

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 94 October 2021

For Avington, Easton, Ithen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



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WELCOME to the Valley News



Autumn - love it or dread it, it has arrived. We have a great autumn picture on the cover. How many of you know that the identity of the taker of the cover photograph is revealed at the foot of this page? Thank you to all those who send us photographs, in particular to Jean Wheeler who had to resist the delicious eats at the party after the Installation of our new Rector.

This Autumn can be a time to think ahead about greener ways to heat your house, about interesting lectures to attend, taking up or resuming a sport - both badminton and tennis are on offer - or simply meeting up with friends not seen since the beginning of the pandemic. Or not! Who knows and it takes a braver person than this month's editor to predict the future, be it of the pandemic, the planet or even the fate of this magazine. Read on, right to the last page, and all will become clear.

Our normal focus is on events in and around the Valley; however this edition includes a delightful article about the joys of Wales, but there is a local connection. The WI has resumed its meetings, as has CAMEO and no doubt many other organisations. Long may this last. There is a report on the 75th anniversary of the EMWCC - a great success story.

The editorial team's original plan was for a theme of community - what makes people join in with community activities - or not - and what they value about living in the Valley and miss when they leave. We welcome some new arrivals in our community. If you have not been mentioned, please get in touch.

However the plans of the editorial team seldom stand up to the heat of action, so do not be surprised that somehow the environment has slipped back in! We have a plea to cut back on flying, an invitation to an open meeting about retrofitting your home to reduce your carbon footprint and advice on saving water in the garden. If you plan to attend the meeting, get in touch - car sharing reduces CO₂ footprint too.

Is the IVN too goody goody, too preachy? Are we putting readers off? Let us know your views, we can't improve unless we know what is wrong. Better still, come and join the team! Next month's editor is Verity Coleman.

Charlotte Appleby

Itchen Valley News

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Please send all contributions for November 2021 by Friday 15 October. 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 Verity Coleman and other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Alresford Art Society

A demonstration by John Somerscales entitled 'Townscapes in Watercolour' **Thursday 28 October** at 7.30 pm in Bishop's Sutton Village Hall, Alresford Road (B3047), Alresford SO24 0AH (Covid regulations allowing). Non-members welcome - admission £3. For further information please contact Richard Cox on 01962 732043 or visit www.artsociety.alresford.org

Christmas is Coming!

Sharon Harvey Art and The Interiors Apothecary will be holding a boutique Christmas Emporium at The Lightroom in The Dean, Alresford **12 to 14 November** with 10% of Sales going towards a local charity. The Cameron Bepolka Trust is a charity set up to inspire young people to love and appreciate animals, in particular birds, nature, and our environment. By experiencing the outdoors first hand, teenagers can connect with nature and make a difference to our planet. www.cameronbepolka.com

The Interiors Apothecary is a Hampshire based home, garden and lifestyle store. For 14 years they have provided interior decoration consultancy together with curtains, blinds & all manner of soft furnishings & upholstery. Their website offers a selection of home and garden wares inspired by their love of nature and life in the English countryside. www.theinteriorsapothecary.co.uk Sharon Harvey is a British artist who gained a First Class Honours degree at Winchester School of Art. Her paintings are inspired by nature, be it the rugged coastlines of Cornwall, botanical forms or the weather.

Represented by Artiq Art Consultants, Sharon has developed both a local and international client base and has works held in many private and corporate collections. She says: "Having exhibited with the Lightroom previously, I knew it was the perfect venue in Alresford. It is a beautiful space, being a light-filled converted chapel, so offers us the opportunity to create a calm boutique Christmas shopping experience whilst supporting the Cameron Bepolka Trust, a charity close to both of our hearts". www.sharonharveyart.com.

Nicky Bryant

Trustee of Cameron Bepolka Trust

Traditional Pantomime - Aladdin

Sat 4 Dec 2021 - Sun 2 Jan 2022

Make your wishes come true for Christmas 2021 with Theatre Royal, Winchester's spellbinding production of Aladdin!

Magic, mirth and mayhem abound in this timeless rags to riches tale, brought to you by the same team behind 2019's panto, Dick Whittington and 2020's Four Dames in Search of a Panto (pictured).



With original songs, a great cast and hilarious script, this family show will be pure Genie-us!

Written & Directed James Barry

Music by Simon Slater

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The Upper Itchen Valley Society

invites all members to

The 50th AGM of the Society

To take place on Tuesday 9th November at 7pm for 7.30pm

In Martyr Worthy Village Hall.

There will be a glass of wine, a talk, then the formal AGM.

We're delighted that Dr Kate Petty from Plantlife will be our speaker.

Kate is the Road Verge Campaign Manager.

Please do come! All members are welcome.

If you're not a member please consider joining us at a one-off cost of £20 per household. Contact Elaine Labram (Chairman) on upperitchenvalleysoc@gmail.com or (m) 07702 173001.

Easton Village Hall and Recreation Ground

The Annual General Meeting will take place on

Wednesday 10th November at 8.00 pm in Easton Village Hall.

Refreshments will be served from 7.30 pm.

All "inhabitants of the area of benefit of 18 years and upwards" are welcome to attend and vote at the meeting. Inhabitants who are under the age of 18 are welcome to attend, but may not vote. You will all be most welcome.

safe for you whatever the challenges faced by the ongoing pandemic. Should we be unable to present a show you will be offered a full refund.

CAMEO

We are delighted that CAMEO was able to restart the monthly lunches in September. We hope to continue meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in St John's Church, Itchen Abbas. In October this will be the 19th.

If you would like to join us, either as a guest or a helper, do please get in touch.

Charlotte Appleby 779 778

Winchester Green Week

25 September - 3 October. More information on page 23.

Reducing your Home's Carbon Footprint

See page 37 for news of a presentation in Twyford on Wednesday 6 October.

