Valley Balls Issue 82 October 2020 For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



COVID-19: We are still here to help

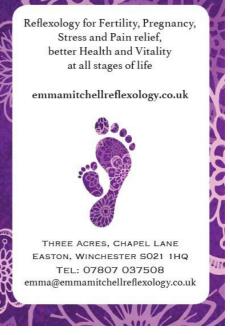






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WELCOME to the Valley News





The Eds are smiling. What a pleasure it is to sit side by side in the Editor's chair, drinking coffee and planning the Valley News.

In such uncertain times, being together with friends and loved ones will never again be taken for granted. At the time of writing, Boris is considering further lockdown measures; however, for now a sense of normality reigns and we are making the most of it! It seems our contributors share the same sentiment. As the seasons collide, our October issue reflects the mighty 'can do' attitude of those living in the Itchen valley.

"The show must go on" was the mantra of the Southwood Players, rehearsing via Zoom and putting on a fabulous performance. See page 7 for a review (and our front cover!). Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club looks back on the season (page 10), which was aided by an army of volunteer coaches and a bucket of hand sanitiser. Even the Easton Sixes went ahead despite a deluge of rain that left the pitch partly flooded. The groundsmen are miracle workers! Looking forward, an optimistic October beckons. Alex Pease talks about finding resilience and resources. You'll find the ingredients here! From immunity boosting vitamins with Dr Vegan (page 20), to shoring up your wellbeing (page 25) with Sherin and enjoying some light relief with Tabitha Webb's new book, guaranteed to get you hot under the collar! Readers with long memories will remember that regular bookings for our three village halls used to be listed

as a separate page in this magazine. With public venues being shut in recent months, any printed information has been restricted to brief contact details. As the magazine went to print, the rules on how halls should or could open were somewhat unclear. We've been notified of some activities resuming in our local halls but whether they will actually take place or not is uncertain. Publication of regular bookings has therefore been held over until next month but hall booking information can be found on page 30. Verity Coleman is next month's Editor, so for now we say thank you for reading and au revoir....without the second wave - we remain forever optimistic!

Lucy & Fi

Treasurer

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What's On

Auction of paintings by the late Judy Strafford 26 September -



A selection of paintings by muchloved Easton resident Judy Strafford, can be viewed and purchased through

Bellman Auctioneer's either online or at their Winchester saleroom. Please contact 01962 861789 or email winchester@bellmans.co.uk.

New yoga classes and retreats in



Martyr Worthy and Easton

Join local yoga teacher Sherin for weekly yoga classes in Martyr Worthy Village Hall every Sunday (19:00-20:00 'you-time yin

yoga') and Monday (17:30-18:30 'fluid flow yoga').

The Sunday evening class is a gorgeously relaxing, candle-lit, meditative yin yoga session to beautiful soothing music to slow down, connect to yourself and experience deep rest and healing.

The Monday evening class is an open-level vinyasa flow yoga class. Classes will be theme-based (e.g. chakra healing, new/full moon etc), and will include pranayama (breath work), flowing vinyasa asanas (physical movement), and a deeply nurturing and poetic savasana.

Price is £8. First class is half price. Please email sherinshefik@gmail.com to book a place.

Or treat yourself to a whole day of

yoga and walking at Easton Village Hall: Upcoming yoga day retreats are 14 November and 2 January. Please find further details here: http://www.sherinshe.com/yoga/Sherin Shefik

Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall AGM 16 October at 6.30pm

Our Annual General Meeting will be held as a virtual meeting (over Zoom) this year due to the current restrictions on face-to-face contact. It is open to all residents of the local community.

Business will include a review of the past year, including finances and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans for the future will be discussed and elections held for some committee positions.

Details of how to take part will appear on our website shortly, along with copies of the agenda and reports. Go to: http://iaavillagehall.co.uk/agm-2020 Ken Gordon, Honorary Secretary.



Charity Christmas Card Sale 19 October onwards

On sale at the

former Whittards shop in Winchester. More info and a request for volunteers can be found on page 33.

Martyr Worthy Village Hall AGM 27 October at 6pm

On Zoom due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions. The AGM for this year, which would have normally taken place in the hall in May, will now be held by remote access at 6 pm on 27 October. The business of the meeting will include approval of the minutes of the 2019 AGM, reports by the Chairman and Treasurer, the election of the Management Committee for the

forthcoming period and any other matters arising.

All residents of Martyr Worthy aged 18 or more are entitled to attend and vote and will be very welcome. Would all those wishing to attend please contact the hall committee by email on martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.com at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting so that a link can be sent to you.

Guy Green Chairman Management Committee

Valley Happenings



Baptism in the river

Around 30 family and friends came together, carefully socially distanced, around a carrier for the River Itchen on Sunday 30 August 2020 after Parish Communion for the baptism of three grandchildren from the Janssen family. After torrential rain two days before (in which many houses were on the verge of flooding), it was the most spectacular day. Three children were being baptised, either being held or in a wet suit with parents and god parents in waders. Many thanks to Andy and

Clare Davies and Ed Marsh and his syndicate who between them own the land and the river; to David Swinstead and Sara Mason who put together the risk assessment; to Simon Ffennell who acted as long stop and to Camilla Janssen who acted as first aider.

Revd Alex Pease

New Additions



Congratulations to Phil and Helena in Easton. Ada Phoenix Binney-Martin, little sister to Elsie Lark, was born on Wednesday 2 September weighing a larger than expected 8lbs 5oz.

Comings and Goings

We welcome Sherin and Andy to Fisher House in Easton. Having been regular

weekend visitors from London, Sherin and Andy have moved here more permanently. Also, welcome to Marcus Browne and Emily Riches who have moved from London into 2, Chapel Lane. While former residents Kevin, Denise, Alice and Luke Rosewell have moved to The Leg of Mutton farm.

In Martyr Worthy, we welcome Colin & Marlene Sanders who have moved from Twyford to the Old Orchard . Judith Mezger and Lucinda Ffennell

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Obituary - Mick Barnes 1941-2020



Mick Barnes was born in Kings Sombourne in 1941 and he and his wife Katie have been living in Baring Close in Itchen Abbas for the past 12 years. Mick sadly passed away on 21 August 2020. He was a very special, handsome man.

Kate Barnes

Heritage Open Days



The Heritage Open Days were hugely popular and much enjoyed. The festival may be over for this year but you can still get a historical fix by listening to the podcasts on Hampshire Histbites at

www.winchesterheritageopendays.org/ hampshire-histbites-episodes. Some of the online events from the festival are also still available, have a look at the website.

I listened to several of the on-line festival events, all interesting and informative. Did you know that Oram's Arbour takes its name from a farseeing man who bought a 1000 year lease on the land in the 1600s? This talk will be available on line so you can learn more about place names in and around Winchester. Martyr Worthy got a mention and Abbots Itching was shown on one of the maps.

Like having a virtual drinks gathering with friends, a virtual lecture is less exciting than an actual face to face event, but miles better than nothing — and no carbon footprint to get there, which has to be a plus!

