

Valley ^{ITCHEN} News

Issue 89 May 2021

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



GREEN ISSUE

Systematic Kinesiology

Do you suffer from aches, pains, stress, exhaustion, anxiety, illness or infections?

Kinesiology can help! Please get in touch to find out more.



pollyhowardwellbeing.co.uk
07734 803309

STN·MILL
HEALTH & FITNESS
—ALRESFORD—

GYM | BARRE | YOGA | PILATES | CYCLING | MEDICAL

WE ARE OPEN



STUDIOS REOPENING MAY 17TH

CLASSES FOR EVERYONE

Book in for a free trial class from 17th-30th May

www.stationmill.co.uk

Now open



THE CHESTNUT HORSE

Brunch, BBQ, Boards and Bowls

WELCOME to the Valley News



Sorry, I'm back again as the move did not happen. I was impressed by the content and style from last month so this time I too have a theme and loosely it is based on green issues. I feel strongly that climate change is a far bigger issue than Covid.

So I am really pleased to have the contribution from my neighbour, Caroline Kirkman, who has done so much to inspire recycling and we all have so much more to learn. Then I wanted to include some thoughts about cycling and Ken Gordon & Christopher Langford have come up trumps. At least I hope it will make us all think about the issues. We all have to stop and think about how we get about and how much fuel we are using. As a frequent flyer, it's clear to me my air miles have to be much reduced. I would like to have included something about electric cars but that has to wait. I haven't yet understood where all the electricity needed will come from.

On other matters green we now have a regular contributor in James Grieg in addition to my own gardening experiences. Closely related is an article by Steve Percy about our river.

On a different theme, I was hugely impressed by the article on "Youth Options" from Lucy Collis. It's so good to see members of this community helping where there is a need.

We have a number of other articles about gardens and growing, all good for my green theme. Because of the election this month we have fewer councillor contributions excepting our own parish council. Patrick Appleby, Steve Percy and Yvette Riley have

brought interesting topics to our notice. Patrick has also entered the fray with some serious thoughts on climate change, much to be welcomed.

Right at the back we have seasonal photos, looking a little sheepish, including contributions from Verity and Will. IVN always welcomes photos of local interest. We say our goodbyes to our rector; Theo Mezger has provided a detailed review about this and the future. Finally, I am also glad to say that we also have some snapshots concerning Prince Philip.

Next month Lucy & Fi take over.

Tony Gaster

Itchen Valley News

Chief Editor	Vernon Tottle
Editors	Charlotte Appleby, Verity Coleman, Tony Gaster, Fiona McIntosh, Lucy Wolfe
Advertising	Jenny Sloan
Distribution	Lyn Jones IA&A 07899 922221 Gilly Greenwood E&MW 779540
Treasurer	Henry Labram

For editorial enquiries, articles, letters or comments, please email:

itchenvalleynews@gmail.com.

For advertising enquiries, please email:

itchenvalleynewsadvertising@gmail.com

Postal address: Itchen Valley News, Hazeldene, Northington Road, Itchen Abbas, SO21 1BE

Please send all contributions for June 2021 by Saturday 15 May. All material is published in good faith and the

Valley News cannot be held responsible for any information given or views expressed; neither can it be liable for any loss arising from the use of any information or advertisements contained herein. The Editorial Team reserves the right to refuse or amend articles or advertisements submitted for publication.

Printed by Greenhouse Graphics of Basingstoke.

Cover photo by Penny Russel and other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Winchester Go LD Garden and Craft Fair



Wednesday 23 June 2021 10am to 4pm at Upper Farm, Down Farm Lane, Headbourne Worthy SO23 7LA.

Entrance £5. Parking available on site.

Hillier's Bob McQueen, horticulturalist and tree expert, 30+ RHS Chelsea Flower Shows, giving short talks at 10.30, 11.30, 13.30 and 14.30 + Q&A.

Creative Flora expert florist Louise Bradshaw offering two seasonal flower workshop demonstrations at 11am and 2pm. Workshop tickets at £20 available in advance, numbers are limited. Tickets include one workshop, entrance and lunch in the Go LD Café Marquee. Stalls for 2021 include plants, garden products, local crafts, homeware, produce and gifts.

Ros Francis on 07868 132250 or ros.francis@hotmail.co.uk

Royal British Legion 100 - a Century of Service



The Royal British Legion (RBL) was formed in the aftermath of the First World War when four organisations came together to fight

the injustices faced by those returning home after service and became the British Legion in 1921. From the beginning, RBL campaigned for fair treatment of those who had given so much for their country during the war and provided much needed welfare, support and comradeship to millions. After 100 years of the RBL, it continues to respond to the changing

needs of the Armed Forces community, providing small interventions to life-changing, and sometimes lifesaving support.

2021 is a whole year of celebration for the RBL Centenary; however Saturday 15 May is the day of the 100th formation commemoration. For those in the Itchen Valley who would like to make a donation to support this work and the RBL Centenary, I shall have a stand at St John's Churchyard gate to receive donations for the Poppy Appeal. All donors will receive a unique RBL100 pin brooch. The stand will be at St John's on Saturday 15 May from 10am until 1pm and I look forward to welcoming all those who wish to support RBL100. Covid safeguarding arrangements will apply.

Gavin Edgerley Harris

Your Local Poppy Appeal Organiser



A reminder about money

Thank you very much to those who responded to our request last month and have made a donation to the Itchen Valley News.



However, it was disappointing that so far only a very few of our 800 readers have done so. Hoping that it is has just drifted to the

bottom of your in-tray, here is a reminder.

If you would like to support us, please do one of the following:

send a cheque to me at, 1 The Old Dairy, Easton, Winchester SO21 1EU; or pay online to, "Itchen Valley News", sort code 40-46-39, account no. 61856251, using your name as a reference; or give cash to your magazine deliverer.

Something like £5, £10 or even £20 would be ideal.

The Itchen Valley News is produced every month by volunteers and delivered free to Valley residents with information of all sorts about what is happening locally. We need your donations to help cover the costs of the printing.

Thank you.

Henry Labram, Treasurer

Martyr Worthy Village Hall

Like many other halls, Martyr Worthy Village Hall has not been in use since before Christmas. Hopefully, this will be put right shortly as the lockdown is further eased. As things stand, it is anticipated that the hall will be fully open again from Monday 17 May, subject to continuing Covid-19 restrictions.

In the meantime, where this can safely be done within the regulations, one or two test events are scheduled to take place in the garden area outside the hall before that date.

This year's AGM will return to its usual time of the year in May. As it will still not by then be possible for the meeting to take place in the hall, the meeting will be held remotely on Zoom at **6pm on Tuesday 11 May**. The business of the meeting will include the approval of the Minutes of the 2020 AGM, reports

on the past year by the Chairman and the Treasurer, the election of the Management Committee for the coming year 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 before the time of the meeting, so that joining details can be sent.

Further information on the hall is now available on its new website at <http://martyrworthyvillagehall.com/>

Guy Green

Chairman, Management Committee

So what is recycling?



This is my view!
To me, it is using anything beyond its normal life - so collecting plastic bags to be made into something else is recycling

but so is passing items on, to be reused or upcycled, also repairing items to continue using them.

The most important thing to me is to stop things going into landfill and not destroying finite resources - like petrochemicals and minerals. Reducing "food miles" and reducing our impact on the environment is as important as recycling.

The questions about how we should live to preserve the earth for future generations seem to show that many of the conveniences and "advances" we have made in the 20th century need to be reversed. It is odd to think that we have managed to create such a mess of

our planet and oceans in a century. A mess that will take centuries and a massive change of attitude to clean up. I look back with bemusement that I used washable nappies 23 years ago at the same time as buying organic veg from lands afar in plastic bags!!

Things I actually do

TerraCycle and Aluminium collecting

Make my own

Buy locally

Buy in bulk

Buy items in recyclable packaging over those not

Compost

Drive an electric car

Buy my energy from an environmentally friendly source

Minimise air travel

Reuse bags

Wrap presents in material or reusable packaging or bags

Use wax wraps and boxes rather than cling film

Grow my own

Things on the above list do not necessarily complement each other - for example:

buying in bulk and buying locally

Storage boxes are usually made from plastic but they are reusable.

There are question marks about the process and components for batteries that go into electric cars. It's a balance and in the end you can only do your

best!

This last year has been interesting. It's been a challenging time trying to be low impact on the environment. Using Amazon is convenient but is it a good use of resources? Well sometimes yes! But it is at the expense of local shops. The problem with that is, if we lose the local shops, we will be left with no choices about where we buy things. And no local people employed to man those shops.

Buying from Tesco on-line has meant that many items have come in plastic when I would normally choose the unwrapped option. But I'd rather not go into a supermarket at the moment. I am glad to hear that shops are starting to have proper programmes for taking back and recycling plastic packaging. I am a mini hub for TerraCycle programmes, which collect hard to recycle plastics and give money to charities in return. The problem with these programmes is they are so prescriptive, at times senselessly so. For example, the bread bag programme will only take bread bags, not bagels or rolls. To me they seem like the same plastic but because it is paid for by a bread maker (Hovis) they have made the rules and pay for any make of bread bag but not any other bag. It seems crazy to me but they are the

rules! The items get processed into plastic pellets that make items like slides and garden furniture.