Martyr Worthy Lecture Series 2021/2

in aid of the four churches of the Itchen Valley Parish

at Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, SO21 1BQ

6.30pm for drinks and canapés

Lectures will be an hour starting at 7.15pm



Tuesday 23rd November 2021

VENICE & THE SEA: AN ODYSSEY

Rear Admiral John Lang

£25.00 per ticket

Tuesday 30th November 2021

VENICE & THE SEA: AN ODYSSEY

Rear Admiral John Lang

John will repeat this lecture via Zoom

6.00pm | Tickets £20

Saturday 29th January 2022

SAVE THE DATE

Lecture and format
to be confirmed



Friday 25th February 2022

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Calling all Badminton Players!

The Itchen Abbas and Avington Badminton Group meets every Thursday evening at the Village Hall for a friendly, relaxed 2-hour session.

We need new players to help the club thrive.

Whether you are an experienced player or a beginner, why not come down for a session to see if it is for you?



7.30pm, every Thursday

Easton LLP

The Lockdown Liberation Party at Easton Village Hall on Saturday 11

September certainly lived up to all expectations, and more. What a great party! And so much fun! The Hall rocked, everybody danced, and the drinks flowed, as did the talking. Glasses in hand, the party-goers spilled out onto the terrace as night fell, where the conversation was much about the pleasures of going out again, and the enjoyment of contact and catching up with other villagers after 18 months of restrictions. This was all



about being part of a great community, and sharing the experience together. New faces had moved in too, and were welcomed.

Well done to all the following and many others for pulling this event together and making it such a success: Joanna and Harry Smith, Sally Stone, Lyn Russell, Helen Backshell, Garfield Powe, Clare Davies, Iris Lacey, Judy Bishop and Simon Broadley (bar), as well as Vijay Amarnani and his group, "We Are Robot" and Ben Hart (disco). All profit will be split equally between the Village Hall and the Winchester Hospice. As the News goes to press, this is looking like £1,600 for each.

Wow!

Henry Labram





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Iron fist in a velvet Glover

“Beat surgery” could be misconstrued as playing rock music in an operating theatre but there were no scalpels, and certainly no knives, in the car park of Easton Village Hall when the police came to call. As part of the effort to bring the neighbourhood police team to the neighbourhood, Constable Rich Glover and Community Support Officer Victor Mills parked up and set out their stall in late August.

Alas, the lack of publicity for the event (it was on Facebook but that lacks the impact of the Itchen Valley News or the Itchenlist) meant fewer than expected locals dropped in to have a chat. Most folk only need to talk to the police when there is an emergency that demands their attendance but the team was happy to talk about house security, speeding, horses, cyclists and a wealth of experience from their many years in the force.

Well able to look after themselves, and us, one came away reassured that should an occasion arise that needed their involvement, their professionalism would snap into play and we could not be in better hands.

Vernon Tottle, roving reporter



And yes, keen eyed readers will see that the photo is reversed – but that was the only way I could get the car bonnet to read sensibly!

Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club - 75th Anniversary Celebration

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, 5 September 2021, EMWCC held an interclub friendly 30 over game between its Club Legends and Current Players to celebrate its 75th anniversary. The event was well

attended by former players and friends of the Club, who enjoyed the fine weather, a BBQ and the bar. The older players are not as fast and nimble as they once were, but

their guile and skill set a reasonable target of 172 for the Current Players to chase; however youth triumphed, and the Current Players won the game by five wickets. On the day, the Club welcomed its 100 year old President to the celebrations, John Roth - and he was accompanied by his 97 year old wife, Daphne. John's late father, David Roth, had purchased the cricket field in 1946 to enable village cricket to be played there in perpetuity; and under his Chairmanship, the separate village cricket teams of Martyr Worthy and Easton were merged. The cricket ground is named in his memory.

The President spoke on the day and recalled first playing for Easton at the ground in 1938, aged 17. He noted how much the sport has changed over the years with the adoption of one day cricket – and now the Hundred; but that the spirit of the traditional village cricket club still remained and he was delighted with the progress the Club





had made over the last 75 years. John thanked Adrian Lee, the Club Chairman, and his committee for their ongoing energy and enthusiasm in managing the Club, and the players for their excellent



progress on the pitch. The President was presented with a silver salver acknowledging his family's commitment to the Club over the last 75 years.

This day also incorporated the annual Badger Memorial Match, commemorating Steve "Badger" Green's association with the Club. As a young boy, Steve was brought along to play cricket by his father Chris, and this started a lifelong dedication to playing cricket at EMWCC. Steve was a talented batsman and spin bowler and was pivotal in the development of many of today's younger adult players at the Club.



At the end of the day, Club Captain Mark Dickey carried out the annual presentation of the Club's trophies, recognising the outstanding performances and contributions of the Club's players throughout the season. Adrian Lee thanked his committee and the many other Club stalwarts, whose hard work ensured the continued success of the Cricket Club; and in particular the work of the Head Groundsman, Lee Padwick (himself a club Legend's player), with the pitch and outfield looking immaculate throughout the season.

The finale of the Club's season-ending celebrations will be the Ladies & Girls game on Sunday 11 September; an interclub celebration match and a BBQ.

Lynda Gray - EMWCC Press Officer
ldaten453@aol.com 07759974352

Adrian Lee - EMWCC Chairman
fulford.lee@btinternet.com
07774932797

Anyone for tennis?

Following Emma Raducanu's amazing win at the US Tennis Open Grand Slam Tournament, are you looking for a local Tennis Club for your children, grandchildren or yourself?

Worthy Park Tennis Club is based in the grounds of Prince's Mead School on the B3047 just before Abbots Worthy & Kings Worthy.

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Please take a look at our website:

worthyparktennis.com for more info.

