parish Council report for more details.

Martyr Worthy lecture series further (disappointing) news

The crystal ball is still pretty foggy and it's hard to see how or when the Government's current guidelines will change. We have therefore reluctantly reached the conclusion that we can't offer an indoor lecture to a large audience, and we have decided to postpone the whole series from 2020/2021 to the similar dates in 2021/2022. We will publicise the new dates as soon as they can be confirmed.
Verity Coleman, Gilly Greenwood, Joanna Lang and Liz Platt

Chestnut Horse reopens

The Chestnut Horse celebrated its reopening in style with many local bon-viveurs in bubbles or socially distanced! The Landlord, Tom Bodle, is in the blue shirt.



VJ Day

VJ day (15 August) was as usual much more low key than VE Day. However, John Lang marked it by circulating, on the Itchen List, a letter written by his father 75 years before. He has kindly agreed to its publication in the News. Ed

The letter was written by my father to my mother and dated 15 August 1945. We now refer to it as VJ Day - Victory over Japan Day.

It was short, written in pencil and on a





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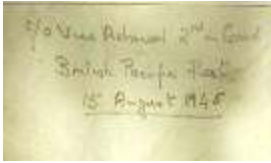
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My 29 year
old naval
officer father

was serving at the time in the battleship HMS King George V as the Fleet Aviation Officer to the CinC British Pacific Fleet. At the time the ship was operating off the coast of Japan some 70 miles from Tokyo and, a bit like the forgotten Army in Burma, the Royal Navy's presence in the Pacific theatre has largely been ignored. My mother was living in the family home in the borders of Scotland and totally reliant on the occasional, censored, air mail letter from my father serving in the Far East for news. The following is drawn from the original and is almost exactly as he wrote it.....

"Shortly after 11 o'clock this forenoon local time, the signal was hoisted in gaily coloured bunting from masthead and yardarm "Cease hostilities against Japan." I went up on deck to see the memorable sight and decided that whatever the chance of mails were, I must write this evening to you to tell you of the terrific feeling I have of relief and thankfulness. The war is over. Nearly six years ago I walked across the meadows just below your family home in Sussex and heard the sirens wail to mark the beginning of the war. You were at my side then, and in the many months of fear, unhappiness, boredom and general grimness since, you have never left me. At no time can I ever remember having had any doubt whatsoever as to the ultimate outcome of the war. It was a faith in oneself and the great company of allies and yet, to me, that faith lay in the one place that never failed, never wavered; you. So when I thank almighty God for

everything, I must thank him too for making things easier for me and for providing a real centre for my faith and hope. In spite of a two year separation I feel closer to you than ever. And now my one job is to make a start in the world for our two sons. We must teach them faith, a raison d'être and the rest will follow."

I was one of the two sons. I was 4 and my brother was nearly 2. And as we commemorate VJ Day, I can't but help think that with all the uncertainties and anxiety we are all going through today, there are still some valuable lessons to be learned from the past. These are challenging times and it may be difficult for us. But just remember what our parents and grandparents went through those many years ago; long separation, unreliable communications, uncertainty and, given the grave economic situation at the time, a very challenging future. Some of those challenges remain with us still.
John Lang, President. Itchen Valley Royal British Legion Branch



The Hollow for Charity

I surprised myself when I worked out that in our five previous plays, the Southwood Players have raised some £50,000 for charity. It is one of the things we can be proud of as well as the community involvement – and then we get to the acting. This is what we cast tend to think it is all about.

Amateur dramatics can be just an escape for the actors but our three afternoon performances of Agatha Christie's *The Hollow* on September 11th to 13th will be different. They are also about getting the community out of lockdown to have some fun and about helping out charities who have been so hard hit by the pandemic. In September we need to start the performances earlier than for our previous July plays. Picnics will be afternoon tea and drinks and social distancing will be the necessity on and off stage.

The details are set out in the flyer on the opposite page and much more can be found at

www.southwoodplayers.org.uk where tickets can be booked and donations made to the charities.

It has been a torrid time for the arts and performances and events of almost all sorts. Southwood Players decided back in June to start Zoom rehearsals in the hope that we could be ready to put on the play as soon as it was possible. Waiting until next year was a poor option. September is challenging, but seemed right as our part of returning to some form of normality. Starting rehearsals on our terrace soon showed both how complicated social distancing is, in spite of all the hard work already put in by our long-suffering director Anna McGowan, and the shortage of time for the team to

design and build the set and collect costumes and props. Who mentioned time to learn our lines? Sadly we lost two of our original cast to holidays, but there are some new faces including Phoebe Culshaw, James and Natalie Paterson and Cat Kennedy, continuing our tradition of having a female police sergeant.

We return to Agatha Christie after the gossipy humour of Noel Coward and Oscar Wilde. Choosing plays is not easy, not just to fit the characters to the available actors, but to find a single set that can be made to work on the odd shape of the Southwood House terrace. We return happily to Agatha Christie following our success with *Murder at the Vicarage*. While Christie does not write as a humourist, she has a fine observation of character and its foibles and that provides the laughs.

She wrote the script for the play herself and retained the characterisation and humour that has often been lost in other adaptations of her books for the screen. The book features Hercule Poirot but she wrote him out of the play – perhaps just as well that we did not have to cast the little Belgian with the awkward walk.

