

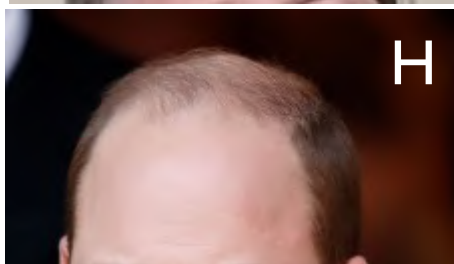
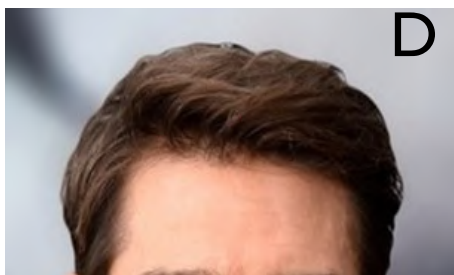
# ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 85 January 2021

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



## WHO'S HAIRSTYLE?



Match names to hairlines: Bruce Willis; Tom Cruise; Donald Trump; Boris Johnson;  
Joe Biden; Bill Gates; Kim Jong Un; Prince Charles; Prince William, Rupert Grint

# WELCOME to the Valley News



Happy Christmas, and please remember to celebrate the whole twelve days of Christmas. Twelfth Night is 5 January so do leave the decorations up until then.

Last month we asked readers to send in contributions in the form of either Haiku or Limericks. We got a very good response. The Haiku were rounded up and sent to Cumbria for judging by a published poet, Martyn Halsall, winner of Norman Nicholson prize for a poem on the theme of lockdown plus other poetry prizes.

The winning Haiku is:

Silent lonely night  
orts and fragments of the year  
highlighting sorrow

which “picks up the (winter) season, yet also awards it a fitting (sorrow) obituary. 'Orts' is very telling (though it took a bit of tracking down) but its historic usage of left-over, or fragments, of food, or refuse, is very telling and underlines subtly the tone of this seasonal poem, making a very complete haiku.” The author is Clare Gaster, which is a vindication of expertise since she was an English teacher for many years.

Second came

Not much going on  
Nothing to fill the pages  
Must write some poems

because it “captures the mischievous and slightly cynical tone favoured most notably by the Edo period haiku master Matsuo Basho, at the end of a year when we needed a bit of his slightly raised eyebrow tone”. This is also highly satisfactory since it was written by Vernon Tottle. Two poems tied for third place and one was highly commended. Read on to find them and

the other entries. Martyn said “Overall this was a commendably high standard of writing of a difficult form, not least for its brevity. Each managed the 5-7-5 syllabic discipline, and brought empathy and care in and from the individual poems. If there was an overall weakness it was in the dearth of images, which the great haiku masters used to such effect. The Penguin Book of Japanese Verse has some wonderful examples.”

The limericks are to be judged by **you** the readers. Vote by emailing [itchenvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:itchenvalleynews@gmail.com) or ring 779778. See page 40 for details. Find the poems in the green boxes.

Best wishes to you all for 2021. Next month's editors are Fi and Lucy.  
Charlotte Appleby

## Itchen Valley News

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



## What's On

### Theatre Royal Winchester until 3 January



*Four Dames in Search of a Panto* includes all the panto favourites, some familiar faces to Winchester audiences, hilarious gags (plus some very corny ones too!), original songs and lots, lots more - guaranteed to bring Christmas cheer to everyone this year. Live or Livestream. See [www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk)

### Down House Snowdrop Event 13-14 February

This year's event is different, with numbers limited to 25 entries per hour to the garden on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 February with bookings for 11am, and hourly in the afternoon too. You can secure a spot by booking ahead on [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk). Of course there will be tea and cake in the NGS tradition! All monies go to NGS charities.

Jackie Porter



## What was on

### Christingle

On Sunday 6 December, St Mary's Church Avington opened its doors to the first live service since before the spring lockdown. The Georgian interior provided an elegant background to the lively antics of the Christingle service where some members of the congregation were



invited to tackle an obstacle course in the nave whilst blindfolded; a playful illustration of what it means to try to navigate your way through life's difficulties without Christ's teachings as your compass.

The 18th century box pews served a useful 21st century purpose in enabling people to come together, but remain safely apart. It is fitting that the first service here in many months should be one that celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, and one that, perhaps for the first time in its long history, was dedicated specifically to children, marking the start of a new chapter for this beautiful church.

Loulou Stirrup



## **Evensong 6 December at St John's Itchen Abbas**

It was back in September that evensong for Remembrance Sunday was first mooted. So, the choir gathered and started to rehearse. Then came lockdown and much of the music could not be used. A new date in Advent was proposed and finally it did happen. Evensong has been a long tradition in this parish, probably for centuries,



using the traditional language of the book of Common Prayer. In more recent times there has been no choir, so this was indeed a very special occasion.

Indeed, it is the first time singing has happened in our churches since March. Under the direction of Tim Tyler and with John Dover accompanying on the organ, the group of nine singers had much to learn in a short space of time. Even the layout inside the church proved a challenge to meet the Covid regulations on distancing.

On a rather cold evening, the warm church was as full as allowed. The service was led by Alex. The choir sang responses, a psalm, the canticles, two hymns and Glory to God from Messiah. It was a joyful occasion even though the congregation could only sit or stand in silence – or humming, which I am told seems to require more breath,

drawn in with difficulty through the mask, than singing.

Whilst church services have been held in different forms during the pandemic, I feel all will rejoice at the return of live singing. We are so fortunate to have such a great group of people willing to put in time and effort to make such a service succeed.

*Tony Gaster.*

## **Easton W.I.**

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At last Easton W.I. have Zoomed into action again! Fifteen members met on Zoom on 3 December for a laugh and a chat – it was just fun to have everyone together again and hear what we have all been up to during this difficult year. Most of us have been thinking of safety, ordering online and keeping in touch with family and friends. What a wonderful Christmas present to hear that a vaccine is slowly rolling out before Christmas and that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Let us all hope that by this time next year we will be thinking to the future and Covid will be in our memories, not forgetting those who have lost family or friends during this period.

Members have been involved in all sorts of ways supporting their families with school lessons on Facetime to extra telephone calls to those on their own, and we are delighted to say that one of our members, Jill Croft, has been making jams, jellies, chutneys, Christmas puddings, cakes and mince pies to raise money for Trinity, Itchen Abbas Primary School and other local charities and to date has raised over £1,000. Needless to say we are extremely proud of her and she has helped many of us sort out our own Christmas present lists!

Our thriving Book Club has resumed



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meetings via Zoom and we will be meeting with a mince pie and glass of wine on 17 December and resuming a more normal format in the New Year. If there are any of you who would like to join us, please let me know (Kyrene Beames 779304) and we will send you a link to join in our chat or discussion. The New Year will see us discussing Resolutions which have been put forward by NFWI on increasing awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer, coronary heart disease in women, climate change and more. The National Women's Institute will lobby government for changes and progress on the Resolutions that are adopted. A Happy New Year to everyone and may 2021 be more fun than 2020!

*Kyrene Beames, President, Easton W.I.*

## New Year, New resolutions

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There is no doubt that the environment is going to have to get a lot more attention if we are to avoid disaster, so here are a few stories to encourage you to make the planet a better, or at least not a worse place by the end of 2021.