Charlotte Appleby

Review of the Southwood Players open air production of Agatha Christie's The Hollow

So many events have been postponed during this pandemic. It's clear that there will be



no Easton Pantomime this year, so it was a particular delight that we did not miss out on Anna McGowan's production of Agatha Christie's *The Hollow* by the Southwood Players in aid of The MS Society, The Winchester Young Carers and Itchen Valley Churches.

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, we arrived at Southwood House to be marshalled into socially distanced seats by a team of young Woosnams (led by Patrick Appleby) each carrying an oar (or was it a long truncheon?) to ensure that we were precisely 2 metres apart. Once settled down at a safe distance from each other, we were able to turn our attention to the play.

The Hollow is just the sort of play at



which the Southwood Players excel. Set in a 1950s country house with enough rooms for half a dozen guests. the characters all looked back nostalgically to a pre-war bliss at Ainswick, a beautiful country house where they had grown up, now inherited by a rather ineffectual young gentleman called Edward Angkatell, played with just the right aristocratic insipidity by James Paterson (rather reminiscent of Tom in Four Weddings and a Funeral). Had the practice of primogeniture changed by then, perhaps Lucy, Lady Angkatell and Sir Henry Angkatell KCB (played by Lavinia and Nick Owen) might, after his career in the Indian Civil Service, have ended up as the residents of that beautiful house, but it was not to be. Sir Henry has clearly had a lifetime of challenges from the chatelaine of the Hollow as he frequently holds his head in his hands over the last thing that Lucy Angkatell has said or done, such as 'The worst of murder is that it does upset the servants so' or 'Sweetie Inspector...?' Sir Henry groans 'Sometimes my wife's remarks are rather difficult to interpret...' However, forgetful and embarrassing she may be, Lady Angkatell has a natural authority with the staff which was very convincing: 'Tell Simmons...a hot water bottle!!' Who would not have jumped

to at that instruction!

The wet Angkatell loves Henrietta, the glamorous sculptress (played by Maddy Woosnam) whose masterpiece was sensibly out of view for the audience. But Henrietta doesn't love him - 'You are nice Edward, but it's not enough!' She on the other hand loves the good looking doctor from London, John Cristow (played by Iain Macleod), who loves her but who is also loved to distraction by Gerda his wife (played by Kathy May-Miller), a rather needy woman who cannot bear to be apart from her philandering husband. Midge Harvey (Phoebe Culshaw) is some sort of young cousin and she loves the squire of Ainswick but he clearly doesn't know what is good for him, until finally the penny drops. Onto this complicated scene bursts Veronica Kraye, an old flame of Cristow (but who doesn't think much of his career



'anyone can be a doctor' - what a thing to say to an NHS hero!). Veronica is now a successful film star and wants Cristow back. She is played dynamically by Nathalie Paterson - as a dead ringer for Marilyn Monroe.



Of course, into this confusing scene of conflicting emotions and potential motives, there is bound to be a murder! So to the tune of the TV series of *Poirot*, lan May Miller comes onto the scene with the relentless Scots-accented enquiry of a 1950s David Tennant in *Broadchurch*, accompanied by Cat Kennedy as his Detective Sergeant, who looked as if she had just stepped off the set of *Line of Duty*.

Hovering in the background is the butler Gudgeon, played by Steve Percy, in a very different role from the pantomime villains that he so often plays. The loyal Gudgeon speaks with a pained voice at all times and appears almost to disappear into the furniture to avoid upsetting those 'upstairs'. Doris (played by Naomi Ellis), on the other hand, shows another side of 1950s domestic service with a brilliantly sour face for every occasion and a sense of what is right ('let justice be done') that enjoys dropping others in it.

As is often the case with Southwood Player productions, Lavinia had all the

best lines which she delivered to great effect. She bounds onto the stage with some classic lines 'the trouble with moles is...' '... what I think about rhododendrons' and ultimately 'what a wonderful inquest'!

The whole point with who-dunnits is that you don't know who dun it.

There was a brilliantly directed moment after the murder when Henrietta and Midge were both looking wistful and thoughtful and I did wonder...

Kathy May-Miller's rendition of Gerda was fabulous - described by one of the characters as having 'eyes like a puzzled cow', she was convincingly annoying and ineffective until that brilliant moment which happens in all the best crime dramas when her true character is revealed to be much cleverer than any of us thought....

It was a fabulous production. Thank you to everyone who took part. The cast were superb, rehearsing by zoom over several months - incredibly hard work. Thank you to Anna for another brilliantly directed play which has been the cherry on the top of a staycation summer for us. Thank you to Charlotte Appleby, Judy Bishop, Patrick Appleby, James Woosnam, Jill Croft, Helen Smyth, Chris Ellis, Sarah Hunt and so many others who put it all together.

We may not be able to do everything during this emergency but we can do this and we are better for it. Thank you all

Alex Pease

Note from the Editors: We understand that a the time of going to press, the amount raised for the MS Society, Itchen Valley Churches and Winchester Young Carers is £7,500!

Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club 2020 Season Round-Up

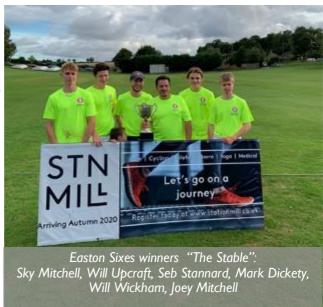
Like so much of all our lives in 2020, something of a 'will there or won't there' situation hung over our season this year. With Lockdown in March, all sport ground to a halt and despite the unseasonal great weather we had, ideal for cricket, there was no prospect of it from the Government or our governing body, the ECB.

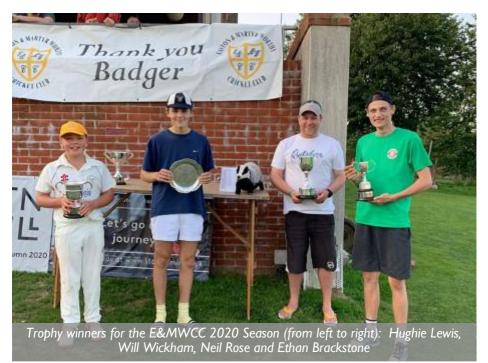
Finally, in July we saw signs of some cricket other than practice. Greatly amended rules saw teams eventually able to get out in the middle. Fully sanitized before play and then every six overs, tracked and traced, bring your own tea, no access to the pavilion changing facilities or loos. That is apart from a delicately fragranced single portaloo on the outfield but we did get to play cricket at Easton. Apologies to all those at Cocket's Mead when the wind changed!

With so much of the season already lost there were no leagues as we usually know it, so hastily formed local competitions were set up for both the Seniors and the luniors. Even our Sixes tournament that usually takes place at the end of July had to be rescheduled. By virtue of staycations we pinned our hopes on August 28 and thankfully the planets aligned but so did some rain clouds too. On the evening before, the rain was biblical and the ground flooded as did

our new storeroom in the Village Hall's new extension.

