

Valley^{ITCHEN} News

Issue 96 December 2021

For Avington, Easton, Icthen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



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WELCOME to the Valley News



Greetings from the hill tops of Olivers Battery and the astonishing views all the way to the island. I am delighted to be able to help again with editing. I feel we have now bridged a gap with new folk wanting to help (see page 16), quite a relief! This issue has a number of regular contributors and some who are new. It provides a great variety of information and I recognise that readers may find only some of the articles of interest.

However, we at IVN provide a wide source of information, some gossip, some helpful advice and a lot of lovely photographs. It's been a challenge but I am hopeful you will see this publication drop through your letterbox for a long time to come.

Since my move, I have never been busier but a word of advice if employing a builder. Always look behind the scene or only use someone you trust. The building industry is very busy and prices for many items are rising all the time, timber is just one example.

If you wonder about the order of articles in the magazine, let me tell you that some come in well after the announced deadline which makes life very difficult as we always want to use contributions. The Itchen Valley is a lively and thriving community. Is there something you do that might be of interest more widely? Are there topics that need a debate?

I was pleased to see a good response to tree planting. I have to confess, I have had a mature tree felled in my new garden, for good reasons but it will be replaced by three or four others.

I have taken to cycling again and have

an electric bike, essential when you are old and live at the top of a hill. Perhaps my contribution to COP, mentioned a few times in this issue. However, it seems, whenever possible, that I should use it to get around and I find most other road users are accommodating. The essential bit is to have all the right kit, which must include a reflective jacket. Please continue to support our advertisers. Pictured above is team Gaster, old and new. Next month's editor is Charlotte Appleby.

Tony Gaster

Itchen Valley News

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Cover photo by Gavin Edgerley-Harris and other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Winchester Hospice Christmas Shopping Event, Friday 3 December in Itchen Abbas Village Hall

From 4 to 9 pm to raise funds for the Winchester Hospice. The Hospice is now up and running at the RHCH with inpatients as well as palliative care

being provided in the community. The capital funds have been raised - an amazing £4.4 million - thanks to community support. The fundraising journey continues as the charity will support the facility with 30% of its running costs including some physical improvements that cannot be covered by the NHS, so please do support the cause.

Mike Gretton



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT

**Friday 3 December | 4pm to 9pm
Itchen Abbas Village Hall, Winchester**

Great deals and lots of new items from small, local and independent businesses - perfect for your Christmas shopping!

£2 ENTRY FEE

Join us
at the
village hall

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outside & inside.
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Christmas Fair

Saturday

4th Dec

2pm - 5pm



**The Plough's Christmas quiz
Sunday 12 December**

Prizes to be won including the quiz trophy!

Due to popular demand we'll be serving wood fired pizza before the quiz. Entry fee per person is £2, which contributes to the amazing prizes.

To book please call 779191.

Ashley Young, *The Plough Inn*

**Itchen Valley Choir concert
Wednesday 15 December
7.45 pm**



A light-hearted seasonal concert in Itchen Abbas village hall featuring "Sing a Song of Christmas" and other pieces, including a world premiere. Seats must be booked in advance from ivcshub@gmail.com No admission without pre-booking. Vernon Tottle



Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club

Hampshire Cricket League - Best Ground Competition 2021

48 Hampshire cricket grounds were nominated for HCL's 'Best Ground Competition' in October this year.

Voting was on Twitter and open to anyone using social media. Following the elimination rounds, EMWCC won their semi-final against Hartley Witney CC and Paultons CC and then featured in the final against Odiham & Greywell CC. In the end EMWCC received 45% of the vote, but Odiham won with 55%. We are very grateful to all our supporters within the Itchen Valley, our friends and associates, as well as other local cricket clubs who voted for us following their elimination.

Being in the final was a well-deserved acknowledgement for the superb work of our Head Groundsman at EMWCC - Lee Padwick – whose hard work, knowledge and professionalism has continued to improve a beautiful cricket ground in the heart of the

village. Lee has been associated with EMWCC all his life. His father, Clive Padwick, was a key player at the club for many years - and indeed still volunteers to help with the ground. Lee's

expertise in all things lawn and grass stem from helping Dave 'Coops' Cooper, the Head Groundsman when he was a young boy. Lee played Colts cricket at EMWCC with his brother Mark and they then progressed through to playing in the Men's adult teams. Lee was appointed Head Groundsman following Coops's retirement in 2019. Lee has also worked on the grounds staff of Surrey County Cricket Club, maintains the Sparsholt CC cricket ground and has been recognised by HCL for his grounds skills and they have appointed him to advise on the pitches of other grounds around the county.

Lee has quite a juggling act during the





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summer, with Adults & Juniors, both Men's & Women's teams, all requesting grass pitches for matches and practice, marked out appropriately, as well as access for training. Our autumnal work at the David Roth Ground is now complete and the square has been put to bed for the winter. The Club is also very grateful for the continued support to our groundsman from Michael Gray, our neighbouring farmer, allowing many of the necessary grounds activities to be completed together. The Club has recently planted four native trees around the ground; and beyond the manicured square and mown outfield are areas of planted rough grass. Local residents enjoy unlimited access to the ground for recreational purposes throughout the year.

The cricket club committee has instigated many improvements to the ground over the last few years, such as the new secure garage / store, named in honour of Coops after his long-standing service to the Club. We have also added a secure storage area behind the Club House, completed this year in partnership with the Village Hall. New grounds machinery and equipment have also been purchased.

