

Valley^{ITCHEN} News

Issue 93 September 2021

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



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WELCOME to the Valley News



I am writing this surrounded by packing cases as my move goes forward.

Certainly a most stressful activity but also a time to look at possessions and see what can really be cleared out. Do I need to keep my 40 plant pots? I've managed to rehome several machines, a bicycle and more.

Once again we have a varied selection of articles covering a wide range of topics. We do understand that some content has a quite specific readership. But this magazine is about community and sharing information about the Valley and its people. We also stray east and west to Alresford and Winchester for news and events.

Our councillors and MP work hard to keep us informed on local issues, some of which might be quite dull but others are critical to our future. No

community can stay the same for ever. This month we have a selection of reports from the Cricket Club, which is such an active and important part of the Valley. Also from boules, which I have never mastered but quite see it has a strong and committed following.

There are several articles concerning "green" issues and the environment, which I feel is such an important issue today. At last the "What's on" column is filling and there are several events to look forward to in September and beyond. What a struggle we have had at times during the pandemic! IVN depends on its contributors and we are very grateful to those who produce articles. It would be great to see something from the younger group, what's good here and also what might need to be fixed.

I am moving because I need to be able to walk to a shop and have a reliable bus service. Yes I am planning to buy an electric bike (Winchester is hilly) but an electric car? Right now I feel the whole thing is not yet proven. I shall miss the Plough under Ashley's excellent management and our beautiful village hall with all its facilities. The church here continues to be a key part of community and it's so good to see a new rector coming.

Please continue to support our advertisers. Next month's editor is Charlotte Appleby.

Tony Gaster

Itchen Valley News

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What's On

Wednesday 8 September. Itchen Valley Choir resumes rehearsals in Itchen Abbas village hall. See page 25 for further details.

Vernon Tottle

Thursday 9 – Sunday 12 September. West Meon Music Festival

As with so many events this year, the West Meon Music Festival has been beset by doubts as to whether it

would be possible to stage a full event or, as last year, would covid-19 regulations mean that plans would again need to be scaled back?

With restrictions now easing, festival organisers, the Primrose Piano Quartet, are confident that it will be business as usual, or almost. “Last year was the festival’s 10th anniversary,” says Susanne Stanzeleit, the quartet’s violinist, “but many of our planned events had to be cancelled due to the limitation on audience numbers, so we are delighted to be able to hold many of those concerts this year. There will be a few differences though with no paper tickets and some socially distanced seating for those who prefer it.”

Postponed events now taking place this year include a recital by exciting young guitarist Laura Snowden, sponsored by the Southampton Classical Guitar Society, which will now be held on the morning of Saturday 11 September at All Saints Church, East Meon, while 2018 BBC Young Musician of the Year finalist, cellist Maxim Calver, will be giving his delayed recital at the Church



of Our Lady in Warnford that afternoon.

The festival opens on Thursday 9 September with the Primrose performing two of the most popular piano quartets in the repertoire – by Mozart and Fauré – at St John’s Church in West Meon where the festival is based.

In all there will be 11 events spread through the four-day festival including master classes, a family concert, and three evening concerts which will include a performance of Brahms’ Horn Trio with leading UK horn player Stephen Stirling and a recital by international prize-winning pianist Roman Kosyakov. The festival ends on the afternoon of Sunday 12 September with a concert that includes Schumann’s exuberant Piano Quintet, regarded as one of his finest compositions, when members of the Primrose will be joined by more musical guests.

This year the festival also incorporates “Music for All”, a series of free concerts thanks to a generous grant from the Lottery’s Community Fund, which is helping to support the recovery of live music missed by so many people during the lockdowns. “Music for All” includes Maxim Calver’s recital, a late night performance by the Primrose, the family concert and local band, Rehab Blues, performing at West Meon’s Thomas Lord pub.

“We know that some people may still be nervous about attending public events,” adds Stanzeleit, “so although we can have normal seating again throughout our venues, we shall have a section in each which is socially distanced, for any who would feel happier with a little more separation.”

Full details of all the festival programmes can be found on the

festival website,
www.westmeonmusic.co.uk, where
tickets are already on sale.

Susanne Stanzeleit
westmeonmusic@gmail.com

Friday 10 – Sunday 19 September Heritage Open days

It's fun, fabulous and FREE! Celebrating local history, architecture and culture, this year's mix of in-person and online events reveal hidden places, tales of the past and a chance to experience something new. Many you can just turn up to, but others must be booked in advance through the online box office on our website:

www.winchesterheritageopendays.org

Some of the events, venues and organisations in this year's line up include:

Winchester College: Tours, Exhibition & Treasury Children's Trail

Hyde900: Displays, Tile Workshop, Talks and Cookery Demonstrations, Classic Cars and Vintage Bus Displays, Whitchurch Silk Mill Food Festival, Gilbert White's Brewhouse, Pilgrims' Hall, Valuation evening at City Mill, Open Days at the Great Hall, Winchester Museums and the Hospital of St Cross.

'Edible England' Events, Online Exhibition and High Street Trail, Bellringing, Medal-Making, Storytelling, Pop-up Poetry and Cinema, 2Time Theatre, Jeremy France, Winchester Muse, Historical Huzzahs, Behind-the-scenes tours at Leckford Estate and the Watercress Line, Proudfoot and Co, Inn the Park, Montezumas, Rick Stein, P&G Wells, Winchester Poetry Festival, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Friends Meeting House, City of Winchester Trust, Alresford Museum, University of Winchester, Hampshire

Cultural Trust, Bombay Sapphire, Bursledon Brickworks, The Vyne, Stratton Lane Brewery, The Gregg School, Museum of Army Flying, God's House Tower and Aldershot Military Museum.

Printed guides will be available from Winchester Visitor Information Centre
Nicky Gottlieb

Every Thursday from 16 September at 7.30pm. 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?

Mo Gordon

Saturday 25 September - Sunday 3 October Winchester Green Week

Winchester Green Week 2021 is to be part of UK's largest ever event for nature and climate. If you've noticed the heavier and more intense summer rain along with the devastating floods in northern Europe, or the terrible forest fires across southern Europe and North America, then hopefully you'll be inspired to take action to help fight the climate crisis that is the cause of these severe weather events.

Winchester's annual festival of all things 'green', covering issues such as the climate crisis, environmental issues and sustainable living, is back this year as



part of 'The Great Big Green Week', the largest event for nature and climate ever seen in the UK.

Running from 25 September to 3 October, this year the Winchester Green Week theme is 'growing greener together'. Running as a festival style platform for collaboration across the whole of Winchester district, the aim is to celebrate and promote action towards sustainable living.