I was talking with a pal who lives on Guernsey and they recycle everything in their normal bin collection except the peel off film on microwave meals - Wow! Why can't we do that?

But you then have to ask the question - what is actually happening to the kerbside recycling? Is it actually being recycled? Is it going to incinerators? To another country's landfill? I don't know the answers to these questions and it seems almost impossible to find out with any real confidence.

Items that are made out of recycled plastics often say "at least xx% recycled" which means that the rest is virgin plastic. That is not good enough! It doesn't matter whether it costs more to make items from recycled materials, in the long run there won't be any raw materials left! There is a need for plastics in healthcare and it seems odd that we should risk safe healthcare provision for plastic bags!

What can you do?

Simply buy less. Buy local. Recycle. Reuse.

Locally, we have "Lara's recycling/waste group" on Facebook that is run by Lara in Kings Worthy. She is the TerraCycle hub to whom I deliver. She is one of the ladies who also runs the "I need a whisk" group on Facebook which is for Winchester and surrounding villages to offer items that they no longer want for free or to ask if anyone has an item they may need. I have "whisked" an electric whisk, ornaments, furniture and have asked for and received a cook book I wanted and

some Perspex. It is not a group about "being in need" but is a group to redistribute unused items to avoid them going into landfill or being incinerated.

And whatever anyone tries to tell you, trying to be a local and ethical shopper costs more money. That matters more to some than to others and more at some times than other times.

It's about doing what you can do not about feeling bad that you can't do everything you feel you should do. I am never going to give up crisps or use a wooden toothbrush but I can recycle those things to minimise my impact on the environment.

TerraCycle programme:

All items should be empty, packed as flat as possible (inside each other where possible) and sorted in a named bag. They should also be plastic - no paper please!

The rules are tiresome but in brief - Bread bags - only plastic bread bags - any brand, crumbs shaken out - not rolls or bagels!

Crisp packets - any brand, crumbs shaken out, the individual bags, big bags, multipack bags.

Pringles - only Pringles whole tube and lid - flattened

Sweet wrappers - any brand

Cake and biscuit wrappers - any cake or biscuit wrapper, cracker and rice cake wrappers.



AVINGTON PARK FARM COTTAGES



5* Self Catering

www.avingtonholidays.co.uk



AVINGTON PARK GOLF COURSE



Your Local 9 Holes

www.avingtongolf.co.uk

01962 77 99 55



PRINCE'S MEAD



Welcome to Prince's Mead

AN INDEPENDENT CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-11 YEARS, WINCHESTER

VIRTUAL OPEN DAY 12th MARCH 1.30pm



WINCHESTER WOOD FLOORS



BEAUTIFUL NEW WOOD FLOORS ~ EXPERT FLOOR SANDING AND RESTORATION
BESPOKE CABINETRY

w: winchesterwoodfloors.co.uk t: 01962 733016 e: info@winchesterwoodfloors.co.uk

Winchester Wood Floors Ltd, 3 Vernal Cottages, Spring Gardens, Alresford, SO24 9QB

Beauty items - plastic lids and tubes (not bottles) and triggers - including sunscreen tubes and triggers. Also the plastic packaging from make up wipes (but not the wipes). Home Hair dye items - in a separate bag please!

Dental - plastic tooth brushes or electric brush heads, toothpaste tubes and dental floss packaging

Plastic Milk bottle tops - washed

Pet food - domestic animal food or treat pouch or packet. If wet food pouch washed please! (Not wild bird food of any description I'm afraid)

Dishwasher tablet flexible pouches

Stamps with 1 cm of envelope around

Foreign currency

NEW! Cheese wrappers - any plastic wrapping from any brand of cheese.

Aluminium for Hampshire IOW air ambulance

Foil and clean foil milk bottle lids

Any aluminium - washing line pole for example

Electrical wires, fairy lights, plugs

Drink cans

Wine bottle tops - but not beer bottle tops as they are a different metal

Must be non-magnetic!

If in doubt - please ask!

Caroline Kirkman 779121 07971 268852

Five good reasons to let your bike rust in the garage.

1. I'm not fit enough.

That's probably true... if you haven't been out for a while and are thinking of starting with a half-day ride taking in some of the monstrous hills that Hampshire has to offer. Alternatively, you could re-discover the fun of a short blast round the local backroads and work up from there. Former railway lines like the Meon Valley Trail also offer flat, traffic-free cruising. Or



try out one of the brilliant modern electric bikes. They feel like you are riding a tandem with Bradley Wiggins pedalling away on the back. At Kings Worthy foundry there's a hire shop which might be one place to try them out.

2. It's not safe.

In 2018, there were 99 deaths of cyclists in the UK. That's a lot, but with a total of 1770 road deaths that year, most of us have far more chance of being injured whilst driving or walking than when cycling. ROSPA also tell us that, as more bikes come onto the roads, the chance of being injured actually diminishes.

You can help yourself stay out of the statistics by wearing bright colours and cycling at least a metre out from the gutter, so cars can see you, and are forced to pull out as they pass. Lights and reflective clothing help on dull days too. Of course, you can fall off without any other vehicles being around, as I discovered after catching a tree branch in my mudguard, which caused a huge

skid. I was badly bruised but not concussed, thanks to my cycle helmet, which was left with an egg-sized dent. I now need no convincing that helmets really are indispensable on a bike. One other tip is to buy a handlebar mirror. Modern ones are small, neat and give a clear view of the road behind.

3. There's too much traffic on the roads.

That's a great reason to avoid cycling along the A33 to Basingstoke. With every other vehicle doing 60 mph, you really don't want to be there! Luckily, we have hundreds of miles of quiet lanes in Hampshire which are almost traffic free, not to mention the bridleways which criss-cross our area. These days, it is also easy to pre-plan a quiet route on your phone or bike computer using free mapping apps like Viewranger.com. That way, you never get lost and can keep track of the distance you want to ride.

4. It would take hours to get the bike fixed up.

The good news is that we have a non-profit bike repair facility in Winchester at the Bike Hub (opposite the entrance to The Brooks). They do a great job and save you the hassle of learning to adjust gears or replace a chain. If you are spending money on your bike, do consider fitting puncture-resistant tyres at the same time. They really work and avoid the misery of sitting at the side of the road trying to fix a flat tyre.

5. Who would I go out with anyway?

It is more fun to cycle in a group, so as you get more confident for longer rides, try entering one of the many summertime charity events and organised day rides, or join the CTC, who run weekly group rides around Winchester. A cycling holiday is another great way to enjoy your bike

with like-minded people of similar ability.

So, are you ready to give cycling a try?

Ken Gordon

Irritating Cyclists

Sometimes, when I am driving in my car, it irritates me to see cyclists riding

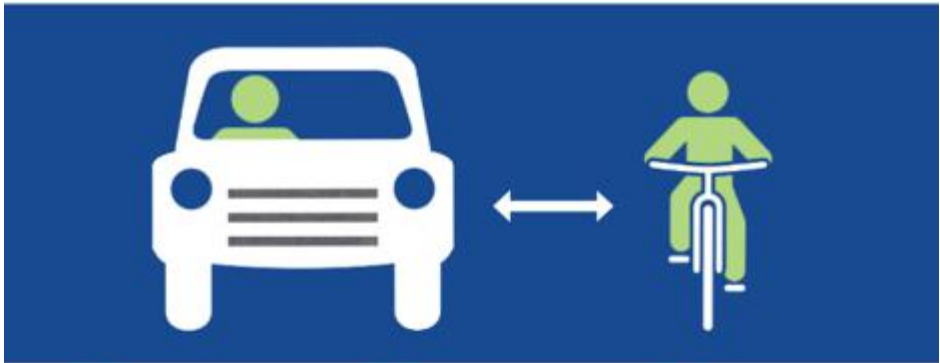
along with scant regard to other road users. You know the ones, they are dressed in dark clothing, no lights, sometime two abreast with traffic behind and having to shout to speak to each other above the wind noise. They ride on pavements and go through red traffic lights and in winter they have blinding headlamps. There is an unattractive arrogance to it.

When I started sailing in the 70's we paid little heed to safety. The Royal Yachting Association told government that they would regulate the industry without the need for legislation, and they have. Now, I would never go out without a life jacket and it is impossible to charter a boat without a certificate of competence. I don't ride horses but the British Horse Society has instilled a similar discipline into riding. Riders wear hats, visibility clothing and perhaps back braces and are polite to other road users.

Cycling needs a similar set of standards but there is no single organisation to take this up.

I cycle about two thousand miles a year. I try to practise what I preach. My rear light flashes at 150 lumens (you will see me !), my front light flashes and I can dim its brightness. I have a





minimum safe
passing distance
1 metre



minimum safe
passing distance
1.5 metres



minimum safe
passing distance
2 metres

discreet rear mirror so I can see if someone is trying to get past, I use hand signals and I have a bell. This is for my self-preservation and yet almost without fail every time I go out somebody drives too close for comfort.

The Highway Code for cars states *that when overtaking a cyclist, drivers should give, 'as much room as you would give a car'*, but does not specify that distance. The accepted advice is in the diagram above. The road gutter is littered with traps for the cyclist and we often have to swerve to avoid them

The number of cyclists using our local roads is going to increase; climate change and electric bikes, the success of Wiggins and Frome, together with being in a recreation orientated National Park, will see to this. Cyclists and car drivers need to be more aware of each other's needs

Christopher Langford.