Southwood Players was set up with the intention of raising money for local charities. The Itchen Valley Churches have always been beneficiaries in part because the church going community has always been so much involved. Our other long term beneficiary has been the Winchester branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society who have used the money to help support specialist classes at Hobbs Rehabilitation, the highly regarded neural specialists in Martyr Worthy. This year we have added the Winchester Young Carers, who have been providing support to up to one hundred 8 to 18 year olds who

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care for incapacitated parents and siblings, often missing out on a normal youth without proper schooling, friends and social activity to the detriment of their education and life chances. We have not had the time and circumstances to raise sponsorship as we usually do and are therefore more than ever dependant on generous donations to be able to give good support to these worthy causes. Please be generous.

Nick Owen



A scene from *Murder at the Vicarage*

Riverbank Kindergarten

Riverbank Kindergarten has been a true hidden gem in the Itchen Valley, providing excellent childcare and learning through play for all the hundreds of little ones who have passed through its doors over the last 25 years. Launching out in 1995 as the childcare at Abbots Worthy House closed, it quickly became established in Martyr Worthy Village Hall as a small community hub



for the families of the local villages and a wonderful rural idyll, providing a strong foundation of learning and development and building precious childhood memories for many. Over the years it has developed and adapted to incorporate all the latest learning directives from Government to meet high standards of education and care whilst never losing its traditional, nurturing ethos of an old-school playgroup. For those who have connected with Riverbank, you will know it represents something extremely special and which is becoming rarer in today's society. Many local faces have been involved in running Riverbank through the years and invested a great deal into creating such a wonderful and happy place. Our families have always been impressed with the calibre of the staff and their care and devotion to the children. We are therefore very sad to announce that Riverbank has closed its doors this summer for the last time due to the ongoing funding crisis in Early Years. We wish to thank all the families and local folk who, through the years, have supported the Kindergarten and built foundations and memories with us. As the Government moves to encourage more parents back to work, so the childcare needs are changing to meet society's demand. It is hoped that Central Government will also

Upper Itchen Valley Society

Annual General Meeting 2020

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty on gatherings, the Committee has decided that our AGM will almost certainly have to be a 'remote' event. We are sorry that we have to do this, especially as some may not have internet access, but we hope you will understand that our options are limited and the Society's constitution obliges us to hold an AGM in each calendar year.

Agenda for AGM to be held remotely on 18th September 2020

1. Opening
2. Minutes of 48th Annual General Meeting held on 13th November 2019
 - Approval
 - Matters arising
3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for year ended 30th June 2020
4. Membership Secretary's Report
5. Chairman's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Any other AGM Business

We are planning to do it like this:

Items 2, 3, 4 and 5 above together with a voting slip will be sent to members by email during the week beginning 1st September 2020 at the last email address held by the Membership Secretary. If you do not receive them please email Lucy (lucyvarcoe@gmail.com) thus giving her your up to date email address.

For paper copies telephone Alison on 01962 779632

Any questions relating to reports should be sent to:

- Rolls at : richardhcoleman@aol.com (Accounts)
- Lucy at : lucyvarcoe@gmail.com (Membership))
- Alison at : ralphandalimathews@gmail.com (Chairman's report)

Election of Chairman and Committee Members:

If you would like to be nominated please tell Alison Matthews and give the names of members who will propose and second you. Your name will then be added to the agenda and voting slip. Alison will not be standing for election as Chairman.

Voting 'slips' must be returned to Alison by 6pm on 17th September.

The committee will then meet at 11.00am on 18th September either by Zoom or in person to ratify the voting and reports.

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recognise that in order for many childcare settings to survive, they must address the long-standing and worsening funding crisis which faces all Early Years childcare settings across England. Year-round and long-hour nurseries are now the way forward and are increasingly the only settings which can survive in the current financial climate. We are grateful that our local MP is fighting to raise awareness in Parliament about the pressing threat to childcare provision. Please do support the local preschool settings who continue to provide a service to local families. We would encourage those with tiny ones to consider getting your child's name on a waiting list in advance to help the childcare providers know their 'pipeline' and to ensure a place as many local settings review their viability, particularly in the wake of the recent pandemic.

We want to celebrate all that Riverbank has been to our community in the Itchen Valley over the last 25 years and are so glad to have reached our Silver Jubilee before we closed.

Maria Odgers

Village Pre School - Itchen Valley Montessori

Itchen Valley Montessori would like to say a very big thank you to the Village Hall Committee and staff. As the country entered lockdown and everything was closing down we were asked if possible to stay open for key-workers' children, as well as providing online activities for children at home. We were able to do this because the village hall supported us and allowed us to stay open. They were amazing with their calm, confident following of confusing and changing guidance. It's



the small things that make the difference like finding the 2m markings at the entrance all marked up on a Monday morning. They have supported us to make the hall a safe place to be.

I can honestly say that last term was very happy and healthy. We had lots of fun and even managed sports day (without parents), leavers' car park goodbye and quite a few birthdays. Life is different with no soft furnishings and limited equipment but this has given us the opportunity to go back to our Montessori roots. The children have flourished and grown. We are now busy planning for September and started with a first aid course for all. Thank you to our staff, to the Village Hall committee and staff, Alex and Mick and to the village.

Thank you for your help.

Caroline Butcher



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Easton Village Hall

The hall has been closed since Lock Down, but permission has now been given by the government for village halls and community centres to re-open, with appropriate Covid Safe precautions in place.

We propose to re-open Easton Village Hall on Monday 21st September, initially only for regular user groups who have undertaken an appropriate risk-assessment and put in place their own Covid Safe precautions.

With apologies, the hall will not be available for individual bookings for the time being, but we hope to re-open for such bookings in due course.