Eight teams entered, many of our usual friends and supporters from over the years were there, we had a bar and a BBO, it almost felt normal although we did have to play on the artificial wicket as a result of a sodden square. All teams socially distanced from each other whilst waiting for their match, but on the field the games were very competitive. Each team had brightly coloured shirts to distinguish them and there were some spectacular performances from many of our Junior players. The clouds were never far away and play continued through some showers but occasionally we did have to come off for safety reasons. Conscious that playing this event in August instead of July meant sunset is so much earlier and with so many interruptions, we had to get creative with the running order. After the round robin matches, there were two teams unbeaten, so we cut straight to





the final. Happy Hot Tubs played The Stable in a thrilling game that came down to the last ball with the latter winning. All members of The Stable were products of our Junior set up over the years, past and present, so congratulations to them and to the standout player of the tournament, the valley's own Will Wickham.

The Senior season proved enjoyable and keenly contested in the hurriedly cobbled together Winchester
Championship. Both 1st XI and 2nd XI took part with their combined placings meaning that overall Easton and Martyr Worthy came third. The 3rd XI played a series of friendlies with mixed success but hugely enjoyable. We welcomed new players to the club and saw some very impressive first performances in the Seniors by some of our Juniors. Local debutants for the Seniors included Hughie Lewis, Ned

Wolfe and Bryn Compton all proving worthy of their selection for many years to come.

Organising the Seniors pales into insignificance compared to the mammoth task faced by our Junior organisers. Once sporting activities were given the go-ahead at the end of July, it was all hands on deck to make it happen.

Mixed results but lots of enjoyment and progress from the players. The junior's section is in a good place moving forward with an experienced admin and coaching team now in place. U9s and U11s managed to play 13 matches in total, with two teams on most weekends.

Lots of enthusiasm post lockdown, likely due to a combination of pent-up demand for exercise from kids and parents going stir crazy at home, that contributed to good turnouts for both

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training and matches.

UI3s only managed to play 5 matches with several having to be cancelled because of lack of availability. Unfortunately, the girls too struggled to get a team together. Coming out of Winter training at St Swithuns in the Spring, the plan was to have two EMWCC girls' teams as in previous years – UIIs playing incrediball and UI3s playing hard-ball. However, when Summer training finally got underway, numbers were limited.

Despite the great efforts made to field a team against other clubs, they were unable to find mutually accommodating dates/player numbers to allow that to happen.

That said they managed to play cricket on all but one (rained off) Wednesday evening throughout July and August, plus the added benefit of Ian Stuart coaching.

The season was brought to a close on Sunday with our annual memorial game to one of our much loved and missed players Steve 'Badger' Green. This too was a closely contested game that came down to the last over and saw many of our stars of the future displaying their skills. Great to see so much support and the sun shone too. Perfect.

Thank you to all who have helped make this season, took part and hopefully enjoyed themselves. Stay safe and fingers crossed normal service will be resumed in 2021, so see you then.

Adam Murch

Valley Gardeners "go berserk" in Berkshire!

Like us all, The Valley Gardeners has been on garden visit lockdown since February, although we have held hall



meetings. So, it was a very happy band of members who enjoyed two very contrasting gardens in Royal Berkshire on September 8.

Our morning's visit was to Rooksnest garden, situated at Lambourn Woodlands. This garden is the epitome of a classic English garden and everyone adored it. Principally designed by Arabella Lennox-Boyd, its gorgeous features include a sunken garden, a pool garden and a fine vegetable garden as well as various sculptures throughout the property which enhance and complement the garden rooms and planting schemes quite perfectly. An Anthony Gormley figure stands watching over the

Lambourn downs, his feet deep in meadowland whilst a gorilla peeps through a thicket of grasses elsewhere. This garden is elegant and sumptuous yet understated



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in that very English way, with cool colours and magnificent specimen trees. Its 10 acres includes parkland where a herd of deer grazed peacefully. We also munched our picnic lunch most contentedly at Rooksnest before heading off to Old Camps garden in Thatcham, Adam Vetere, the owner, welcomed us to his spectacular one acre garden, which could not have been more different from Rooksnest. Here, 3m tall bananas (Musa Basjoo), Cannas, Hedychiums, Dahlias and Brugmansia rub shoulders in the tropical border whilst the Prairie border glitters with the jewel-like colours of asters and crocosmias at this time of year. A ravine garden and Italianate potager surround the unusual house, which was constructed by Adam and his family from a former bungalow. Now it is a contemporary cedar clad house complete with a glass atrium at its heart which gives views over to Watership Down. Tea and cake on the terrace surrounded by dwarf peaches and scented pelargoniums completed what had been a truly heady day absorbing the sights, sounds and scents of two glorious gardens; something the Valley Gardeners have been missing all year.

Catherine Hahn

Upper Itchen Valley Society 49th AGM

This was held remotely on 18 September. A copy of the Agenda was sent out earlier and formal minutes will be sent to members.

Briefly the Minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved, as were the accounts. There were no questions to the Treasurer, Membership Secretary or Chairman.

The new Chairman: Elaine Labram was elected unanimously as were the Committee: Rolls Coleman (Treasurer), Lucy Collis (Membership Secretary), Simon Broadley (Easton) and Alison Matthews (Avington) We were all saddened by the death of Jim Glasspool on 7 September. Jim had been on the Committee as one of the Itchen Abbas representatives and as the "River Expert" for more years than anyone can remember and will be much missed. He had a wealth of knowledge on local topics that he imparted with tact and humour and was extremely supportive to to me as chairman.



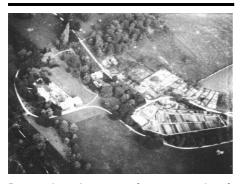
On a more cheerful note we are delighted that Elaine Labram has been elected Chairman. Elaine has lived in Easton for over 20 years and will make an excellent

chairman as she combines a strong interest in the environment with experience gained on the Parish Council and a firm commitment to the local community.

Hopefully next year things will be back to normal!

Alison Matthews

Mystery of Avington photos revealed



Remember these pics from a couple of months ago? David Sulzberger from The Pavilion in Avington Park was kind enough to spend some time with me this week to explain their origin. The glass slides for these pictures, dating circa 1907, were purchased by him in a box of memorabilia from the Sir Charles Rolls estate. Sir Charles Rolls, of Rolls Royce fame, was a keen engineer and aviator. Pictured in the balloon basket, on the field outside Avington Park, is his sister Lady Eleanor Shelley-Rolls who was then living at Avington Park.



We assume she then hopped out of the balloon, rather carefully given her outfit, and he took off to take the photo of Avington Park from the skies. *Fi Mcintosh*

Martyr Worthy Village Hall

Like many similar halls, Martyr Worthy Village Hall has not been in general use for several months as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. Applying all the relevant Government guidelines to ensure that it is Covid Secure, we have however now been able to re-open the hall, with all the necessary precautions in place, with effect from early September and a number of new bookings have been taken.