*Ed*

## SaltyCo– planet positive textiles

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For as long as I have been able to pronounce the word, I have been excited and motivated by the prospect of being an 'entrepreneur'. I remember my first venture 'Water-Works' set up with my best friend at the age of 6, selling cakes to fund the construction of wells in freshwater-scarce regions of Africa. The financial viability of the project perhaps escaped me at the time, but I think I was impassioned by the prospect of benefiting others

through a business I helped create. The past century's technological advancements have meant we now find ourselves in a world with the capacity to produce almost anything an entrepreneur might dream of. Unfortunately, whilst some of these technological innovations have made our life easier, much of modern-day production has come at a grave cost – our natural world. As designers and innovators, we are no longer faced with the question of whether we can create something, instead we must ask ourselves – should we?

At my latest venture, SaltyCo, we make textiles in response to the fast-fashion industry that consumes 10% of all industrial freshwater, contributes 10% of all carbon dioxide emissions and places one garbage truck of clothing onto landfill every single second. We're proposing to do business differently - our primary stakeholder is not a market segment and our metrics of success are not purely financial. Instead, we place the environment first when building our supply chains, and we measure our success from how much water we save, how much carbon we sequester and how much plastic we prevent from flooding into our ecosystems.

Our sustainable credentials come from the spaces where our textiles originate – salt marshes. Here, salt-tolerant plants are grown that are then processed into natural textiles. Instead





of using freshwater to irrigate our plants, our farming methods mean we can use seawater, or wastewater, to grow them.

These environments sequester huge amounts of carbon dioxide and our resulting products are 100% biodegradable. These are the healing, regenerative spaces that we need to promote if we are going to turn the tide on global warming.

One might think that you can't just build a business on having good sustainable credentials, but this is fundamentally the wrong way to look at it. By investing in the green economy of today we are providing resilience for our investments of tomorrow. Each year we lose millions of hectares of arable land to rising sea levels and unsustainable farming practices. By taking advantage of this land, we're simultaneously bringing value to unused spaces whilst helping to heal the soils and ecosystems that surround them. It is time we start listening to the planet and build symbiotic relationships that benefit both us and the natural rhythm of our environment.

A Chinese proverb says, 'the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second-best time is now.' Fortunately, there has never been a better time to plant trees or start an environmentally focused company. Green-economy investment, funds and competitions grow year-on-year with high profile companies and associations backing these critical projects.

SaltyCo was named the winner of the Vogue-YOOX Challenge for the Future of Responsible Fashion - a huge step for us and an



SaltyCo team: (L to R) Antonia, Fin, Nelly, Julian

honour to be chosen by some of the largest names in the industry.

Despite all of this, SaltyCo is only 6 months old and we have many hurdles to overcome. My co-founders and I have worked for essentially zero money so far and fought tooth and nail to turn a university project into an business worthy of investment. I have moved back home and I work as a design engineer part-time to supplement SaltyCo's launch. Each day brings new challenges as we balance innovating a completely new way of textile production alongside looking to raise money and supporting clients. I am continually humbled by how willing people are to help and support us whether it's lending us some advice, harvesting some plants or my parents keeping a roof over my head!

Starting a business can be intimidating whether you're selling cakes or building a new supply chain for plant-based materials. What I would say is that everyone has to start somewhere, and you would be amazed by how tiny ideas can grow into impactful change. I personally believe that to see a cleaner, fairer world, it's at least worth a try.

*Julian Ellis-Brown, Abbots Worthy*





## Dealing with Food Waste

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We're fortunate in the Valley to have so many enthusiastic and conscientious waste recycling households. Alas, food waste is currently not something for which our local authority provides a recycling service. Although household food waste has been falling slowly in recent years, it still amounts nationally to around seven million tonnes per annum. This could mean that the Itchen Valley is producing around 150 tonnes every year. And yet there are simple technologies available that could help reduce this amount of food waste going to landfill or incineration whilst providing compost for our gardens. Products available include a Green Cone Food Digester, a Green Johanna



Composter, a Wormery or a Bokashi Bucket.

These devices operate in slightly different ways and information about each is available online. But all can be readily sited in a residential garden and can take all forms of food waste, including fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, bones, tea bags (not containing plastic), egg shells and dairy products. They cost from £50-£150. Some local authorities, such as Wiltshire County Council, provide these devices at

discounted prices to encourage their adoption and the Parish Council will be investigating whether Hampshire County Council feels this is a viable option for our area. Wiltshire CC has already supplied 5,000 digesters to their residents at a price of £50.

If you already have a food digester in your garden, perhaps you could share your experience more widely by responding to me at

[cllr.s.percy@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:cllr.s.percy@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

Steve Percy

## Toxic Squash Syndrome

---

During the first lockdown I found it hard to buy seeds; suddenly everyone was into gardening and quite right too. I had most



of the seeds I needed except for butternut squash so I used the seeds from a supermarket squash. They worked and produced some fruit, although fewer and smaller than usual. I used the first of these to make soup: delicious, or so I thought. Within less than half an hour we were both feeling very unwell (even the dog) with the usual upset tum symptoms, but worse was to come. The following day I was admitted to hospital with chest pains, later diagnosed as a heart attack. I could only think that the butternut squash was to blame, and Dr Google agreed.

Apparently there are (albeit rare) cases where vegetables in the cucurbit family grown from COLLECTED seed (not from a seedsman) have mutated to a poisonous variety that can cause unpleasant symptoms and, even more

rarely, heart attacks.

Luckily for me my otherwise healthy heart has not sustained any lasting damage and I'm expected to make a full recovery. Cardio doctors in Winchester and Basingstoke were interested in my poisonous squash theory but were of course unable to confirm the connection.

It is a long shot and the risk is probably vanishingly small but I would suggest that it's best to err on the side of caution and always buy seeds of the cucurbit family (squash, pumpkin, courgette, cucumber et al) from a reputable seed company if you intend to eat the crop.

Butternut squash or better-not squash? It's up to you.

*Penny Russell*

## Winchester Racecourse

Worthys Local History Group present number 4 in their series of Worthy Papers which are in depth

research papers on aspects of the Worthy villages' history.

The new Worthy Paper, researched and written by Robin Greenwood, is about Winchester Racecourse. The racecourse was located on Worthy Down, just north of the village of Kings Worthy, for over 300 years. It was a well-known racecourse attracting some of the best racehorses of their day and a major part of Winchester's social calendar. King Charles II attended in the Restoration period and Jane Austen was inspired to write a poem about it in 1817. The paper covers the fascinating ups and downs of the course: its location as shown on



various historical maps, its changing appearance and grandstands, its significance as a racecourse, race meetings and management, as well as local trainers, jockeys, stables and stud farms.

Flat racing ended in 1887 and National Hunt racing in 1896 and the racecourse initially became an RAF base and is now Worthy Down army barracks.