Contact details for any questions about the cricket club are as follows:

Club Chairman - Adrian Lee
fulford.lee@btinternet.com

Club Secretary - Seb Stannard
seb.stannard@btinternet.com

Juniors Administrator – Rhi Kerr
juniors@emwcc.com

NB Please note that the annual Bingo evening has unfortunately had to be cancelled this year; we hope to have the event back with a bang in 2022!

Lynda Gray Press Officer
ldaten453@aol.com 0775997435

Jackie's County Corner

Merry Christmas!
Thank you for your comments about recycling following November's County



Corner. I'll return to Recycling in the New Year.

2021 hasn't been easy, and many of us haven't been 'boosted' yet to protect us from Covid 19 because of our beliefs, or our age or the venue for the vaccination. I urge you to take up the offer of the booster as soon as you can. If you need help to reach the vaccination centre, and don't know how you are going to get there, please let me know. I can signpost you to organisations who can help.

Hopefully though, you have enjoyed some good times in 2021. Quizzes were one way we have kept touch with friends, both in our local Pub and on zoom. A recent Quiz round was COP-In or COP-Out? What CoP26 promises would you have made?

You can see more questions at www.carbonbrief.org/the-carbon-brief-quiz-2020

It set me thinking about my Personal Carbon Plan towards 'net zero by 2030'. Have you got a Personal Carbon Plan? Does it involve using less electricity, generating more energy, driving less, and driving more slowly, walking more, no more plane journeys, substituting a bus ride for the car, insulating your home, eating less?

I'd be interested to hear how you are making changes to your lifestyle to tackle Climate Change: you can see

more ideas on
www.newleafalresford.org or
www.winacc.org.uk I'll be sharing
thoughts for PCP's in a future County
Corner.



I recently joined in a call on
'Community Preparedness', primarily in
case of flooding and the results of
other terrible weather, with HCC and
the Environment Agency.
To register for Floodline warnings
(though not Storm water notifications)
go to www.gov.uk/check-flooding or
call 0345 988 1188.

A really good idea is to create a 'grab
bag': a simple plastic wallet containing
copies of all the necessary paperwork
to enable you to deal with life if your
home is consumed by flooding or any
other emergency. By keeping this near
your front door, you will be better
prepared to deal with any scenario that
needs you to leave your home in a
hurry. It will be reassuring to know
that you have the paperwork at hand in
a crisis!

If you need me urgently over the
Christmas period, please call 01962
791054 (with ansaphone). I look
forward to talking with you again in the
New Year.

Jackie Porter, Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk,
text 07973 696 085

Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

100 not out!

Yes, we made it to 100. The Parish
Council recently launched its campaign
to support the Queen's Green Canopy,
a national initiative to celebrate her
reign and to serve as a legacy for future
generations to enjoy. We had hoped to
recruit 70 green households from
across the Valley to plant a tree in their
gardens, one for each year of Her
Majesty's tenure. But we're chuffed to
report that we've exceeded our target
with over 100 residents and
organisations signing up. Some folks
volunteered without a second's
thought, others needed a little more
encouragement, if you get my meaning.
And, tree-mendously, some are aiming
to plant multiple specimens over the
coming months.

All participants will shortly receive a
certificate from the Parish Council,
surely a must-have collector's item in
the future, which you may shortly see



framed and mounted in the smallest room of houses the length and breadth of the Valley. All participants will have their name included on a “roll of honour” on the Parish Council’s website and also be invited to a drinks reception and ceremonial tree planting at Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall on 2 June 2022, presided over by a Queen’s representative in the County. All for just planting a tree! Astonishing! The good news is that it’s not too late to join the swelling band of planters. For those with no space to plant a tree, the Parish Council will willingly plant one on your behalf for a small donation of £25 - cash for saplings! If you think you might be able to plant a tree in your garden (or pay a forfeit of £25) before the spring, please let me know at the address below. In the meantime,

Keeeeee.....p planting!!

Steve Percy

cllr.s.percy@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk

A Sparkling Evening

The Upper Itchen Valley Society members were entertained to a history of the Grange winemaking project. With an eight year interval between planting and the first bottles being sold, a long term vision was required. Zam Baring gave us a most entertaining account of it and illustrated his sparkling talk with tastings of two of his delicious wines – a sure way to the hearts of his audience. He explained that, in the absence of EU workers, local volunteers are being asked to help with tasks such as pruning. When the prospect of being rewarded in wine



was dangled, some of the audience seemed to feel that brushing up on their secateur skills might be a good idea.

The talk was followed by the AGM – a brief, friendly and uncontroversial meeting at which the committee were re-elected and the officers thanked. Anyone who has moved into the Valley and wishes to find out more about the Society and how to join, can contact upperitchenvalleysoc@gmail.com - I really recommend you to join!

Charlotte Appleby





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Christmas feasting - lots on offer at Hampshire Farmers Markets

Have you decided what you're having for your Christmas feast this year? Maybe you've already ordered your turkey or goose, or perhaps it's going to be a leg of lamb or a sirloin of beef this year, but if not, Hampshire Farmers Markets have got plenty of fantastic stalls selling local ethically produced meat.