This follows the sad closure of Riverbank Kindergarten at the end of July. Riverbank was a great supporter of the hall for 25 years but its departure now opens up the possibility of the hall being available for many other uses within the community and we hope that all those who are interested will take full advantage of this opportunity. For those who wish to do so, please feel free to contact the Bookings Secretary on 01962 779701 or on

martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.com The Annual General Meeting, which would normally have been held in the hall in May, will now take place remotely at 6 pm on 27 October. A separate notice to this effect is included in the What's On section of the magazine and includes joining instructions for those who would like to attend.

The hall is now generally in use, but sadly it will not be possible, due to the Government restrictions, to hold the Children's Christmas party scheduled to take place on 5 December. Hopefully the party will return another year.

On a more positive note and again like many other similar halls, the hall has recently been the beneficiary of a Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant



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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, this may change.

17-20 June 2021 Easton Flower Festival

II 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.



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from the Government: this will greatly help in maintaining the hall for use by the community and replacing income lost as a result of Covid-19.

Guy Green Chairman Management
Committee

Water, water everywhere!



Thursday 27 August 2020. A day to remember. It started to rain heavily about 4pm. At 5pm it became tropical, something I have never seen before in this country. We are the last house in our close and the street drains were just overwhelmed. So we had a wall of water cascading into our drive and across the garden. Fortunately, due to the design of our paths, no water came into the house or garage. But the flood was strong enough to move stones on a distant path. It was interesting to see every gutter and downpipe overflowing. Some were not so lucky and in Itchen Abbas the Plough was forced to close. I see this as another warning about a changing climate and we all need to think about that and maybe take action for what will

become hotter, dryer, wetter and colder in times to come.

Tony Gaster

From Our MP



Parliament is back in full swing now and, without a conference season this year, it's a long session through until Christmas. Using my

decade plus experience, I have been speaking out in recent weeks of my concerns for the future of many health prevention duties within the remit of the soon to be disbanded Public Health England, on access to Covid testing and that important UK/EU free trade agreement.

I also spoke recently in a major debate on aviation and focused on two things; the shameful way British Airways have turned a health crisis into an industrial relations catastrophe and sustainable air travel as we chase our climate change objectives through the 'jet zero' programme. It should never be either or and we shouldn't listen to the negative mindset that says otherwise. You can find the speech linked from my Facebook page.

Recent weeks have, of course, been dominated by the awful events around the school bus crash in Kings Worthy. For those who don't know, that bus picks up young people in our Itchen Valley (in Easton and Itchen Abbas) and we thank God no-one was killed as it struck the railway bridge on Wellhouse Lane on its way to Henry Beaufort School.

Speaking on the local TV news, I said at the time how we need clear answers as to how this could ever have happened and, notwithstanding the police operation which must take its proper course, I haven't wasted any time in this regard. The school, police, council and Stagecoach were round a table with me within days of the incident and they know how upset and angry residents are.

There is no doubt (or argument) that this bus was on the wrong route but we need to know why. As importantly for us, there are clearly issues with the timetabling of this service out in the Itchen Valley and I want a speedy resolution to them because my hunch is they're symptomatic of a home school transport contract that has been found seriously wanting. This is a fast-moving situation, and subject to various legal action, but I will keep all updated as best I can via my usual channels.

Finally, I passionately believe Winchester has a unique opportunity to become a real workplace destination in the wake of Covid and changing work patterns. The question is, do we have the local leadership, the ambition and the vision to grab this opportunity? In my recent column, published in the Hampshire Chronicle, I argue that the challenges facing Winchester's economy and continued dither over its regeneration have been badly exposed by the pandemic. My central thesis is that Winchester can no longer afford to indulge in endless debate and selfinterested legal challenge because this is all connected to the changing workplace; we should have a bold strategy to be an exciting workplace destination and build an economic powerhouse that can fund the public services and cultural offering we so value. You can read more at at:www.stevebrine.com/ winchesterworkplacedestination Please find me on Facebook for instant.

updates on my work locally and in Westminster Steve Brine MP

Food Spy



Delighted to hear that the Chestnut Horse in Easton had reopened under new management, it was with excited anticipation that Food Spy and family paid an early evening visit. The

fact that lockdown had finally ended and the sun was shining only added to our happy mood. Lockdown had proved to be a relentless cook-a-thon for Food Spy. The delectable novelty of 'eating out' and being let off the hook! Not having to slave away in the kitchen after months of food shovelling was an exciting prospect.

We arrived to find the decking area bathed in sunlight with families seated at well-spaced, socially distanced tables and eating plates of food that looked good. We received a warm and cheery welcome from Landlord Paul and General Manager Callum who both took the time to introduce themselves as father and son of the Bodle family team who now run the pub. This is truly a family enterprise: son Nathan cooks in the kitchen whilst Amelia does front of house and administration. A nose inside quickly revealed that there had been much hard work done. Gone are the bargain basement blackboards that previously littered most of the walls. Instead, fresh paint and a tasteful selection of pictures adorn the place, lending an altogether more refined country-pub vibe. Our village pub looked elegant, homely and clean. The atmosphere was busy and buzzy.

We decided to enjoy the sunshine and

sat at a table on the outside decking area under a large sun canopy while we studied the menu. Food Spy chose the burger with smoked cheese, bacon and chilli jam (£14) while other members of Family Spy selected wild mushroom tagliatelle (£13), fish and chips (£15) and a roast lamb dish (£15) while we sipped a delicious icy cool light Provencal rosé. The service was guick, efficient, attentive and friendly and the food did not disappoint. What a wonderful afternoon we had: eating and drinking in the sunshine, celebrating the successful reopening of a fine, favourite village pub in the heart of the beautiful Itchen Valley. Fact was, all members of the Food Spy family so enjoyed our visit that other visits to the Chestnut have since been

visits to the Chestnut have since been successfully campaigned for. Important to conduct thorough research, of course! Service has always been friendly and consistent. It turns out that Sunday lunch is really rather good too. The roast supreme of chicken (£15) is highly recommended and the sticky toffee pudding served with Judes ice cream, a highlight. In fact, all the puddings went down a treat.

The Bodle family are intent on making a success of it and long may it last. Paul reassured that they are all geared up to meet the Rule of Six and all the latest Covid restrictions. Food Spy hears on the grapevine that more salads and healthy options will be appearing on the menu: A good thing for those trying to shed those extra creeping Covid pounds and ounces. Looking forward to trying the beetroot and goats cheese salad... with or without a guilty side of fries?

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm off to book again for Sunday lunch. Great to see the Chestnut is back on the map! Food Spy

Itchen Valley Entrepreneur



Martyr Worthy based local entrepreneur, Gordon Lott, talks us through his latest launch. Dr Vegan perfect for those looking for a trusted vitamin

source and you need to read on as he has generously given us a valley discount as well

Are you DR.VEGAN?