We'd love you to come and join us!

Jenny Sloan, Chairman
Worthy Park Tennis Club





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Local Flowers - and People

Easton W.I. held their first "face to face" meeting on 9 September with almost a full complement of members, plus a number of guests, when they met James Greig to hear all about his amazing new business, Stem and Green, which is offering English cut flowers to order and to florists; he even offers a personal delivery service and flowers by post. James described how the beds were prepared adopting a "no dig" method using a turf cutter to clear the grass and the end product from an anaerobic digester to provide nutrients. Most plants flourished, but, of course, some were not so happy! James offers cut flower stems from about April to the end of October with Dahlias currently really at their peak. However, it is amazing how wide the choice of blooms that are still available. James is able to offer flowers which have not been treated with sprays and



chemicals, unlike many of our imported flowers.

We thanked James for hosting us and moved to Judith Mezger's garden for refreshments, ending the evening by candlelight!

Ina Williams has organised Harry Smith to speak at our next meeting on 14 October in Easton Village Hall, and we would be delighted to see anyone else who would like to join us. Please just come along.

Kyrene Beames, President



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Jackie's County Corner

I've included two pictures this month: The picture of the 'yellow brick road' is not of The Watercress Way, but a section of the



new cycle path from Worthy Down south towards to the Water Treatment site off the Andover road. It's a fantastic surface, and the section that is done is a credit to Hampshire County Council who have constructed it, but unfortunately, it doesn't reach all the way to Winchester yet. I am continuing to press for this route to be completed and I'd welcome your views. I've been trying to get the Millennium path by the river in Alresford mended for several years, and a recent sighting (and photo) of ducks swimming in the puddles on the path seemed to chime with Hampshire County Council! I'm delighted that they have now agreed a budget for this work. It's a sensitive site ecologically, so the County Council will be working with the Winterbournes project and others to upgrade the path, hopefully before someone falls in the river. They have also agreed a budget to upgrade the path to Bishop's Sutton: hooray! The County Council is preparing the budget for 2022-23 and it inevitably includes cuts. I'm pleased to see that the proposal to cut the school crossing patrols budget has gone: if we want children to walk to school, they must be helped to cross busy roads safely. There are a number of Consultations this Autumn: the proposal for the County Deal (similar to the Mayoral

deal) will go out in early October. I'll give notice of others as they arrive. There's still no news of the New Hospital Consultation, but it was a huge pleasure to visit the Winchester Hospice on its open weekend. Huge thanks to every one of the fundraisers, NHS staff and Trustees. It will support residents as inpatients and whilst using their Hospice at Home service. Please continue to support them now the building is up and running- they need £1/2 million per year. You can donate online- or maybe run an event?

Finally, please don't forget, if you need a grant for your local organisation, please contact me for the details. I have only a small grant pot but I'm keen to share it out as fairly as I can!



Clr Jackie Porter

County Councillor for the Itchen Valley

Division Text: 07973 696 085

Ansaphone: 01962 791054

www.jackieporter.co.uk

City Council Report

Supporting our Businesses: Self Employed and Business Covid-19 grant help. Businesses and organisations who continue to be impacted by COVID-19 are being urged to act now and apply for the additional grant scheme. The new COVID-19 Business Challenges one-off grant aims to compensate organisations and businesses based in our district for loss of income during the six week period from 1 July to 16 August 2021. I am delighted to see this support for both businesses who have premises, but also for the self employed, of which we have many in our ward, who have also been affected.

This grant fund forms part of the government's Additional Restrictions Grant Fund. If you have any queries or questions regarding the criteria, please contact our Economy Team at: ecodev@winchester.gov.uk or telephone 01962 814915.

New Alresford Town Trust - Heritage Open Day. I was delighted to volunteer to help with this very popular event. The Town Trust's three sites, The Eel House, Norman Bridge and Museum, are always positively received and it's always a pleasure to see visitors' reactions to these sites. This time, Digby and I were at The Bridge.



It's OK to complain! Residents, along with concerned parents and some disabled residents, contacted me over concerns relating to grass cutting visibility, safety and access issues. Whilst I have raised a formal complaint, I was pleased to help everyone who contacted me resolve the issues they were experiencing. It's OK to complain; how else are we as councillors going to help resolve issues? These are all legitimate

concerns especially regarding children's safety. If people are not carrying out what has been agreed for the health and safety of all concerned, then they should quite rightly be held to account.

Community Police Beat surgery:

As promised, I said I would help organise a local police beat surgery within the Itchen Valley area, like Alresford has. I am delighted that we had our first one and our lovely team are planning to hold more. Please keep a look out for more dates, even if it's to say hello. Both PC Richard Glover and P.C.S.O. Victor Mills were joined by the Itchen Valley News, myself and many others. Thank you to all who supported this. (See also page 9).

WCC Cllr Fiona Isaacs

Email - fisaacs@winchester.gov.uk

Telephone - 01962 738671

From Our MP

Many constituents will know that I like to keep busy during Parliament's Summer recess with my **Summer Tour** and 2021

was no different. This year, Monty the pup and I held events right across the constituency. Thank you to everyone who stopped by.