Having visited Mill Farm Organic last month to explore different Christmas feasting ideas, this month I headed down to Noah's Ark Farm to take a look at their magnificent turkeys. Noah's Ark Farm is situated in the heart of the New Forest. Although they originally farmed in Bournemouth



for many years, Sue and her family moved to Ashley, near New Milton in 1988, and predominantly farm poultry. They have around 1500 chickens kept in three different houses - the majority, being layers, are Lohmann Browns and they produce lovely brown eggs with a rich coloured yolk. The other breed is Ross, which are then sold at our markets as whole or pieces of chicken as well as in their delicious chicken sausages.

As well as their one gander and three geese, whose eggs they also sell at the markets, they have 86 ewes with two rams. As I am beginning to learn, having the right breed is super important to get the perfect ratio of fat covering and lean meat and as Sue explained to me, the rams here are Texel because that gives the lamb a good backend, meaning nice lean legs!

But of course the main reason I am here is to see the turkeys. When we walked across the farm towards the field where the turkeys are kept, nothing could prepare me for the noise!

Noahs Ark have around 800-1000 turkeys, which arrived on the farm in June as day old chicks. In order to end up with a wide range of different sizes of birds to satisfy the Christmas demand, the turkeys

are mainly hen birds from a variety of different slow growing breeds. This means the birds mature at 22-24 weeks (50% longer than supermarket birds) and they are fed 70% cereal products with no animal protein or growth promoters. They are all free range bronze who roam free in the field during daylight hours and naturally pop themselves to bed in the security of the barn at dusk.

The turkeys are then processed on the

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farm starting in early December, which of course not only reduces stress for the birds, but also keeps the food miles as low as possible.

It's not too late to place your order for Christmas, just go to their website to check out detailed collection and delivery information, or you can visit their stall at Romsey on 5 December and their last market before Christmas at Winchester on 12 December.

Happy Christmas feasting!

Polly Howard

Traffic Speed

As a councillor, you don't have to attend many parish council meetings or to have many conversations with local residents before the topic of excessive speed on country roads and through the villages and towns comes up. Hampshire County Council has been very reluctant to introduce more 20mph limits or to expand the existing ones. HCC policy on this matter was stated in a reply to the Pennington and Lymington Lanes Society, whose request for Quiet Lanes was turned down, "it is to support traffic management measures where evidence clearly indicates that it will offer direct benefits in terms of road casualty reduction." So, if nobody dies, nothing happens.

The neighbouring county of Dorset is more receptive to this idea. A recent report on this topic by Dorset CC includes in its summary the following: "The

Department of Transport encourages highway authorities to introduce 20mph limits in urban areas and village streets where there are or – could be – significant numbers of journeys on foot and where pedal cycle movements are an important consideration, and this outweighs the disadvantage of longer journey times for motorised traffic."

Another possible approach is the introduction of 'Quiet Lanes', an idea promoted by the CPRE. Quiet Lanes are minor rural roads, typically C or unclassified routes, which have been designated by local highway authorities to pay special attention to the needs of walkers, cyclists, horse riders and other vulnerable road users, and to offer protection from speeding traffic. Some counties like Kent and Norfolk have had pilot projects running for decades. In Kent 86% of residents were in favour of the concept, two years after the introduction.

The Transport Act 2000 contains provisions that give local highway authorities the power to designate certain roads, for which they are responsible, as Quiet Lanes and has given the term 'Quiet Lane' legal status. These provisions were an amendment to the Transport Bill and came as a result of lobbying from CPRE, the Children's Play Council, Transport 2000 and the Local Government Association. So far Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Cheshire, Gloucestershire and





Norfolk have picked up on the idea. A recent survey in Alresford has shown widespread support for 20 mph limits on residential roads, but would Quiet Lanes suit Itchen Valley villages better?

Please let us know your views on these topics.

Thanks for all your suggestions, queries, and requests for help over the year, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Productive 2022.

Margot Power, Russell Gordon-Smith

Hampshire History Trust seeks new Trustees

Hampshire History Trust, the charity that runs Winchester's Heritage Open Days, is searching for trustees to join its supportive and welcoming board, in particular those with finance experience and an interest in the role of Treasurer.

The role of Treasurer would involve monitoring the financial standing of the charity, overseeing financial risk-management practices, cash-flow, income streams, and management of financial resources. Key skills include: financial qualifications/experience, knowledge of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, good IT skills, analytical skills, ability to communicate and explain financial information to others. Specific knowledge of charity finance, law and insurance is a bonus.

Trustees serve in a voluntary capacity

but with the satisfaction of supporting a distinctive and highly regarded heritage organisation.

Closing date for applications: Monday 20 December 2021 (Interviews: January 2022)

In addition to Heritage Open Days, Hampshire History Trust runs free and low cost history and heritage educational projects for the public benefit, such as the podcast channel 'Hampshire HistBites', throughout the year.

The Trust would also like to hear from other individuals with different skill sets who are interested in exploring future board level roles with the Trust.

For further information about the Trust and its activities, please visit <https://hampshirehistorytrust.com/> or email Nicky Gottlieb (Chair) via info@hampshirehistorytrust.com (Hampshire History Trust Charity number: 1191377)

Nicky Gottlieb Festival Director

New year, new editors

The appeal in last month's Itchen Valley News was a success. Several readers put their names forward as potential editors and the magazine now has three new two-person editorial teams.

Brigid McManus is teaming up with her neighbour Sue McIntosh, Catherine Hahn has joined with Jen Gaster and husband and wife duo, James and Nathalie Paterson, are also on board.

Welcome to all six new editors. They will make their debuts in successive editions early next year.

Tony Gaster is making a welcome guest appearance as editor this month whilst we bridge the gap between old and new.