Bumping Along the Bottom

Alongside the increasing awareness of the world, significance of the River Itchen and the urgent need to protect

it, there is continuing concern about its water quality. Two measures of quality are the abundance of invertebrates living in the river and the diversity of species present. To measure abundance and diversity, ecologists use the three minute kick test which involves collecting invertebrates from a sample site on the river over a three minute period.

Salmon and Trout Conservation have agreed two bespoke chalk stream targets with the Environment Agency. These are a level of 500 freshwater shrimp and 10 species of mayflies per test. The Test and Itchen Association has conducted sampling in recent years and concluded, as Jeremy Legge puts it, *the river is bumping along the bottom* in water quality terms. Whilst things have not got worse over the last five years, there are worryingly few signs of improvement either, with recorded levels of freshwater shrimp ranging from only 32 at Yavington to 597 at Bembridge, against the 500 standard, and the number of mayfly species ranging from 5-8, well below the standard of 10. The reasons are low water flow, sediment from roads and



01962 435000 07989582117



HBPS are your local pest control experts based in kings worthy with a further office in Basingstoke we have you covered for all your pest control needs.

Fast professional service

Pest control services:



Rats

Cluster flies

Mice

Fleas



Wasps

Moths

Hornets

Squirrels

Moles

Birds



Call us on

01962 435000 or 07989582117

01256 578000 or 07939167612

10 Fraser Road, Kings Worthy, Winchester SO23 7PJ 4 Email: info@hampshirebirdandpestsolutions.co.uk



fields flowing into the river, high nitrate and phosphate levels from farming and domestic sewage and pesticide residues.

So, what has been done to improve the situation? It seems likely that new water extraction limits to improve water flow are having some effect, as are new discharge licences for watercress farmers to minimise phosphate levels. Farmers are being encouraged to change their practices on land close to the river and water companies have somewhat faltering initiatives to remove phosphates and other harmful pollutants from being discharged by sewage treatment works. So, some encouraging news but it is clearly not sufficient.

So, what more can be done? Much will depend on the government setting and enforcing stricter environmental standards but the engagement of public opinion and the mobilisation of interested NGOs will also be critical. In the meantime, the Association will continue its monitoring in 2021 to help ensure the preservation of the environmental treasure on our doorstep.

CLlr Stephen Percy

Abridged from a longer article by Jeremy Legge of the Test and Itchen Association, www.testanditchen.co.uk

From our MP

We have, in recent weeks, announced details of almost three thousand organisations being offered grants and loans to help the culture and heritage sector reopen and recover from Covid. As a member of the Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee, I have taken a very close interest in the Culture Recovery Fund (worth some £1.57 billion of public money) but as our constituency MP, I've watched it like a hawk!

Last month, in tranche two of the fund, some £1.8m in further grants was awarded to our area including Winchester Cathedral, Theatre Royal, The Watercress Line in Alresford, Integr8 Dance and Unit 12 in Winnall and the very special Railway Inn in Winchester. Working with the Live Music Trust, I have taken special interest in this one because these grassroots music venues are the very heart of our world-beating music industry. I realise for some it may sound trivial to spend such vast sums of money on theatres and 'fun' but we have taken the view from the start that we must have a strong society to return to post-pandemic and, of course, tens of thousands of freelancers rely on the creative industries for a living. So it matters and I am proud we've stood with the sector.

Secondly, and as well as speaking in the key vote to put the 'roadmap' out of Covid into law, I have been speaking in Parliament recently about the importance of science centres in educating school children in STEM subjects. We are fortunate

OCEAN ROOFING



OCEAN GUTTERING SERVICES AND ROOFING

- Gutter Maintenance and Repair
- Roofing Repair
- New Flat Roofing
- Lead Roofing

80 High Street, Winchester,
Hampshire, SO23 9AT

Tel. 01962 779690

www.ocean-roofing.co.uk

PETER G FISHER

GAS SAFE registered 219242

Plumbing, Heating and Gas Engineer

33 Victena Road, Fair Oak, SO50 7FY

Phone 02380 600834

Mobile 07860 401304

Credit and debit cards accepted

Save the Dates

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

Itchen Valley Flower and Produce Festival postponed to 2022

11 September 2021 7.00 Party in Easton Village Hall

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

16-19 June 2022 Easton Flower Festival

ALRESFORD PILATES

Small group classes or
private sessions

Close supervision and
individual support

Further details -
www.alresfordpilates.co.uk

Call/text Sally Hogg - 07771 522665

Email: sallyhogg@btinternet.com

Hampshire Rural Management Ltd

hantsrmltd@gmail.com 07730 099611

Estate Maintenance Land Management

Hedge cutting Woodland Maintenance

Gate Posts and Gates Paddock Topping

Hedge & Tree Planting Groundworks

Agricultural, Equestrian & Garden Fencing

www.hampshireruralmanagementltd.co.uk

to have Winchester Science Centre (very) locally which has been focusing on educating 5-12 year olds since 1986, giving almost 4,000 children the opportunity to have informal science activities in the past year. Winchester Science Centre plans to reopen on Saturday 22 May and I hope their main customer base, organised schools trips, will flock back, trusting they can do so safely. The science saviour of the next pandemic may just be among them.



Finally, you may just recognise IVN's Editor in Chief Vernon Tottle (with Arminel) in this month's photo. We caught up with each other last month while I was holding a special Easter recess "village surgery" in Itchen Abbas and it was so nice to chat with constituents. You raised issues including parking around the school, the proposed solar farm near Alresford and cycle routes through the Itchen Valley, including a very good point made more than once about bells on bikes! Did you know a bike has to be sold with one but it doesn't have to be on the bike? I feel an amendment coming on. Many national issues were also raised ahead of Parliament's return and, of course, we didn't know then about the sad news of HRH The

Duke of Edinburgh's passing which was announced the following morning.

Much more, and daily updates from me, please 'follow' [www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP)

God save the Queen.

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

Youth Options' new Outdoor Learning Centre

I have been a Trustee of Youth Options for 13 years, recruited by fellow Valley resident Mike Gretton (ex-Chairman) and alongside Rolls Coleman (Trustee and ex-Treasurer). The charity, based in Hampshire since 1937, supports and empowers vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people to improve their life opportunities for a better future. There is a growing body of evidence that positive engagement with nature and the natural environment can help physical and mental wellbeing. Youth Options' new strategic direction is to





do as much of their youth work outdoors as possible, so the charity is developing outdoor learning as a key principle. In collaboration with local charity Allegra's Ambition, Youth Options is repurposing a three acre site on a 15 year lease from Eastleigh Borough Council. Work began last October to transform the derelict plant nursery into an Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC) with the aim of opening fully later this year.

The OLC borders the lower River Itchen and has woodland, outdoor shelters, habitat sites, polytunnels and a re-purposed classroom building, so Youth Options can offer forest school, bushcraft, conservation activities and horticulture, as well as targeted one to one work with very troubled young people and with whole families.

Volunteers have been hard at work transforming the brownfield site, and we are setting up a regular Friday Gardening Club to maintain it. Please come and join in; ask me for more details or look on the website:

www.youthoptions.co.uk/support-us/volunteer.

Lucy Collis

779598 lucyvarcoe@gmail.com

Notes from the Field in April

April, what a month it has been. Monty Don always says it's the month which sees the greatest change from the first day to the last, and no more could it have been said about April 2021. In contrast to last year's balmy weather (hottest April on record) this year we've been beset by chilly northern winds, sunny days, snow, sleet, frost and very little rain – not the ideal situation for a novice flower farmer. Some plants have fared better than others. Most have been slowed by the cold and set back a few weeks, others have thrived and sadly some have been hit by the frost. But it is all a learning curve, a lesson in keeping in time with nature's schedule.

But despite the meteorological roller-coaster and sleepless nights wondering if my seedlings would survive the frosty night, it has also been a month of joy as finally nature springs into action. Like the flick of a switch, buds appeared, the cherry trees burst into bloom, daffodils lit up our gardens and seedlings awoke. Seed sowing began in February for me, but with the longer and warmer days, April marked a shift in pace as production ramped up, but with the





CALOR
Autogas

FREE COLLECTION
COURTESY CARS

**NEW FARM MOTOR
SERVICES LTD**
New Farm Road, Alresford SO24 9QE
01962 732338

M.O.T. Testing Centre
Class 7 Vans from 3000 to 3500 kg
Class 4 Cars and vans up to 3000 kg
All makes cars & vans serviced and repaired
Horseboxes, lorries and campers up to 7500 kg
serviced and prepared for plating tests



L.P.G.A. Approved
Autogas conversions
www.amsautogas.com

**CERTIFICATED ENGINEERS
RECOVERY AVAILABLE**

Mulberry Tree Services

Problem Trees?