The Annual General Meeting, which had to be postponed from May, will now take place in October or November - a date will be circulated in due course.

As an eligible village hall/community centre, our application for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant of £10,000 from the Government was successful - this has been most welcome as it will support the finances of the Hall through the Covid crisis, by compensating for the loss of income associated with the Lockdown and beyond, and there being no Village Fete or Pantomime this year.

*Harry Smith, Secretary
Easton Village Hall & Recreation Ground*

From the Rectory

On around 25 March this year, the President of the United States said that he wanted the nation "opened up and



just raring to go by Easter". Mr. Trump suggested this time line was based on a gut feeling, not on hard data. Easter "is a beautiful time," Trump said. "It would be a beautiful timeline."

I don't think there is anyone in the world who would have disagreed with his heartfelt wish that the whole pandemic business was done and dusted by last Easter. But it wasn't. We might even ask, which Easter will it be over by? With the probability of a second wave engulfing us as we approach winter and a hard end to Brexit on the horizon, we can easily start to feel that we are in some terrible dream where we are falling, falling, falling and there seems to be no end. It would be easy to despair, as the practical consequences of the virus and our new trading status with the world start to come home to roost and impact our own lives and businesses.

Dreams do end. Sometimes it's important to shake ourselves awake and see things as they really are. Our despair comes from the horrifying realisation that we are not in control of our lives and we have little idea how to protect our families from what is round the corner. Our despair can be exacerbated by our sense of losing any sense of achievement and even losing our idea of our own identity and purpose.

There is a solution, but it is hidden in plain sight. It is good news. The Creator of the Universe loves you. He loves you and he loves me. He has a purpose for our lives regardless of the aspirations which we strive so hard to achieve, regardless of the success of our businesses, the performance of our children, and the way in which others see us or even the way that we see ourselves. He is knocking at the door

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Sat 26 September
10am

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of our lives and asking to come in. If you want to know Him; if you want to open that door to a sense of purpose and peace which will transcend all the choppy waters of the months ahead, then please do 'Try Alpha' www.alpha.org/try-alpha/. Alpha is a series of sessions to explore the Christian Faith which we will be running on line in Itchen Valley from mid September. It doesn't cost anything. You can do the whole course from your home on line. Just drop me an email: rector@itchenvalleychurches.org.
Revd. Alex Pease

Meander with Me

Walking through the quiet lanes that wind through a village in the Itchen Valley, in the early hours of a summer morning, the only sounds I hear are the delicate musical notes of the songbirds, as they tune up, ready to join in with the dawn symphony.

When landowners and farmers embrace the concept of achieving productive fields whilst providing habitats and food sources for birds, insects and small mammals - in the form of wild flower margins which also act as corridors between fields and copses - the natural world benefits immensely. The resulting abundance of wildlife and beautiful landscapes gladdens our eyes and senses, and benefits us as well. Park Farm is one such place that has amazed, and delighted me,



every morning that I have decided to meander along its footpaths, and I have tried to make the most of this special place, by photographing what I see.

As the sun rises over the horizon, sitting in the long grasses amongst the wildflowers, it is the perfect time to capture the sunbeams that bathe the flowers in a golden glow. The butterflies, their wings still wet from

dewdrops, are still, and, with their wings backlit, are like glamorous models posing on nature's fashion catwalk.

Leaning in closely with my macro lens, I hope to capture a transient moment of beauty, before the butterflies float away.

I walk on to find there are bees gathering the pollen in the flowers of the borage, and I snap away, thankful that they are only



intent on their breakfast, and pay me no mind.

As I continue my walk, scanning the path ahead, I am suddenly aware of a strange chomping, scratching noise. I follow the sound to its source, and look up. In the green canopy of a tree sits a squirrel, carefully balanced on a tree branch, with a walnut between its hands, chewing vigorously. It is completely focused on its meal and ignores the click of my camera as it spits out the bits it doesn't like, which



fall down on me. Oh well.

There are also two young squirrels playing hide and seek around the tree trunk, but when their mum takes a break from her breakfast, she suddenly



notices me, sounds a warning, and up the tree they scamper to join her.

I sigh contentedly as I count myself very fortunate when I am lucky enough to observe a wild animal's natural behaviour.

Strolling along the grassy verges I come upon a large brown hare. He stares at me for a few moments before deciding that I am of no interest, and hops off, probably to find something tasty for breakfast.



The sun is beaming down on me and I realise that it's been a couple of hours since I first set off on my walk. There's a loud rumble from my tummy and I decide that it's not only the animals that are hungry this morning, and it is time to go home.

Corinne Kozok

A cutting garden

What or who inspired you to plant a cutting garden? – A couple of years ago my sister-in-law planted a collection of Sarah Raven seeds in her allotment & throughout the summer brought me wonderfully colourful bunches of flowers.

How did you plan it? - I spent a long time browsing through SR catalogues & trying to decide which seeds to get. There are so many to choose from that I simply selected a variety of colours and shapes to experiment with.

Did you grow your own plants?

Any tips? – I grew everything from seed in my greenhouse, I would advise against sowing too early (i.e. before April) just because the weather is fine (like this year). They germinate more quickly once daylight lengthens and you don't risk needing to plant them out before the last frost. It's tempting to plant too many seedlings – you really only need 4-5 plants of each variety.

How much time has it taken? This year, more than usual because of the lack of rain & the need to water regularly, although the dry weather has kept the weeds down.