Vernon Tottle, Chief Editor



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From our MP

First up this time, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Sajid Javid) has confirmed the Covid vaccination booster programme will be expanded to over-40s. I welcome the move but cannot stress enough the importance of ensuring easy access to the jabs within Winchester so asked the Secretary of State for help in securing a walk-in site in the city. He said yes, so we're on the case!

Bigger than most things is, of course, COP26 which took place early in November. As I write, it's not yet finished but it was a genuine privilege to be in Glasgow in week one of the United Nations event.

I attended a number of events and spoke at several, including how parliaments around the world will hold Governments to account for their undertakings on the climate and the environment. The UK has made ambitious, legally binding pledges so it's important that experienced MPs like me hold their feet to the fire. We intend to!

It was also a real pleasure to meet with several indigenous peoples and representatives from Brazil in the wake of the landmark agreement, which saw 100 world leaders sign a new agreement to stop and reverse deforestation in places such as the Amazon. As a young schoolboy, as I have written before, this was THE issue that drove me into politics in the first place so I am

personally very invested in it and have already met with our Prime Minister better to understand the agreement reached at COP. We are working with, among others, the Coalition for Rainforest Nations whom I also met in Glasgow.

It's just outside this parish but can I recommend Valley residents take a look at plans I am backing for a new nature reserve north of the city. Littleton and Harestock Parish Council is proposing a 25-hectare reserve in the northern section of the barracks at Sir John Moore Barracks on Andover Road once the Army Training Regiment departs. It is in discussion with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the northern area of the site and I recently took the case to the Minister at the MoD in Whitehall. Finally, thank you to the countless number of constituents who have contacted me since the murder of my colleague, Sir David Amess, just to wish me well. It means more than you know. You can read my tribute to David and comment on the relationship we (should) have with our MPs at





stevebrine.com/DavidAmess

I wish you all readers of The Itchen Valley News a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

Update on Graces Farm and its future

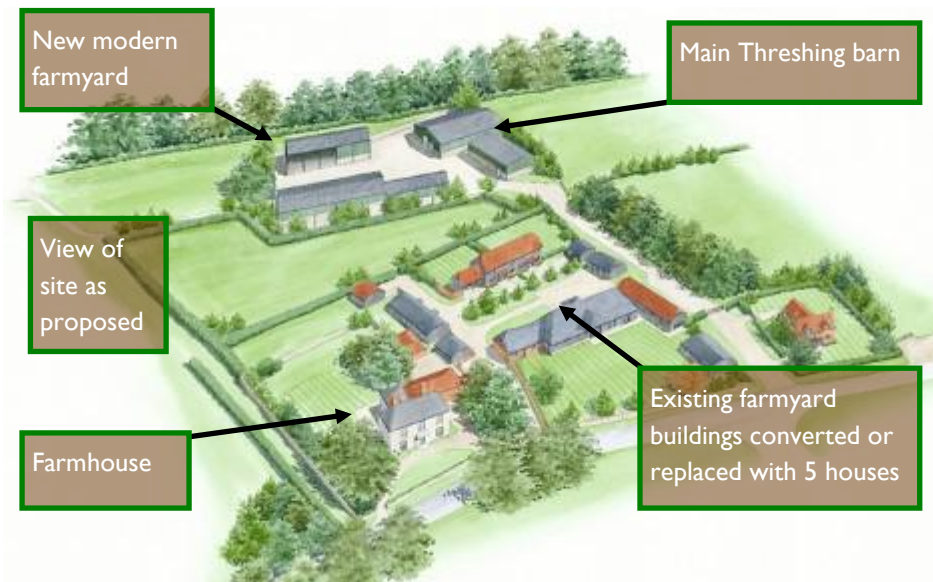
A public consultation event was held on 9 September 2021 that outlined the proposals for Graces Farm. A series of information boards were displayed at

the event, setting out details of the proposals for the site. The images provide information on the proposals for those who were not able to attend the event.

The Public Consultation Event was well attended by locals and interested parties. The project team was on hand to provide information in response to questions and feedback from members of the public. The majority of comments received were positive and raised no significant issues or concerns. The main issues raised were as follows:

- Traffic movements and generation, along with the relationship of the farm access points to the Easton Lane junction.
- The need for any scheme to be environmentally responsible with the need to be as close to carbon neutral as possible.
- The importance to ensure any scheme provides sizeable habitat and landscape improvements across the site and in the surrounding area.





The scheme has been reviewed since the public consultation event to take into account feedback and comments raised. A planning application will be formally submitted to South Downs National Park in the coming weeks. The planning application will be supported by a series of technical reports and plans to address matters such as ecology, highways, heritage and sustainability.

We will ensure that local residents and stakeholders, who have asked to be kept updated about the project, continue to be involved in the process and are kept informed of the proposal's progress through the planning system. If you have any further comments regarding the proposals please contact James Fraser of BCM (Mr Gray's agent) on 01962 763900.

Janine Zdziebczok

From the Parish Council.

Mark, our new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, has made a good start.



As ever there are one or two glitches that need sorting out when a change happens. One of these is that some are trying to use the email address of our previous Clerk. That will not work. The new address for our Clerk is on our website but to save looking, here it is:-

parishclerk@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Thank you to all who have signed up to plant a tree for the Queen's Green Canopy. If you have not already done so, there is still time. For more on how this project is going, please see Steve Percy's article on page 10. Continuing on the subject of tree planting, there is a second project underway to look at some of our open spaces where more trees may be planted. Christopher



Langford is heading this project so if you know of some suitable places, please let him know.