Fully Qualified Certified Tree
Surgeon with 25 years experience

**Fully Insured
Very Competitive Prices**

- Removal of Dangerous Trees
- Pruning • Shaping • Thinning
- Stump Removal • Hedge Cutting
- Fencing Specialist

Tel: 01962 88 68 66

Mob: 07974 761183

www.mulberrytreeservices.co.uk



PRESTIGE CARS of ALRESFORD

Private Hire Available For Airports,
Cruise Terminals and Train Stations
Longer Journeys undertaken as well

01962 865602

07752 570787

www.prestigecarsalresford.co.uk
kevin.mitchell202@btinternet.com

Garden Maintenance

Paul Moffatt

Mob: 07860 107175

Lawn Treatments
Mowing / Strimming
Moss / Weeds
Scarifying / Aerating
Chafer Bugs
Fertilising

Hedge Cutting
Light Chainsaw work
Garden Shed Maintenance
Patio Cleaning

**One-off or repeat work
Weekly, fortnightly, monthly
Fully insured**



D. Barker & Son
TRADITIONAL FAMILY JEWELLERS

Antique Jewellery a Speciality

**Contemporary Jewellery
Silver & Watches**

**Full Repair and Restoration Service
to Jewellery, Watches and Clocks
Hand & Heraldic Engraving
Valuations Undertaken**

40a West Street, Alresford
Tel: 01962 732200
www.dbarkerandson.co.uk



cold weather meaning the first lot haven't gone out, my polytunnel is at bursting point. A sea of plastic seed trays perch on every possible surface, gangway and spare ground. The field has continued to prepare itself for action. Beds have been made and some hardy plants have gone in the ground. And I planted a very special hedge. This hedge has several purposes, firstly as a windbreak, filtering the prevailing wind, as wind is the biggest risk to delicate blooms. Secondly, it'll eventually be a wonderful source of foliage for cut flower bunches. Pussywillow, Wild Privet, Spindleberry, Hornbeam and Hazel will all add their own seasonal characteristics. And thirdly, the hedge will act as a fantastic habitat for wildlife and the local ecosystem. Most crucially for me, a home for all the natural predators I want to encourage onto the land – birds, frogs, ladybirds, lacewings will all be hugely beneficial in keeping unwanted pests at bay.

The biggest highlight of April was the first crop grown at our home nursery. The first to bloom were the Anemones, followed by the scented Narcissi, Ranunculus and eventually the Tulips. This is what I love about growing flowers. This is why I do it – the joy of cutting a bucketful of flowers and arranging a vase on the kitchen table. But what was even better this year was that I got to share these flowers, and I've been overwhelmed by the positive uptake and feedback on my blooms, thank you to all of you who have supported me so far. Currently my flowers are available every weekend at West Lea Farm Shop and Open House Deli in Winchester. I'm supplying several local florists and I'm delivering locally, so do get in contact if you'd like some locally grown, pesticide free flowers.

As May approaches, here begins the busiest period of the year, thousands of seedlings to plant and hopefully lots of lovely Itchen Valley grown flowers to cut, so do say hi if you pass.

To follow my journey, do sign up to my newsletter at www.stemandgreen.co.uk, or on Instagram @stemandgreen .

James Greig, who has just started a cut flower farm in the heart of Easton, is continuing to share his thoughts each month on the progress of his new project.

When vexillology becomes vexing

Following the death of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall decided to join in with the national observance of flying the Union Jack at half-mast. This was basically very easy as a flag pole had been erected in the grounds



of the hall to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The hall has a suitable flag and the method of hoisting it is very simple. It cannot be flown incorrectly.

However, over the many years since the pole was erected, a nearby ash had grown significantly in all directions, as trees do. This had no impact over the first two days of flag flying but the mild westerly breeze changed to a northerly wind on the Sunday. The flag responded to the increasing air speed and fluttered very nicely – until a strong gust blew the tip of the flag into the nearest twig of the aforementioned tree.

Two attempts by members of the hall committee to free the flag from its difficulty were frustrated by the height of the tree. The combination of an extending pruner plus the hall's highest set of steps used by the committee's tallest member proved insufficient to reach the offending branch.

As always, you need the right tools to do the job and a third volunteer had a higher ladder and a longer pole and the flag was released from captivity in time to lower it before nightfall.

Moral of the story – don't fly kites, or flags, near trees.

Vernon Tottle

Book Review - Daphne Du Maurier

Last year we had two short holidays in the South-West, walking the Cornish Coast near Falmouth and The Lizard, and then a visit to the North Devon coast on the edge of Exmoor. Never having read a Daphne Du Maurier novel previously, imagine my surprise, and pleasure, when I picked up two recently and found that the first, *Frenchman's Creek*, was set in the same area of Cornwall near Helford, and the second, *Jamaica Inn*, in the wilds of Exmoor. I read them in that order, which in hindsight I felt was important.

They are beautifully written novels, in Du Maurier's intense, and colourfully descriptive style. Once started, you have to finish. They are "page turners" of very high quality. In both books, the reader is drawn ever deeper into the state of mind of the heroine and her thoughts and emotions for the persons around her. These are great stories, and they are timeless, still having appeal to adult readers in the 2020's.

Frenchman's Creek is a story about love and infatuation. The young Dona, Lady St Columb, tired of her meaningless life in the playground of the rich and aristocratic in London takes off with her young children to the neglected family pile by the wild coast of Cornwall with its rocky, secret

coves. She learns of the Frenchman, charismatic and daring, who is raiding landowners in the vicinity, and she becomes obsessed to know more about him. The enigmatic servant, William, is part of the puzzle. Despite their unlawful behaviour, the reader is led to believe that the pirates are the 'good guys' and their wild, carefree and exciting way of life is almost acceptable. In contrast Jamaica Inn is a hard, bitter tale. It is a lonely, desolate, place in disrepair, shunned by local people, and though once providing a welcome and refuge for carriages and travellers, is no longer a stopping place. The young and courageous Mary Yellan copes with helping her aunt, who is constantly abused by Joss Merlyn, a cruel bully of a husband and the landlord. Shocking events take place at the Inn and Joss is the ringleader. Mary Yellan meets Jem, whom she also despises for being her uncle's brother. Surely these evil people must be brought to justice. There are twists and unexpected turns which engage the reader right up to the last page.

For your next holiday, especially this year when you might be near our coast and perhaps in the West Country, take both books with you and enjoy a few hours distracted by these vivid and most engaging stories.

Henry Labram

Easton W.I. April Meeting

Zoom meetings are working very well for the W.I. although we cannot wait for restrictions to be over and all feel safe to meet again in person.

However, we must conform and make the most of all opportunities to pursue a "normal" life! Twelve of us attended and there were some apologies received from other members.

Jean had attended the County's Annual Meeting on Zoom and reported that there are 6,300 W.I.'s in England and Wales and 220,000 members. She then went on to outline some of the measures we can all follow to help with Climate Change, which had been presented by Denise Smythe-Wright, a Trustee of the Hampshire County Federation of W.I.'s and a very distinguished scientist leading the team of Climate Change Ambassadors for the County. She was the Principal Scientist at the National Oceanography Centre until her retirement and was then elected President of the International Association of the Physical Sciences of the Oceans. After this rather serious part of the afternoon, Jean went on to tell us about the very entertaining talk given by the Yorkshire Shepherdess, Amanda Owen, who spoke about her life, family and the sheep farm she works with her husband, before answering question from the audience. Our own speaker this month was Richard Rickitt, Co-Editor of *Bee Craft*, so possibly known to some of you who may keep bees. He was an absolute expert on all things bees and kept us entertained with all manner of interesting facts about a bee's life! His pictures were amazing and we would recommend him to anyone looking for a speaker. Of course, the advantage of Zoom is that the speaker does not have to be within easy driving distance of your venue and Richard was in Wiltshire. We will definitely be inviting him back to talk about gardening for bees, so we will let you know when this is to happen and anyone is very welcome to join us physically if we are meeting back in the village hall, or virtually by zoom link.

Kyrene Beames, President.

From the Parish Council.

The Parish Council had hoped to continue to hold its meetings remotely using Zoom until lockdown restrictions have



ended. Unfortunately current legislation will not allow this to happen. Although that may change, from 7 May onwards, we have to hold meetings in person. Our Village Halls are not yet open to us to meet there and the idea of holding outdoor meetings sitting on the grass at Couch Green is too weather dependant to be viable. Following advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) it has therefore been decided from 7 May not to hold any formal meetings until we can do so either in our Village Halls or remotely. To cover emergencies, again on advice from NALC, any necessary decisions are being delegated to our Clerk, our Chair of Finance and myself. Hopefully this situation will be as short as possible.

Our Environment Committee has continued work on its programme. (Please see Steve Percy's article on page 11). They have also produced further comments for our submission on the District Local Plan (See IVN edition for April for our earlier comments). On "Living Well" we have expressed the view that with a larger population, more open spaces will be needed. This includes more footpaths, safe cycle routes and funding to see that they can be maintained. On "Housing Development" the need for

mixed development has been highlighted. In addition to our previous comments on "Carbon Neutrality", where planning is concerned, we have stated that it is essential that full environmental assessments are undertaken, positive nature outcomes are identified and required. Our answers to the survey have been submitted. Hopefully as many individuals as possible have done so as well. Within the Valley it is pleasing to hear that Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall Committee is considering installing solar panels on the south facing roof. What about others considering doing the same on other large buildings in the Parish?