Winchester Green Week has grown significantly in past years and despite the challenges of 2020, over 30 organisations from community groups, faith groups, local businesses, charities and the Local Authority put on over 65 socially distanced events or created digital resources.

Over 1,500 visits to the Winchester Green Week website during Green Week 2020 demonstrated the large number of residents across Winchester district looking to take action towards a more sustainable life. Contributing groups take responsibility for the organisation, cost and insurance of their own events whilst the Winchester Green Week team advise, coordinate and advertise. Among events planned for Winchester Green Week 2021 are:

- Winchester Food Partnership Day
- Winchester Climate Action Network climate action planning workshops
- Winchester City Council HEP Committee meeting
- Winchester Cathedral 'Rise to the Moment' service
- 7 week course on Green Living
- 'A cry from our hearts for our common home' an artistic expression
- Multiple events hosted by

Winchester University
Winchester Action on Climate Change is hoping to coordinate a 'Sing for the Climate' event on Saturday 2 October and is looking for groups to participate in this mass singing event, demonstrating the strength of feeling that more action needs to happen now in the fight against climate change.

More information and details of events can be found at

www.winchestergreenweek.co.uk . If you wish to find out more about hosting an event, please email winchestergreenweek@gmail.com. With the UK hosting 'COP26' the UN Climate Conference in November 2021, now is the time to raise awareness and ambition.

Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC)

Kay Mitchell

Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club (EMWCC)

An action-packed weekend of fund raising and cricket celebrations!

On Thursday 22 July, the annual village tug of war and BBQ commenced the weekend's activities in sublime evening sunshine. There were fun tug of war "pulls" including boys vs girls and children vs mothers. The serious competition was between the Cricket Club and the Village team assembled by local, Trevor Compton. Eventually the Village side proved to be brawniest team with the most stamina and skill - and were triumphant for the third year running. The Village team was presented with the Tug of War Cup by EMWCC Chairman, Adrian Lee. Adrian thanked Trevor Compton for organizing the event and the cricket club for running the BBQ and beer bar



for the evening.

On Friday 23 July another sunny day showcased the David Roth Cricket Field, beautifully prepared by the club groundsman (Lee Padwick) for the annual Sixes competition, sponsored by Knight Frank & The Flower Pots, Cheriton. The tournament is into its second decade and has been well supported by local teams and players from the Itchen Valley throughout its history. Each of the eight teams had an individual sponsor and their brightly coloured playing shirts ensured each team was easily identified. The bar was provided by The Flower Pots, Cheriton

and a hog roast was available throughout the afternoon for players and spectators.

Each match was played over five overs and won by the team scoring the most runs. There were two leagues of four teams (eight teams in total), the winning two sides in each league progressing to a knockout semi-final and final. Professional Hampshire League umpires ensure the smooth running of the Sixes and that the rules & regulations were followed by all sides!

Following the group stages, the bright orange playing shirts of New Stream





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Renewals took on the neon pink shirted Anglesea Capital team. Anglesea Capital proved too strong and won through to the final. Here they were up against the Itchen Ringers in silver, who had beaten Wolfie's Wanderers in bright yellow. Anglesea Capital proved to be the worthy winners in the final by 19 runs and their team captain, Joe Lewis, was presented with the Easton Sixes Cup by EMWCC Chairman, Adrian Lee. Adrian thanked Paul Sanders, Gareth Goodall & Jamie Banks for their work in preparing for the day, along with the various team and event sponsors, and also all the Cricket Club committee and members who had contributed to setting up a lovely family fun day with enjoyable cricket.

On the Saturday 24 July the 1st team hosted Lymington CC at Easton in a County Division 1 League game. Unfortunately, the weather meant that the 2nd team fixture vs Holybourne CC and the 3rd team fixture vs Donnington CC were both lost to the thunderstorms. League fixtures will continue on Saturdays until the end of August.

On Sunday 25 July we were due to

then celebrate EMWCC 75th Anniversary with an invitation fixture of former & current players. However, the forecast of further thunderstorms over the weekend meant the decision was taken to delay this fixture until later in the season. Many of the club's former and elder club members were due to travel from quite far to come and celebrate the day. In particular, the cricket club was looking forward to welcoming its 100 year old Club President, John Roth, whose family had donated the ground to the cricket club in its early days, and who was being brought down to the 75th Anniversary celebrations by his son, Richard, from his home in London.

The revised date for the club celebration has been moved to Sunday 5 September 2021. Incorporated within this celebration, the Club will also hold the annual Badger Memorial Match, in recognition of Club stalwart and first class batsman Steve Green, who did so much for the Club over many years and who developed many of the club's younger players, lots of whom remain heavily involved with the Club today.

Lynda Gray – EMWCC Press Officer

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Adrian Lee – EMWCC Chairman

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Valley Volunteer

Saving Lives in Hampshire

I thought that valley residents might be interested in the work of two charities that I volunteer for, namely Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA) and SERV Wessex. You may not know this, but the two organisations are connected in their work.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance does what it says on the tin. It is one of 21 individual air ambulance charities in the UK. Operating a helicopter from Thruxton Airfield near Andover, it can reach anywhere in Hampshire within 15 minutes and the Isle of Wight in 20 minutes. HIOWAA also has three Emergency Response Vehicles

providing the same enhanced care as that delivered by the helicopter. These vehicles are used to get to the more difficult to reach urban areas or for when the helicopter cannot fly because of adverse weather conditions.

I'd like you to remember two key facts from this article. The first is that HIOWAA brings the hospital emergency department to the patient. Many readers will have imagined that speed of patient transport is the *raison d'être* for an air ambulance service. In fact, this is only part of the story. Most importantly, the life-saving charity brings crews of highly skilled doctors and specialist critical care paramedics to the scene of an incident, giving the patient the best chance of survival and recovery when the worst happens. These specially trained clinicians can



perform procedures that cannot be carried out by a road ambulance crew and can administer blood and advanced medication to sedate patients.

Second fact: HIOWAA is a charity that receives no government funding. It currently costs £15,000 per day to run the Charity, with each mission costing on average £2,882. The team is called out to attend approximately four missions per day, most commonly to cardiac arrests and road traffic collisions.

My work as a volunteer for HIOWAA encompasses van driving, attending fund-raising events and giving talks about the Charity. For more information on HIOWAA, please go to <https://www.hiowaa.org>.

SERV Wessex (Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers) is a blood bike charity, a member of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes. It provides a free out-of-hours transport service to the NHS in Hampshire, East Dorset and South Wiltshire. SERV Wessex operates evenings, overnight and at weekends, moving urgent supplies including blood, platelets and medical samples.