Trees may last a long time but not for ever, which is why we need to keep planting. One tree that recently met its demise was an old ash that fell across and totally blocked the track that runs from Chillandham Lane to Northington Road. Officially this track is a highway but, as with many other such designated tracks, understandably it is not easy to get work on it treated as a priority where HCC Highways department is concerned. We are therefore grateful to the team of Paul, Kevin and David who gave up their Sunday morning and turned up with chainsaws and a massive telescopic grab. They worked hard and by midday had removed a profusion of branches plus the very heavy main trunk, all of which had blocked the path.

Do not think that we are always at the end of the priority list and never get a rapid response. A rotten plank broke and left a dangerous hole in the bridge over the river at the south end of Church Lane, Martyr Worthy. It was reported and, being considered a serious risk, the Parish Council decided a temporary cover was needed. Work on this had barely started when a team from HCC arrived to replace the missing plank. A gratifyingly fast response. In the long term it is likely that the entire bridge will be replaced as parts of its main structure have suffered serious deterioration.

Following the success of putting in an all weather surface on a section of the footpath between Church Lane and Chilland Lane, Martyr Worthy, a similar surface is to be laid down on the footpath to the south side of Shelley Close. Work is scheduled to start on 10 January (weather providing). For

safety, this section of footpath will be closed. The section from Chilland Lane to Cow Down will remain open but to and from Cow Down walkers will have to use the diagonal path between there and the B3047. Please do not try to use the lime avenue to Greys Lea. It is a private drive and there will be heavy machinery working there.

Two of our Councillors (Denise Rosewell and Chris Jeffes) have joined the Ramblers Association. This gives access to path clearing equipment owned by the Ramblers. Recently this came into use when Denise, Chris and one of the Ramblers spent an afternoon clearing the footpath between Rectory Lane and Little Hayes in Itchen Abbas. Thank you to all three. Part of a talk at the recent Hampshire Association of Local Councils AGM demonstrated a useful Google-type aerial picture that showed potential roof areas where solar panels could be sited. Perhaps we should have a look at doing this and Winchester might try it as well. Another issue at the meeting was speeding in villages. Sadly, a proposal to have a default, fell apart in a confusion of amendments and procedure. The problem will still have to be addressed.

A piece of information just arrived is that the M3 Junction 9 consultation summary report has been uploaded onto the National Highways webpage. The link is on our website.

Patrick Appleby.



From a City Councillor

Halloween Thank you

A massive thank you from my husband and myself to everyone who came along to support our Halloween walk through. The sixth year of doing this and so lovely to see everyone again. Thank you for all the donations, which this year will be going to support The Alresford Pigs. (www.alresfordpigs.org)



Supporting our Community

Lighting up Alresford - It's that time of the year again. I will be joining The Alresford Chamber of Commerce and The Alresford Pigs volunteers to put the little Christmas trees up in the main streets in Alresford. A massive thank you to all the volunteers and the people who purchased them. This year the town will be fully LED, thanks to a joint project with The Chamber of Commerce and a grant for half the costs from New Alresford Town Council. This will ensure the project continues into the future as the old bulbs are no longer available. The kind support from New Alresford Town Council has enabled the LED project to

be completed. Trees go up Saturday 27 November

Christmas Donkey walkabout - I am thrilled to be supporting this fantastic idea. There is a plan for a Christmas Donkey walkabout on Tuesday 21 December from 1.30pm - 3pm in the Meryon Road area.

The Dean Car Park update - As many people may know, I have been involved in supporting this since 2017 when I spoke to Winchester City Council Cabinet about the possibility of purchasing land for a car park on the Dean. Unfortunately, recently it was fed back to me from various parties involved that discussions had come to a standstill. I raised this issue at The New Alresford Town Council. I have fed key data into the Winchester City Council planning department that I originally presented in 2017, and also have had discussions with the developer and businesses involved. I am pleased to report that hopefully discussions are underway again and hopeful that we can finally get some positive movement on an issue that the town desperately needs.

Working on issues raised - I am pleased to report that I have managed to get positive outcomes on a number of issues raised with me by local residents. New House Number signs - four set-back elderly residents were concerned that ambulances and drivers could not find them due to the distance from the road. I have managed to organise a new roadside sign that will be clear from the road/vehicles. Tree Shoots - some local residents were concerned about off shoots from surrounding trees growing up through pavements and lawns. I have arranged for these to be assessed.

Planning Permission refund - We all know mistakes can happen, but when a

resident expressed concern about planning permission for a driveway I was asked to help. As it turned out, this resident never needed to apply to Winchester City Council and was in fact incorrectly informed. I asked for the resident to be refunded once I raised it as an investigation and they confirmed that there had been a mistake and agreed to refund the monies paid. Jacklyn's Lane new bin - I was happy to support some residents' request for a bin on the left hand side walking from Nursery Close to Elm Road. The new bin next to the bus stop is dual purpose and has been popular with residents, especially those who didn't want to cross the road.

Fiona Isaacs 01962 738671

fisaacs@winchester.gov.uk

Lighting A Way Out Of Homelessness

Supporters joined residents, staff and volunteers on Sunday 10 October when candles were lit at The Winchester Beacon (formerly known as the Winchester Churches Nightshelter) to mark World Homeless Day and Homeless Sunday. The candles were placed up the steps to the front door of the building to symbolise the path that we light out of homelessness. Thank you to everyone



who joined us at home by lighting a candle.