On footpaths, a team of five spent a morning putting bark down on part of the east end of footpath 26 that joins the bottom of Church Lane Martyr Worthy to Easton Lane. We now have a supply of bark for the worst muddy footpaths as a temporary measure when needed. In the longer term we are hoping to get funding to put down more durable surfaces on the very worst of the paths which have suffered excessive wear due to so many walkers. With bluebells coming out, a start has been made to clear the Bridleway (No.42) from Lone Farm to Itchen Wood. It is a mammoth task which the County seems reluctant to get done. Thanks to quick thinking by one of our Rights of Way Committee and the good offices of a local farmer, who has provided temporary storage, we have obtained a quantity of wood chippings from work on the Watercress Way. These will be spread on the muddy section at the start of the Bridleway (No.41) better known as Strawberry Lane.

In the April edition of the Valley

News it was proposed to hold a Litter Pick on 5 June. After further consideration, as it will be difficult to hold a full event with tea, coffee and cakes afterwards, with the problem of picking up when grass has grown and that as the last litter pick was held approximately six months ago, it has been decided to postpone this event until spring next year. You can still pick up litter while out walking and as advertised previously we have litter picking sticks available for those who would like to borrow them.

Once again there are notices in some of our telephone boxes advising that they may be removed. Plans are underway for saving the box in Easton. The boxes in Itchen Abbas and at Couch Green could go. The last time this issue was highlighted only one person responded. The Parish Council cannot afford to adopt and maintain them. If anyone wants to keep them

then please respond to the notice and also let us know. Unless BT can be persuaded to keep them with their phones or a group of volunteers can be found to look after them, as Easton is trying to do, then the boxes and phones will go. This may be the last chance.

Patrick Appleby.



News From The Parish

At the recent APCM for the Itchen Valley Parish
the following people were nominated:

Avington

Dan Day Robinson

Easton

Theo Mezger
Chris Ellis

Itchen Abbas

Sarah Hunt
Tim Clapp

Martyr Worthy

Robin Greenwood
Sara Mason

Church Wardens

PCC Members

Helen Wayne
Peter Thacker
(alternate)

Sara Janssen
Phoebe Culshaw
(alternate)

Sally Parker

Nicky Barber

Deanery Synod

Sonia Cragg

Theo Mezger

Sally Parker

LLM Gerry Stacey

Treasurer - James Wright

PCC Secretary - Olivia Cox

Itchen Valley Churches

2nd May - 10am Family Worship on Zoom

9th May - 10am Parish Communion
live at St Mary's, Easton and on Zoom

Thursday 13th May - 4.30am Dawn Ascension Day Service
live at St Mary's, Avington

16th May - 10am Valley Worship on Zoom

23rd May - 10am Parish Communion
live at St Mary's, Easton and on Zoom

23rd May - 6pm Evensong
live at St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

30th May - 10am Parish Communion
live at St Mary's, Easton and on Zoom

**If you would like to attend any of our services you must book
online at admin@itchenvalleychurches.org**

Private Prayer

Church opening times will be open between 10am and 2pm as follows:

St Mary's, Easton - Wednesdays
St John's, Itchen Abbas - every day
St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy - Sundays
St Mary's, Avington - Every day by arrangement
please contact Dan at Ivy Cottage or on 07500 860949

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

Rector - Currently Vacant

LLM - Mr Gerry Stacey
gerry.Stacey@biblesociety.org.uk
07554 438973

Parish Administrator - Beccy Clark
admin@itchenvalleychurches.org
01962 779845

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

Gardening to save the planet: how can we help?

Valley Gardeners' members and their guests were lucky enough to enjoy a presentation by Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology at Sussex University on 13 April via Zoom. Dave Goulson is also the author of books on the importance of insects to the continued health and life of our planet and all who live on it. His lecture was called: *The Garden Jungle or Gardening to save the planet*.

Loss of species, especially that of pollinators, which has been brought about by climate change, destruction of habitat and the over use of pesticides and insecticides, is, I would suggest, one of the most pressing and important issues which mankind, as the only polluter on this planet, needs to tackle. There are 4,000 species of pollinating insects available to fertilise our crops and plants. However, in the last 30 years, a stunning 76% of those insects have simply disappeared. You probably notice, as I do, when you are walking locally, the fields which used to buzz with insect life do not do so any longer. The rivers are not alive with fly life or other insects in the Spring and Summer. The use of blanket insecticides treating crops in enormous fields, with no hedges or crop margins for insects to live and breed in, means we are destroying the ability to feed the ever-increasing world population. In parts of China, farmers have to pollinate apple trees by hand as there are no bees or other insects to do this. We surely don't want to get to that situation here, do we?

So how can we, as humble gardeners make any difference? Well, there are many ways. Small they may be but if

everyone took some action, it would be a start and we can then enthuse others to take up the cause too.

Firstly, please do not buy compost with peat in it. Our peat bogs are the single biggest carbon "sink" in the world. They store more carbon than all other vegetation in the world combined. We cannot afford to continue digging them up for compost. If we all lobby plant nurseries and garden centres to stock only peat free compost, in time they will. Try to plant native or "old fashioned" plants which attract pollinators which can then thrive and breed. Lavender Gros Bleu and Nepeta (catmint) Six Hills Giant, along with Helenium and perennial geraniums are some examples. Make your garden pollinators somewhere to live. I know that many Valley Gardeners are already making a bee hotel in an old stump or a pool for hoverflies in an old tin container following Dave Goulson's talk. Both of these tasks are easy to do and can help to keep bees and other pollinators happy and doing their vital work.

Let's encourage every gardener to be more wildlife friendly. We can allow parts of our garden, and perhaps



verges outside our gardens, to go wild and encourage native flowers to find a home there. We have an excellent example from Wild Valley Verges here in the valley so please stop mowing verges and let the grass grow a bit and you will be amazed at the plants that spring up and the insects that will come and live there. We all have small wildlife reserves in our lawns which could be allowed to flourish if we just try and see our gardens in a slightly different light.

We could also ask our council to stop using pesticides on our communal grass areas and let the grass – and the insects – thrive. As well as being beneficial to all of us, wild flowers on roundabouts and road verges look fantastic. Did you know that in the 1930s we had 7 million acres of wild flower meadows in the UK? By 1980, 97% of those were gone.

Perhaps you could plant more fruit trees, the blossom of which feeds pollinators, the fruit of which feeds us and the tree itself acts as a carbon receptacle. There are dwarf fruit trees for small gardens. We could try not to use pesticides in our garden. I stopped using them altogether about 12 years ago and I can honestly say I have no major issues with pests either in the flower borders or vegetable garden. If I

do get an influx of say white fly, I just whoosh them off the plant with soapy water in a spray or wait for insects like ladybirds or lacewings to do the job for me.

Amateur gardener Jennifer Owen recorded the species of animal and insects in her suburban garden in Leicester over a 15-year period. Astonishingly, she counted over 2,000, proving that the most modest plot can support a rich environment for wildlife and insects. We could all have the same result. Let's do it!

Catherine Hahn

The Practical Gardener

You can't write about gardening without reference to the weather. As I write it's been cold, very cold, at night and this has some disruptive effect on many plants. Although we did have a super warm couple of days, I have seen lots of new shoots which have had frost damage. Fortunately, peas, broad beans and brassicas all look good and the roots and potatoes are still under fleece so well protected. It's also been quite dry but perhaps that was to be expected.

April is perhaps the last month for peak sowing and May the month for planting. My greenhouse is bulging but

BLB Private Car Hire

Airport, Docks &
long distance transfers
in safety & luxury



Email

blbcarhire@gmail.com

07775 893146

Web: blbprivatecarhire.co.uk

PETER BRAY

DOMESTIC APPLIANCE ENGINEER

Repairs to Washing Machines, Dryers,
Electric Cookers, and Waste Disposal
Units

Service Agents for In-Sink-Erator,
Tweeny, Maxmatic, Waste King and
Waste Maid.

Tel 01962 714224

Mob 07885 490786

11 Hill Rise, Twyford,
Winchester SO21 1QH

IVC

Cars Chosen With Care

Excellent prices on both new and
second hand cars.

For further details telephone
01962 733097 or visit us at www.ivcuk.com

Belmont House
The Dean
Alresford
Hampshire SO24 9BQ
Telephone: 01962 733097
www.ivcuk.com

Selling new and used cars in Hampshire and beyond since 1987

Computer Problems?



- PC, Mac, iPads, Phones
- Systems & Software Setups
- Virus cleaning & Security
- Tune ups & Health Checks
- Broadband, WiFi & Network
- Upgrades & Hardware
- Data Recovery
- Cracked screens replaced

Independent and Impartial Advice
Home Visits (some evenings available)

10% labour discount over 1 1/2 Hour with
Parish Magazine



Laptops, Macs, Phones,
Data recovery

PC's, Laptops, Home
setups, Viruses

Colin: 01962 713890

Gerry: 01962 712674

Mob: 07727 481220

Mob: 07900 845814

Qualified engineer

Microsoft Certified

still heated and bubble wrapped, unusual for mid-April. I never cease to be surprised at how some seeds germinate. Last year many of us were complaining about runner beans, yet this year I have no problems at all. I am being more cautious about keeping seeds, as clearly age is an issue and although there is a “use-by” date on every packet, I’m sceptical. As with many things in gardening, it’s a matter of trial and error and what works for you in your garden.



One difficulty in the greenhouse is the propagators. The growing trays/pots can get too hot when it’s very sunny, so every day I remove the lids from 10am till 4pm. Watering is another activity which needs care, so easy to give too much. In recent years I discovered liquid seaweed, perhaps the best fertiliser available and organic to boot. If you buy online in quantity, it can also be cost-effective.