For your copy, at £5 (plus postage if needed), please e-mail Karen McCleery: [wlhg.chair@gmail.com](mailto:wlhg.chair@gmail.com) or write to her at 2, Hookpit Farm Lane, Kings Worthy SO23 7NA

The Worthys Local History Group researches local history, publishes papers, journals and books, curates exhibitions, arranges talks and visits, and runs a digital archive with the aim of helping people in the villages of the Worthys and beyond discover and enjoy their history. Find out more at [www.worthyhistory.org](http://www.worthyhistory.org)

*Robin Greenwood*

## Itchen Insight



**Name:** Richard Seymour

**Age:** 74 in January 2021

**Life in brief:** Came to live at Chilland aged 7 yrs. First job – aged 16, holiday job working on a lathe at P.J. Edmonds, Agricultural engineers, Itchen Abbas (now the site of IA & Avington Village hall). 18 months as a soldier. Yacht broker at Camper & Nicholsons until 1980, then own business until 2008. Last job – driving a Mini-bus for Prince's Mead School until October 2020

**Champagne Moment:** - Sailing my 26ft SCOD "WIMOWEH" single-handed across the English channel from Alderney to Beaulieu.

**Surprising Snippet:** - Both my Grandparents, Parents and Aunt are buried

at St Swithun's and my grandchildren are the 5th generation to be living in the Itchen valley. They live at Abbots Barton (now a suburb of Winchester). Our son was married at St Swithun's and our daughter and granddaughter were both christened there.

**Favourite place in Hampshire:** - The Solent and of course the Itchen valley.

**Best thing about the Valley:** - The huge variety in landscape, interesting history such as Roman ships were able

to navigate as far as Chilland and if you look at the shape of the valley between Chilland and Greys avenue you will notice an escarpment just north of the river with a line of trees and this probably would have been the edge of the then estuary stretching over to the woods just before Avington. Friendly inhabitants!

**Worst thing about the Valley:** Fly-tipping and litter. There is currently an old sofa lying at the top of Chillandham Lane.

**Favourite Book:** -

*I Bought a Mountain* by Thomas Firbank.

**Favourite film:** - Dambusters

*B&W pictures from Richard's family album, including his grandparents Sir Edward and Lady Blanche Seymour outside Upper Chilland House*  
Ed





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## National Garden Scheme

### GREAT NEWS:

Let's face it we could all currently do with a bit of cheer. Despite all the trials and tribulations of 2020, the National Garden Scheme



was able to donate close to £3 million to Nursing, Caring & Health charities. (£2,884,710) at the end of 2020. The main donations are as follows:-

Macmillan Cancer Support £425,000

Marie Curie £425,000

Hospice UK £425,000

Carers Trust £340,000

The Queen's Nursing Institute  
£370,000

Parkinson's UK £157,500

Guest charity: Mind £80,000

These results are based on National figures, but in Hampshire our garden owners did not disappoint, raising £50,000.

To achieve these results we had to cut cost to a bare minimum and come up with innovative ideas. The first of these was the very successful campaign to view online 'Virtual Gardens'. At the same time we launched our 'Help Support Our Nurses' campaign, urging people who watched the videos to make a donation. Our target was £100,000 - staggeringly this campaign raised over £250,000.

Then at the beginning of June we were able to start reopening gardens. So, keeping strictly within the government guidelines, we tentatively started opening our gardens with limited numbers and timed visiting slots, to ensure social distancing - and all tickets had to be pre-booked online.

Amazingly, by the end of October, when the last visitors had left, the open gardens had raised a total of £450,000. Our wonderful garden openers did not disappoint in other ways. There were many initiatives to raise funds - the main one being Plant Sales - often from driveways with 'honesty buckets'. This raised £117,000. A very enterprising couple from the New Forest went one further and with the help of a few pallets and some silver birch created these fantastic bug houses, which were also for sale.



We look forward to a very different 2021 and hope to be able to welcome many more visitors to our gardens.

Keep Safe and Best Wishes

*Pat Beagley*

### Limerick I

The leaves on the pavement are  
slippy  
The rain from the gutter is drippy  
I could wear a hat,  
Stay indoors like the cat,  
Or do up my hood with a zippy

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## Save the Dates

Please be aware that, given the current situation, events may change.

**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.

**23 November 2021, 9 January and 25 February 2022:** Martyr Worthy Lecture Series in IA&A Village Hall in aid of Itchen Valley Churches

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## CPRE News

2020 has been a busy year for CPRE Hampshire. Coronavirus has not put a stop to planning applications and we have been as active as ever all through the year. The one area where it has been impossible to continue our activities is our busy events calendar. No events sadly means no income and this year's appeal for funds asks for your support in the absence of our usual get-togethers. Ironically, there has been a surge of appreciation for the countryside and our local green spaces during lockdown but with no events, this cannot be converted into much needed funds.



Countryside saved at Bishopstoke, Eastleigh (Caroline Dibden)

Volunteering with us is a fantastic way to help champion environmental and rural issues. Our volunteers inspire people to care for the countryside and enjoy the benefits it brings wherever they live. With your support we can do even more! We're currently looking for two new communications volunteers - a website and social media volunteer and photography contributor.

If you're interested in either of these volunteering opportunities or would like to discuss how you can get involved in other ways, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Natalie Hargreaves on 01962 841897 or

[hantssupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk](mailto:hantssupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk).

A new CPRE report has revealed that there is enough brownfield land for almost 27,900 new homes in Hampshire and over a third of sites already have planning permission. Nationally, there is capacity for 1.3 million new homes on brownfield land and over half a million already have planning permission.

The figures demonstrate that there is already enough available and suitable land in the planning system to meet the government's ambition to build 300,000 homes a year for the next 5 years (this Parliament), calling into question the controversial plans to deregulate the planning system that has been proposed by Ministers.



Former Brewery Site, Romsey - the site has had full planning permission since 2006 (Nicola Revolta)

More than half of Conservative MPs (55%) on the backbenches are considering opposing the government's upheaval of the planning system as set out in the Planning White Paper, according to new research commissioned by CPRE.

The government has indicated that it is in the process of re-thinking the housing algorithm element of the planning proposals, which is welcome. But the research shows that Conservative MPs have concerns with other key elements of the government's changes to planning.

You might have seen the research findings reported in the Sunday Telegraph (22 November). Also on that day, CPRE was quoted on BBC Countryfile explaining the proposed zonal planning system and the potential impacts on the countryside. If you haven't already, please support CPRE's campaign by signing two important petitions:

The links to both petitions can be found on the website <https://www.cprehampshire.org.uk/>

*Nicola Revolta*

## Bird of the month The Nuthatch

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The beautiful nuthatch is usually found nimbly clinging to branches as it forages for food. It has a morse code like, staccato call. It is a welcome visitor to the bird feeders at this time of the year, though it is quite aggressive and won't let other birds feed.



### **That baffling Brambling**

Keen-eyed readers of the Itchen Valley News will have spotted that on page 24 of the December issue, the Bird of the Month had no name. You are forgiven if you weren't able to identify it. It is a rare visitor to these shores, so if you worked out it was a Brambling, you must be an expert.

*Apologies. Ed.*

### Limerick 2

During Lockdown we all at West Hill

Met up in our courtyard to fill  
our hearts and our glasses  
with gin, games and dances  
Two metres apart, still a thrill!

## From bed to book in fifteen months

---

I was very lucky during the night of 18 September 2019. At around 3 am, I woke up with a story going round my head. I don't remember dreaming about it, it was just there. I lay in bed for a few minutes thinking about the adventure in my brain and decided it was too good to forget. So I got out of bed, woke up the computer and typed up a plot summary. File creation time is recorded as 04:14.





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**Limerick 14**

That lovely old place, Itchen Abbas  
A village of which lots are jealous,  
But they think it's a wow  
To have lunch at the Plough  
Where the food is quite fit for a  
palace!