DR.VEGAN is a team of people who've come together to bring clarity, ethics and simplicity to the world of supplements. Our team includes PhDs and doctors with over 30 years of experience in nutrition plus a few technical wizards who make everything happen at drvegan.com.

Why did you decide to start the business?

For many consumers, the supplements market can be intimidating and confusing. Inconsistent labelling, ingredients of uncertain origin and a lack of clear information mean you're often left wondering what it is you're really buying and whether you'll actually derive any benefit. Our mission is to change that.

There are loads of vitamin companies out there, what sets you apart?

As well as bringing clarity, simplicity and ethics to the supplements market, we also wanted to provide higher quality products to consumers that are more effective, and which don't cost the earth – literally! So we only use naturally sourced and plant-based ingredients that are free of any nasty additives, which means they're more

easily absorbed and don't have the side effects that you get from so many supplements. For example, lots of supplements, even established premium brands I'm sure some of your readers use, contain Titanium Dioxide, which is used as a colouring agent in tablets but is also a carcinogen. Even more brands sold in chemists and supermarkets contain Talc – yes as in Talcum Powder! Our #I advice to anyone is "read the label". We also wanted to address the

massive waste and carbon footprint created by plastic and glass bottles so all our supplements are in biodegradable pouches, delivered in recyclable boxes through your letter box, and all come with a free refillable vitamin tin. That's why our motto is

"Better me. Better planet."

How has it been starting a business in the midst of a pandemic?

In some ways it was easier. We had so much to do in order to launch in July, and the lack of distractions of being out and about, actually helped us focus. All our products are manufactured in the UK so we just spent a lot of time on Zoom and Google Hangout. Because we're a food supplement, which was classed as an essential business during lockdown, we and our partners could continue. And I should say Nicky, my wife, was brilliant in home schooling our youngest and supporting our two eldest kids, which helped me focus on

the business.

Is this only for Vegans or what is the target audience?

Our range is designed for plant-based diets but all our supplements are compatible with all diets, and two thirds of our customers aren't vegan. DR.VEGAN is for people looking to live a healthier life, who want to support their body every day, and are looking for higher quality, naturally sourced, plant-based and

more effective supplements that are kinder to them and the planet.

Are you having to follow a vegan diet yourself?

I'm not sure I could ever go vegan myself because I love eggs and they're so good for you but I only ever

use vegan supplements because they're better for you and the environment.

How can you build immunity for winter?

Our nutritionists would recommend everyone takes a Daily Multi-Vitamin all year round because it is so difficult for people to eat a healthy balanced diet that provides all the nutrients for your immunity. Vitamins A, C, D, B6, B12, Folate, Iron, Selenium and Zinc are all important for your immune health and the easiest way to get them is in a Daily Multi. An additional Vitamin D supplement is also important, particularly in winter and for older people because as you age, it is more difficult for your skin to make Vitamin D. Public Health England recommend



all adults supplement with Vitamin D. Shouldn't it be possible to get all nutrients from the food we eat? Absolutely, it is possible and some people can. However the realities of modern life mean it is very hard to maintain a varied and balanced diet every day. Some people are also deficient in certain nutrients due to diet, lifestyle, age, weight, gender, your alcohol intake and other factors. For example, Vegans and people on plantbased diets need to supplement with concentrated bacteria-synthesised Vitamin B12 because it is normally only absorbed from animal-based foods and it is essential for your energy. Women are more likely to need Iron, and the older you get, the more your body needs Magnesium which is difficult to get through food alone. These are just a few examples. And because we humans have over-farmed the land. studies show the amount of nutrients in crops is up to 40% less than it was 30 or 40 years ago, so supplements are becoming more and more important to support our energy, bones and joints, immunity, mental focus, healthy hair, skin, and much more.

Do you draw inspiration from a particular spot in the valley? How can you not? It is one of the most beautiful places in the world in my view. My favourite spot is walking through Cowdown with our dog – it's so peaceful and you just watch and listen to the river and all nature in the valley.

With many poeple looking for healthy eat-out options, where would DR.VEGAN head locally for a nutritious meal?

So many choices – if it is with the kids they generally only want to go to one place, Wagamamas in Winchester, however you can't beat a pint and a meal from The Plough or Cricketers, can you?

If you could just recommend one supplement what would it be? The DR.VEGAN Daily Multi-Vitamin. It covers all your body's core needs every day and its receiving lots of 5 star 'Excellent' reviews on Trustpilot. And I'm delighted to give

of 5 star 'Excellent' reviews on Trustpilot. And I'm delighted to give the Valley News readers a discount on it and all our range – just enter PRO25 at check out and they'll receive 25% off their order!

Gordon Lott was talking to Fi McIntsoh

From the Parish Council



A number of events have kept us busy over the last month. The most recent was the application for a licence, by a company called Mark II Media, to hold a food festival

at Avington Park House next May. Space and time do not allow to give a detailed history but it suffices to say that the application created a significant amount of comment from Valley residents. The greatest concern was the traffic management plan. To all with knowledge of the area, it was quite clear that the plan was so poor as to be unworkable. There was also concern over general safety and noise levels. Thank you to all those who contacted us and brought these issues to our attention. After a considerable amount of discussion with both Mark II Media and Winchester City Council, we were able to persuade them to withdraw the present application and start by talking to the Valley residents and the Parish Council. All members of the Parish Council have been involved on this topic and I would like to thank

them for their work and support. Special thanks should go to Christopher Langford, Yvette Riley and Michelle Leadbitter-Allen, our Clerk, for the thought, time and effort that they put into dealing with this issue. Please be aware that this projected event is likely to become a reality but hopefully by listening to us, an equitable solution can be found. On a general point for all who make application whether for planning or events, it is worth noting that a lot of difficulties can be avoided if those applying come and talk with us first.

An earlier event in the past month was the sudden downpour that flooded parts of Winchester and some properties in the Valley. It is clear that many drains need clearing and we are asking Hampshire County Council if this can be done. However there are likely to be many places in need of this service and the Itchen Valley is not necessarily going to be their first priority. Where we can, some self-help is useful and the residents of Church Lane, Martyr Worthy who cleared the ditches are to be congratulated. There are two long term drainage issues which still need sorting out. The first is the water that comes down Bridgetts Lane, floods the cross roads, erodes the edge of Church Lane at the top and causes a flood at the bottom of the lane. The second is the water from Northington Road and Station Hill in Itchen Abbas which should drain into a ditch but unfortunately often does not due to the ditch silting up. There are solutions to these problems and they have been suggested to HCC for several years. So far to no avail but we will keep trying.