The activity in the greenhouse is “pricking out” and “potting on”. So as seeds germinate and the young plants grow, they need to be transferred to give more space and this might need to be done more than once. For example, tomato plants can’t go outside until it is safely warm, but they do need space to grow on. The same applies for all the squash family and cucumbers.


Everything gets a liquid feed once per week and I can assure you it makes a difference.

I’m a bit of a compost freak. In recent days I have been sieving it to remove the unwanted bits, twigs and the odd stone. I produce about 6m³ of my own compost each year. It’s perfect for mulching and I mix it with commercial potting compost for use in the greenhouse. By the beginning of May, I will start to plant what’s going to stay in the green house in big pots. Now here’s a question – does it matter how big are the pots? My experience says no, but the bigger the pot, the more water-holding the soil will have so in hot and dry conditions, that may be crucial.

There are some who swear by automatic watering and usually it’s controlled by a timer. It cannot possibly respond to big changes in heat (hence drying) on very sunny days. I’m sure commercial growers must have humidity controls. It’s a question that arises when I want to go away when some sort of automation is needed. Back to the subject of lawns. One local expert told me “Mo Bacter” to which I referred last month, was expensive and didn’t work. I don’t share this experience having used it on my front lawn. The moss is dying and there are no nasty black patches which arise



Ewa's Alterations



Ewa Cannon
Ewa Cannon Tailoress
7 Upper Brook St
Winchester
hampshire10@sky.com
07469725102

SHAUN BARNEY
Professional
Painter & Decorator
Local Tradesman with
20 years experience
Quality Work
Competitive Rates
Fully Insured
01962 864033
07928 027618

A H SERVICES

**Central Heating
Plumbing & property
maintenance.**



Gas Safe registered Engineers
NVQ qualified & certificated plumbers
All aspects of plumbing & heating
Installations/Service/Repairs
Electrical/Property maintenance.
Emergency call outs. Landlord
management.
Bathroom & kitchen refurbishment/
Power flushing, hot water cylinders, gas
fires, cookers, drains, water softeners,
tilling, lead work.
Tel: 07533 776 406 or 07847 144 092



Sole Butchers of Alresford
01962 735221
Butchers of Distinction
Home Made Pies. Ready Meals
A Variety of Seasonal Game
Award Winning Sausages and Burgers

Election information

A full list of candidates for the various May 2021 elections can be found on the Winchester City Council website. Don't forget to cast your votes!



YOU COULD ADVERTISE HERE!

Contact Jenny at
itchenvalleyadvertising@gmail.com

when other moss killers are used. Conversely, I have fertilised the whole of my back lawn, a tedious job and impossible to keep in straight lines and ensure every part is given the same treatment. However, I can report the grass is growing well and good grass is more resistant to disease and the rest. You can find lawn fertiliser quite cheaply on-line, sold for sports fields, or pay expensively for a small packet in a garden centre. I have found the price difference to be a factor of 10! I'm trying to work out how to get our over-active terrier to do the work!

Happy Gardening!

Tony Gaster.

National Garden Scheme— Hampshire

As we slowly come out of lockdown it certainly feels good. Visitor numbers to our gardens, which have already opened for 2021, are certainly showing this. Currently from now until 16 May, visitors must pre-book their tickets. From 17 May pre-booked tickets are not essential, but available. But please check for cancellations at ngs.org.uk New since last month:

We now have the Hampshire 2021 Yellow Booklet as an e-book. Simply enter the following in your search box:-
<https://issuu.com/levelcreative/docs/>



hamps_2021 where you will find all the garden information and pictures.

A few gardens open during May within 15 miles of Itchen Abbas:-

The Cottage, Chandlers Ford

SO53 IES Open: 3, 9 & 10 May 2pm to 6pm. Admission: £4.00 children free. Refreshments: At discretion of garden owner. Open By Arrangement Apr to May.



How Park Barn, Kings Somborne, Stockbridge SO20 6QG

Open: Sunday 16 May 2pm to 5pm

Admission: £5.00 children free

Refreshments: At discretion of garden owner

The Thatched Cottage, Upper Farringdon, Alton GU34 3EG

Opening: Sunday & Monday 30 & 31 May 1pm to 5pm

Admission: £6.00 children free.

Refreshments: At discretion of owners

There are a few other Hampshire Gardens open in May, along with our Virtual Tours (two from Hampshire - Old Camps and Froyle Gardens) all available on the website ngs.org.uk Happy Garden Visiting.

Pat Beagley (Publicity)

National Garden Scheme - Hampshire

pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk

Some Environmental Thoughts.

Whether we call it Climate Change, or any other name, it all comes down to the same thing. We need to stop wasting resources and stop trashing the planet. So here are a few of my own thoughts on the general principles and some specific ideas.

First we cannot ignore the elephant in the room although many in the media seem to. Continual expansion of human population and consumption of finite resources is unsustainable. Second, everyone needs to understand the fundamental principle that the nearer every system is to being cyclic the less wastage there is. How do we do that? To find, produce and allow solutions we need science, engineering and statesmanship and not political gestures.

On a local basis, efforts are being made and will help but on a wider scale, there needs to be a great deal more lateral thought and ideas. Let's start with energy generation. We have heard about the need for solar farms in the district but before our green and fertile fields disappear under large areas of black panels, why are they considered the only solution? Making use of the roof areas of many of our larger buildings would not solve everything but it would save some of the fields. Why is there no mention of using the south facing embankments on our motorways? We may not want massive onshore wind farms in our small country but there are places where a relatively small number can be located. They may not be to everybody's liking but, as a compromise, much better than many hectares of solar panels. While still on the subject of power

generation, resource often forgotten is water power. There were thousands of mills recorded in the Domesday Book. Many of those sites still exist and there are probably many more potential sites. Modern technology can provide generation systems that do not harm the aquatic environment. Use of these sites and this technology should be encouraged.

A different question. We all put our bottles out for glass recycling but why do we not have charge returnable bottles that are washed and reused and for that matter other food containers? Some countries are ahead of us on that and have laws requiring reusable bottles. Legislation to make our supermarkets more environmentally responsible would be good for the planet.

Another very specific example, where legislation would help, is polystyrene packaging. Generally this ends up in landfill or incineration both of which are likely to produce unwanted greenhouse gasses. The difficulty is, that being so light, transporting expanded polystyrene as a single material is uneconomic. If all recycling depots were required by law to have the special ovens that reduce this material to less than ten per cent of its volume then it could be easily transported and recycled.

These are a sample of the many possibilities that could help save the

planet but that's enough for this article. Let's hear what other ideas are and see if we can persuade the powers that be to produce legislation that encourages real solutions and is not just well intentioned rhetoric.

Patrick Appleby.

Note: The views and ideas expressed here are entirely those of the author and are independent of any of those of Itchen Valley Council.

Faster Broadband

For Martyr Worthy (off the B3047) and western Itchen Abbas. Imagine broadband that's at least 15 times faster than you currently have. Broadband that allows lots of people in your house to download programmes at the same time. Broadband that's way more reliable than the service you currently get, and not affected by the weather. Broadband that's not impacted by whether your neighbours are online.

All this is possible with "Fibre to the

Premises" (FTTP) or gigabit broadband. It's a massive improvement, so if you live east of Graces Farm, Martyr Worthy and west of Woodend, Itchen Abbas and you'd like to join in with our community project to bring FTTP to your home/business and your neighbours, then please get in touch. 72 households/business are already signed up, last date to sign up is the 7 May 2021.

Yvette Riley

Yvetteriley@btinternet.com

It's rice, Jim, but not as we know it

Many, many years ago, Mrs Webdale, my landlady, spotted some grains of rice in the drain. "Oh dear, Sue, they're all sticky. I must tell you how to avoid that." And so, ever since then, I have been doing my best to produce beautiful fluffy rice without a trace of stickiness.



Last November I discovered Sushi Rice. I had never prepared a sushi meal but a recipe I was following demanded sushi rice. So I bought a pack, easily available from all supermarkets, and cooked it up. I looked at the photo of the meal, spooned the cooked rice into a large egg cup, and inverted it onto the

serving plate. Lo and behold, a perfect little mound of rice that stayed hot and ready to eat.

If you've always had perfect fluffy rice, why not try sticky sushi rice for a change? It looks really professional when served in a moulded shape.

Sue Sheph

New Play Equipment

Thank you to all who took part in our COVID safe online consultation, to choose a new piece of play equipment for the Old School Field, Easton.

With over 70 responses we are pleased to announce that the piece of equipment that excited most participants and the Parish Council was the inground trampoline.

A great choice, as we know how popular this is with the children that use the play area at Couch Green. The

loosening of COVID restrictions means that our contractor is now working flat out but with a fair wind we hope installation will be complete by the end of May.

Happy bouncing everyone!

Cllr Yvette Riley, Open spaces portfolio lead. Itchen Valley Parish Council



Stay Calm™

A natural formula to help you **manage stress and relieve anxiety.**

Including Ashwagandha KSM-66®
Rhodiola | Cordyceps | Schisandra
L-Theanine | L-Tyrosine | Magnesium

SPECIAL OFFER!
20% OFF YOUR ORDER



use offer code:

VALLEY20

at www.drvegan.com

DR.VEGAN®

★ Trustpilot

Church Matters

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in March, Alex thanked the very many of us who had supported him in his ministry, with a special mention for Lucy and Beccy Clark. I, as Lay Chair of the PCC responded, using as my reference Matthew, chapter 25, verse 23, “Well done, good and faithful servant” and I will paraphrase what I said not only on behalf of those present but I believe on behalf of us all.