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**Limerick 4**

A leader with blond orange hair  
Was coiffured with very great care,  
But a slim, trim, fit figure  
Beat a man so much bigger  
And gives US a Happy New Year



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Months passed by and in the dark days of December last year I decided to type up my little story. I found that the words came easily enough; after all, I am used to creating articles from almost nothing for this very magazine when we are running short of copy to fill the pages. I completed several pages of a short novel in only a few days.

Another flash of inspiration whilst doing the washing-up allowed me to complete the story and by Christmas I had the basis of my book.

Universal guidance from the internet was – leave it alone for a month.

Following that advice was so hard. I wanted to edit it, change a few things and spend more time with my new pet project. But I was ruthless and allowed four weeks to go by before sitting down and rereading it from start to finish. There were passages that were too complicated, some that were too short and some that just didn't need to be there. Eventually I had a short novel ready for public scrutiny - so I gave it to my sister. Her several pages of

notes came back and I must say she had spotted things that I hadn't even noticed were wrong. Spellings, grammar and plot details that couldn't possibly happen. So I returned to the computer and amended those points that I felt needed further attention.

The artistic designer for the Itchen Valley News produced a cover and I got a local printer to do a short initial run and there I had it, my debut short story, *Tom & Edith*, which I could hold in my hand. Unless you've done that sort of thing yourself, you have no idea how fulfilling that felt.

However, a couple of months later I began to feel I hadn't really done the story justice. It was lacking something but it took me a while to realise what it was. I had written the entire story from just the hero's point of view. So I put myself in the heroine's shoes (having read a good deal of chick-lit in my time, I found this surprisingly easy to do) and began to write her story as a separate book, *Edith & Tom*. Soon after that, I combined the two novels and produced an expanded version of *Tom & Edith's* adventure. Further intense proof reading and historical research necessarily moved the beginning of the story on by about a year but the definitive *Tom & Edith*, second edition, is now in print.

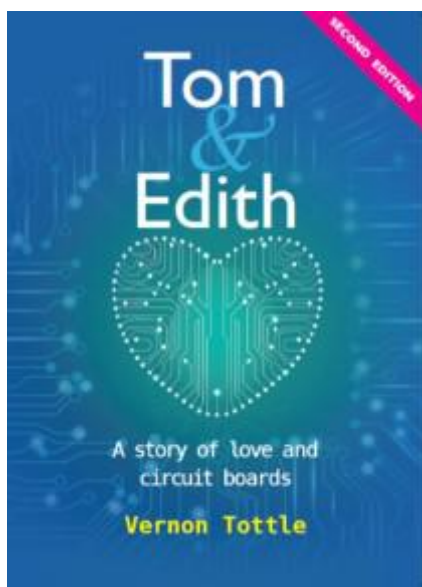
The perfect small gift for all the family (at a shade over 18,000 words it's not a proper novel but a novella), this 52 page booklet sells for £2. Available from me, [vernontottle@gmail.com](mailto:vernontottle@gmail.com) or 01962 779611.

*Vernon Tottle, Author !*

As an introduction to the novel, chapter one follows herewith.

**Tom & Edith By Vernon Tottle**

*"Thomas Liebchen. Breakfast's ready. Get down now or you'll be late. And Aunt Sophia has sent you another couple of*



magazines.”

Still lying in his bed, Tom rubbed his eyes and yawned. The Pennsylvanian sun had already pierced his curtains; it looked like another lovely spring day. “Coming, mom!” he shouted as he looked around for his clothes. Fortunately his mother as usual had laid them out for him on his chair to make his daily preparations just that bit easier. She had always done that, starting when they had lived in Leipzig fifteen years ago and he had been getting dressed for kindergarten. Now in his final year at Montgomery High, Tom had a young man’s body and his clothes had changed accordingly but they were still set out for him every day.

Down at breakfast, tucking into his Corn Flakes, he tore open the package of magazines from Germany. ‘Radio for Young Germans’ and ‘German Scientist’ fell onto the tablecloth as he munched his way through his cereal.

“Aunt Sophia tells me in her letter that the Nazis are imposing postal censorship next month,” said Tom’s mother. “So these may be the last magazines for a while.”

“Hey mom, it looks like this issue covers the new valve they’ve been developing for shorter wavelengths,” was all that Tom had to say in reply.

“Gut, sehr gut,” Mrs. Muller replied as she washed up the plates from her husband’s breakfast. He had already left for work at the college. He liked to be in long before his pupils to make sure he had everything set up in the laboratories in time for their classes.

“And the other magazine’s got reviews of the principles of rockets. Imagine that, mom. We might soon be able to send people from one country to another in minutes!”

“Ja, ja,” she muttered as she dried up the cups and put them away, sadly only a remnant of her treasured collection of crockery, most of which she had to leave

behind when they left Germany seven years ago.

She suddenly realised that Tom had stopped eating, even stopped talking and was just looking open-mouthed at a photo in one of his new magazines. “What’s that you’re looking at?” she asked her son. “Mom,” Tom replied, “that’s the girl I’m going to marry.”

### Limerick (s) 3

A reader came up with a verse  
Which he needed quite soon to rehearse

So the timing was right  
And the lines were in sight  
But the editor’s comments were  
terse.

He started again with a sheet  
For a deadline he had to meet  
But his mind was so blank  
And the sheet, to be frank,  
Needs a whole lot to make it  
complete.

The whole was the cause of the  
fight  
He believed he had made it alright  
But the team disagreed  
And he didn’t succeed  
In winning the prize on the night.

He put down his pen in disgust  
His colleagues he thought he could  
trust  
No more emails or zoom  
He walked out the room  
As his treatment was very unjust

Vernon is not the only author in the valley! See page 40 for how to vote for the winning limerick. Ed

# Itchen Valley Recycling

BISCUIT  
WRAPPERS

CRISP AND  
SNACK  
PACKETS

PLASTIC  
MILK BOTTLE  
LIDS

CHARGERS

ALUMINIUM

All these items can be taken to **Rose House,  
Station Hill, Itchen Abbas** for recycling  
into cash for various charities.

MOST HOME  
CLEANING  
SACHETS  
AND BAGS

PET AND  
BABY  
FOOD  
SACHETS

SLICED  
BREAD  
WRAPPERS

Separate different items  
into different bags to  
help sorting.

All items must be clean,  
crumb-free and folded flat.

POSTAGE  
STAMPS AND  
FOREIGN  
MONEY

WIRES

Queries  
779121

MOST TEETH AND  
HAIR CARE  
PRODUCTS



## Food Spy - The Bush

---



So, after Lockdown II and Rules of Six, Tier 2 and all its regulations permitted Food Spy to meet with Big Brother plus family for Sunday lunch... but not inside a warm cosy restaurant, sitting on the same table. (Or at home with another household). We could however be on two separate tables inside the warm pub and shout across to each other and irritate all those trying to enjoy lunch at tables around us. For that reason it was felt best to be considerate to other diners so we booked two tables at The Bush in Ovington inside their garden marquee with overhead heaters. Here's what happened...