We are grateful also to the many local residents

who took the time to respond to my major environment survey. We have had thousands back and will be in touch with you all but it has been a brilliant exercise and given me a real sense of your priorities – local and national – as we step up our response to the climate crisis and move ever





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One subject I don't need to canvass opinion about through surgeries or surveys – at least inasmuch as we need change – is social care. So many of you have told me we need to “fix” social

care but, of course, that is easier said than done which is one reason why it's eluded Governments for the best part of twenty years. Our return to Westminster for the new term last month arrived with a bang and constituents will not have missed the £36bn fund to help the NHS scale its Covid backlog and lay the foundations for a new health and care offer. No-one is pretending this is easy, politically in the decision to put up taxes or practically in helping the millions of people on the waiting list/putting in place a social care system that works. But, as I said in Parliament, we're not in Government to do nothing for fear of offending anyone and this nettle HAD to be grasped. Clearly it's complex so I have published a detailed “vote explainer” at stevebrine.com/nhsandcarelevy

I would love to hear your thoughts. Finally, and this is of course linked in many respects, I am returning to a subject close to home – our ongoing battle against breast cancer. Some of you may remember I chaired the all-party group for many years, and of course had the chance to be our Cancer Minister in Government. But the task is bigger than ever and the recent heart-breaking death of Girls

Aloud member Sarah Harding (at just 39) reminds us all how lethal it remains. I am going to be working with my colleagues in Government, at NHS England and local clinicians to do what I can to fight back and raise awareness. We are not alone.

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

From the Parish Council

It was reported in the August edition of the Valley News that our clerk of the last two and a half years was leaving us. Although we got into action quickly to find a new clerk, August is a difficult month with key people on holiday. A number of applications were received and having made a shortlist, three candidates have been interviewed. An offer has been made and we hope by October to have a new clerk in place. We still have one vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Ideally we would like to have a balanced representation of age, gender and location across the Valley. However, equally important is that we need someone who is enthusiastic, prepared to give their time both to attend meetings regularly and help with work for the Parish Council at other times. That may sound a lot but it is rewarding work and a real way to get to know the community in which we live.

If being a full member of the Parish Council sounds too great a commitment, there is an alternative. We have two working groups. One on the environment and the other specialises in all aspects of our many footpaths and bridleways (known as the Rights of Way, or RoW group). Anyone interested in these specific areas can ask to join in. Being working groups they can meet as and when they like, in person or remotely (by Zoom

etc) and are not constrained at meetings to the same extent as the main committees or the Full Council. Both these working groups have been active throughout the summer. The RoW group have organised the lengthsman to carry out clearing several of the most popular paths. Due to the strong growth of vegetation this year, extra working days have been commissioned from the lengthsman to get as much work done as funding and resources would allow. We have also been successful in applying for further funding to clear and surface another length of path. This work will start as soon as the funds are made available.



One non-Council member of the RoW group has been Kim Adams who has been with them from its inception. Sadly, due to many other commitments, she has now decided to leave us. In the

relatively short time the group has been in action, she has made a significant contribution and we thank her for it.

The environmental working group once again has written an interesting article which can be found on page 23. They are not just a talking shop or lobby group and later this autumn will be starting to plant a number of trees at Couch Green, Martyr Worthy. Why not come and help with this work? Another topic in last month's Valley News was the new version of the Candover Drought Order. A private presentation has been made to the Parish Council and it is hoped all those interested will have visited the drop-in consultation on 27 September. If you

missed it and would like to know more, please ask one of your Parish Councillors. The biggest change from the previous scheme is that the pipe will be underground. That is an improvement over the original proposal but remember there are other factors involved as well. The Parish Council will be commenting once we have discussed it but please note, as has been said before, we are only one voice and numbers count. So if you wish to make comments on this scheme it pays to do so as an individual. All comments must be submitted by 31 October.

There is still no further news on the Avington sewage pumping scheme; as soon as there is we will let you know and hopefully get Southern Water to come and explain what they are planning to do.

Patrick Appleby

Comings and Goings

A warm welcome to:

Rupert & Jen Gaster have moved to Shelley Close, Itchen Abbas from central Winchester. With son Harry & dog Josie, they hope to continue the Gaster tradition of playing an active part in village life.

Nathalie and Andrew Castillo recently moved to Itchen Abbas from Lincoln to be close to their family and two grandchildren.

Gabby and James Anderson and baby Faolan, are welcome in Easton, having moved from Winchester.

Amber and Dan Pennie, sons Frank and Miles, both living away, and black labrador Buckley have moved from Yew Tree Cottage Easton to Fernleigh. Charlotte, Algy, (Tilly 1 1/2 yrs) and Mimi (10yrs) Sim, plus dog Pebbles, have just moved from London to Wellswood Cottage, Easton.

Also a welcome to Steve Forward and two grown up sons., having moved from Chawton.

Farewell:

After 33 happy years in Easton, the Dhands have moved from Rosebank Cottage to Chilcomb where they have built a new house, Cranesbill.

We sadly say goodbye to the Starr family.

Also welcome?

This little monster appeared in our garden recently!

The caterpillar develops into a Privet Hawk moth, the UK's largest resident moth, and is apparently fairly common. I had never seen one before. It is reportedly not harmful to people if you touch it.... though I decided not to do so.

The caterpillar will pupate in the ground before emerging next year.



Elaine Labram

Oh I do like to be beside the seaside

Oh I do like to be beside the sea.....
You know that feeling when you are travelling to your much anticipated

seaside holiday destination and you are getting closer and closer and the sky looks bright and more expansive and suddenly you see the sea and you feel as if you are going to burst with excitement? Well, two weeks ago we moved to the north Pembrokeshire coast and from my bedroom window and everywhere I go I see this huge changing vista of Cardigan Bay and the far distant headlands of Dinas Point and Strumble Head and my heart soars with that feeling.

The air could not be fresher, our spring water purer and more full of natural minerals; clouds of butterflies hover on the Buddleja, with only the sound of the occasional seagull and happy mooing cattle and their calves in the fields. We have already swum with seals checking us out in the bay and yesterday some of our guests saw dolphins!