What is your favourite flower combination? I prefer a varied bunch



often with eight or more varieties in a mixture of colours, but next year I will be looking for a couple of plants with good foliage for the flowers to sit amongst.

Which flowers would you recommend as the most rewarding? Malope in a big bunch look stunning, but antirrhinums, salvias, nicotianas & cosmos keep flowering all summer if you keep up with the cutting.



Have you had a heart breaking failure? I found both ammi & scabiosa atropurpurea difficult to germinate & failed with both.

What occasions have you marked with bunches of flowers? I normally just give them as gifts for friends and family!

Will you do it again next year? Yes and will have fun experimenting with some new varieties.

What flowers do you find last best in a vase? Nicotiana, malope, antirrhinum and of course agapanthus.

Do you have any tips on how to make cut flowers last longer? Pick them at the beginning or end of the day – not in the full sun and put them straight into fresh water. Make sure the

vase is properly clean, remove any lower foliage so there is none in the water and change the water in the vase daily.

Verity Coleman interviewed Lucinda Ffennell

Classical Hits without the adverts

Lovers of classical music will be well aware of Classic FM, the national radio station that broadcasts symphonies and concertos, opera and lollipops all day and all night seven days a week. Great as it is to listen to, the regular adverts, traffic reports and news summaries can be somewhat annoying. BBC Radio 3 is an alternative station for a wider repertoire but this often features full works rather than extracts, not always what you're after when you're supposed to be concentrating on the cooking or washing up.

Wonderful news! If you are able to listen online, either through a computer or smart speaker, there are other options. My current favourite is Radio Swiss Classic, streaming from Switzerland (surprise) with announcements in German.

Concentrating mainly on European baroque and romantic composers (I have yet to hear any Gilbert and Sullivan) it provides a great background for working. No adverts, no traffic reports, no news summaries nor even any time checks. Smart speaker users may need to be specific in their instructions; I need to "ask Simple Radio to play Swiss Classic" for the instruction to be understood.

Why not give it a go?
Vernon Tottle



National Garden Scheme - Hampshire

A small selection of the National Garden Scheme gardens continue to open their gates to the general public, sometimes with the added bonus of Tea and Cake. This is in accordance with the latest Government Guidelines. Disposable cups will be used, and cakes may be wrapped. I have spoken to both garden owners and visitors and they feel that the measures which we have in place make them feel very safe, with the restrictions of numbers and social distancing adhered to.

At this stage we just have the one garden committed to open in September - our old favourite:- The Thatched Cottage, Church Rd, Upper Farringdon, GU34 3EG which will be open on Sunday 6 and Monday 7 September. The openings start at 1pm, and every hour till 4pm. As this is quite a large garden you can then stay as long as you like. The tickets for this garden will be available from our website [ngs.org.uk](https://www.ngs.org.uk). it is a half-acre garden with borders bursting with cottage garden plants, and a pond provides the soothing sound of water.

Other garden owners may decide to open for one last time in September, so please keep checking the website.

Very soon we will be planning our gardens for 2021, so if you feel your garden is one that would be admired by the general public and you would like the opportunity to raise funds for our hard pressed Nursing, Health and Caring charities, why not contact me and we can arrange for a member of our team to visit your garden and discuss this with you.

Pat Beagley (Publicity), National Garden Scheme - Hampshire

Winchester Heritage Open Days 2020

11th-20th September 2020



Preparations are underway to produce a varied programme of digital events for this September and already there are some exciting events lined up, including live and pre-recorded tours and talks from Winchester College, Hampshire Cultural Trust and the University of Winchester, amongst others. Online workshops, exhibitions and performances are also planned, more details of which will follow shortly.



One of Heritage Open Days' popular features is its annual theme. This year it is 'Hidden Nature' and some event organisers are rising to the challenge and getting very enthusiastic and creative in their interpretation. It would seem that nature pops up in all sorts of unexpected places, but you will need to wait until September if you want to find out where!

This September, Heritage Open Days will be going digital! The nation's favourite heritage festival, returns once more to Hampshire with ten fabulous days in which to discover, celebrate and experience local history and architecture.

However, in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, it has become clear that the traditional format and size of the festival will not be possible this year as there is still uncertainty surrounding when indoor cultural events will be able to run once more. Although it is hoped that a handful of events may be able to be held outdoors (in line with the government guidance at the time of the festival), the focus this year will be on encouraging on-line events.

Commenting on the decision, Festival Director, Nicky Gottlieb said, *"I am sure that there will be people who look forward to Heritage Open Days and will be disappointed by our decision not to hold events in the usual way this year. However, it is important the festival is safe, is inclusive and does not add further cost or burden to businesses and organisations who at this time are getting back on their feet."*

As ever, we are enormously grateful to everyone who has helped the Festival grow to become the success that it is - our supporters, volunteers, event organisers and especially to Winchester BID and lead sponsor, Winchester College, for their ongoing support."



Professor Christopher Mulvey

This month will also see the launch of Hampshire HistBites, a new history and heritage podcast channel. Kicking off with short interviews, two longer episodes are planned for the festival itself - one with Professor Christopher Mulvey on the origins of the English language and the other, a special recording at Winchester College of a discussion on a Book of Hours in their collection.

It is very much hoped that all events and visitors will be welcomed back in the usual way in September 2021 but, like so many other festivals at this time, it remains at risk and will only survive if it is able to meet its running costs. If you are able to help in any way, then do please get in touch with the volunteer organisers Becky Brown and Nicky Gottlieb.