During the day, a booked service is provided to pick up heart monitors and to collect and deliver human milk from donor mums to the Milk Bank in Southampton, from where it is then distributed to neonatal units. Most volunteers are motorcycle riders but a few, including me, are car drivers. During the pandemic, the service was significantly extended to provide a daytime medicine delivery service to people who were isolating from COVID.

SERV has a small fleet of marked bikes, two 4WD vehicles and a van, but volunteers provide the majority (around 75%) of service, using their



own bikes or cars and covering all their own costs including fuel. Since January 2020, SERV volunteers have covered over 266,000 miles on duty and completed over 4,000 runs, including over 3,170 medication deliveries to the community.

Similar to my HIOWAA duties, my work for SERV involves driving (all riders and drivers are qualified to Advance Driving standard), attending events and giving talks. Currently SERV is seeking more dispatchers.

Dispatchers are volunteers who take requests from the hospitals and instruct and monitor the resultant delivery runs.

For more information on SERV please go to <https://servwessex.org.uk>.

So how are the charities connected? SERV delivers fresh blood to HIOWAA at their Airbase in Thruxton every day and returns unused blood to Southampton General Hospital.

In appreciation, HIOWAA have funded both a SERV marked bike and a 4WD vehicle.

So next time you hear a helicopter in the Valley look up – it may be the Air Ambulance. Or you may see a marked SERV vehicle on a Valley road.

Rob Harris



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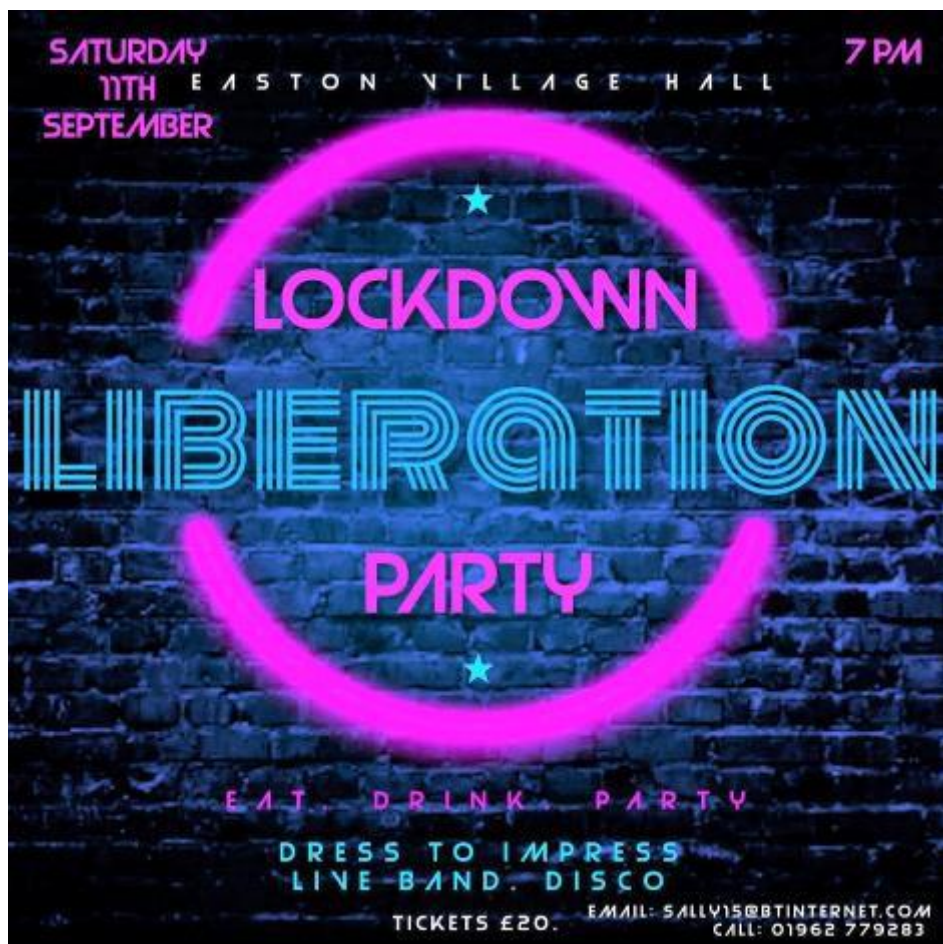


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A Visit to the Holy Land

Some years ago I had occasion to visit Israel on government business and spent an incredible five days there visiting such places as Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Gaza, Masada, the Golan Heights, Haifa and Caesarea. I also had the opportunity to drive through Hebron and visit a Kibbutz.

Apart from my hosts, who took trouble to tell me about each place

visited, my main source of information was one of those tourist guide books one picks up in an airport bookshop. Whilst of some help, I never thought it told me what I really wanted to know about the Holy Land and its history. I was seeking more enlightened information on the life of Jesus, the Crusades and, more recently, the background to the creation of the State of Israel and events since.

And then other things preoccupied me until we heard that our new rector was an authority on the Holy Land and had written extensively about it. Curiosity

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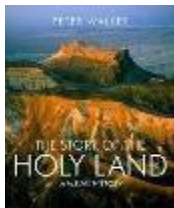
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got the better of me and I discovered he had written (among others) a very well-reviewed book called "The Story of the Holy Land: A Visual History". I promptly

ordered a copy and have it in front of me now.

The book is superb with a compelling narrative and some magnificent photographs. It neatly fills in many of the gaps in my knowledge and is a delight to read. I strongly recommend it and very much look forward to welcoming the author and his wife, Peter and Georgie Walker, to our community next month.

John Lang

The Grange Festival 2021

Following the three operas reviewed last month, The Grange Festival brought the season to a successful end with **My Fair Lady** and **King Lear** - difficult to imagine two more contrasting productions! Lerner & Loewe first staged *My Fair Lady* in 1956. It went on to break all records, running on Broadway for 6½ years. The film version followed in 1964, winning eight Oscars and starring Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison. It made such an impression that many of that generation are still almost word-perfect in such evergreens as 'The street where you live'. And so it was with some considerable sense of nostalgia that we watched an extremely well-sung concert performance. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra played on stage fronted by the soloists and small chorus. Ellie Laugharne, who sang the role of Susanna in the Grange production of *Marriage of Figaro* in



2019, demonstrated her versatility as Eliza Doolittle, while actor Steven Pacey played Henry Higgins, complemented by Richard Suart as Colonel Pickering. A wonderful evening's entertainment.

As a complete contrast, a cast composed of many of our best-loved operatic singers delivered a stunning version of Shakespeare's *King Lear*, surely one of the Bard's darkest works. Veteran bass Sir John Tomlinson took the title role, dominating proceedings whenever he was on stage. Sir Thomas Allen, another celebrated baritone, played the part of Gloucester, and conveyed the distress of a blinded nobleman to great effect. Veteran director Keith Warner, celebrated for over 150 productions of operas, plays and musicals, oversaw the production. The scenery was minimal but effective, the actors in modern dress, and musical interludes were written by composer Nigel Osborne. This may have been a 'first' in its concept of exclusively using singers to voice



spoken parts, but it will surely not be the last time that we see such a production at the Grange Festival.