“You may remember that this quote is taken from the parable of the talents, particularly the servant who was given two talents and returned to his master with four and I suggested that this situation was comparable to Alex’s time here in the Itchen Valley.”

Addressing Alex, I continued:

“You first came to us as a curate some nine years ago, fresh faced and still wet behind the ears and we have so thoroughly enjoyed the benefit of your strong leadership ever since. Andrew Micklefield left us all too soon but bequeathed to you solid foundations upon which to build your extraordinary ministry. A period immediately followed, during which you loyally kept your own council and used it to listen, to learn and to prepare for what was to follow.

Alex, it was on 15 April, 2018 that you were installed as our Priest in Charge or Rector as we prefer to call you.

That was the start of a truly inspired journey, led by you, hand in hand with God, with us as willing followers.

If anyone has any doubt as to what Alex has achieved over these last three years, you need only read this year’s magnificent Annual Report from cover to cover. Whilst Alex has not initiated

everything reported in this tome, he has had an inspirational impact on every single item and on so many other things that are not written up.

Each one of us will have our own reflections of the way in which Alex’s ministry has touched our lives. Whilst I have many, a few that spring to my mind are:

Your emotive invocation of ‘Come Holy Spirit’, at the beginning of every service;

Many inspirational sermons; Such frankness, modesty and humbleness when leading the marriage course;

Your regular visits to our pubs and Brew with a View, to engage with the widest community, and perhaps to enjoy the odd slice of Ina’s delicious gluten free cakes;

Magical river baptisms;

The growth of modern worship, alongside traditional services;

The sheer boldness of some of your moves, many of which have not come from the training ground;

And that trilby hat.

However, Alex, we believe that behind the scenes, all this has been a great team effort; you have a fantastic right-hand lady.

Lucy: we know that you are always there, coming up with ideas, encouraging, promoting patience and perseverance and picking up the pieces when not everything is quite right. You are Alex’s rock. Be sure we recognise





THE ART OF FIRE

Stove Specialists for over 40 years

Large display of quality Woodburning stoves that come in the size, style and colour you would expect for your home or fireplace

• Big Stoves • Log burners • Gas stoves • Free trials • Electric fire logs • Gas fires
• Improved log burning stoves • Fireplaces • Stoves • Gas stoves • Free trials • Log burners
• Gas stoves • Free trials • Stoves • Gas stoves • Free trials • Log burners
• Gas stoves • Free trials • Stoves • Gas stoves • Free trials • Log burners



**Kingsworthy
foundry**

London Road, Epsom, Surrey, Surrey, Surrey, Surrey
Tel: (01889) 86276, Email: info@kingsworthyfoundry.co.uk
www.kingsworthyfoundry.co.uk

NOT JUST STOVES!



**Kingsworthy
foundry**

**Kingsworthy
Cafe Furniture**



London Road, Epsom, Surrey, Surrey, Surrey, Surrey
Tel: (01889) 86276, Email: info@kingsworthyfoundry.co.uk
www.kingsworthyfoundry.co.uk

RICHARD EST STEEL 1860 & PARTNERS



The Steel family
have proudly served
the communities of
Winchester, Alresford
and the Itchen Valley
since 1860.



THE FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS
richardsteelandpartners.co.uk | 01962 862333 | 24 hours

this, we love you for it and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Fellow parishioners, I wish to propose a humongous vote of thanks to Alex and Lucy for all the amazing work they have done for us and the parish at large, over the last nine years."

I closed with: "Oh Rector and Lucy, you started with two talents and now we have four. Thank you, thank you. May God bless you with a long and very peaceful retirement."

Holy Week, from Palm Sunday though to Easter Day was exceedingly busy with a variety of services every day.

The great joy was to be back in church on Easter Sunday, albeit in limited numbers, and that despite the limitations of the COVID restrictions, some 130 people attended services either in person or via Zoom.

Following the protocol of the diocese, the church is now in mourning, honouring the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and we send our condolences to HRH Her Majesty the

Queen and all his family.

On a different note, I will mention that a brand new audio-visual system has been installed in St Mary's, Easton. It is being used for most services, traditional and modern. We seek out those, of any age, who have an interest in electronics and who would like be trained as operators. Meanwhile, to celebrate the system's arrival and its capabilities, we plan a Mega Worship bash on Sunday 4 July. It will be a great occasion, when we shall be singing from the rooftops - put it in your diaries.

During May, Judith and I are particularly looking forward to receiving on 5 May our second jabs but more importantly Ascension Day is on Thursday 13 May, an important event that I always consider under-celebrated. However, we are hatching a plan for a simple early morning service at dawn followed by bacon sandwiches. Details on page 23.

Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit entered and emboldened the Apostles to undertake their various ministries, is on Sunday 23 May.

Let us hope that we are likewise encouraged to spread the word and the love of God further through the Valley and beyond.

Theo Mezger, Lay Chair PCC

Slave Compensation Commission

The part that slavery played in our country's history and the extent of the involvement of ordinary people is currently an issue of increased public interest. The uncomfortable truth is that many more people made money from it than is widely supposed. This fact is demonstrated by the work of



Worthy Heating & Plumbing Services Ltd

- Free Boiler Estimates
- Power Flushing
- Landlord Gas Safety Checks
- Gas / Oil / LPG
- Boiler Servicing / Installations / Repairs
- Hot Water Cylinders
- Central Heating Systems
- Plumbing work undertaken
- Forth Generation Family Business

Tel: 01962 776321

enquiries@worthyheatingservices.co.uk



Itchen Valley Montessori



Itchen Abbas

9.00 am - 2.45 pm
Monday

9.00 am - 1.00 pm
Tuesday to Friday

The Montessori Method in a
prepared classroom

Activities include Art & Craft,
Music & Movement, Cooking,
French and Drama

Call 01730 829377

carolinembutcher@btinternet.com

nosh catering

Sensibly priced, bespoke catering using local produce.

For all enquiries contact Jude Ower:

Mobile: 07729 473795

Home: 01420 568179

www.noshcafebar.com

noshcafebar@gmail.com

nosh café | bar

Lymington Bottom Road

Next to Reads Butchers

Open 8-5 Mon/Sat

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HIRE

ANDREW SMITH & SON

1793

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Hampshire's Leading International Fine Art & Antiques Auctioneers

- monthly antiques & jewellery sales
 - six weekly fine art, antiques & collectables auctions
 - achieving World record prices
 - global exposure via 'live' internet bidding
 - regular contributors to BBC's 'Flag It!' and 'The Antiques Road Trip'
 - Contact us for details of our:
 - complete property & contents valuation services for
Sale - Insurance - Probate - Family divisions
 - free valuation advice for auction sale
 - complete house clearance
- www.andrewsmithandson.com



THE AUCTION ROOMS, MANOR FARM, ITCHEN STONE,
WINCHESTER SO24 8QT

Tel: 01962 73 5935 email: art@smithandson.com

the Slave Compensation Commission. After decades of controversy, slavery was finally abolished by an Act of Parliament in 1834. One of the main obstacles to achieving this was that many members of the establishment were financially involved, including thirty-seven members of the House of Lords and eighty MPs. The key that unlocked abolition was the offer of compensation, not for the slaves but for the owners! The compensation was a tacit acceptance that the slaves were lawfully owned property and the industry was “too big to fail”. A ten man commission was set up to establish how slave owners were to be compensated and to pay compensation for the 800,000 slaves.

The Commission was granted £20 million for this task, equivalent to £17 billion today, amounting to 40% of government spending in 1834. It was an enormous bail-out. As most taxation revenue was sales-based rather than income-related, the main burden was borne by the less well off. The Commission worked out a scale of compensation based on the market value of the slaves, taking account of their country, sex and age. A bureaucratic process was set up with standardised forms to manage the applications.

The Commission received 46,000 applications from around the UK and the British Empire. A unique record of the applications is held by the National Records Office in Kew and is a fascinating census of the reality of slavery. The largest claim was from John Gladstone, father of the PM, who claimed for around 2500 slaves and was awarded over £105,000, equivalent to £18 million today. The smallest was from Reverend Dixon Hamden who claimed for one slave and was awarded

£1, 18 shillings and 10 pence. Thousands of claims were from ordinary people and some from widows for whom the inheritance was often their only source of income.

Payouts in person to owners or their agents were made from an office at 19 Old Jewry in London, which saw large queues every day. The wealth that the claimants received allowed many to invest in railways, mining, banking and insurance that turbo-charged UK economic growth. And others became respected pillars of society by donating to such bodies as the Royal Society, the National Gallery and the RNLI and by endowing leading universities.

Checking a University College London database revealed a Thomas Henry Percy who claimed for 69 slaves at St Kitts and received just over £1,173 and a Charles Greatheed-Bertie Percy (son of Algernon, Duke of Northumberland) who got £1,223 for 84 slaves at Montserrat. I know of no close family connection but perhaps you might discover one of your ancestors in the records?

Steve Percy

A 2015 BBC film by David Olusoga, Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners, is available on the iPlayer.