Another issue which seems to have developed into a bit of a saga is the leak from a manhole in Northington

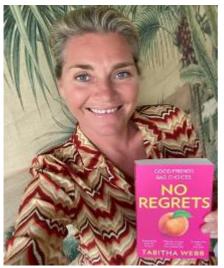
Road. This has been going on for at least twelve months. Despite the involvement of our own County Councillor, Winchester City Council, speaking to Southern Water and Clancy Docwra, both of whom have their names on a notice by the manhole and stating that they are aware of the leak, it seems to be impossible to get even a coherent answer let alone anything done. Once again we can but keep trying. As mentioned last month our public telephones and the boxes that house them could well be at risk of removal by BT. If we do lose the telephones, do we want to keep the boxes? Some think that we should get them listed as iconic features in our villages; Avington's already is. If you think this a good idea please let us know. We will be discussing the issue at our next Full Council Meeting (by Zoom) on Thursday I October. Patrick Appleby

Bird of the Month

The little egret is a small white heron which used to be a very rare visitor. However it is now expanding its range, probably due to climate change. It first bred in the UK in Dorset in 1996. It feeds on small fish and crustacea. Elaine Labram



Book Review - No Regrets



No regrets, aside from listening to this on Audible in the car with my mum! Local Fashion designer, now best-selling author, Tabitha Webb has written a scorcher.

Perfect summer read but also a cracker for Christmas. This racy novel, think Sex in the City meets Bridget Jones Baby with a shot of Wandsworth mum. This is a fun, frivolous and naughty tale of three best friends. Making mistakes, enjoying midlife mayhem experiences and having a happy ending (a couple of those are in there as well)! Fi Mcintosh

The Practical Gardener

Looking at the garden at this time of year, it just seems amazing. I often reflect in these difficult times how fortunate we are compared with those who live in tower blocks in cities. Being able to enjoy nature in its seasons is wonderful. We've had to cope this year with a great variety of weather. Having a month's rain in an hour was a



challenge but in spite of some damage, I feel the gardens and lawns have really benefitted. As I write, it's hot and sunny again but who knows what October will bring.

I thought it might be helpful to share successes and failures of the year, what worked and what didn't. We know from Gardener's World that even the experts have failures. In my vegetable garden, the successes are asparagus, peas, broad beans, some brassicas, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, carrots and beetroot. Those not doing so well are runner beans where the flowers did not set and similarly squash and courgettes. I have no idea why this happened and I have reported earlier about some seeds that refused to germinate. I've grown aubergine this year with dismal results, lots of flowers (yes very pretty plants) and only two fruits.

I grow lots of tomatoes, which can be quite demanding in terms of attention. I'm rather disappointed in the Italian varieties of plum tomatoes (pomodoro). Undoubted the best result was from "Big daddy". I've cut down most of my plants, the remaining green tomatoes will ripen quite well inside. At least for 4 months I have grown enough for our table. In the greenhouse, cucumbers are still

producing. I cut back the old stems as new ones sprout and produce another crop. I estimate I've had more than 100 fruits this year.

October is usually the month when I clear out the greenhouse, pressure wash and fumigate. I've been advised to leave this until November which I will do. But all my frost sensitive plants like fuchsia and geraniums will still need a protected home.

I'm quite into gadgets, especially to save effort. I produce a lot of my own compost but it needs sifting. I want to separate the woody bits and what looks more like soil. So I have a mechanical sifter which works quite well but it's still hard work. I reckon my compost bin produces one ton every 3 months. So the best compost is now spread all over the garden as a mulch. Similarly, the woody bits are put on the shrub areas and rose garden better to walk on in the winter. Some words about compost. Most organic material will break down over time but items like eggshells, avocado skins, sweet corn kernels and the like, all take a long time and are best avoided. Similarly, prunings which are composed of hard material are best shredded. For example, except for yew, all my hedge clippings are shredded and go into the compost heap. I'm careful not to have too much



grass. This does break down and in doing so really heats up. It is, of course, very beneficial in killing off weeds. Right now, my compost heap is about 50°C. Flowers this year are just stunning. Growing annuals can be hard work and I'm switching much more to perennials. However, the colours in different areas are magic. Low growing sun flowers, antirrhinums, asters, geraniums, begonias all make their contribution. Happy gardening. Tony Gaster

Embracing the Muse of Autumn



It's that time of year again: the nights are growing longer, and trees are preparing for a long cold

winter. Autumn is well and truly here. That means – if you want to live to your fullest potential and do so in a healthy and wholesome way – it is time to tune into the natural energy of autumn.

Our tendency is to bulldoze our way through each calendar year, by more or less ignoring the cyclical nature of birth (spring), growth (summer), harvest (autumn) and decay (winter). Modern Western culture expects us to be the same every day – look after our families, go to work, be productive, race around, get things done – but we're not the same every day. Humans, like nature, are cyclical beings. We are in a constant state of rise and fall. We are deeply affected by the natural energy of the changing seasons, the moon, the tides and our own monthly

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cycles.

Autumn is a time for letting go. Just as deciduous trees must let go of their leaves in order to survive and grow, we too must let go of what no longer serves us. Let it fall gracefully from our branches and let clarity and lightness take its place.

Here are four practical tips for adapting your daily routines to the autumn season:

Time outdoors: Make sure you spend time in nature, allowing your skin to drink in vitamin D, as this is essential for your emotional and physical wellbeing. You might need to adjust your daily routines towards going outdoors more around the middle of the day, instead of early mornings or late evenings, as we prepare for the shorter, darker days ahead. Make sure this is fully incorporated into your daily regime before you lose all motivation when winter sets in!

Clear the clutter: Make space and time to get rid of clutter in your home and garden (and mind). If it doesn't light you up, it's time to release it. Like an autumnal tree, it generously drops its fruit in autumn. When you let things go – recycling them in a responsible way – you will find that someone else can put it to good use and that you yourself end up feeling lighter and more spacious.

Autumnal foods: Boost your natural immunity by eating foods that are autumnal. Try adding foods to your diet that are naturally orange, red, yellow and deep greens — autumn-like colours. Think pumpkin, squash, oranges, carrots, lemons etc.

Yoga: Yoga is good for you in all seasons (I would say that as a yoga teacher)! But it is a wonderfully releasing practice to do regularly during autumn as it encourages you to



let things find their resting place and shed all expectations and pressures that are weighing you down. Or treat yourself to a whole day of yoga and walking at Easton Village Hall: upcoming yoga day retreats are 14 November and 2 January. Please find further details here: http://www.sherinshe.com/yoga/

Letter from the Rectory



What resources do you have to get through the Winter?
We can all imagine how tough this Autumn and

Winter are going to be. Finally, we have all appreciated that this pandemic is not going away. Frankly the novelty has worn off. It has become very boring indeed! We were all hoping to

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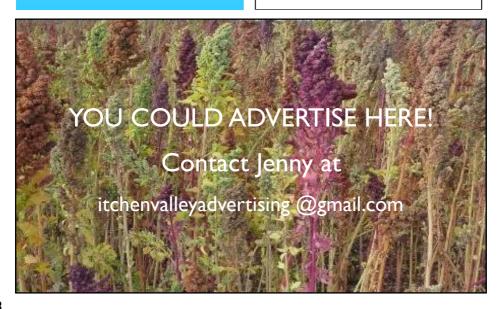
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be back by now on the path to normality, but then came the increasing numbers of infections and now The Rule of Six is putting paid to all sorts of important events in our lives, from toddlers groups to granny's 90th birthday party. Brides and their mothers are biting their nails as to whether the restrictions will get tougher before their big days! All sorts of businesses are on a roller coaster which is proving even more sickening with every twist and turn. It all calls to mind the Greek myth of Tantalus who was positioned in Hades below a tree but who could never quite grasp the succulent fruit that hung from its boughs. A return to normal life seems like that fruit, always in sight, but never quite achieved. The TV is providing little escape as the book of recorded series starts to run out and the news is just the same over and over again. So we go to bed concerned about the future and awake to more sickening worry over our muesli. This is all made much worse if we don't have someone to talk to during this period. I feel so much for the widower in Alton who the Daily Mail reported last month had to go to the extreme of advertising for friends, because he could not bear the unrelenting silence of lockdown any more.