After a truly beautiful winter's walk alongside the river in Ovington, we were ready to enjoy a hearty Sunday roast. The marquee was a welcome sight. In Pandemic Britain pubs are under pressure to provide dry but well ventilated outdoor areas where clientele can enjoy an evening dining with friends or family during the winter without their food going cold within seconds or their bottoms going numb. Quite a tall order for the catering industry after having negotiated such a tempestuous year. The Bush has got it right. Tables within the marquee were well spaced and it was well ventilated with one whole end left open. With four overhead heaters and a blower in the corner, the air was fresh but we did not feel cold - sat in our multiple layers, winter coats and hats for the entire lunch. We quickly ordered shared starters for the tables of Padron Peppers with garlic and herbs (£5.95) and the 'Sharing honey and rosemary baked

camembert with rustic bread and roasted garlic jam' (£15.25). Absolutely delicious and not a scrap left on either table. Food Spy decided on the Roast Beef (£14.95 large / £9.95 small) while other members of Family Spy ordered the Roast Chicken (£14.95) and the Beef Burger with Monterey Jack, smoked bacon, pickled red onion and baby gem on a toasted brioche bun with hand cut chips (£13.95). The roasts arrived looking generous and well presented on large plates with huge Yorkshire puddings, vibrant green kale, crispy roast potatoes and other assorted vegetables. Spy Junior who ordered the burger was another happy customer, reporting that the burger was: *"the best in ages!"* Similar compliments to the chef were murmured between mouthfuls from Big Brother's table. Important to note was the fact that the food arrived piping hot and remained warm and enjoyable until the last mouthful was demolished.

The decision was then made that "in the name of research" it really was necessary to order puddings. Both tables ordered the Sticky Toffee Pudding served with toffee sauce and vanilla ice cream and a Chocolate & Cherry Fondant served with Morello cherries and vanilla ice cream (both £6.95). Well the puddings were outstanding. Even the discerning London Big Brother crowd gave full marks. And so, Christmas presents were exchanged and a Tier 2 compliant Sunday lunch out was enjoyed. Immensely.

Thank you to The Bush for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in your marquee - eating good food and facilitating the family reunion. What a treat!

# Christmas and New Year Quiz

## Itchen Valley Anagrams

*Local places, events, institutions, really anything. Some of these might defeat you but do give them a go. Because some of the answers are local place names, using a computer anagram solver won't always give you the answer. Try pen and paper for a change!*

- 1 There's room to take the kart on paving round this big house
- 2 No need to scramble up the trick scree to reach this watering hole
- 3 You don't normally see nasty maestros driving up this nave
- 4 This good man never used to shun twits
- 5 I've got cement so why try mortar in this village?
- 6 You'll get thrown out if you do the hog lup dance here
- 7 A tiny welsh enclave runs this local magazine
- 8 Car tech thrums outside but the building is important
- 9 Her wot? Sounds like a dispute in neat order
- 10 At the gated hill, chant a song so the animals hear you coming
- 11 Singing at the bar might get you put in the stables or the tenors' hutches
- 12 A wormed waste bin gets turned into wet fields
- 13 Can this babe sit alongside the B3047?
- 14 He rows hot tabby further downstream.
- 15 The mere sound of this road drives you mad
- 16 Yes I will or no I won't see these large summer river-bank flowers
- 17 Will this potato pub filch ideas from the nearby right of way?
- 18 Give me toilets or I'll kiss the tree instead
- 19 This woody approach is an email venue
- 20 Tired after walking? This is where the away-crews rest

## **LOCKDOWN QUIZ** with a musical theme

### **Five Questions on Locks**

Who sang *"Please lock me away and don't allow the day"*?

What is the name of the soldier who freed Carmen on her way to prison?

Who sang *Jailhouse Rock*?

In which operetta does this line appear? *"To sit in solemn silence in a dull, dark, dock, In a pestilential prison, with a life-long lock, Awaiting the sensation of a short, sharp, shock, From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block!"*

Which well-known pop group sang: *"Chains. My baby's got me locked up in chains."*?

### **Five Questions on Downs**

Who sang *"Down Town"*?

What is the title of the song that includes the line *"If you go down to the woods today"*?

Which pop group sang *"Down, down, deeper and down."*

What is the name of Orpheus' wife in Offenbach's operetta, Orpheus in the Underworld?

John Lunn composed the music for which *"Down"*?

## You Must Remember This!

Can you remember which year and what the event was? Apologies to newcomers to the Valley who could not have been there. - Ed



## Jackie's County Corner

---

Wishing you an active and healthy 2021. New Year, new you? If you are a young person (between 16 and 24), have you heard of the **Kickstart** scheme? This offers employers the opportunity to give a young person to take up 6 months of meaningful, paid work experience. See more via my website. If you are interested in employing someone for 25 hours per week, costs paid by the Government, please email [kickstart@hants.gov.uk](mailto:kickstart@hants.gov.uk) for more details. If you are a young person, apply for Universal Credit (mainly open to 18-24), and explain to your assigned Work Coach that you are interested in the kickstart scheme.

**Hospital consultation:** This is gathering pace, with two sites and three delivery options, to be consulted upon in Spring 2021. You can see more on [www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk](http://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk) Watch out for online events where you can hear more and ask questions before you respond to the consultation. HCC has also set up a Scrutiny Committee to look at this: I will attend these meetings, so if there's anything you'd like to know contact the website above -or write direct to me. I have a list of questions (they are on my website) but I'd like to hear your views.

**Flooding:** The Autumn brought floods even where they hadn't happened before. The new County team assigned to the Itchen Valley Division has been getting to grips (pun intended!) with the problems. I ask you to copy me into any which are not responded to relatively quickly: the new officer for this area is helpful, but work planned takes longer if a road closure is required. Please continue to log all problems on the HCC website: priority is given to those incidents which result

in flooded homes or sewage systems. The County has recently agreed a pilot scheme within the Itchen Valley division to look at practical ways to slow or collect water before it floods communities. We're not ready to import beavers yet but it is looking at innovative ways to do this, which I welcome!

**Flytipping :** We have had some horrendous examples recently. Call 999 if you see it happening, or go to the Winchester website or app to report fly-tipping. The pile will be checked for evidence, marked as seen and then collected. There are about 200 incidents a month, so please continue to report – it will at least help to keep our countryside tidy.

**Operation Transition:** Brexit is happening - and the County is preparing to be a 'checking station' for customs papers before the HGVs arrive at Portsmouth. The City Council report in this magazine covers the impact of the workings of the scheme, but contact me if you have a query.

**School vouchers** for children and families: This a new scheme, aiming to help those facing hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is being funded from the £2.89 million Winter Grant Scheme, awarded to HCC by the DWP, as part of a programme of supportive measures over winter. More details on [hants.gov.uk](http://hants.gov.uk) or my website. Schools and Citizens Advice Bureaux can use these grants to help families with essential items: food, energy cards and tokens to pay fuel bills. And don't forget, residents can 'self-refer' to the Alresford or Winchester Basics banks too.

*County Councillor Jackie Porter*

*[Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk)*

*Tel/text 07973 696 085*

*Website [www.jackieporter.co.uk](http://www.jackieporter.co.uk)*



### Limerick 5

It now seems that President Trump  
Is feeling a bit of a chump;  
His friends have been saying  
“It’s no good – even praying,  
They’ll be throwing you out with a  
bump!

## From the Parish Council.

To start once again with a brief note on Covid 19, we may be seeing light at the end of the tunnel with the start of a vaccination programme.