For more information, festival updates and to join the mailing list, visit: www.winchesterheritageopen days.org

25 YEARS



heritage open days

11th-20th September 2020



WE'RE GOING DIGITAL

We are delighted to announce that this year's 2020 festival will be going ahead, with free events and local stories at its heart. The focus though will be digital.

With the uncertainty surrounding when cultural events will be able to run once more following the Covid-19 Pandemic, it has become clear that the traditional format and size of the festival will not be possible this year.

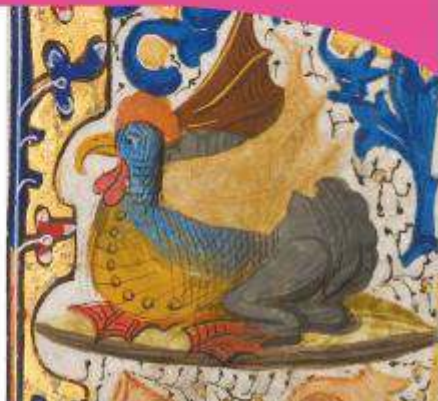
Whilst we hope one or two organisations may be able to hold some in-person events (in line with government guidance at the time of the festival), our focus will be on encouraging digital events. We have already begun working hard to plan for a digital festival this September; and this will include pre-recorded walks and talks, live streaming and our very own podcast channel.

We are very excited about the digital events we have planned, and are looking forward to telling you more soon.

HERITAGE PODCASTS & MORE!

We may not be able to visit our favourite museums and heritage sites, however thanks to the magic of the internet that doesn't stop us from discovering new places and learning new things.

Look out for activities and great resources being shared via our social media accounts, and from August our very own podcasts!



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For more information on all events and to find out about volunteer opportunities visit:
www.winchesterheritageopendays.org

Jackie's County Corner for September

This is the month where we'd usually be celebrating the Alresford and Littleton shows. (if you are missing the animals- please see the cows below!)



Every day during the Covid-19 crisis, County Councillors have received an update - as I write we have 90 bulletins. 'Business as Usual' now means new challenges every day, and I'd like to say 'thank you' to our council staff, another group of unsung heroes in the community. Dial a Ride and Call & Go services have started up again: check by calling Rachel: 01962 852602

A 'Keep Hampshire Safe' data dashboard has been introduced to inform residents of the risks and number of cases in districts of Hampshire. Readers might like to look at the pages on the hants.gov.uk website to see how Public Health Hampshire will manage outbreaks in conjunction with the local district environmental health teams. If you have any queries please contact me.

The HantsHelp4Vulnerable call centre 0333 370 4000 will remain in place on weekdays from 9 to 4.30pm for anyone who is in need of help to collect prescriptions, shopping or is at risk of loneliness. Your call will be

sympathetically heard and practical help offered. If you received a food parcel, or you are worried about going out again, the County's

It's OKto... scheme can help. If you are finding it difficult to cope, please call the helpline: it's there for you.

After the shock and fear of the last few months, Winchester City Council is working towards the time when the children in our district can enjoy each other's company local to home.

The 'Playing Out' scheme provides reassurance that the road is being closed to traffic for a short while regularly making it much safer for children of all ages to play together, closely supervised by adults.

Winchester is the first city in Hampshire to have taken part in this brilliant initiative. One group started a while ago, but we want more communities to take part, so I'm pleased that the Council is providing starter packs with games and practical advice to parents who want to start 'Playing Out' for their own street or neighbourhood. If you are interested, please contact Mark at communities@winchester.gov.uk

Good news! Hampshire has announced an extra £1million to top up the Government's Gigabit broadband voucher scheme offering additional funding to households who need faster speeds. Details can be found on www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/top-up/

It will be allocated on a first come first serve basis, and to qualify, residents must live in a rural area, be unable to get speeds of 100Mbps and apply as a group of 2 or more premises. Go to the website to check eligibility.

County Councillor Jackie Porter

Contact: Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

Letter to the Editor

City Councillors,

I read with interest your column on page 8 of the (August) Itchen Valley News regarding the change to the green waste collection service, particularly the reference to the direct charges of £39 or £59 to opt in rather than collected through council tax, in which “many flat-dwellers and others without gardens ... are subsidising those with gardens”.

What I couldn't find reference to, however, was how much everyone's council tax will go down as a result of the change. Presumably, those “without gardens” will no longer be contributing, and those with gardens will only need to pay once?

Many thanks, Wes Price

Itchen Abbas

The City Councillors take a holiday from writing their report for September. Ed

From the Parish Council.

The Parish Council does not meet in August but plenty still goes on. Both playgrounds are now open. Please take care and follow the advice given on the notices. The car park at Couch Green had to be closed for a time as once again there was a warning that there were several groups of travellers the close by. Inconvenient though it might be, it is better to take precautions than to have the cost, damage and disruption caused by travellers gaining access to our playing fields as happened last year. The car park has now been reopened. Last March we sadly had to cancel the



Litter Pick. This was in line with the advice from the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. They are now promoting The Great British September Clean. It has therefore been decided to give our support to this in two ways. First, during September, could all those who regularly walk round the Valley please take a rubbish bag with them and pick up litter on the way. Some already do this but the more who do will make the task easier and give greater coverage for those who participate in the second option and join in the Group Litter Pick at 10 am on 26 September. In both cases please keep to the Covid-19 advice, wear a mask, gloves and maintain 2 metre distancing. For those joining on 26 Sept. we will be meeting at the usual five starting points, bags, high viz vests and litter pick sticks will be provided. Sadly, unlike previous years, we will not be able to meet for tea, coffee or cakes afterwards. Please see the poster on page 16 highlighting these details.