It was over two years ago that Alex retired from 30 years in book publishing, trained as a yoga teacher and Joey our fourth and last child started the last stage of schooling at Peter Symonds. Wanting a new direction, away from the empty nest, a new stage of our married life, we decided to swop our lovely life at Three Acres, Easton for somewhere by the sea with holiday cottages and a barn or space to build a yoga hall. We looked and looked in Devon and nearly bought two places and were so disappointed when they fell through. Every one said "it is meant to be and you will find the right place eventually" and just by pure serendipity Alex's brother saw that Cwm Connell Coastal Cottages were for sale. I don't know why we hadn't considered Wales. Many of our friends love it including the Woosnam/Owen family who visit North Pembrokeshire every year and love it, and Maddy inspired me.

We had dreamed up top ten ideals for a property and knew in Devon that we would have to compromise on at least 3 or 4 but Cwm Connell ticked every single box and more: near the sea, views of the sea, dog walking out the door without crossing roads to the coast path, beautiful surroundings, business potential, holiday cottages, a barn for development, quiet enough for a retreat venue. We really could not believe our luck, saw it on Good Friday and our offer was agreed on Easter Tuesday.

As I write, Alex is at The Lodge in Chilland which we were so fortunate to rent off the Impeys for a year after selling Three Acres. He has just sent me a video of the removals van backing up the lane and I do wistfully miss our lovely friendly lush Itchen Valley. Meanwhile I have just done the fourth changeover day in two weeks, welcomed our new guests and have painters and carpet fitters upstairs in our new house! The seven cottages are lovely, all of stone and slate with old beams from the stable, dairy and pig sty they were converted from in the 90s. A little scruffy but four star and appropriate for our furry four legged visitors for which it won the 'Best Dog Friendly Holidays in Pembrokeshire' award two years in a row! A sauna and hot tub spa area is also very popular for our guests to enjoy after a windy coastal walk or



chilly wild swim in Ceibwr Cove just 15 minutes walk away through ancient woodland. We really hit the ground running and these last two weeks have been challenging. The cottages are fully booked now

and for the next few weeks and we have bookings well into next year but lots of space too if you feel like a relaxing break by the sea. I have just got my head around the Supercontrol booking system and need to order 46 pillow cases and other linen from the local laundry (phew!) and double check

that each cottage has the right amount of cutlery and crockery, cooking equipment and the welcome gift of a decent bottle of wine and flowers.

We do miss our many friends in the Valley and my Reflexology clients. We are so grateful for the wonderful life we have enjoyed and the fantastic time the children

have had at local schools, Swan Netball, EMWCC cricket club, Worthy's football, Winchester Rugby and the opportunities and support of our incredible community for 26 years.

However, why not have a plan B? We are finding the change very stimulating and we feel so so grateful to have found a new exciting life. We really hope that you will come and visit us here. Please have a look cwmconnell.co.uk website

Emma Mitchell

More pictures on page 37 - Ed



More weddings for valley folk



Winchester Green Week

25 September to 3 October.



Act fast or you
will miss out!
To find out
what's on, visit

the Winchester Green Week 2021
events page. Events are constantly
being added so check daily.

The success that Winchester Green
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past few years helped inspire national
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the run up to COP26** the
international climate conference in
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Air Travel and the Climate Crisis

Commenting on The International
Governmental Panel on Climate
Change's Code Red report, Professor
Tim Parker summed it up by saying "If
we do not halt our emissions soon,
our future climate could well become
some kind of hell on earth". In
August's edition of the News, we
reported on the Itchen Valley's

carbon footprint report produced by
the Centre for Sustainable Energy.
This showed that our parish produces
around 75% more emissions per
household than the national average
and nearly three times as much in
relation to air travel. Globally, the
IGPCC report points out that air
travel is disproportionately associated
with more affluent people, with 50%
of the emissions globally being
accounted for by 1% of the richest
and in the UK 70% of flights are taken
by just 15% of the population. So, this
is very much an issue here and now
for us in the Itchen Valley.

Can we look to technology to solve
the problem? Well, up to a point. But
improvements in fuel efficiency can
only offer incremental improvements
in the short term (one estimate puts
the gain at only 1% p.a. whilst global
air travel increases by 6% p.a.) and
developments in electrically or
hydrogen powered planes and
propan technology are many years
away.

But surely all governments could and
should introduce regulation? Their
record to date, however, is not
encouraging. They have failed to levy
taxation on aviation fuel, have
encouraged the expansion of airports
and are constantly under pressure to
cut air passenger duty whilst, at the
same time, increasing rail fares. The
absurd result is, as a Which report
found, that rail fares within the UK
"cost 50% more than UK internal
flights – but produce 80% less CO₂".
One specific short-haul example
relates to travel from London to
Nice. By plane this would produce
250 kilos per passenger of carbon
dioxide whilst the train produces just
36 kilos per passenger. Yet the plane
can be much cheaper, typically £70

against £250 return. One solution that campaigners have called for is a frequent flyer tax. However, governments of all stripes that wish to be re-elected often struggle to use taxation effectively to meet climate change goals.

But surely we all need to use air travel for holidays and business? Maybe, but recreational travel is discretionary, and whilst we all need to eat and heat our homes, it is not imperative to take to the skies. And the use of Zoom has surely made many face-to-face business meetings unnecessary.

Happily, more people are now enjoying holidays at home and visiting unfamiliar parts of our own country. And others are re-assessing the need to travel on holiday by plane at all. Much of Europe is readily accessible by either train or coach in one day of travel, in many ways much more comfortable than negotiating the horrors of airports.

So, perhaps it all comes down to us as individuals to decide how to respond. What should we do? Do we ignore the concerns and carry on as normal, because we can? Or do we have regard to the global consequences of our actions and think twice?

Maybe in time, air travel will acquire a tinge of social and moral unacceptability, like drink driving or smoking in public places? In the years to come, will our children and grandchildren express astonishment at our apparent complacency on the issue? Whatever we decide, the dangers are clear and the responsibility ours. We can't credibly claim we haven't been warned.