So what can we do about this? Well, first I want to say that whether you are stressed by the way that the world is at the moment or if you cannot bear the unrelenting silence of lockdown any more, we in the church are here for you. Please do drop me an email rector@itchenvalleychurches.org if you need to have a chat and I will call you back. We also have the Valley Visitors led by Lavinia Owen who will

visit, call and generally see that you are OK. Also I hope that everyone in the parish is on a WhatsApp group for their neighbourhood so that they can ask for help from their immediate neighbours.

But I think we need to do something more to counter the relentlessness of bad news. It is said that 'we become what we consume' and that is not just a warning about eating too much fat and sugar. We need to feed our hearts, minds and souls with a diet which does not just consist of bad news and gloom. In the early centuries of the church, monks following on from the way of life adopted by St Benedict, developed a practice called Lectio Diving. Lectio Diving is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. It is a way of praying the scriptures that leads us deeper into God's word. We slow down. We read a short passage more than once. We chew it over slowly and carefully. We savour it. Scripture begins to speak to us in a new way. It speaks to us personally, and aids that union we have with God through Christ who is himself the Living Word.

So how do we go about this? Well, as with everything these days, there is an app for our smartphones that avoids us having to find a Bible in a translation that we can understand and avoids us having to choose a passage. Lectio 365 is a free app which provides a reading for every day. The app enables us to pause. We can listen to a voice speaking out the passage and encouraging us to pray for about 10 minutes so we don't even have to go to the trouble of reading! Please take the few minutes to feed your heart, mind and soul by listening to and praying Lectio 365 every day and allow it to put your life and your concerns in a cosmic perspective. Alex Pease

While some activities in the village halls are now resuming, 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 martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.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

4th Oct - 10am Family Worship by Zoom

11th Oct - 10am Parish Communion St John's, Itchen Abbas and via Zoom

18th Oct - 10am Valley Worship by Zoom

25th Oct - 10am Parish Communion St Mary's, Easton and via Zoom 6pm Evensong St Swithun's, Marthyr Worthy (live only)

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

Our Churches are generally open for private prayer between 10am - 2pm on the following days, please check website for confirmation:

> 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

A lifetime challenge with a lasting legacy



As if confined living during lockdown wasn't challenging enough, an Itchen Valley resident has taken close quarter living to an even greater extreme by joining 3 others in a rowing boat and attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a 3,000 mile rowing race.

Calum Barclay, who currently lives in Easton, is training hard to take part in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge 2020. His team is rowing to raise money to build four schools in a very poor region of Nepal, which will help educate 1,380 children every year. The Human Practice Foundation (HPF) was set up in 2014 to help achieve better life outcomes for children in extreme poverty. Their work includes creating social impact projects that help improve the local economy in these regions, in turn providing more employment opportunities for young people.

Making this kind of difference will spur on Calum as he bobs around in his 28 foott rowing boat, facing 30 foot waves, extreme exhaustion, not to mention the blisters and the bucket toilet (!)

"This is such a unique event that has all the ingredients for an amazing challenge; hardship, endurance, adventure, self-sufficiency. Many more have climbed Everest".

Not surprising to hear that the training for such a trip is relentless. Six days a week combining strength and mobility work in the gym and many hours on a rowing machine. There is also a mandatory 120 hours in-boat training. But as Calum explains it's not just about being physically fit. "The mental side is difficult to prepare for as it's very hard to replicate the conditions. You have to talk to those who have done it before and try and understand the challenges. One of my worst fears would be if the weather gets very bad and we need to be locked in the cabins for a sustained period on sea anchor. The cabins are very small and would therefore have two of us squashed in there like sardines for maybe 12 -24 hours"

At this point Calum is just looking forward to getting going. He sets off from the Canary Islands in early December. You can follow his progress at http://hpfatlantic.co.uk and on Instagram and facebook @hpfatlantic. In the meantime, if you





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would like to be part of this special challenge as a corporate sponsor or by offering a donation, the HPF team would love to hear from you. Calum is also wondering if anyone who has a sewing machine might be able to sew a few things for the crew? Perhaps a privacy screen for the bucket toilet Lucy Wolfe

Our Wild Valley - Fading autumn life.



I have nurtured my few Cosmos plants and finally, after the deluge of rain, they got going. Between them lies our lockdown pond full of mint, forget-menot, mare's-tail and water soldier. Near the hens is a large toadflax of sorts. The corner hums; bees, bumble or honey or other, soldier flies, hover flies, wasps and more. The seat that Tom has remade is my yogi dream - I have warmth, light, beauty in the form of colour and shape and I'm surrounded by life.

So when a large bumble bee struggled to climb up and over a petty spurge (your usual lightweight weed) of which I have many, I really felt for it. I watched for a while but it appeared all wrong, not going for the right flowers and did not fly. I stuck it on a Cosmos. Later I stuck it on a butterfly bush.

The next day it was still about and then no more. I hope it was a queen that was going to hibernate in the ground or it may have just been at the end of its life and I saw its last day.

A million species are going to be extinct they say, I in 4 plants will be lost; it's happening now, and we hear about it when the media wants us too, or when Sir David Attenborough produces Extinction on the BBC. A sustainable and green economic revival was suggested in this programme to be possible to get us out of this slump and save the huge loss of biodiversity. Economists, scientists and the private sector have not given up hope in investing in our natural world so that we can live in it. We can support and adapt.

As I would care for a single bee, so I will try and care for them all.

Sophie Rogers

Charity Christmas Cards on the Move!



Just when you thought it was safe to go back into Winchester Guildhall, the traditional Charity Christmas Card shop has relocated. The Tourist Information Centre

was deemed too small to house all those cards as well as the TIC staff in these times of social distancing. The former Whittards shop, just down the High Street from W.H.Smith, is the new all-singing, all-dancing Christmas Card destination. Opening on Monday 19 October, the shop will house a wide range of local and national charity cards



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to suit all tastes. An example of a local card in aid of the Southampton Paediatric Intensive Care Unit is shown on the previous page. Most of the cards in aid of national charities will be supplied by Cards for Good Causes. The shop is also looking for volunteers to help man the unit; a lot of people will be needed to staff it every day from now until Christmas. If you think you could assist, please contact Cathy Wallis on winchesterCFGC@gmail.com. Season's Greetings everyone!