Peter McManus

Photos Simon Annand

From our MP

Parliament has, in recent weeks, been debating a major new **Health and Care Bill**.

Drawing on my experience, I have been highlighting the need to address long term structural gaps in staffing to back up commitments made in the NHS ten-year plan and to tackle the NHS Covid backlog. We have years of workforce challenge to face and it is THE big ticket item on the desk of the new head of NHS England, Amanda Pritchard.

As the Commons returns for the Autumn term, I and others are calling for a requirement on the Government to publish modelling of the future supply of the entire health and care workforce and I reiterate my belief in an immigration policy that recognises, not curtails, the unique circumstances across health and social care.

On primary care, I welcome the formal creation of new Integrated Care



Systems (which will remove the silos that exist) and feel we need them to realise their potential fast. What do I mean by that? General Practice needs to embrace the wider primary care family and that means realising the potential of community pharmacy, ophthalmology and dental services as vehicles of prevention as much as treatment.

And moving upstream of the Bill, I am clear it has to be all about prevention. We hear regularly now talk of a waiting list touching 13m people but we hear less of addressing poor health at source. So I enthusiastically support measures in the legislation to face up to the obesity challenge, driving as it is incidence of cancer, heart disease and diabetes among others.

Secondly, the back end of 2021 is going to be dominated by the **COP26 climate summit** in Glasgow this November. It's a landmark moment and I hope to be there working with colleagues from the Conservative Environment Network. At COP26, we will (among other things) ask countries to commit to net zero by mid-century, with more ambitious nationally determined contribution targets for 2030 and urgently to protect and help adapt our communities and natural habitats from the destructive effects of climate change.

And as part of my local COP, I am conducting a major **Green Winchester survey** which you can complete: www.greenwinchester.com And finally, readers of the *Itchen Valley News* will be aware of ongoing work between myself, Cllr Fiona Isaacs, Hampshire County Council and Perins School around school buses taking children to and from The Avenue in Alresford. It's not been easy but everyone has pulled together –



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including a new bus operator – and from this point on there will be no drop off or pick up on The Avenue. With thanks to Cllr Humby from HCC for coming to see the problem for himself last term and all involved for letting good sense win the day.

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

Something to Think About

Many of you will have seen Paddy Bechely's wonderful illustrations in my book about the River Itchen. It was a great sadness to me when Paddy was not able to draw any more and had to move into a care home over two hours' drive away in Bishop's Stortford. Staying in contact by telephone over the last few months was the only possibility.

Conversation was not easy and hesitant, given problems with Paddy's short term memory on the one side and the difficulty of avoiding the mundane on the other. It then occurred to me to read to her from the daily diary I kept during my year on the river in 2008, for example:

22 July ~ Day: 204 ~ 0530

It is clear, bright and beautiful. My breath is condensing in the air showing how cool the air is. The three-quarter moon is white on the blue sky. A tufted duck is sitting on a weed raft by Martyr Worthy bridge and is not too worried about me and is surprisingly content which is unusual.

I had hardly completed the first three sentences when I heard a chuckle of delight. A few moments later Paddy said, "Oh! I am there on the river, walking the bank too. I am there!" It was a beautiful moment, a revelation. It was as though I had found the key to a locked room. It was a combination of my words and Paddy's memories

coming together.

Once a week, at 3 p.m. I read to Paddy for about 20 minutes, relaying two to three days of the diary. She reacts and stops me in the same way each time. I shall continue to do so for as long as possible.

I offer my experience in the hope that it may be a useful idea for others. It is a powerful method of combining a friendly, known voice to a topic of interest that helps to motivate and engage all concerned.

George Mann 01962 779944

Comings & Goings

We say a very sad farewell to Pauline and Lee Tovell who have lived in Chilland for over 40 years and were very much a part of life in the valley and helped with so many things. They move to Alresford in September and will hopefully be frequent visitors back to the Valley. Welcome to Sally and Keith Loudon, both medics who have moved into their house from Winchester.

And we say another very sad goodbye to Laura and Simon Hanley, with Georgina and James, who have lived at Westfield, Chillandham lane for ten years and were also involved in and helped with many aspects of life in Martyr Worthy but are now moving to Wiltshire. They will be greatly missed and we wish them all the best in their new home. Richard and Lesley Ann Ritchie, also from Winchester move into Westfield in September.

Their new next door neighbours are Revd. Peter Walker, Rector elect of the Itchen Valley Parish, and his wife Georgie, who have arrived from Wincanton in Somerset and are the new occupants of the Rectory.

Lucinda Ffennell

The Queen's Green Canopy

Would you like to commemorate the long service of the Queen by planting a tree? As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations next year, Her Majesty recently launched a national tree planting initiative, The Green Canopy, which aims to encourage individuals and community groups to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". This is intended to create an environmental legacy in honour of the Monarch's 70 years of service.

The Parish Council is keen to support this worthwhile endeavour and would like to encourage as many Valley residents as possible to plant a tree in their gardens. As a minimum, we hope that 70 residents will sign up to commit themselves to plant one or more trees in their garden, one tree for each year of the Monarch's reign. Of course, if more than 70 people agree to do so, that would be great.

Participants will need to source their own tree and install it during the planting season October 2021 to March 2022. Trees can also be obtained from the retail arm of the Woodland Trust, which incidentally is also supplying 50,000 trees free of charge to UK schools. Suitable plaques will be available later in the year for those who wish to mark the event.

If you would like publicly to support this initiative, please let me have your name with postal and email addresses. All participants will receive a certificate from the Parish Council marking their involvement, have their names added to a list posted on the Parish Council website (unless they wish to remain anonymous) and receive an invitation to a drinks reception and ceremonial tree planting at Itchen Abbas and Avington Hall over the Jubilee weekend



next year.

So, please look over your garden and confirm whether you have a suitable space for a tree of any size and let's see if we reach our target of 70 commitments in short order, so that we can continue to say with some conviction, How Green Is Our Valley!
Cllr. Stephen Percy

Boules 2021 - the finale

This year's boules matches between the four villages have now been completed and the two cups have been presented. For many of the matches, there were few supporters or spectators because of the Covid restrictions, but both competitions went ahead with energy and enthusiasm.

The third and final round of the league took place on Tuesday 13 July. Easton had done well in the first two rounds and started the last round as clear

favourites. They were playing at Avington and needed to win only one of the four games. Arithmetically Avington could win, but only if they scored 4-0. There was an inevitable tension as, in both of the first two games, Avington came close to scoring the 13 points required, but Easton were not going to be denied and in the end they won 3-1.