Cllr Stephen Percy

The Itchen Valley News takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the precise figures quoted but there can be no doubt that the problem is real. Ed

Letter to the editor

Steve Percy's interesting article on heat pumps last month said "one calculation suggests an average home will use around 4,000kWh", but as he pointed out the previous month, homes in the Valley are mostly larger than average. The solar panels on our house have yielded on average 3,250kWh per year.
Charlotte Appleby

From the Rectory

Georgie and I want to express our gratitude for the incredible way in which we have been welcomed into the Itchen Valley.



We have experienced so many kindnesses from so many people! And we have so enjoyed beginning to explore the lovely surroundings. To pick up words from the famous Psalm 23, we feel we have been led to some beautiful 'still waters' and that 'our cup overflows'!

A big 'thank you' goes to all those who helped to make the Licensing Service in St Mary's Easton on Saturday 11 September so special. We were graced by the presence of both the Deputy Lieutenant (representing the Crown) and the Bishop of Basingstoke as well as by others from the Alresford deanery and personal friends and colleagues going back through many years.

It was a particular delight to be joined by so many from the wider Valley community, representing different aspects of our life together: the

Women's Institute, local businesses and farmers, schools, the Parish Council and the local Catholic community. As Georgie and I stood at the front of the church and received their greetings we felt so honoured and indeed touched to have been given this opportunity to occupy this role within such a community.

Through the wonders of modern technology we were also joined by a further 20 or more people—'zooming' in from Hong Kong, from the UK and from the USA (the latter were especially pleased to hear the public reading of the Letters Patent from Her Majesty!). And, speaking personally, it was a joy to have the last hymn—a modern song focused on the Cross of Jesus—being led by my own family. My daughter, Hannah, now in her 30's, told me afterwards that she had never sung solo behind a microphone before, to which I replied that she had quite "stolen the show!"

During the Licensing I made various promises and declarations required by the Church of England, including the goal of 'bringing the grace and truth of Christ to those in my care'. That is what I would love to do and, guided by the bishop's sermon (in which he spoke of Jesus, the leader who yet washed his disciples' feet), I hope that I will pursue this goal among you in a spirit of service and love.

During the next month there will be various other opportunities for me to meet you—whether in church services or at other social occasions. I so look forward to meeting you!

With best wishes and prayers
 Revd Peter

For written resources, photos and a full recording of the Licensing Service, please see the post at
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A Swell Party

With apologies to those who don't know the song, the parish gathered in September sunshine to witness the Institution of Peter Walker as Rector of the Parish of the Itchen Valley. Like the Valley News and the Civil Parish, the church parish - by far the oldest of the bodies - now takes in all four churches and villages.

We are known for the excellence of our nibbles at church events, and this occasion lived up to the high standard. We are delighted to welcome Revd Peter and his family among us and look forward to getting to know them better, both in Peter's professional capacity and as friends and neighbours.


Charlotte Appleby

Photos Jean Wheeler and others



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PLEASE READ TO THE END OF THE MAGAZINE
THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 39 NEEDS YOUR ATTENTION

Save the Dates
23 November 2021, 9 January and 25 February 2022: Martyr
Worthy Lecture Series in IA&A Village Hall in aid of Itchen Valley
Churches
Wednesday 15 December Itchen Valley Choir Christmas Concert
16-19 June 2022 Easton Flower Festival

Dear Neighbours

Do you like the outdoors and wine? If so you may want to read on...

The wine team at The Grange is looking to build up a big pool of people in the neighbourhood to help out on an occasional basis in and around the vineyard at Itchen Abbas and another that we look after in Preston Candover. We are after people who can spare a few consecutive days, or indeed weeks, every now and again



and, by having a large pool, we hope to be able to muster teams of 8 or 10 people when necessary – starting with the harvest in

the middle of October.

The tasks throughout the year include pruning, pulling out, candle-lighting, bud-rubbing, crown-thinning (good for the middle-aged man!), wire-lifting, canopy management and, of course, harvesting. The amount of time needed for these tasks varies from a couple of days to several weeks so, if you like it, there is certainly scope for ongoing involvement. It is outside work in all weathers but, while it does involve eight hours in the open air and plenty of bending and lifting, it isn't too physically demanding – it's a pretty good way to stay fit and, because you will be working in teams, enjoyably social.

If you think this sounds interesting email us at work@thegrangehampshire.co.uk with your details and we'll be in touch. Looking forward to seeing you in the vineyard!

Yours, Zam Baring

Secret Life of Harvest Mice

Rodents are a key component of many healthy ecosystems, such as grasslands and woodlands. They provide food for lots of species from birds of prey to larger mammals. Rodents often produce lots of young every year, so must have ample food available for them, usually seeds, fruit and small insects. When rodent populations dip there are knock-on effects across the habitat. There are 14 species of rodent commonly found in Britain, including rats, squirrels, mice, voles and more recently the beaver. One of the least familiar of these is the harvest mouse, Britain's smallest rodent, and we will take a closer look at them this week. Harvest mice are not especially fussy, they are happy anywhere there are ample stems for them to clamber up, very rarely descending to the ground if they can avoid it. They are tiny, around



6cm long, with a tail close to the same length. The tail is used to help with balance and climbing. They react quickly to disturbance, disappearing back into the vegetation in response to nearby noises.