September is the month when the new school year starts. There have been a number of complaints from residents in Little Hayes Lane regarding cars causing traffic congestion when children are taken and collected from Itchen Abbas Primary School. Having observed the situation this summer, these complaints are justified. Parking is available at Itchen Abbas Village Hall and it is only a short walk round the corner to the school. Although at present it is perfectly legal to park on this road, provided no obstruction is caused, please note that if congestion continues to cause problems, it is likely that there will be a call for the introduction of parking restrictions. Looking ahead, our Environmental subcommittee has held its first meeting and has been looking at a variety of

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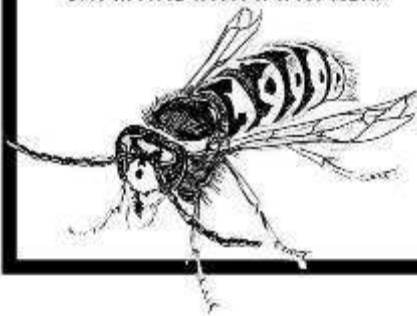
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ideas from tree planting, to green energy schemes, to items not currently recycled by our City Council and more. They are looking at timing, impact, cost, resident engagement and sustainability. A good start. Work on improving our footpaths continues and three of us met on site, with a representative from the Ramblers Association and a Senior Countryside Access Ranger from Hampshire County Council, to look at installing a board walk or similar to allow all weather access to one of the damper footpaths.

It has again been rumoured that BT may be making another attempt to remove some of our telephone boxes. So far the Parish Council has not received any formal notice but will everyone who wishes these iconic features of our villages to remain, please keep a look out and if new notices appear in the boxes, please let us know.

Patrick Appleby.

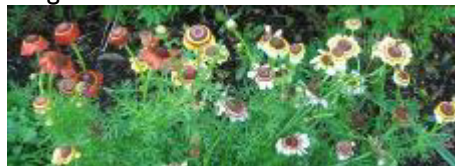
The Practical Gardener

There must be few who could deny that the climate is changing with mid-August being so hot. The recycling of water used in gardens seems to me to be an essential for the environment yet few politicians ever seem to mention it. Nature is incredibly resilient, yet many plants in recent weeks would not survive without plenty of watering. So, I guess I make a plea to save and recycle water. I remember this is mandatory in Australia, not for the sake of gardens but to fight fire. Maybe soon, that too could be an issue. One of the issues with watering is that we all use sprays



but ideally, we should water the soil. An expert reminded me recently that you must not water every day, plants need a break.

For those who enjoy colour, annual flowers are a must and one that is new to me *Chrysanthemum Sunset* is a delight.



August is possibly the peak period for colour and many plants will only continue to flower if the dead ones are removed. So much time and care is needed with the scissors. This is particularly the case with *osteospermum*, sold as an annual but will certainly keep another year.

I was encouraged to continue to sow perennials and so far in the greenhouse the results are good. Summer is a good time to start these seeds into growth, most especially wallflowers and Sweet William.

I now avoid big seed trays but rather reuse the multi pocket trays that I have saved from an earlier purchase. Using smaller pockets makes an easier way to separate the small plants later on.

To continue the whitefly debate, I will confirm there is no perfect solution. Whitefly, a bit like coronavirus, are difficult to



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kill off. I have a new idea. I bought a small cheap plastic housing (so-called mini greenhouse). I put infected plants like my pelargoniums, inside together with my sulphur burner. A night in an enclosed environment appears to do no harm to the plant but it does eradicate the whitefly.

There has been lots to harvest in the vegetable garden. All the onions are now dried and stored and the crop has been excellent. Ditto with main crop spuds, rather early but all is well. Both I hope will store for 6 months or more. Everyone grows courgettes and complains they have too many. This year I have put pumpkins and butternut squash into the mix but neither seems very successful. In parallel but in pots, I have tried aubergine and these are at last producing some fruit.

I grow lots of beans: runners, climbing French and dwarf varieties. Can I recommend picking these when young as the flavour is so much better. The smaller beans also freeze well, so in December instead of buying them in the shops from Kenya, have your own stored crop! For just a few months, blanching and all that stuff is unnecessary.

The hard fruit crop this year is astonishing, apples and pears in abundance and buckets of windfalls every day. So too the soft fruits, as raspberries continue and the blackberries start. I had to put a notice



on my raspberries to remind birds they were an autumn crop which is never touched. Of course, the old canes from summer fruits have been cut back and

shredded. This summer my home-made cages have proved their worth, they keep the birds off the crop and are easy to access.

It's a great time to take photos of the garden, then later on maybe some plants could be moved or divided or changed to a different colour. I can also say that my experiment with planting crops close together has worked well. As I harvest carrots, so the leeks have space to grow up. I have photographed some of my crops. Enjoy.

Tony Gaster.

A bird in the hand

If you go down to the river today, you're sure of a big surprise. This was indeed the case when early one Sunday morning I came across a group of cars parked by the bridge near Avington trout fishery. Early morning poachers I wondered? Fortunately, no.

Encountering a long net strung over the bridge, a friendly face soon came into view. He was with a group of bird ringers. They were on their occasional outing to ring as many birds as they could find to add to the already large database of ornithological information for the area.