In the other match, Martyr Worthy were at home against Itchen Abbas, with the latter starting with a 2-point lead after the second round. The weather was kind and the atmosphere relaxed and friendly. The play was hard-fought and challenging but as the evening wore on, Martyr Worthy garnered all four games.

Overall the result for the 2021 league competition was Easton 10 points, Avington and Martyr Worthy 5 each and Itchen Abbas 4. With their clear lead, Easton were duly presented with the Dick Hewitt Memorial Trophy for the year (photo front cover).

There is also the Nigel Graham Maw Cup for the Triples (knock-out) for which the report was in the August magazine. However there was no photo of the cup or the presentation, and I now attach this to repair the imbalance.

Ralph Matthews



From our County Councillor



As we move out of the formal Covid-19 restrictions, it's an opportunity to read, learn and reflect on our attempts to build a greener world after the pandemic. I know many Parishes and individuals are considering how they can improve their green credentials: I hope that this month's items may be of interest.

WinACC has set up the WASH project: Winchester Area SuperHomes. It's an exciting new project that is aimed at reducing domestic energy use in our homes across the District. It supports homeowners to transform the energy performance of their properties by retrofitting and so reduce their carbon emissions. To find out more, and book a video call or home visit, email wash@winacc.org.uk. Retrofitting means changing your home so it needs less energy to keep warm, and changing the heating from gas, oil or solid fuel to electric. There are lots of ways to do this - from insulating walls, ceilings and floors to installing technologies like heat pumps.

The cost of recycling is counteracted by the value of the material. Glass is mainly recycled abroad but there is a

new project to recycle glass in the same town as the original Pilkington glass factory. This is a good news green growth story. If you have a good idea to save waste in your community or further afield, you can apply for a grant from the County Council. For simplicity, I have shortened the link to <https://tinyurl.com/greenerhampshire>. Pre-loved clothes have a value and you can recycle them at a variety of places. Bring-to sites are popular, raising funds for many organisations such as The Fire Service or Winchester's Hospice. If the bin is full, please don't leave items out in the rain - they'll be of little value, but report the full bin and return a few days later.

It is a distressing fact that, in Hampshire, around 1 in 8 children is now living in poverty. As a member of the Winchester Food Partnership, we're keen to see more parents of young children taking up the Healthy Start vouchers worth £4.25 a week for food and vitamins. Unfortunately, currently only half of those who are eligible do this. More about this on <http://tinyurl.com/healthystart2021> In October, I will be holding 'Drop In surgeries' around the division to help parents sign up to the new online process for these vouchers. If you are interested, please contact me to book a convenient time slot. The vouchers will be replaced with a card to credit parent-shoppers when they buy healthy foods up to a value of £4.25. Some shops, eg; Iceland, offer free 'healthy extras' too. Also, anyone can join the 'Pantry' at Unit 12 at Winnall, where £15 worth of food can be purchased for £5 on a weekly basis. This can be used in addition to any other scheme.



County Councillors have an annual budget to award small grants to local organisations. In the 20/21 year, grants included an award to help victims of Domestic Abuse, a greener living idea and a Memorial. If a County Councillor grant would be of use to your organisation, please contact me direct so that we can talk over your plans before you apply. Grants can be processed within a month.

*Cllr Jackie Porter. www.jackieporter.co.uk
text 07973696085, ansaphone
01962791054,
Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk*

National Garden Scheme in Hampshire

In 2018, the National Garden Scheme Trustees voted a grant of £85,000 to make a major contribution to a brand new Outdoor Learning Centre for Treloar's, the Hampshire school and

college that enables education for disabled children.

In July 2021 the new centre was opened by Treloar's Patron, Alan Titchmarsh who said, "It was such an honour to be there and to be part of it. Outdoor learning is vital for our health as individuals and as a community, and Treloar's are a wonderful example of how that connection with nature can be achieved and how it benefits us all. I hope the garden thrives."

This really shows the NGS "at work". You can see Alan cutting the ribbon accompanied by Harry and Joe. At



Treloar's they concentrate on the students ability - not their disability. To read the full report see

<https://ngs.org.uk/treloars-new-outdoor-learning-centre-opened/>

We are now coming to our final gardens for 2021, which are opening during September to raise those vital funds for our deserving charities. All are within 15 miles of the Itchen Valley.

Meon Orchard at Kingsmead, North of Wickham, PO17 5AU is open on Sunday 5 September, 2pm to 6pm. Admission is £5.00, children free. Refreshments: Home-made teas.

The two acre garden was designed and constructed by the current owners. It has an exceptional range of rare, unusual and architectural plants including National Collection of Eucalyptus. Dramatic foliage plants



from around the world, see plants you have never seen before!

Bramdean House near Alresford, SO24 0JU is open on Sunday 12 September, 2pm to 4pm. Admission is £7.50, children free. Refreshments: Home-made teas.

It is a beautiful five acre garden best



known for its mirror image herbaceous borders. A large and unusual collection of plants and shrubs gives year round interest. A one acre walled garden features prize-winning vegetables, fruit and flowers. Small arboretum.

I am pleased to say that the second half of 2021 has been very busy with garden visitors, despite, in some cases, the dire weather. We now start planning for 2022 !!

Pat Beagley (Publicity)

National Garden Scheme - Hampshire

City Councillor Fiona Isaacs

Supporting our Businesses

I have been out and about supporting businesses with new information,



helping to ensure that no business is potentially uninformed about future opportunities. We have some fantastic businesses in our area and it's important to everyone that they continue to survive as we start to ease out of the restrictions.

Grass cutting issues

This month I called an emergency meeting on some of the issues and feedback that residents had raised. Overwhelmingly the feedback to myself was about the issues of visibility. I asked why none of the safety cuts and sight lines, that I had requested earlier this year, in order to ensure that people were kept safe, had been carried out. There needs to be a careful balance with encouraging wildflower development but not at the sacrifice of keeping the area safe and attractive to visitors.



Market Towns Matter

Alresford is the Number One market town in the UK, and its businesses still need tourists to come and support its economy as well as our lovely locals.

My letter to the Hampshire Chronicle outlined the disappointment that Market Towns don't have their own recovery plan. After speaking at the Business and Housing committee, I seconded a motion at WCC to ensure Market Towns had representation in all plans. It is regrettable that, as they struggle to be heard, a deliberate move was made to silence their views. The surrounding villages, local businesses and residents all have very strong feelings on the issues and concerns we have and that these must be accounted for in any plan moving forward.

Perins School Crossing Issues.