However we are not out of the tunnel yet and the vaccination of sufficient of the population to make us safe will take time. Please do not jump the gun, keep to the rules and wait until we are told that they have been relaxed.

Cow Down was on the agenda for discussion at our Full Council Meeting in December. Following our letter we hope to be able to have a dialogue with all parties concerned and to see what can be done. Please remember that the responsibility and therefore the final decisions are with the owners and provocative adverse comment is not likely to be helpful. This is something which needs long term consideration; patience is required and not just quick fix ideas. If you want to discuss it please talk to your Parish Councillors. An event about to take place for which work has already started which will have an impact on Valley residents is Operation Transmission. As part of Brexit this is about checking that

lorries heading for the Portsmouth ferry terminal have the right paperwork. The west bound carriageways between the Percy Hobbs and Ladycroft roundabouts will be used for checking paper work and lorry parking. Facilities for the lorry drivers are being provided. Some of your Parish Councillors, along with your City and County Councillors, have attended remote meetings on these plans which the Officers have been preparing for the last two years. For the last meeting Yvette Riley produced a comprehensive list of questions to which the Officers gave answers. These are posted on our website. In brief this operation will make changes to traffic going through our Parish. The A31 will have a single lane each way and a speed limit of 30mph. If you are going to be using it then allow some extra time. Traffic from the Valley accessing the A31 via Avington will only be permitted to turn left. Those wishing to travel west will have to go to the Ladycroft roundabout and turn round there. For pedestrians there will a pelican crossing at Orrs Meadow. We have expressed our concerns about this operation causing extra traffic and speeding on the B3047. A request has been made (and an answer is awaited) for both monitoring of traffic volumes and speed as well as Police speed checking. Therefore if you are inclined to break speed limits you

### Limerick 6

It is rumoured that housewives are  
itching  
To spend lots of their time in the  
kitchen.  
What pleases the most  
Is to be a good host  
Especially for ladies of Itchen

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### Limerick 12

Two girls for a lark swam the Itchen  
On a hot day with barely a stitch on.  
Arriving at Easton  
Their friends laid a feast on  
While they quickly got dressed in  
the kitchen.

have been warned. If you need further information please first look at our website for the list of answers to our questions. You can also contact Yvette Riley, or me, or if you prefer one of our County or City Councillors.

It now appears that most of the road drains have been cleared. There are still some long term problems which will take much longer to fix. Thank you to all those who have worked and lobbied on this from the new team on roads in our area at HCC, and our County and Parish Councillors as well as several local residents. It seems that when it comes to getting some action weight in numbers helps, Remember the water leak that came from a BT manhole on Northington Road? It started about a year ago. It took over nine months, many reports, phone calls and emails to get it repaired. Recently a certain water company telephoned to say they were responding to my email of a "few days ago". On pointing out the last email had been sent several months ago and the leak had been repaired (eventually) they checked, agreed that the information was correct and that they had got "a bit behind" on answering emails. Fortunately, when recently the water main under Northington Road had a major burst it was quickly repaired. Maybe there is a Law of Water Leaks:- That the speed of repair

is directly proportional to the flow rate of the leak and not to the total volume of water lost!

There is legislation that 'lost or unclaimed footpaths' have to be registered before 2026. The Ramblers Association are leading this work. The Parish Council is aiming to establish a working group to identify any lost paths, especially those that complete village circuits. If you are interested in joining this group please let us know. From all the Parish Council make the best of Christmas you can and let's hope for greater freedom and to be able to meet together in 2021.

*Patrick Appleby.*  
*IVPC Chairman.*

### From our MP

---

Happy New Year! And surely it has to be, better than 2020, right?

For more than a decade I have represented us in Parliament and I have never worked harder but, also, never found it more rewarding. It is true, in any walk of life, that experience aids success but I feel blessed to have so much I can fall back on for the benefit of the people I represent.

The early part of 2021 will (hopefully) be recovery from the pandemic; both in how we roll out the vaccine across Hampshire and seek to get economic growth going again. I am being very

### Limerick 13


A boy from Martyr Worthy there  
was  
Who loved bacon sandwiches  
because  
Piled high on a plate  
They tasted just great  
With brown sauce AND ketchup ...  
just cos!!

**Ewa's Alterations**

---

**Ewa Cannon**  
Ewa Cannon Tailoress  
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Winchester

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regularly briefed by Dr Nigel Watson, who is leading the county wide vaccine programme for the NHS, and it's a humbling effort – with



so many people involved. My message is simple, no-one is safe until everyone is safe so I shall be rolling up my sleeves the moment I am asked to have the jab and I would beg you to do likewise. We don't have time for dangerous conspiracy theories (or politics), we just need to get vaccinated.

I have worked closely with the regulator (the MHRA) and constituents can be confident they will interrogate the data robustly before granting any licences. And on the subject of a virus which has ended too many lives too early, I was so proud to be part of England's first ever HIV Commission which has made recommendations to meet the Government's pledge to end new HIV cases by 2030. I set up the group while Public Health Minister and subsequently worked to produce its report after leaving Government last year. And I used a special debate in the House of Commons, timed to coincide with the Commission's launch on World Aids Day, to call on Ministers to accept its recommendations in full. See [www.stevebrine.com/hivcommission](http://www.stevebrine.com/hivcommission) Other work I have been doing lately, and in the year ahead, will focus on nurseries and early years, cancer, local transport - and the recovery of our creative industries via my place on the powerful DCMS Select Committee. And finally, plans are afoot for the

eventual disposal of Sir John Moore Barracks when the MOD departs and you may have already seen something of them. In short, it's a mixed use plan comprising around 1,000 houses (too many), a commercial element (too little), park and ride (why?), sports pitches (great) and a supported living facility. My message has consistently been – do not over-develop this site – and I have introduced the team to the Dever Society because whatever happens will impact on the wider area including the Itchen Valley.

Much more, and daily updates, via [www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP) and Green Winchester (only) on Twitter @SBGreenWinch

*Steve Brine, MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley*

## From the City Council

---

We hope 2021 will be a great deal easier for all of you!

**Shop Local.** Our local retailers have served us well through various waves of pandemic so far, but they still need our support in 2021. Perhaps that could be your New Year resolution?

**Freight Triage/ Truck park on the A31.**

On 14 December, the final work will start on the A31 to convert it from a two lane dual carriageway to a 3.5 mile long truck park to accommodate up to 285 trucks waiting to load at the

### Limerick 7

There once was a virus caused  
Covid

That taught all the people to loathe  
it

Science worked day and night  
and won a great fight  
so we need not go on being morbid

Portsmouth ferry terminal. The current east bound carriageway will be used for both west and east bound traffic. A 30-mph speed limit is to be imposed.

At the time of writing, 4 ½ years since the Brexit vote, it is still not known whether there will be a trade deal with the EU or not. No deal will add to the complexity of the paperwork and the appalling uncertainty of our future. On Tuesday an on-line meeting was held, in which some thirty questions were put to the county council. Questions such as details of the proposed measure for the provision of toilets for truck drivers, the environmental impact and road safety were raised. An important question on whether there will be any

monitoring of additional traffic using the B3047 and measures to control it remain unclear. I think many drivers will avoid the slow and potentially hazardous two-way flow on the east bound route and spill onto quiet country roads. To date these questions are unanswered.