One resident, Robert, found himself homeless after his marriage broke down and his partner asked him to leave. "I felt like my world had ended," explained Robert. "I had nothing and I was not happy about finding myself at The Winchester Beacon." When Robert first arrived he was struggling to come to terms with what was going on and couldn't manage to engage with fellow residents or staff. He would go out to work and then hide away in his room. Then one day, a member of staff was chatting with him and managed to get him to open up.

"I don't know how she did it because all my life I have kept my problems to myself and just dealt with them on my own, I don't like burdening other people. But she found a way to get me to talk and from there it has just unravelled."

The next day Robert began working with one of our support workers who was able to help him to find accommodation via Housing 21. Just a week later he was packing his bags again to collect the keys to his new flat. Robert said that he had avoided friendships due to his lack of literacy skills. Robert's support worker was able to organise a charity called Read Easy to follow up on this and provide assistance with his reading.

"I cannot fault this place. I admit that I did not want to be here at first but the help, support and the generosity have been fantastic. I wish I knew how to say thank you. You guys have turned my

life around. I feel positive about the future, I now have a roof over my head which is the most important thing.” The Winchester Beacon provided a furniture package, curtains, food parcel and will continue to offer friendship and support to Robert for the coming months.

Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards from The Winchester Beacon will be available to purchase online and for collection from the main site on Jewry Street. Find out more and view all cards at winchesterbeacon.org.uk soon.



Winchester Christmas Market

The Winchester Beacon will be taking over the market’s Charity Chalet on Saturday 11 December. They will be selling a range of gifts and decorations to raise funds.



Give a Gift of a Safe Place to Stay

Are you struggling to buy for the person with everything? Rather than exchanging gifts this year, how about



donating to The Winchester Beacon? A £20 donation could provide someone experiencing homelessness with a safe place to stay for the night, 24/7 support, home-cooked food and clothes. Donate by texting BEACON and any amount up to £20 to 70560, text will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message. Alternatively, you can donate online.

Join our Volunteer Board of Directors

Do you have 5-7 hours a month that you could give to support our mission of helping to break the cycle of homelessness by enabling people to rebuild their lives through independent living?

We are searching for people who share our passion and commitment,



and who have the skills, the knowledge and experience to support excellent governance and oversight of our charity.

Nancy Judge

COP26 The Climate Crisis

Unsurprisingly, as the discussions at COP 26 demonstrate, there are clearly limits to what politicians worldwide feel they can sign up to in striving to achieve net zero. These limits include financial constraints, impacts on living standards, push-back from their populations and the desire to survive their next election. Recognising these, is it time for us to take more individual responsibility and do it ourselves? And is it time to accept the reality that technology alone will not save us and that we cannot achieve net zero without significant adjustments to our way of life? And is it time to show that the people are ahead of politicians in their willingness to embrace this change?

The questions are environmental, social, political and economic but they are also moral. We in the Itchen Valley have, perhaps, a particular level of responsibility. We are disproportionate generators of carbon compared with the rest of the UK. Perhaps many of us, but of course not all, also have the financial resources to invest in a lower carbon lifestyle. And many of my fellow baby boomer generation have benefitted hugely from free education, relatively affordable housing, relatively secure employment, rising standards of living and advantageous pensions. Our children can take few, if any, of these for granted.

So, the question is what are we, as individuals, going to do to make the world safe for our children? Perhaps

one opportunity is that old favourite, the New Year's Resolution. Maybe the traditional Boxing Day family discussion should not be about foreign holiday plans and home refurbishment ideas but what is our own household going to do in 2022 and beyond to reduce its carbon footprint?

We know what the big ticket items are: decarbonising home energy with better insulation, fewer gas appliances and more solar generation; eating less meat and dairy either through abstention or substitution; reducing fossil fuel travel with electric vehicles and avoiding air travel where possible; and finally just buying less stuff. Oh, and planting trees! It's over to us, isn't it?

Steve Percy

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Our Wild Valley

Local Robin Culture

So I asked our 10 year old what should I write for December, and she replied: the robin, and how every garden has one, and that they sing beautifully through winter. I could stop there! We are lucky to have a garden and lucky to hear its song, early in the morning or late as the robin patrols its territory and becomes attached to my weeding habitat of 10 minutes to clear a patch of ground elder.

The male is pretty aggressive to make sure it keeps its garden to itself, but females are allowed in. I like to imagine their song and what they might be saying and how incongruous the beautiful notes might be to their rather shouting meaning. Juvenile robins don't develop their red breast until mature and are speckled gold and brown. They eat seeds, fruits, insects and worms and enjoy visiting our bird tables to feed on scraps and mealworms.

Courting can begin in a mild January but breeding typically starts in March and the female builds a cup-shaped nest with dead leaves, moss and hair fairly close to the ground in shrubs and climbers, or even old wellies. She may lay 4-6 eggs, which she incubates for 13 days, and both parents then feed the chicks for 14 days after which they fledge. The robin may have at least two broods a year.

The biggest threat to our robin population, apart from cats, is a long severe winter. During cold nights robins use up to 10% of their body matter, so food on bird tables is vital in cold weather for their survival.

Possibly you may know, but the robin became the iconic bird of Christmas in the Victorian era, when postmen were nicknamed robins due to their red

waistcoats.