The nine nets were strung out across flight paths alongside the many braids of the river. Although they had been

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

Martyr Worthy Village Hall

Lucinda Ffennell 779701 or simon@ffennell.plus.com

Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

Details of bookings and real time availability are available on our website.

www.iaavillagehall.co.uk Hall Manager Alex Bellisario

manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk 07947 191229 Village hall callbox 01962 791021

Itchen Valley Churches

6th September - Family Worship by Zoom

13th September - Parish Communion St Mary's, Easton and via Zoom

20th September - Valley Worship by Zoom

27th September - Parish Communion St Mary's, Easton and via Zoom

Please refer to our website for instructions about registering to attend a service in person or for attending via Zoom.

**Our Churches are open for private prayer
between 10am - 2pm on the following days:**

Wednesdays - St Mary's, Easton

Fridays - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sundays - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

**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 - 01962 779845

LLM - Mr Gerry Stacey

gerry.Stacey@biblesociety.org.uk - 07554 438973

Parish Administrator - Beccy Clark

admin@itchenvalleychurches.org - 01962 779845

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

there since first light at 5 o'clock, the ringers had netted a smaller number than expected because the breeze was stronger than anticipated.

A wind makes the nets move and therefore easier for the birds to see and avoid.

Whilst I was there, they caught a wren and a chiffchaff. These were identified, ringed, aged and sexed, before being measured and weighed. The birds were then released. These rings are individually numbered and recorded so any future nettings can be compared to



I was told that in general bird populations are on the decline (tell that to the pigeons!). This can often be attributed to the loss of habitat, and

not necessarily in England. Birds that migrate overseas for the winter often find that their home last year has been destroyed. Yes, they can usually breed successfully over here but they may have nowhere to go to escape the darker months of the year.

All fascinating stuff!

Vernon Tottle

Covid - you can help

The COVID-19 Symptom Study app has been developed by health science

company ZOE and it is endorsed by the Welsh Government, NHS Wales, the Scottish Government and NHS

Scotland. Over 4 million people have downloaded the app and are using it to regularly report on their health, making it the largest public science project of its kind anywhere in the world.

By using this app you can help the NHS and contribute to vital research on COVID-19. By combining your reports with software algorithms, they can track COVID infections across the UK and now other countries (see COVID Data). The daily reporting is also being used to generate new scientific understanding of the very different symptoms the virus causes in different people. They



the original location. Good eyesight or a strong magnifying glass is a necessity given the minute size of the rings!

Apparently most birds caught in these nets are unringed specimens, usually only a few months old although some birds can go for years without being ringed. Almost all previously ringed birds captured are ones that have been seen there before. However, only the previous week, a reed warbler with a French ring had been netted.



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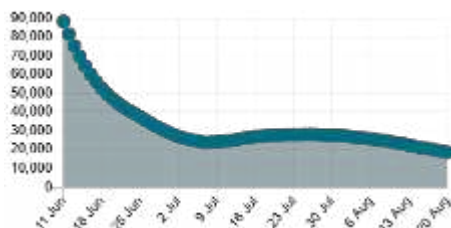
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are also studying the way that risks vary between individuals because of their own personal characteristics. This research is led by Dr Tim Spector, professor of genetic epidemiology at King's College London

Do please download the App - at the moment it only works on smartphones - it only takes a few seconds each day. More information at <https://covid.joinzoe.com> - there is lots of



This chart shows the number of people in the UK calculated to have COVID symptoms on each day between 11 June and 21 August

interesting stuff. It would be wonderful if there could be a spike in sign-ups to the app from the Itchen Valley!

Charlotte Appleby

Welcome

We welcome to the valley Effie Rose Collins, whose parents Ruairaidh and Louise live at Old Post Cottage, Itchen Abbas



Tiddler joke

Q. What do you call a smelly man who makes up jokes?

A. Pungent

Vernon Tottle (a slightly older tiddler this month)

Flower of the month

Gelder Rose

This is not a rose of any kind, and its name refers to Gelderland in Holland so it's spelt oddly too. The shiny berries are beautiful in September but are nauseous to taste; leave them for the blackbirds.

Dorothy and Simon Broadley



Bird of the month

Red kites are a success story of re-introduction. In medieval times they were a common city scavenger as they feed on carrion and their reputation for stealing drying laundry for their nests was mentioned in 'The Winters Tale'. They became virtually extinct in England and Scotland surviving in small numbers only in Wales. Red kites were reintroduced to England from a population in Spain in July 1990. Since then they have spread throughout the UK and there are now thousands of breeding pairs.



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It's still a thrill to see one, easily identifiable by their size and distinctive forked tail.

Elaine Labram



From our MP

Summer generally means two things for me; a staycation (this year in Northumberland which is stunning) and my constituency Summer Tour.



Even in (what turned out to be) a General Election year, I take my trusty festival fold out chair and pull-up banner to various locations across the area for a series of socially distanced



pop-up surgeries and events. We've already been to various locations across the constituency, including a pub and a supermarket, and I am pleased to say the Itchen Valley is on the schedule this year. Please do keep an eye on, and get in touch with, Summer Tour 2020 via www.stevebrine.com/summertour2020

One issue hot on the heels of our precious countryside right now is (deep sigh) the apparent return of new town proposals which threaten a settlement the size of Petersfield on the beautiful Hampshire Downlands at Micheldever as the Local Plan refresh comes into view.

My constituents will be entitled to ask how many times we have to say no to this daft idea which is neither needed or wanted. And for the record, I am not buying the argument of one Winchester Councillor who told the local paper it was a runner because "It (Micheldever) has a railway station"! Councillors running Winchester City need to show some courage and make clear it's not appropriate and we won't destroy the Downlands in the pursuit of profit for remote land owners and developers. I will be channelling local opinion, as always, to the Guildhall working once again with the excellent Dever Society.