Jackie's County Corner

Phew!
Lockdown
eases a
little as I
write this! I
hope you
are all well



enough to enjoy it. The Covid-19 helpline remains open: the details follow.

As I visit you in different communities, I see more and more packages on the

I killed all the moss in the lawn
Then raked it up using my brawn
I sowed lots of grass
It should be first class
Then I'll sit there – and happily yawn



Can't get the hang of
your computer?

One-to-one tuition by
qualified trainer - DBS checked
COVID safe sessions or remote available
Call Christine for details on
01962 735359

hair by **Louise**
MOBILE HAIRDRESSER
Previous experience in top
West End and Winchester salons
01264 712037 07788 248378

Now lockdown appears to be easing
Old freedoms are ripe for the seizing
But those with hay fever
Cannot take a breather
You must not go out when you're
sneezing

Alresford Motor Services

New Farm Road
All makes serviced and repaired
MOT test station
Volkswagen, Audi, Saab
and Volvo specialist
01962 733 888

Memorials
Building Stonework Restoration
BLACKWELL & MOODY Ltd
Stone Masons for five generations
Magdalen Masonry Works
Alresford Road Winchester SO21 1HE
Tel 01962 852476
blackwellandmoody@gmail.com

Lawn Care

Feed, Weed & Moss
Control

200 Sq. Metres - £100

5 visits per yer

Tel. Brian 07710 792839

Dave Giles of Giles Tiles

Floor and wall tiling
Kitchen & bathroom refits
Friendly service & free quotes
dave@gilestiles.co.uk
07513 941962 01962 854184

CoreAlign

Sports Massage Therapist

Injury Prevention · Soft Tissue Manipulation
Reduce Muscle Tension

Mobile and/or
Station MS Health and Fitness, Alresford

Helen Synnott

07792 236920 helen@core-align.co.uk www.core-align.co.uk

The village halls all had to close
Reopening? Nobody knows.
No parties, no singing
No sports, dance or swinging
But light's coming from the shadows

doorstep. This has a good and bad effect: these packages bring the things we need to our homes, but more delivery lorries are on the roads, with tight schedules, maybe travelling a little faster than they should. Buying online risks the future of our high streets and the mountain of cardboard generated has to be recycled.

I know that residents in the area are suffering from a greater influx of very large lorries in their villages. We all want to see more cardboard recycled, but the cumulative effect of all these lorry movements has a huge effect on the local community.

The closing date for the North Winchester Farm application is the 7 May. See my website for more details. Rural children have had different experiences of 'school at home'. Now they are back to school, school transport for rural children is essential to reduce the need to use private cars, which cause pollution and congestion. I really hope we can reinstate free buses for reception age children again. If this affects you, please contact me.

Access to fast-enough broadband and enough devices to support working parents and children has been a challenge too, and I've been working with local Community Fibre Partnerships in several communities to unlock the funding for faster broadband in the future: (search Broadband on my website.)

The consultation on the Local Plan has closed but there are more opportunities to comment as the Plan progresses. At each stage, the plan becomes more specific for each community. To register for updates, go to www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk. The County Council is up for election in its entirety on the 6 May.

*Cllr Jackie Porter, 07973 696 085,
01962 791054*

HCC Covid-19 helpline 0333 370 4000

RBL Salutes Prince Phillip

At noon, on Saturday 11 April 2021, Peter Thacker, Secretary with me, Chairman of the Valley Branch of the Royal British Legion, marked the passing of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip at St Mary's Easton as the bells at all the Itchen Valley churches tolled 99 times.

The Duke was my Regimental Colonel, someone who epitomised the values and standards of the Grenadier Guards and who was greatly respected by all ranks. We would meet 2-3 times per year and his support was truly felt by everyone. Since his passing, many vignettes have been shared on how he influenced, inspired or raised morale of those around him. I remember vividly the day we met with Duke of Edinburgh in 2011, prior to deployment to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 15. A courageous character and proud veteran, Prince Philip embodied the fortitude and resilience of our Second World War generation and our Armed Forces. He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

James Young



Wild Garlic



Not as glamorous as the bluebell but wonderfully pungent and useful in the kitchen.

The Latin name *Allium ursinum* could mean it's only fit for bears to eat, or its leaves look like a bear's ears.

Simon Broadly



Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in May

Black bins and brown garden bins on Saturday 8 and Friday 21 May. Green bins on Fridays 14 and 28 May. Glass boxes on Friday 28 May.

Farmers Market in Winchester

Sundays 9 and 30 May.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Wednesday 5 May. (AGM) Via Zoom

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

Monday and Thursday to Winchester:

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

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Winchester:

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

(school holidays only) 16:23 (school days only) 17:23

Saturday to Winchester:

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

Monday and Thursday to Alresford:

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

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Alresford:

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

Saturday to 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.



Daren George - your local pest controller from Alresford

Wasps • Rats • Mice • Squirrels
• Moles • Rabbits • Crawling
& Flying Insects

Fully insured - Discreet service assured at all time



Now also offering

WHEELIE BIN CLEANING



Wheelie bins are a known
harbourage for a variety of pest
species, from flies and maggots,
to wasps and rats!

Bins can also attract a range of bacteria including
Listeria, *Salmonella* and *E.coli*.

Contact us today for a competitive quote

T: 07778 141505

E: traditionalpestcontrol@gmail.com
www.traditionalpestcontrol.co.uk

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



Fully qualified and
insured specialists
in tree care, hedge
trimming, stump
grinding and garden
reclamation

01962 861891 / 07725 835715

www.fishertreecare.co.uk

STORAGE made easy

- 24/7 access
- Sizes to suit your needs
- Short or long term
- Easy to find, easy to use
- On your doorstep

01962 771993
www.barn-store.co.uk



Holden Farm Cheriton SO24 0NX



YOGA IN THE VALLEY



Yoga Retreat Days • Easton • £60
incl yoga, lunch, nature walk and creativity

Moon Yoga Workshops • Wickham • £25

Weekly Yoga Classes • Martyr Worthy • £8
- You-Time Yin Yoga on Sundays 19:00-20:00
- Fluid Flow Yoga on Mondays 17:30-18:30

Private 121 Yoga Class • £50



www.sherinshe.com/yoga
sherinshefik@gmail.com • 07976606696

BESPOKE CURTAINS,
BLINDS & CUSHIONS
INDEPENDENT BRITISH
DESIGNER FABRICS
TRACKS & POLES

COUDRE

INTERIOR FURNISHINGS
WORKROOM

2 WALES STREET
WINCHESTER SO23 0ET
MON-FRI, 9AM-3PM
07411 711 168
www.coudre.co.uk

Maid Marian

PROFESSIONAL DOMESTIC SERVICES



High quality domestic services Guaranteed



One less thing to think about.
We can help.

- Regular cleaning and end of tenancy cleaning
- One off spring cleans
- Washing and Ironing
- Carpet cleaning
- Building maintenance including painting and decorating
- Shopping
- Man with a van



telephone: 01962 736713
email: enquiries@maidmariancleaners.co.uk
web: www.maidmariancleaners.co.uk



massage therapy WINCHESTER

Jemma Giles

your local
Advanced Clinical Massage Therapist.

Treating clients who suffer from:-

***Back and neck issues * Headaches**

***Frozen shoulder *Tight muscles**

***Low energy *Tennis elbow**

Call Jemma to arrange your treatment on
07752 623234 or 01962 854184
jemma@massagetherapywinchester.co.uk
www.massagetherapywinchester.co.uk
Mansard House, Easton, Winchester, SO21 1DQ

Showroom

Workshop

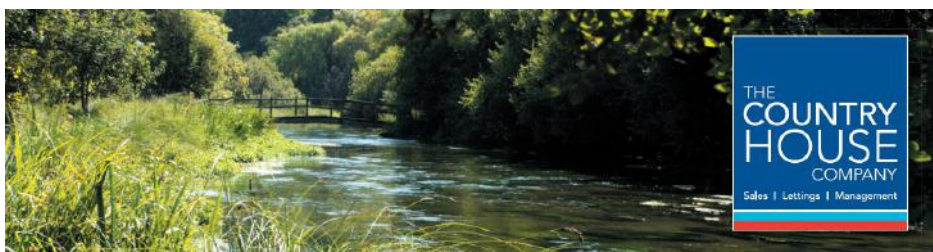
GARDEN
GEORGE CANN
MACHINERY

TEL 01962 771800

01962 771800

LACEYS FARM, BRAMDEAN, ALRESFORD SO24 0JT

www.georgecanngardenmachinery.co.uk



Selling, Letting & Managing properties in the Itchen Valley

02392 632 275 countryhousecompany.co.uk



BLINDS AWNINGS SHUTTERS

We offer an expert measuring, manufacturing and installation service with a
FULL 5 YEAR GUARANTEE

Our other services include awning
and canopy restoration,
including re-covering,
and blind servicing and repair.

Call us for a
FREE
no obligation
quote



WINCHESTER
BLINDS & SHUTTERS

Tel: 01962 736 836 or 07711 007 079

info@winchesterblinds.com www.winchesterblinds.com



Hellards

*At home
in Hampshire*

Call 01962 736333 or email
alresford@hellards.co.uk
for a **free market appraisal**



Sales | Property Management | Lettings

11 Broad Street, Alresford | www.hellards.co.uk