Robins began to appear on Christmas Cards to represent the postmen who delivered them. Pictures of robins are as popular now even if we send e-cards, or messages and may play a big part in our traditional festive time. Our affection for the robin was cemented in 1960 when it was voted our national bird.

Rose, dancing on Strictly Come Dancing, proclaimed on the show 13 November, so elegantly and delightfully that even without one of our senses such as hearing, there is no limit on what a person can do and enjoy. A clear message of inclusion and the need to embrace diversity throughout our planet.

Our senses can be amplified over winter as leaves fall, sound maybe clearer, air fresher in the cold. Leaves light up the hedgerows even on a dull day. We can enjoy wearing our cosy jackets and cuddling against a pet for warmth and enjoy the first taste of sweet things for our festivities.

Emotions also may run louder in the colder days. Our rosy robin gives me every day a song of hope, fun and clarity of thought and I feel very lucky to have that. Wishing you all a very festive time.


Sophie Miller



Photo: wildbirdseeds.co.uk

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enquiries Gilly Greenwood 01962 779540
or Verity Coleman 01962 882800



From the Rectory

“Good News - at last!”

“I bring you good news of great joy.

... Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

I had the privilege, just a few weeks ago, of leading one of the first groups to visit Bethlehem since the outbreak of Covid. It was so good to reconnect with the local Christian community there, but sad too: the lack of visitors has left a massive hole in their local economy and the Gospel sites, normally thronging with people from all over the world, were utterly deserted. In fact the site of the Shepherds’ Fields (where the above words in Luke’s Gospel were first spoken) would have been closed that day if our local travel agent had not phoned in advance.

All this is one reminder - among many that we might think of from our own lives - that life since Covid will perhaps never be quite the same again, that many this year will be facing extra pressures, and that we all need to hear, at last, some really good news.

That’s what Christmas is. It’s “good news of great joy”: it’s news of God coming into his world in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ, in order to be one of us, to know what it’s like to be a human being ‘from the inside’, and indeed even to blaze a trail through the ‘valley of death’ and to come out the other side, offering us all a new hope. Please join us, if you would like to, as we seek to celebrate this “good news” in the Itchen Valley. Details of our main services are printed opposite. You



should also receive through your door a Christmas card from the Itchen Valley Churches, which will contain further information about some other carol-singing events.

Finally, in the lead-up to Christmas, during the Advent Season, there will also be an opportunity to experience ‘Christmas Unwrapped’. This is a series of three talks in St John’s church, Itchen Abbas on the first three Wednesdays in December - based on some videos I have filmed on location in Nazareth and Bethlehem. You are most welcome to join us for coffee and mince pies at 11.00am and to have the opportunity to travel together - albeit only ‘virtually’ - around the places known to Jesus in his childhood. In this way we may all be able to consider the original historical events in more detail and to imagine them with a new confidence.

For a trailer for ‘Christmas Unwrapped’ and for further information on all our December activities, (including our annual ‘Posada’), please visit www.itchenvalleychurches.org. With best wishes and prayers
Revd Peter



Itchen Valley Churches

Sunday 5th December

8am BCP Holy Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
4pm Christingle - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 12th December

10.00am Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton
6pm Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Sunday 19th December

8am BCP Holy Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas
4pm Christmas Valley Worship - Avington Barn

Christmas Eve

4.30pm Crib Service - St Mary's, Easton and by Zoom
Booking is required for this service - admin@itchenvalleychurches.org
11pm Midnight Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Christmas Day

10am Family Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas
Booking is required for this service - admin@itchenvalleychurches.org

Sunday 26th December

Church Family Walk - more details to follow

**We are asking that everyone continues to wear a face covering,
especially when singing, to give maximum protection
at our services.**

**Look out for more information on our village
Carol Singing events on our website.**

Rector - Revd. Peter Walker
revd.peter@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 588313

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

Parish Administrator - Beccy Clark
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Martyr Worthy Village Hall
Lucinda Ffennell 779701 or
martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.com

Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall
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Easton Fireworks

What a fabulous display!



We were fortunate, the weather was mild and fine with little wind, perfect for lighting up the sky with so many spectacular fireworks. A party for all ages, a family occasion, and great fun. Standing in front of the hall, the cricket ground was alight with colour from the fireworks, the enormous blazing bonfire and the bright colours of torches and children playing with the light-wands. Hot dogs, sweets, home-made chocolate, and magic lights were on sale; the Bar did a roaring trade. All in a good cause (village hall and cricket club). Congratulations to the Rosewell family who bagged the 'Best Guy' prize. (With tears in her eyes, one young competitor was heard to say,



“.... it's not kind to burn him alive”. There's a thought.....).

Thanks from us all, especially to Barny Gloyn, Lyn Russell and Michael Gray. Also a huge thank you to all the many other helpers – you know who you are! A lot of work.

Profit: £1800

Henry Labram

The Practical Gardener

I'm starting anew with a very different garden and being very careful with everything I do. My first task was weeding all the beds and there was a lot to do. Then I realised I needed more compost heaps, so I was back in construction mode. I have a lot of fence, most of it in panels and not so pretty. So my first purchase was for some clematis which hopefully will add some colour and interest. In September, I noticed the soil, apart from being full of stone, was pretty poor. So I purchased a great amount of compost spread as a thick mulch.



On that subject, it pays to shop around and I'm not always convinced that bulk bags are the best deal. One advantage of 60 litre plastic sacks is they can be carried almost to the point of use, then of course the bag is fit for future uses. I



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Largest display is spunky Woodburning; kids had access to the area, along with everything you could ever need for your home or fireplace.