Harvest mice are thought to be fairly widespread but are very difficult to find. Their presence is mostly picked up by the signs they leave behind - their intricate nests. The nests are carefully woven from grass and leaves



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within dense vegetation, at least 10cm above ground, so even these are difficult to spot! Harvest mice adapted to farmed habitats by creating their nests in crop fields such as wheat and barley, but modern combine harvesters have caused a new threat. When fields were hand-cut, the mice could easily run to the safety of field margins, but modern machinery does not give them the time to escape. They also build their nests and live in verges, reedbeds and grassy hedges. These habitats have been lost in many areas as green spaces are developed and wetlands drained. Recent studies have helped shine a light on this elusive mammal, but more must be done to protect the harvest mouse. They seem to be able to respond quickly to changes in habitat, as long as the habitat is connected to others and buffer zones are present between developments and their living space. Reintroductions can work well, as the mice are relatively easy to breed, and once conservation efforts are in place they seem to breed and colonise the reintroduction area quickly. The more we learn about marginal habitats like road verges and field edges, the more they are shown to be important for all sorts of wildlife, including our smallest rodent.

Claire Thorpe

Communications Officer - Publications & Media www.hiwwt.org.uk

Photo Harvest mouse © Natalie Rogers.

If you look back to page 20 you will see the photograph of the **7cm** long caterpillar from Elaine Labram. Both mouse and caterpillar are a very similar size - Ed

Leaf blower at the ready

Not a typical use for the village hall but because Louise Waldron and Lara Dunn live in Itchen Abbas, it was only natural for them to hire it for a day's photoshoot to promote their range of Snow Finel winter wear. Maybe only a few of the photos taken will appear in the finished brochures, but the work taken to get them is quite considerable.



Apart from the two models, and I'm not sure when I last saw two such beautiful people in the village hall, there was Louise and Lara together with the photographer and the make-up artist, who also doubled as leaf-blower operator to get the models' hair moving about. Plus lots of lights and a



large white screen as a background. Chemmy Alcott and Graham Bell, former GB Olympic skiers, are now Snow Finel Ski Wear brand ambassadors. I only

stayed for half an hour but during this time Chemmy had put on five different outfits and had smiled a hundred times for the photographer whilst Graham had merely stood beside her and held a

Itchen Valley Churches

Sunday 3rd October

8am Holy Communion - St Mary's, Avington
10am Harvest All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 10th October

10am Harvest Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
6pm Evensong - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 17th October

8am Holy Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
10am Valley Worship - St Mary's, Easton

Sunday 24th October

10am Parish Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas
11am Family Service - St Mary's, Avington
6pm Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

October continues to be a month when we welcome Revd. Peter to our Parish and there will be a number of different services and also social events at each Church. Please do check our website for updates and further information as some services may change depending on the weather.

Rector - Revd. Peter Walker
revd.peter@itchenvalleychurches.org

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

Parish Administrator - Beccy Clark
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pair of skis. Being asked to jump in the air holding an Olympic torch, whilst smiling and making sure your feet don't splay out too far, seems to be part of the accepted routines for a photo shoot. And then doing it again and again until the perfect shot is obtained.



Look for the finished photos on their website, snowfinel.co.uk. Don't worry, you won't spot me there, nor the leaf blower.

Vernon Tottle

Food Spy

A Shoal swims into Winchester.

Remember that rather dreary café under the Guildhall? Well, the team behind The Bugle in Twyford and The Fox in Crawley have just opened a traditional fish and chip restaurant called Shoal in the transformed space. There are pies and rotisserie chicken options available, and there is a takeaway counter too. In kinder weather it looked as if the outside tables overlooking the park would be a great place to sit.

We were four adults and two young children, and our server understood children completely – service was fast and the colouring sheets and crayons



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arrived even faster! A very nice touch was the jugs of still or sparkling water provided on the table, and there were good beer and cider options as well. Our whole party had fish or scampi and chips main courses, with one killjoy swapping chips for an excellent green salad. The adults opted for coffee, but the children obviously made room for the homemade gelato, with so many flavour options that our server had a crib sheet while she recited them all. We thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and wish them well. With service we paid £100.

Looking at their website I was impressed by the consideration given to those needing gluten-free options – Ed

Garden News

Despite it being early September, it feels more like late October. Summer certainly seem to have disappeared at a pace.

It seems to be a time of presentations



this month.

I am sure many of you will recognise Jill Ede - owner of Old Thatch in Winchfield, North Hampshire receiving her 10 year certificate and trowel from our County Organiser - Mark Porter. She has opened her garden for 10 years, a great achievement and a lot of weeding and planting and edging.

This is a very well deserved award Jill, for a very popular garden. Maybe one to note for 2022, when you might even arrive by the John Pinkerton narrow boat from the wharf near the Barley Mow Pub.

Pat Beagley (Publicity)

National Garden Scheme - Hampshire

Pregnant suspense

I really didn't think it was going to be my sort of book. *Greenwich Park* by Katherine Faulkner was described by BorrowBox as "the perfect thriller" and "masterfully plotted". So, as it was available to

download and read there and then, I started to read the novel.

The first several chapters were devoted to character establishment, mainly through the eyes of those attending antenatal clinics. Having no experience of that aspect of life, I was about to close the book and read something else when the most unpleasantly annoying girl entered the story. Ah yes, how I could relate to this member of the cast; just like someone I





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used to know and dreaded ever meeting.

From that moment on, this book became the pleasure to which I looked forward the most whenever I had a spare half hour. Being a whodunnit, because you knew someone had killed someone else from the first chapter but not either of their identities, and with the official police detective kept firmly in the background, I got absorbed in the lives of these people who had everything but yet dug themselves into deeper and deeper holes.

Even the ending, which seemed to have happened quite some pages before the end of the book, had one final twist in the very last sentence. Oh yes, very cleverly written stuff!

Told in the first person through the eyes of three of the main female characters, and without a male point of view anywhere, Greenwich Park needs to be started on a day when you have time to work through the first quarter of the story in one sitting. Otherwise you might give up and read another Jack Reacher novel instead.

Vernon Tottle

Tinkering with old rhymes

Damson season is here again. And with it comes the delight of inspecting what's left after your pudding.