We should be aware that this

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development, were it to happen, would impact significantly on the Itchen Valley so please ask your local councillors about it and keep an eye on local press. Potential changes to hospital services in Winchester, including maternity, are still very much on the agenda. It may be a baffling – and worrying – time as Covid remains but the Trust are pressing ahead with a big conversation about the future. Please take a look at the “Hampshire Together” programme because decisions are being taken now which will impact on our lives for many years to come;
www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk
 Parliament returns this month after its short Summer break and, with no conference season this year, it will be a long and complicated session towards Christmas. Please find me on Facebook [www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP) for instant updates on my work locally and in Westminster.

Steve Brine

Local enterprise

One of the benefits of the current situation is the rise in the ‘buy local’ movement. George Mann, known to many as the author of a wonderful book of photographs and information about the River Itchen ***The River Itchen at Martyr Worthy: Wildlife and Riverkeeping Observed*** is now offering some of his photographs as cards. Useful for birthdays and other occasions, or for saying ‘thank you’, these brilliant – in every sense of the word – photographs make very attractive cards. He is selling them in packs of eight, with envelopes, for £12. There are several different sets available: butterflies, flowers, birds and beasts – it is hard to choose! The cards (and nature calendars) can

be seen on George’s website at www.riveritchen.co.uk/71-publications/ - just click on the image of one of the butterfly sets to open the file and see the others.

Charlotte Appleby



Alresford Surgery News

Adult Flu Clinics: We will not be running any walk-in clinics this year. We anticipate the clinics being booked appointments only from mid-September onwards once the vaccine has been delivered. When you come for your flu jab please make sure you wear a face covering and a short sleeved shirt or top and that your outer clothing can be easily removed. . We need to access the very top of your arm in order to administer the vaccine



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Another lovely photo from Corinne Kosok

Apple Mountain

With so many people having surplus apples this year and offering them to neighbours it would seem perverse not to include an apple recipe. This is adapted from Supercook, 'An encyclopaedia of world cooking in 112 weekly parts', some of which I inherited from my grandmother. Ed

Ingredients

3lb (1.4kg) eating apples
 4 fl oz (115ml) water
 1lb (450gm) Jam sugar (this is sugar with added pectin, available in supermarkets at this time of year, or you can buy liquid pectin)
 Juice of a lemon and grated rind
 4oz (115gm) sultanas or raisins, or a mix of the two
 2 fl oz (60ml) sweet sherry or cooking brandy
 10 fl oz (300ml) double cream
 Chocolate, grated or curls, to decorate

Method:

Put sultanas/raisins to soak in the sweet sherry or brandy in a 1½ pint bowl.

Put the water, sugar and lemon juice into a large pan, heat and stir to dissolve the sugar, then remove from heat

Peel and core the apples and chop, putting them into the syrup as you cut to prevent them going brown.

Put the pan back on the stove, bring to the boil and boil for 20 minutes stirring all the time to prevent burning on the base.

Sieve the apple pulp if necessary, cool slightly. Stir in the soaked fruit and alcohol and grated lemon peel.

Line the bowl with cling film and pour in the apple mixture. Chill at least 5 hours before serving.

Then turn out, remove cling film and cover completely with whipped cream to make a mountain. Decorate liberally with chocolate leaving the very top uncovered for a snowy peak.

Church News: The APCM will be held on Wed 30 September at 7pm, venue still to be decided. Martyr Worthy ADCM will be on Saturday 19 September, time and venue to be decided.

It's rubbish !

I apologise to readers of the Itchen Valley News for the errors in the waste collection services reported on page 36 of last month's edition. I entered the dates for July in what was the August magazine. Normal service has now been resumed.

Vernon Tottle Chief Editor, Itchen Valley News

McLaren Designer comes to Kingsworthy

On Sept 19 Itchen Motor Company in Kings Worthy will re-name itself as Kings Worthy Garage. Not new owners, just a re-brand to sharpen us up for the future. On that Saturday at 10.30 am we are having a small socially-distanced affair where Mr Paul Howse, lead design tech at McLaren, will cut the tape. To attend phone 07789 220482. *Martyn Rummey*

Save the Dates At the time of going to press, these events are scheduled to go ahead. However, please be aware that, given the current situation, that may change.

5 December 2020 Children's Christmas party Martyr Worthy Village Hall

17-20 June 2021 Easton Flower Festival

11 September 2021 Itchen Valley Flower and Produce Festival

18 September 2021 The Building Ball 7pm, at the David Roth Memorial Cricket Ground, Easton. Village Hall fundraiser.

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in September

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 11 and 25 September. Green bins on Saturday 5 and Friday 18 September. Glass boxes on Friday 18 September.

Cameo

Now cancelled.

Farmers Market in Winchester

Sundays 13 and 27 September.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 3 September. Virtual meeting accessible via Zoom.

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

Mondays and Thursdays to Winchester:
08:23 09:23 13:53 15:23 17:23

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Winchester:

08:23 09:23 11:53 13:53 15:23 17:23

Mondays and Thursdays to Alresford:
11:49 15:19 17:09 18:09

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Alresford:

09:49 11:49 13:19 15:19 17:09 18:09

Saturday service (same for the whole month.

Towards Winchester:

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

Towards Alresford:

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

No Sunday or bank holiday service

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas.

Times are 5 minutes later (or earlier) at Easton.



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