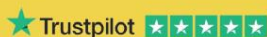
• Long back of the tail • Compensate with the gait • Feet inside • Hocks far apart • Good leg
• Supple leg during stride • Flexibility • Joint glide • Loose up • Joint glide • Leg action
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am very careful today to avoid any compost that includes peat. I've also been engaged in filling holes in the lawn. I have not experienced such areas before. I think the approach is to be careful about the depth of fill and 20-30mm seems plenty for the grass to grow through.



There was one area in the garden which was just a mess including an old bay tree which had been poorly pruned over time. It needed to come out. I also wanted some of the space for a new shed, so a lot of digging was involved. Here my small electric cultivator really proved its worth. I cleared about 100kg of stone! To clear a tree properly, I am a firm believer in grinding out the stump, a job best left to the professionals. But be warned, as there is always a mound of material left.

There are very many suppliers of sheds and some are absolute rubbish. I have been very happy with a supplier based on North Baddesley and always go for a heavy-duty version. A shed needs a proper concrete base and ideally set on bearers which can be replaced when decayed, thus protecting the new shed floor. Avoid any shed using sheet material – nasty.

With winter on the way, it's time to look at all garden pots and what to

keep. Annuals of course can be composted but some plants like fuchsias can also be frost tender and need to be kept inside during cold weather. I like to plant bulbs in big pots but always start with fresh compost. December is also a time for planning, especially if you grow things to eat. I shall be looking to expand my raspberry canes. With a much smaller area for vegetables, I need to think what to grow in the new season. And also to get onion sets and garlic. The biggest uncertainty today is the weather and that's something all of us have to be aware of.

Happy Gardening!

Tony Gaster

A date with destiny

or at least 25 December

I have no idea if this is any good, but it smells fine. I don't usually make a Christmas cake as I'm not that keen on mixed fruit, marzipan and hard icing. But several years ago I did rather enjoy an Australian Christmas cake that I had bought from Tesco. Filled with lots of unusual dried fruits and a glazed top, it was delicious. So I thought that maybe this year I would make one of my own.



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There are lots of recipes out there but eventually I found one on food.com that resembled, as far as I could remember, the one I had enjoyed. It has a basic two egg Victoria sponge mix but with half the usual sugar because a lot of the sweetness comes from the fruit. The recipe also asks for vanilla essence and rum.

To that somewhat wet mix I added eight ounces each of dates and glacé cherries plus four ounces each of glacé pineapple, apricots and blanched almonds. As you can see, a fruit-heavy mixture without a sultana in sight! Baked for two hours, my cake has been wrapped up, maturing slowly for a couple of weeks already (see photo). I will glaze it with warm apricot jam and as many different glacé fruits as I can find in the shops. I'm hoping it will be excellent but only time will tell.

Sue Sheph

Boomtown tickets

Boomtown will be coming back next year to plague us, or to entertain us, depending on your point of view. It takes place from 10 to 14 August 2022. Whilst anyone can purchase tickets from the main website, there are special Boomtown tickets available for local residents on a first come first served basis. Go to:

<https://applications.eventree.co.uk/apply/index/id/2280>

for free Sunday tickets. The same address but with the ending id/2279



will get you discounted weekend tickets.

Ed



Key moment at the UIVS AGM (page 11)

Anybody know anyone on the Apple Marketing Board?

Some words came to me by chance recently when I was offered some windfall apples. I replied "I never say no to an apple" and then thought that sounded like a old music-hall song. So I wrote one. Watch out for the pun in the last line!

Never say no to an apple
 Never say boo to a Cox
 Never say bah to a Royal Gala
 Say yes to those Jazz in the box
 Never decline a nice Bramley
 Eat a Pink Lady with zeal
 De-core 'em with care, put the pips
 anywhere
 An apple possesses appeal

But what to do with my new ditty? I could squeeze it into the pages of the Itchen Valley News but surely it should be used to sell apples? Just imagine the whole country reciting the lines; they could become as famous as Bean's Meanz Heinz. I just need an introduction to a suitable marketing manager

Vernon Tottle

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Itchen Abbas Christmas Fair

Saturday 4 December

2 - 5 pm



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17-19 June 2022

11am to 4pm

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For more information visit:
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Follow us on Facebook:
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Charity number 1133110



Road Closure in Easton

Access to Easton Lane, leading up the hill from the village, has been disrupted for some weeks due to the replacement of the gas pipeline coming from Winchester.

These works, being carried out on behalf of Southern Gas Networks, have added a long deviation for residents of Malthouse Close wishing to drive down to the village.

The on-site contractor informed the News representative that work will continue in other roads in Easton into the first part of next year, following a break over Christmas and New Year.
Henry Labram

Charity Christmas cards

The shop has a wide range of cards of all shapes and sizes from a variety of charities. Run by volunteers. Open Monday to Saturday until 17 Dec.



Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in December

Black bins and brown garden bins on Friday 3 and 17 December. Just black bins on Friday 31 Deember. Green bins on Friday 10 and 24 December. Glass boxes on Friday 10 December.

Farmers' Market in Winchester

Sundays 12 December.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 2 December. Itchen Abbas village hall.

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

Monday and Thursday to Winchester:

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

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Winchester:

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

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

Saturday to Winchester:

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

Monday and Thursday to Alresford:

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

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Alresford:

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

Saturday to Alresford:

09:19 12:19 15:19 18:09

No Sunday or bank holiday service.

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas.

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



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