Whether you bake a damson cobbler, steam a damson sponge or just have the damsons stewed with custard, you are always left with the damson stones in your dish.

For more years than I can remember, I've counted the



stones chanting that old rhyme:

Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor

Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief.

Today I had nine stones left over, making me a double tinker. But whilst the alternative employment options are still in current use, when was the last time you saw, or used the services of, a tinker? Mending buckets with tin solder is somewhat dated nowadays, buckets being mostly made of plastic and often seen as disposable if they develop a leak.

So should the rhyme be updated, and if so, with what occupation? I guess it should start with T but tennis player or tree surgeon don't scan. Is teacher the only obvious solution? Send your answers to

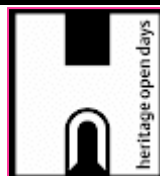
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Winchester Heritage Open Days

It is over! You have either enjoyed it or missed it for this year – but wait, oh yes, this is 2021 so guess what....

"Films of many of the live streamed events will be available to watch again in early October - sign up for our e-mailing list for notification when they are available. www.winchesterheritageopendays.org/the-2021-festival". What a bit of luck!

In fact some interesting YouTube videos are available via their website already, it is worth having a look. Your IVN correspondent did not get to many of the live events, but enjoyed a tour of the gardens at Chawton House – that is the 'big house' near the Jane Austen museum. In her books the relations between the rich people in the big house and those, sometimes close relatives, in a nearby smaller



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house is a common theme. Being the genius that she was, the riffs on the theme are varied – nasty Mrs Norris as the poorer relative living near Mansfield Park, nice Elinor living in the cottage near the rich Middletons in Sense and Sensibility are two examples.

We also visited a retrofitted green home in Twyford and learnt a lot about heat pumps, iBoost, Zappi and the importance of drawing all the curtains on winter nights – not all solutions are high-tech, these curtains well lined. There will be a meeting in Twyford Parish Hall on Wednesday 6 October where Stuart Mills will give an overview of the Superhomes project. Visit www.superhomes.org.uk/winchester to find out more.

Heritage Open Days are certainly varied!

Charlotte Appleby



See the article on page 21 to find out where this beauty spot is - Ed

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It's really annoying I find
That the weather is never unkind
When I sit down to edit
A mag. of some merit
Into boxes so neatly outlined

More Green Stuff

Despite a cold and wet start to the summer we have had several spells of dry weather. How then to water the tubs, the courgettes, beans and tomatoes? Ever since Southern Water fitted meters we have, quite rightly, been paying for the volume of water used. Thus it makes sense to use rain water from the roof - it is free and hasn't had to be pumped out of the aquifers and treated. Although we have six water butts it never seems enough. The other problem with water butts is they require use of a watering can. Another solution was needed.

Fortunately our garden is on a slope. One dark night I set up a laser level on the highest window sill in the house. My wife then gallantly went up the garden with a white board and found the spot where the laser beam hit the ground. That showed where one could site water tanks near the top of the garden and run water back down the garden under gravity.

A header tank is fitted just below roof gutter level, on the wall of the house. From there an insulated pipe runs down to ground level and then underground for approximately 60m to where it emerges, again insulated, to fill three tanks, each holding a cubic meter



of water. Each tank has an outlet with a valve and a connection for a hosepipe. So despite the dry weather we have had a fine display of ornamentals and reasonable crops of vegetables. The Practical Gardener wrote in the Valley News about his rainwater collection system, but his garden not being on a slope he was obliged to install a pump instead of relying on Pascal's Vases to take the water from a high point to an equally high point no matter what the intervening distance. The tanks are now empty ready to fill up again over winter - we hope!

The DIY man

And finally

Question: Why did the Archaeopteryx catch the worm?

Because it was an early bird.

Attentive readers will have noticed that recently we have lost half our editors. Fi McIntosh with Lucy Wolfe (who edited jointly) and Tony Gaster have all stood down from the magazine.

There have been appeals in these pages for replacements to step forward. I have also approached several local individuals in person, inviting them to join the team. But nobody has yet agreed to sign up, although I remain ever hopeful.

The magazine has always operated as a

team effort, which makes it more fun to produce. Some local periodicals are indeed edited and produced by one person, as were our own parish magazines in days gone by. But to avoid too much work falling on any one set of shoulders, the Itchen Valley News has always been run with four editors, each taking turns three times a year. Without two new editors, the magazine cannot continue in this successful manner.

The work of an editor is very satisfying; seeing a magazine that you yourself have created actually in print, in your hands, is particularly rewarding. It takes about two days to compile the magazine, plus a few more hours to sift through and respond to the various contributions that appear in the inbox. Other than a reasonable command of written English and some familiarity with word processing, you don't need to have any previous editing experience as all our procedures will be explained and can be quickly learned. If you don't believe it could be such fun and so easy, talk to either of the current editors; Charlotte 779778 or Verity 882800.

If you don't fancy that job, you could think about becoming Chief Editor. After almost 100 editions of the Itchen Valley News, I will be stepping down from that role within the next six months and the magazine will need someone to liaise with the printers, the distributors and the advertising manager. The Chief Editor also needs to proof read the final draft of the magazine to pick up all the errors and inconsistencies that the editor of the month has missed. If you have an eye for detail and an organizing mind, this could be your ideal role. You can talk to me on 779611 for further information.

And the Archaeopteryx joke? Don't let the Itchen Valley News become extinct like the dinosaurs; please volunteer your assistance, today.

Thank you.

Vernon Tottle

Chief Editor, Itchen Valley News



Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in October

Black bins and brown garden bins on Friday 8 and 22 October. Green bins on Friday 1, 15 and 29 October. Glass boxes on Friday 15 October.

Farmers' Market in Winchester

Sundays 10 and 31 October.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 7 October. Easton village hall.

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