I can report that as of September, no bus drop-offs or pick-ups will now take place on the avenue. This will hopefully make things better for children crossing. Further assessments are still underway about this crossing.

fisaacs@winchester.gov.uk

01962 738671

From the Parish Council.

The section of the footpath between Church and Chilland Lanes in Martyr Worthy, that in last winter's wet weather became almost impassable, now has a new all-weather surface. The work was completed quickly and significantly helped thanks to the owner and the tenant of the adjacent field allowing access across it for the dumper truck to bring in the scalpings and delivery of the digger to spread



them. We are now looking at a second path which gave similar problems last year. Also not forgotten is the bridle way that has become

so overgrown that getting through on foot is difficult let alone on a bicycle or a horse. Apart from finding funding, that work has to wait until the nesting of birds is definitely over. So please be patient.

At our Full Council Meeting in July, when we met in person for the first time in eighteen months, we co-opted a new member. David Wolfe from Easton has joined us and it is good to see that Easton is now well represented on the Parish Council with three members. After the election of Parish Councillors two years ago, there was no one representing Easton so it is good to see that progress has been made.

However we still have one vacancy on the Council. If you are interested in making a contribution to life in the Valley, being a member of the Parish Council is one of the best ways to do it. Contact our Clerk (details on our website) and ask for an application form. We would like to fill this vacancy and bring the Council up to full strength by co-opting a new member at our meeting on 2 September.

Two events that will be of interest to residents of certain parts of the Valley both involve Southern Water. The first, it may be remembered, follows on from last year when there was a proposal for a drought relief scheme. The scheme involved a half metre diameter, seven and a half kilometres long black pipe being installed

overground in times of potential drought, from springs in the Candover area right the way down to the fish farm in Itchen Abbas. Understandably there were quite a number of objections and the scheme, which was proposed by Southern Water, was withdrawn. They are now proposing a new scheme, the details of which are as yet unknown. The Parish Council has therefore arranged a private meeting with Southern Water so we can fully understand the facts. We have then arranged for Southern Water to hold a public meeting to explain what they are proposing this time. This meeting will take place on 27 September in Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall which has been booked from 3pm to 8pm. This may include time for setting up and finishing at the end. Any further details will be circulated later when known. Once again this is a case where, when it comes to commenting, numbers will count. The Parish Council is only one voice. Therefore remember if you fail to comment when given this opportunity, you have little cause to complain if you do not like the subsequent outcome.

Last month it was reported that after many years the project to pump sewage from Avington to Easton is to be completed. Again very little of the detail is known and we have requested a separate meeting to give Southern Water the opportunity to explain to residents what is intended. This project will concern both Avington and Easton residents and also those who care about the quality of water in the Itchen and consequently the whole ecosystem it supports. Completion is long overdue. So far we have not had a reply to our request for a meeting but rest assured we will continue to do so and, once information is available, keep

Singing is back!

Come and join us!

Choirs around the country are coming back to life and Hampshire is no exception. The Itchen Valley Choir looks forward to restarting rehearsals in early September. If you are longing to get out of the house, have an urge to take up singing, want to rekindle your vocal skills or just enjoy learning some new songs, do come along and join us on Wednesday 8 September at 7.30 pm in Itchen Abbas village hall. Phone me, Gary Carter, on 01962 732350 for more information.



Remember! Singing is good for you!

everyone informed by all means available to us.

Looking ahead to next year as part of the Platinum Jubilee in honour of the Queen's seventy years service, we are supporting the Green Canopy tree planting initiative. Please read Steve Percy's article about the scheme on page 19. Let's hope everyone who can, will join in.

Patrick Appleby.

**From City Councillors
Margot Power and Russell
Gordon-Smith**

Grass verges and bio-diversity

There has been a good deal of discussion on the matter of long grass on verges and the effect of reducing the number of mows per year. A great many people enjoy the wonderful sight of verges filled with an increasing



variety of wildflowers. There are a number who object. To allow assessment of divergent views we rely upon comments to: customerservices@winchester.gov.uk
The main purpose of allowing more wildflowers to thrive is to increase the bio-diversity and to create a better environment for invertebrates, small mammals and birds. It is worth noting that the total area of road verges in the UK amounts to some 279,900 hectares or about 1.2% of the total land area. (More than is owned by the National Trust.) More importantly, verges form

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green corridors connecting separate habitats. Linking separate habitats greatly increases the overall value of such areas.

It is hard to be precise about the decline of insect species in the UK, but basic car 'splatometer' tests reveal a huge decline. Research shows numbers at many sites in Europe have plunged by up to 80% in two decades.

However, insects are an enormously broad and varied group of species; some are declining, some are not, and many have never been measured. Butterflies and moths are sometimes considered an indicator species for broader insect populations, and many of these species have been found to be in decline in the UK. Habitat loss, climate change and other pressures such as agricultural intensification are all driving these changes. The creation of more diverse habitats, such as on verges, is a small step to increasing insect numbers.

There is a clearer picture on the situation with small mammals; almost one in five of British mammal species faces a high risk of extinction, according to the first comprehensive



review of their populations for more than 20 years launched recently by The Mammal Society and Natural England. The review found other mammals such as the hedgehog and water vole have seen their populations decline by up to 66% over the past 20 years. There is a correlation between the declining numbers of insects and species that feed on them. House Sparrow populations have declined by nearly 71% since 1977. At least one of the reasons is the reduction in the availability of favoured food, for adults or chicks or both.


We are not alone on this planet, and it is not ours to dispose of as at least some of us more destructive humans wish. Let the verges and their myriad inhabitants thrive!

Railway bridges

The truncating of the Alton to Winchester line in 1973 was one of the last of the Beeching cuts, and certainly one of the most short-sighted. (Although it has given us the Mid Hants Line.) The abandoned railway line could have been re-purposed as a hugely useful bicycle and pedestrian route linking villages along the Itchen Valley. This myopic action is about to be repeated by Highways England who wish to fill the arch of a railway bridge in Itchen Stoke, under Stoke Road with



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Save the Dates

Itchen Valley Flower and Produce Festival postponed to 2022
**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

concrete as one of their maintenance saving policies. This will completely stop in its tracks the long-term ambition of WCC eventually to run the Watercress Way to Alresford along the old railway route. Highways England believe they can do this under permitted development rights without bothering to obtain planning permission from either the City or the SDNP.

We rely for protection in this matter on our Local Plans. Policy SD 20 of the South Downs National Park Local Plan identifies the railway line as being protected for the development of Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Routes, as does Policy 4.10.4 of the Winchester Local Plan Part 2. Your elected representatives spend many hours of their lives in formulating these plans to provide the protection we need, as far as we can within the Government Planning Policy.