The official title for the truck park, is 'Freight Triage.' Triage was devised by the French Army during the bloody battles of WWI. The wounded were separated, into the hopeless cases who would die anyway, the lightly wounded who would recover and the seriously wounded who could be patched up to carry on. Someone at HCC has a sense of humour!

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

Authentic Pilates	Mon 1830	Wed & Fri 0830	Judy	07774 899909
Sally Stanyard School of Dance	Mon 1530 Fri 1600	Tue 1600 Sat 0900	Sally	01962 776562
Yoga for men	Mon 2000	Sun 1800	Alex	07814 678155
Pilates with Emily	Tue & Thu 0900		Emily	07876 033893
Baby massage	Mon 1015 & 1400		Janet	07973 855107
Mum & baby Yoga	Wed & Thu 1030		Janet	07973 855107
Pregnancy Yoga	Wed 1815		Janet	07973 855107

### Martyr Worthy Village Hall

Lucinda Ffennell 779701 or [martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.com)

Yoga	Sunday 1900 and Monday 1730	Sherin	See page 41
Watercolour Art	Wednesday 1000	Kirstin	07484 393197
Thursday Arts	Advanced 1000 Mixed 1400	Kirstin	07484 393197

### Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

Details of bookings and real time availability are available on our website.  
[www.iaavillagehall.co.uk](http://www.iaavillagehall.co.uk) Hall Manager: Alex Bellisario  
[manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk](mailto:manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk) 07947 191229 Village hall callbox 01962 791021

## Bins for Green Waste

The new brown coloured garden waste bins are arriving. I ordered mine online, whilst attending a slightly tedious zoom meeting, ten minutes from start to finish, and an instant acknowledgment. Signing up on line seems easier than trying to do it over the phone. (<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection-sign-up>). The phone line is 0300 300 0013.

Russell's bin arrived yesterday outside the front door. The collection of these brown bins starts on your usual green waste collection day. The old green bag system is finishing on 1 February, so please sign up soon. The new system is 'opt in' and is paid for separately from Council Tax. £54 for the 240-litre and £39 for the 140-litre size.

Should you be short of space for bin storage, it is now possible to change your large black bin for a smaller one, free of charge.

[mpower@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:mpower@winchester.gov.uk) 01962 734167

[rgordon-smith@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:rgordon-smith@winchester.gov.uk) 01962 733219

## Can you Help?

Winchester Creatives (Richard Coope and Dan Benham) began as a networking event (pre-covid) and has now become an initiative to help young creative graduates get into the industry since Covid has driven it into 'working from home'. It is a 'not for profit' organisation run by volunteers with experience in the design industry. Winchester Creatives is currently reaching out to creative graduates from Winchester and the surrounding area. Its aim is to raise the necessary funds to provide a living wage for six months (i.e. Jan - June 2021) on a fully funded apprenticeship scheme for five

apprentices with a specific set of skills - Graphic Design, Digital Design, Technical Development, Film Making and Copywriting. These skills will allow the students to form a close knit team covering all the bases of a functioning creative agency. Their mentors will provide specific training programmes tailored to what each graduate needs to get ahead, whether to hone their digital marketing skills, build their technical skills or develop an entirely new skill set to increase their employability.

Winchester Creatives has also just been given a 'Local Heroes Awards' from The Mayor of Winchester and Winchester City Council.

As a graduate of 2019 who has been struggling to secure a job, Winchester Creatives has given me a ray of hope in an otherwise dark and scary time. If you can in any way support this amazing organisation, my fellow creatives and I will be forever grateful. Please see <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/winchester-creatives> and advert on the next page.

Hannah Sloan

## From the Rectory

I cannot help but be excited about a new year about to dawn. Not just because 2020 was such a rotten year for so many of us, but because 2021 presents

so many opportunities: hope for a defeat for the coronavirus with so many vaccines round the corner; hope for renewed international effort on



Covid - 19 has left a hole in  
creatives' futures. Help them



# MIND THE        GAP

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### QUIZ ANSWERS

Don't read until you've  
tried the questions!

**You must remember this**  
A – Sinbad the Sailor 2018  
B- Marriage of Figaro St  
John's Church 2018  
G - Alice in Wonderland  
2016  
D –The Importance of  
Being Ernest July 2010  
E -The Hollow 2020  
F – Don Giovanni! 2016  
C - Relative Values 2014

20. Watercross way  
**Five Questions on Locks**  
Peter and Gordon.  
José.  
Elvis Presley  
The Mikado  
The Beatles.  
**Five Questions on Downs**  
Petula Clark  
Teddy Bears Picnic.  
Status Quo  
Eurydice.  
Downton Abbey.  
**Hairlines**  
A. Boris Johnson  
B. Kim Jong Un  
C. Donald Trump  
D. Tom Cruise

**Itchen Valley Anagrams**  
1. Avington Park  
2. The Cricketers  
3. St Mary's Easton  
4. St Swithun  
5. Martyr Worthy  
6. The Plough  
7. Itchen Valley News  
8. Church matters  
9. The row  
10. Highland cattle  
11. Chestnut horse  
12. Water meadows  
13. Itchen Abbas  
14. Abbot worthy  
15. Em Three  
16. Yellow iris  
17. Public footpath  
18. Mistletoe  
19. Lime Avenue



climate change; and hope for a new relationship for the UK with Europe, amongst other things. For the nation, I am really optimistic that this year we will finally have got beyond many of the issues which have divided so many families and friends, such as Brexit and Covid compliance.

But my optimism does not only extend to these political issues. Many of us will have looked into the abyss during 2020. We may have seen our relations die early or suffer alone or we may have feared that they might. We may have been made redundant or had businesses tumble or pension pots diminish in value. We may have questioned whether the life we had before 2020 was one that really fulfilled us. We may have been disturbed as the certainties, upon which we placed our confidence for the future, were shaken. We may have had a shocking blow to our belief in our own ability to cope. These experiences may have been every bit as shocking as receiving the diagnosis of a terminal illness.

When people have had near death experiences, or when they have been very ill, but recovered, or when they have been told that they only have a limited amount of time to live, they tend to see life from an entirely different perspective. They see it not as a right, but as a gift. They cherish moments with other people, whoever they are, and even time with people who they, previously, might have avoided. They see detail in nature and the world around them which may have escaped them before. They see conflict with others as futile. They wonder with joy at the second chance that they have had to live life or at the precious time that they have left. As theologian Michael Green writes, 'wonder often leads to wondering'.

## With apologies to Clement Moore

---

T'was the night before deadline and  
all through the Valley  
The editors tried making  
pages to tally.  
Contributors sending and  
adverts amending  
Adjusting the fonts was a  
task never ending.

The cover designed and all  
monies donated  
The files completed and  
copies collated.  
Out on the pavements the  
helpers they shivered  
As round to the houses their  
copies delivered.

So thanks to you all, to the  
readers and crew  
Your help is much valued what-  
ever you do.  
And you'll hear me exclaim, 'ere I  
walk out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to  
all a good-night!"