Get Snappy to help stop Speeders



Hampshire Police are accepting personal video evidence submissions from members of the

public who have witnessed alleged road traffic offences. Then a trained decision maker will assess the footage and determine if any offences have been committed. Where action is proportionate and there is sufficient evidence to prosecute the case successfully at Court, the incident will most likely be dealt with via the fixed penalty system.

The scheme is being opened up to cover all road users and offences for which people can submit footage. Footage of dangerous incidents can be submitted via an online portal. This can be from a dash cam, head cam or other recording device that is being legally used.

The footage must meet the criteria

- It must be reported within seven days

- Should not be edited
- Should not have been deleted from your device
- Should not be shared on social media
- Needs to show between one to two minutes either side of the incident. Road Safety Sergeant Scott Kerr said "We are asking drivers who commit offences is it worth the risk? We don't think so and our aim is to spread the message and educate as many people as possible to help improve the safety of our roads across Hampshire

Footage can be submitted by going to https://hants-snap-

police.egressforms.com or via the Force website.

and the Isle of Wight."

Taken from Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association's submission to Forum written by Andrew Black

From our City Councillors



Cllr Margot Power

Money ££££! In February we approved a balanced budget for two years, since then the impact of Covid has meant a reduction of income of £10.5m, of which possibly £5.4m

will be covered by Her Majesty's Government, the detail has not been confirmed. On a General Fund turnover of £33m this is significant. We will approve an emergency budget for this financial year in which various capital projects have been deferred and some operational savings identified to cover the income deficit of about £5.1m.

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Modelling of worst, best and average effects of Covid-19 on Winchester next year and taking the cautiously optimistic view, anticipates a budget gap of £2m to £4m next year. It could be worse, could be better. The budget for

2021/22 will come to Council early in 2021. Some very difficult decisions will need to be made.

Green Waste, one of your readers asked if Council Tax will be reduced to reflect the charges for Green Waste Collection. We anticipate that these charges will cover the cost of collection, about £900k, therefore those charges form a part of the savings we need to make in 21-22. We will be the last Council in Hampshire to bring in these charges. The use of Green Waste bins for food waste is under consideration.

Alas, as Winchester City Council collects Council Tax, there is a common perception that we keep it! In practice we pass the vast majority to Hampshire Council, the Police, Fire Services and Parishes. Winchester retains less than 8%. For 20-21 the shares are Hampshire County Council – 71.29%, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire – 11.72%, Winchester City Council – 7.93%, Parishes and Town – 5.23% (variable by parish), Hampshire Fire and Rescue – 3.83%.

As part of Winchester Green Week, Winchester City Council is hosting its first district Sustainability Conference: Routes to Carbon Neutrality.

The climate crisis is the biggest

challenge all of us face in the coming years and decades and we need to play our part in tackling the crisis. To hear all about what Winchester Council has been doing since the council declared a climate emergency, you can join our virtual conference on **Thursday I and Friday 2 October** from 10am.

Across the two days, you'll be able to drop into a variety of sessions where you can listen to experts in the field including the Head of Sustainability at Marwell Zoo, Dr Duncan East and Professor Bakr Bahaj from University of Southampton on a variety of topics. You'll also hear from our Councillors and have chance to ask us your pressing questions, all from the comfort of your sofa (or desk)! You can book a place on as many of the sessions as you like. For more information and to register for free, visit https://www.winchester.gov.uk/ climate-change-and-energy Margot Power mpower@winchester.gov.uk 01962 734167 rgordon-smith@winchester.gov.uk 01962 733219

Spiders: Our eight legged allies

Lockdown has been difficult for all of us but for many people it has put a focus on the wildlife that calls our gardens home. Popular species that





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Green Crab Spider © Josh Phangurha

visit gardens include various birds and mammals; while I greatly welcome both, some of the most fascinating garden inhabitants are rather overlooked and unpopular.

A recent study estimated that spiders worldwide eat 400-800 million metric tonnes in insect flesh every year – for context, humans also consume around 400 million metric tonnes in meat and fish annually. Without spiders we would be absolutely overrun by certain insects, including disease-spreading and crop-destroying species.

According to the World Spider Catalogue, there are currently around 670 species of spider living in the UK. Some of these species are localised or nationally scarce but some could be living in your neighbourhood - Hampshire is blessed with good spider diversity due to the county's array of special habitats. Here are some tips on exploring the weird and wonderful world of your local spiders.

How to spot spiders outdoors
Many British spiders are active at night
and it's at this time when some of the
most fascinating behaviours are

observed. Going out into my garden with a torch has revealed predation like a giant house spider eating a black lace web spider, and a noble false

widow spider wrapping up two woodlouse spiders at once! It's a spider -eat-spider world out there.

Mimicking the movement of prey on a spider's web can sometimes reveal the occupant – try gently wiggling a piece of grass against the edge. This is a great way to become familiar with the types of web that different species build, such as the sheet webs favoured by giant house spiders or the orb webs of garden cross spiders. You might even encounter a tunnel-like web with 'trip lines' radiating around a hole in a wall or tree; these belong to the aptlynamed tube web spider. Having a wider variety of plant species in your garden will attract a more diverse population of spiders. Although there are many spiders which feel at home in artificial environments, many others prefer to live in woodland, scrub, or open grassland. Leaving a patch of longer grass will provide a home for several spider species, as well as the insects they hunt. Adding oxeye daisies will make it particularly good for the spectacular, but uncommon, flower crab spider.

There are species that like to live higher up, which is where having shrubs, scrub and perhaps a mature tree becomes important. Keep an eye out for the gorgeous orb-weaving spider Araneus triguttatus, the exquisite green crab spider, and the uniquely patterned Nigma puella. If you're really lucky, you may spot the remarkable triangle web spider too! Sophie Evingar

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust strives to create a better future for wildlife and wild places in our two counties.

Help wildlife where you live. www.hiwwt.org.uk

Look but do not touch!



Black Bryony, the only British member of the yam family, is a highly poisonous creeper. Its heart-shaped leaves have disappeared by October but beautiful clusters of red berries can be seen in hedgerows.

Dorothy and Simon Broadley

Ploughing on.....



Thank you to Mima White for this lovely photo taken in Easton. Eds

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in October

Black bins and green bags on Fridays 9 and 23 October. Green bins on Fridays 2, 16 and 30 October. Glass boxes on Friday 16 October.

Cameo

Now cancelled.

Farmers Market in Winchester Sundays 11 and 25 October.

Parish Council Full Meeting
Thursday | October, Easton Village Hall.

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

Mondays and Thursdays to Winchester: 08:23 09:23 13:53 16:23 17:23 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to Winchester:

08:23 09:23 11:53 13:53 16:23 17:23

NB: The 16:23 service only runs on school days. On non-school days it goes at 15:23 and then only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 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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