Margot Power 01962 734167

Russell Gordon-Smith 01962 733219

September at Winchester Farmers Market

September brings an abundance of wonderful produce at our local farmers market and none more so than the bounty of luscious ripe fruit and vegetables bursting with flavour. I love seeing the stalls piled high with so many late summer/early autumn courgettes of all shapes and sizes, beans galore - runners, flat, French, possibly a few broad beans left.

I caught up with Vlad from T&V Vegetable Gardens who is one of the stalwarts of our Winchester market and has been there all through the last 18 months whenever the market has been open, and throughout the winter, come rain or shine.

Vlad and Tania are originally from



Bulgaria and came over here in 2008. They have been working at Hampshire farmers markets since 2009, initially under the banner of Secretts farm shop in Godalming. But after ten years of being Secretts' main growers, they were approached by a farmer who offered them some land near Selbourne, and the rest, as they say, is history.

They started off in 2017 with asparagus, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, red currants, as well as various brassicas, such as purple sprouting broccoli, and soon found that they needed more land. Luckily for them, their old bosses, Secretts, had some land for sale with the added bonus of a glass house. This enabled them to grow all of their spring vegetables – the radishes, spring onions, chard, cavolo nero, carrots – now inside, as they were struggling with growing all of their crops outside in the winter.

Those of you who are regular market-goers will be familiar with their smiling



faces and have probably noticed over the years as Tania was pregnant with their two boys, who are now two and four. It has been tricky during the pandemic, as well as the newfound bureaucracy of Brexit, as they usually rely on their mothers for childcare, one of whom lives in Bulgaria and the other in Italy. But they adapted like everybody, and after finding themselves with fields of unsold produce, developed a new strategy with vegetable boxes, which they still deliver now to the Godalming/Guildford area on days they don't have markets. If you haven't been for a while, Winchester market is now installed on the Broadway on the second and last Sundays of every month. And if you've never been, then I highly recommend it as a wonderful way to support local producers at the same time as coming home with a potentially vast array of fantastic local produce – not only fruit and veg, but meat, fish, charcuterie, gin, pies, honey, to name just a few.... See you there!

Polly Howard

Future Events

Theatre Royal

Dame Judi Dench in conversation with John Miller, Sunday 24 Oct.



Dame Judi Dench's last performance on Theatre Royal Winchester's stage was in *Great Eccentrics*, a dramatic recital written and produced by her biographer John Miller. This evening's platform conversation will examine the highlights of her career before and after that event, on stage and screen and, during the lockdown, on Zoom TV. In support of the charity Home-Start.

Alresford Art Society

A demonstration by Stephen Cheeseman entitled 'Movement in Pastels' on Thursday 30 September at 7.30 pm in Bishop's Sutton Village Hall (Covid regulations allowing). Non-members welcome - admission £3. For further information please contact Richard Cox on 01962 732043 or visit www.artsociety.alresford.org

The Martyr Worthy Lecture Series

The first in the series will be John Lang speaking on 'A Venetian Odyssey' in Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall on Tuesday 23 November 2021. As numbers in the hall will be reduced to ensure COVID security, John has also kindly offered to deliver the lecture on Zoom on Tuesday 30 November.

Verity Coleman

Itchen Valley Churches

Sunday 5th September - 10am All Age Worship

Live in St John's Car Park, Itchen Abbas and on Zoom

Saturday 11th September - 11.30am Licensing of Revd. Peter Walker

live at St Mary's, Easton and on Zoom

More information to follow on Church website, if you would like to attend please contact admin@itchenvalleychurches.org

Sunday 12th September - 10am Parish Communion

live at St John's, Itchen Abbas and on Zoom

Sunday 19th September

8am Holy Communion - live at St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Coffee and croissants will be served between these 2 services, please do stay after the 8am service or come earlier for the 10am service to have an opportunity to meet Revd. Peter.

10am Morning Worship - live at St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

4pm Valley Worship - live and via Zoom in St John's Car Park

Sunday 26th September

10am Parish Communion live at St Mary's, Easton and on Zoom

4pm Harvest Songs of Praise live at St Mary's, Avington

A social event is planned for after this service please do visit the Church website for more information.

September and October are going to be months 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

LLM - Mr Gerry Stacey

gerry.Stacey@biblesociety.org.uk
07554 438973

Parish Administrator - Beccy Clark

admin@itchenvalleychurches.org
01962 779845

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

Public Notice

**Mr Michael Gray would like to invite interested parties
to
Graces Farm, Martyr Worthy on Thursday 9th September 2021
between 4.00pm and 7.00pm
to**

Review his proposals for Graces Farm and its future

With a changing farming environment and increasing importance being placed on ecology, landscape and the historic environment, the way farms operate needs to be re-thought.

Graces Farm is an historic farmyard which has developed over many years to its present form, with larger modern buildings replacing traditional structures as farming practices change and machinery becomes ever larger.

The remaining historic buildings at Graces Farm are now unsuitable for modern farming use and are set within a busy farmyard with large modern buildings on all sides. To ensure Graces Farm can play its part and provide a farmyard fit for the 21st century and beyond a new farmyard is proposed, together with improved landscape and ecological features.

This enables the existing yard and its important listed buildings to be returned to a more suitable setting which, in turn, will improve the landscape, ecological and historic environment on an important route into the South Downs National Park.

Mr Gray invites all local residents and interested parties to Graces Farm to review his proposals for the future of the farm.

If you have any queries please contact:-

James Fraser of BCM (Mr Gray's agent) on 01962 763900

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Green Energy Systems for the future?

The government has announced that gas boilers should not be installed in new builds after 2025. One of the alternatives is to use a heat pump which today only accounts for about one per cent of the market. When I finally move, the gas boiler has to be replaced so should I take the cheaper option and replace like for like or consider the environment and go for something more energy efficient?

The technology is not new. Heat pumps work by taking natural warmth out of the surrounding environment to provide hot water and heating to your home. Three main types of heat pump exist: ground source, air source and water source and the name of each one describes from where the appliance takes its heat.

The technology is described as follows: Heat must first be collected from whatever source and is absorbed by a refrigerant. This takes place in an evaporator with the refrigerant changing from liquid to gas in the process. The refrigerant gas is compressed to increase its temperature even more and therefore provides the energy. The refrigerant loses heat to be used in your home's heating system, cools down and condenses back into a liquid. This occurs in a second heat exchanger. Once the refrigerant has cooled right down, it passes through an expansion valve where the pressure is decreased and it returns to the evaporator to begin the whole cycle again.

A ground source heat pump takes its heat from the ground. Pipes are laid under the ground or via a borehole surrounding your home and a solution



of water and antifreeze flows through them. It is this solution that transfers the heat from the ground and begins the process above.