\* \* \* \* \*

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

*Vernon Tottle*  
Chief Editor

\* \* \* \*



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# Itchen Valley Churches

**3rd January 2021**

10am Family Worship by Zoom

**10th January 2021**

10am Parish Communion St John's, Itchen Abbas and via Zoom

**17th January 2021**

10am Valley Worship by Zoom

**24th January 2021**

10am Parish Communion St Mary's, Easton and via Zoom

6pm Evensong St Swithun's, Marthyr Worthy (live only)

**31st January 2021**

10am 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.**

**Rector** - Revd Alex Pease

rector@itchenvallychurches.org - 01962 779845

**LLM** - Mr Gerry Stacey

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

**Parish Administrator** - Beccy Clark

admin@itchenvallychurches.org - 01962 779845

**[www.itchenvallychurches.org](http://www.itchenvallychurches.org)**

They may for the first time want to ponder the meaning and purpose of their lives, issues which may have gone unexamined for years when they have been hurtling daily from one appointment to the next or dashing up to London for the morning meeting. Sometimes the church gives the impression that its principal interest is in ancient buildings or rituals. In fact, the church is mainly driven by the answers it has found to such questions, answers to the meaning and purpose of our lives. We have found those answers in the unchanging nature of Jesus Christ and the love that he has

for every one of us. Wise men (and women) still follow him.

I am optimistic that 2021 will provide a lot of opportunities for us to consider such questions with many who have never thought to ask them before and in doing so that they will find the reassurance that they need to face the future with peace, joy and hope.

*Alex Pease*

## Front cover

I was asked to explain the relevance of this month's cover: dead leaves for the old year now passing, snowdrops for the beginning of spring and blue sky for

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the hope for a sunny (in every sense) 2021. Did you see it like that? Do send us our photos for the cover - portrait format and seasonal. *Ed*

## Alfred the No-So-Great

---

Not a lot of people know that the great King Alfred had a distant royal relative, also named Alfred. This Alfred had flaming red hair and beard and therefore



hoped to be known as Alfred the Red, but because of his truly awful manners, was mostly called Alfred the Rude. One Christmas his beautiful wife told him how much she hoped it would snow for the special day. On Christmas morning he leapt eagerly from his bed to look out of the window, but it was only raining. "Are you sure it isn't snow darling?" she asked. To which he replied, (drumroll):

"Rude Alf the Red knows rain, dear."  
*Penny Russell*

## Comings and Goings

---

On 30 November, Antony and Laura Hill moved to Easton from Winchester. They and their two boys, Freddie (8) and Dexter (6), look forward to spending many happy years living at 2 Malthouse Close. A huge thank you to everyone who has given them a special Easton welcome so far. They feel very lucky to be part of such a wonderful community.

From Farnborough we welcome Richard Lane and Michaela Channon to New Bridge Cottage, Easton, together with Lewis aged 7.

We welcome Charlie Howarth and

Tara Clapham who have moved to Vekk House Annexe, Easton with Amelie aged 4 years and Jack 2½.

Welcome to Georgina and Nick Fuggle with Jasper 8, Wilber 6 and Rosabella 4 who have moved into the Old School House, Church Lane, Martyr Worthy.

We welcome the Wood family to Wood End in Itchen Abbas. Simon and Yvette have moved here from Wimbledon with their daughters Amelia and Freya. Wood End's previous occupants, Sue and Alastair Hitchen, have moved to Poole.

Hannah and Dominic Baker welcome baby Poppy - as do we all. We look forward to her sending us a Tiddler Joke in surprisingly few years time!



## The Practical Gardener

---



Those of us with gardens must be very grateful during these difficult times. A place to rest and play and of course to work. The coming weeks are perhaps a time to sit

back and plan. That is why I take lots of photos during the year. What needs to be moved? What should be cut back? Where are the gaps where something new might be planted? Where might I need some new screening? Do I have things collapsing over my fence causing annoyance? So there are still many things on which to reflect.

It's also a time to reflect on the cold and damp. Many of us have pots and plants which might need to be inside or



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Limerick 9

At Avington, Easton and Itchen Abbas, the trout river (which all Martyrs will claim is Worthy of fame) is environmentally rich.

Limerick 10

Talking to friends over Zoom  
From our own cosy warm room  
It is tempting to drink  
rather than think  
of the looming economic kaboom

## The same bed, summer and winter



in a more sheltered place. Getting older, I bought a small folding trolley which helps moving the heavier pots. Once we've had a decent frost it will be too late. I also think the winter can be a time for a good bonfire. It's important to pay attention to wind direction so smoke does not cause a nuisance. There's quite a lot of advice about what material to burn rather than compost. Once such is blossom end rot which I have on one apple tree. By pruning away the dead parts, the tree will continue to grow.

Apples bring me to a new topic. I had a huge crop this year. I have attempted to store the eaters. Waste of time, they are all rotting now. What I should have done is get a juicer or gone to someone who has this facility. The cookers are fine and will last much longer but I check the trays every week. Potatoes and onions also store well but not in the same space.

This is a time for thinking about sowing the first seeds for the New Year: sweet peas, broad beans and maybe tomatoes. If, like me, you have a greenhouse, then lettuces and herbs can also be sown. I think electric propagators are really helpful for this and they do keep working year after year. My herb garden has been prolific but much has died down and been cut back. This is also a good time to do a bit of thinning, my tarragon in

particular has gone mad.

Regarding the environment, which I consider much more important than Brexit, I have installed solar panels, I recycle grey water and I compost everything that is vegetable.

Environmental issues for gardeners are surely going to come to the fore.

My reflection for 2021 is to persuade my family to take up gardening here. Even after I have moved I can see work to be done! Happy Gardening.

*Tony Gaster*

## Plant of the month

### The Snowberry

Although not a British native, this fast growing and suckering shrub from North America can often be seen by the wayside. It has good wildlife value and thrives on poor soil. We sometimes wonder whether it relies for propagation on the children who enjoy stamping on the berries as a sustainable alternative to bubble wrap?

*Simon and Dorothy Broadley*



## Poetry please

Our thanks to all the readers who sent in Haiku and limericks.

Please vote for the limerick you like best - there are 14 of them and they are not in number order in the magazine (that wouldn't be appropriate for limericks would it?). Email [itchenvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:itchenvalleynews@gmail.com) with 'Limerick vote' in the subject line or ring 779778 if you don't do email.

Two Haiku tied for third place:

Asleep in the night  
Strange stories unfold themselves  
Will I remember?

which "*draws a reader in with its intrigue and mystery; the emotional shorthand of many powerful haiku*" and

The old find it hard  
the young may suffer the most  
if jobless long term

*"a rather more modern haiku with its very legitimate social justice agenda, and sympathy spanning age ranges"*

Highly commended was:

The year pivots now  
from darkening towards light  
Welcome the sunrise.

*"which helped to lift the prevailing gloom, and contained some interesting language, like 'pivots' and 'darkening'"*

Also uplifting is:

Christmas is coming  
Can families celebrate?  
Vaccines on their way!

whereas these are mixed in tone:

All quiet, no noise  
Working from home, no commute  
Saves time and petrol

Summertime was good  
Basking in the warmth of June  
Now it's cold and dark

Many thanks to Martyn Halsall for judging for us. Ed

## Local monthly information

### Itchen Valley area waste collections in January

Black bins only Tuesday 5 January.  
Blank bins and green bags on Saturday 16 and Friday 29 January. Green bins on Monday 11 and Friday 22 January.  
Glass boxes on Monday 11 January.

### 16 January is the only day for Christmas tree recycling

### Farmers Market in Winchester

Sunday 10 and 31 January.

### Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 7 January. Via Zoom

### 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.

Christmas services are likely to be based on the Saturday timetable.

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas.

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





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