An air source heat pump takes in air from outside to heat the refrigerant. The same process is used to heat the solution, turning it into a gas and compressing it. If you have a substantial amount of water around your property, such as a large pond or lake, you may be able to use a water source heat pump to supply your home with hot water. Heat pumps can operate when the ground or air is as low as -15°C .

An air source heat pump is relatively easy to install, as long as there is a suitable place to put the outdoor unit which will have cables and heating pipes connecting it to the heating system. A ground source heat pump is usually more expensive to install because of the additional labour. The ground will need to be dug or drilled so that the pipes or bore holes can be inserted which will require the access of heavy machinery.

Heat pumps require electricity to work and one calculation suggests an average home will use around 4,000 kWh.

Issues which all need to consider when

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thinking of using a heat pump:

- Costs said to be up to £20,000.
- Space required outside.
- Noise.
- Access for equipment if using a ground source.

As yet, there is little experience with the systems for domestic use. A lot of things are changing and sadly it must be recognised that most politicians are not well trained in technical fields or engineering. This is a serious topic for us all and needs to be well thought out. We have all seen the effects of climate change this year, far more serious and significant than Covid 19. My generation has achieved something – lasting peace in Europe but will our hunger for energy in all that we do end up being a far more significant factor?

Tony Gaster

Parish letter

Welcome to this month's Parish letter but, much more importantly, a wholehearted welcome to Peter and Georgie. We all hope that they will find happiness and



contentment in our beautiful valley, and look forward to the commencement of his Ministry amongst us. I was reading recently of the Queen's official welcome to Balmoral Castle, which took place two weeks after her arrival in Scotland; likewise Peter and Georgie's official welcome will come a month after their arrival here, with his Service of Institution as Rector of our Parish, and the symbolic handing over

of the keys to the four churches. Let us hope and pray that they have had a peaceful month settling in and getting to know the Valley.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

How do we define the word "welcome" in the Valley? To answer this question, I asked various people what it meant to them, the first being Gerry Stacey. He thought that a "welcome" usually included food, and this is exactly what we have missed being able to offer, during lockdown – something that the Valley does so well. We sadly miss those precious moments of communication after a Service in Church, coffee parties, tea parties, etc. These meetings over food and drink give us a chance to really welcome strangers, to get to know them and to begin the first steps to friendship and love.

How do we welcome family and friends? Hopefully, with happy smiles, big hugs and kisses, and with many expressions of joy at our reunion – followed by the provision of the sort of food and drink that they will like, cooked lovingly for them. Luckily for us, all our family members live either very near or within an hour and a half, so their visits are usually for lunch and tea, giving us the chance to produce some of their favourite sweet treats. How do we welcome strangers? If on a dog walk and you discover they have just arrived in the area, probably with a "Welcome to the Valley", and the hope that you will see them again and progress the conversation. In Church, when introduced, it is probably with a handshake (when allowed!), and a smile, whilst looking them straight in the eye, as we say "Welcome". That

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I'm sick of these silly old rhymes
Which have nothing to do with the times
IVN needs updating
We're anticipating
The editor's new grand designs.

first moment of contact is so important, and has been sadly curtailed by Covid and mask wearing. It is difficult to convey the warmth that one feels with just the eyes, despite them being the “windows of the soul”.

How do we progress from strangers to friends? This must be through communication and conversation, and asking the newcomers more about themselves and their families – always made easier with a cup of coffee and biscuit in hand. By the time this goes to press, I hope we will again be able to share “The Peace” in Church – a simple act of friendship that symbolizes so much, and meet each other in the first six weeks of Peter’s Ministry at the many services and celebrations planned.

Jesus set us such a wonderful example of welcoming and empathy with all the crowds who turned out to listen to him. Although the disciples and He were weary from travelling and performing miracles, He still had time to turn bread and small fishes into enough food for firstly 5,000 and then 4,000 people to share, and it is in this sharing with people that we come to know each better, and friendship, a sense of belonging and love emerge.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3:28

This is another powerful message from Jesus, which is just as relevant today as it was then, and one that we would do well to emulate. He welcomed everyone, Jew and Gentile, saint and sinner, tax collector and prostitute, and invited them to sit down with Him. In a community such as ours, everyone should feel welcome and included, whether they are churchgoers or not. Many people have spoken about the

“warmth” of the Valley, but, inevitably, some fall beneath the radar, and it would be a pity to think of them being lonely and sad, when there so many of us who would be happy to visit and sit and talk, so please get in touch if we can help.

Lavinia Owen 01962 779162

New Rector

The appointment and licensing of our new Rector continues apace.

A few weeks ago, the formalities were completed allowing the appointment of a ‘Rector’, rather than a ‘Priest in Charge’, which, although a technical matter, ensures greater stability for our parish. The Rectory in Martyr Worthy was vacated in good time for Peter and Georgie Walker to move in in early August. Last week we received the formal approval by our patron, the Crown, which was announced to the congregation on Sunday 15 August and it was published in the ecclesiastical press later. Peter will start work in the parish on 1 September and we are working on the arrangements for his licensing by Bishop David on Saturday, 11 September at 11.30am in St Mary’s, Easton, to which everyone is invited.

We are in for exciting times as Peter is brimming over with fresh ideas. As a first step, the regular service pattern will temporarily be set aside to allow for some special introductory services which are to be closely associated with a social occasion in each village. To these social occasions all of the residents of the Valley are to be invited to meet Peter and Georgie at the earliest opportunity. The details of all this will be published in due course. Watch this space!

Theo Mezger

Practical Gardening

I am sorry to report an unwelcome guest: muntjac, perhaps the most destructive creature I have come across. And of course my garden provides plenty to eat and several flowers have been decimated. I have made several attempts to increase fence height, so far without success. When I came here 16 years ago, the main enemy was rabbits and I successfully fenced to keep them out. There are still plenty of blooms, and the late sowing of sweet peas is a delight. Quite why main crop potatoes have been ready to harvest so early (mid August), I don't know but yield has been good. Tomato yields have also been good across all varieties but sadly blight now seems in evidence. The plum and apple crops have been poor due to the very late frost. Yet blackberry and autumn raspberry crops will be exceptional I think. I've been cutting back the old raspberry canes. Hedges have also grown exceptionally this year and it's been necessary to do a first cut of yew and beech with huge amounts to shred. It all makes good compost.

Tony Gaster



YOUR CLUB



The Itchen Abbas and Avington Badminton Group meets every Thursday evening at the Village Hall from 16 September at 7.30.

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in September

Black bins and brown garden bins on Friday 10 and 24 September. Green bins on Saturday 4 and Friday 17 September. Glass boxes on Friday 17 September.

Farmers' Market in Winchester

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Parish Council Full Meeting

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