

Valley^{ITCHEN} News

Issue 97 January 2022

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



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If we are currently under a sole agency contract to another agent, you should check the terms of that contract to avoid potentially being exposed to dual fees.

WELCOME to the Valley News



And welcome to 2022 - except that this January edition should slip through your letter boxes before Christmas, which always makes it a slightly awkward hybrid. But no matter, whenever you read it we hope you will enjoy at least some of the content and that you will take up at least some of the ideas or actions suggested in these pages, whether that be making marmalade or attending one of the events, either on-line such as the Winchester Association of National Trust talks or in person - in fact both the Martyr Worthy Lectures and Aladdin can be seen either way. Zoom talks and indeed, to some extent, meetings are one of the benefits of the pandemic, saving us the hassle of going out on cold wet evenings and saving at least a little CO₂ output.

The front cover is a striking picture. I rejected a similar one which showed the path absolutely straight and clear - there is no way that the path into 2022 is going to be straight and clear, there will undoubtedly be twists and turns, blind corners and muddy patches ahead and many of us may have to get used to doing things differently, consuming less, travelling less. Maybe social zooms will replace some of those long car journeys to see friends and relatives for brief lunch-time visits. But we can hope for some blue skies as well. I hope that the picture conveys all of that, after all, a picture is said to be worth a thousand words, although it would be hard to prove. If you have any views on that - or indeed on anything else in the magazine, do let us know; we are delighted to get feedback, preferably positive but, as children and dogs can attest, even negative feedback is better

than being ignored!

You will see, on page 7, the good news that we will have a new chief editor when Vernon 'retires' in April. This is wonderful news, to add to the new teams of editors-of-the-month announced in the December edition. The Itchen Valley News is thus embarking on 2022 in very good shape, with a mix of new and old to carry seamlessly on to a continuously improving future. We also have new contributors, see pages 9 and 11 for excellent articles and we thank our regular contributors as well. Next month's editors are Jen Gaster and Catherine Hahn.

Happy 2022, Charlotte Appleby

Itchen Valley News

Chief Editor	Vernon Tottle
Editors	Charlotte Appleby, Verity Coleman, Jen Gaster, Catherine Hahn, Sue McIntosh, Brigid McManus, James Paterson, Nathalie Paterson
Advertising	Jenny Sloan
Distribution	Lyn Jones IA&A 07899 922221 Gilly Greenwood E&MW 779540
Treasurer	Henry Labram

For editorial enquiries, articles, letters or comments, please email:
itchenvalleynews@gmail.com.

For advertising enquiries, please email:
itchenvalleyadvertising@gmail.com

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

Please send all contributions for February 2022 by Saturday 15 January. All material is published in good faith and the Valley News cannot be held responsible for any information given or views expressed; neither can it be liable for any loss arising from the use of any information or advertisements contained herein. The Editorial Team reserves the right to refuse or amend articles or advertisements submitted for publication. Printed by Greenhouse Graphics of Basingstoke. Cover photo by George Hales and other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Aladdin

Sat 04 December 2021 - Sun 02 January 2022

Did you know that Aladdin was banned from flying carpet racing?

Apparently, he'd been using performance enhancing rugs... 😊

Written & directed James Barry

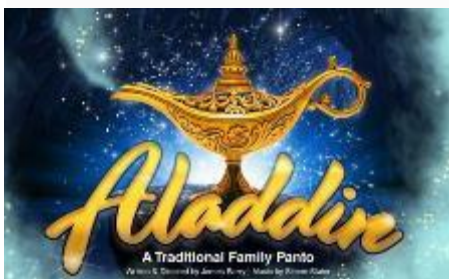
Music by Simon Slater

You might still have time to book tickets and find out if our hero finds the magic lamp and marries the girl of his dreams – Princess Jasmine?

Or will Aladdin's plans be thwarted by the villainous Abanazar, who wants the lamp – and the princess – for himself?

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

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



Or watch online 21 and 30 December 2021. If you would like to watch the performance from the comfort of your own home please visit

www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk/whats-on/aladdin-livestream

Alresford Art Society:

A demonstration by Heather Joliffe entitled 'Seascapes in acrylics or oils' on **Friday 28 January 2022** at 2.30 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

Introducing the Real Jesus

From Wednesday 19 January, at 7.15 by Zoom

See Page 19 for more information about this opportunity.

Martyr Worthy Lecture

Saturday 29 January

See advertisement opposite for details



Image from Tracey Sheppard's website

National Gardens Scheme

No actual gardens open in January in our neck of the woods but you can watch virtual tours of many gardens via their website <https://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/>. Some of them include commentary by the designers. A great way of brightening up your January while you sit by the fire - and of course no CO₂ emissions to get there.



Martyr Worthy Lecture Series 2021/2

in aid of the four churches of the Itchen Valley Parish
at Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, SO21 1BQ
6.30pm for drinks and canapés | Lectures will be an hour starting at 7.15pm

Saturday 29th January 2022

GLASS AND EYE TOO

Tracey Sheppard

A highly respected glass engraver
(Master elect of the Art Workers Guild)

Tracey will illustrate and explain the various
techniques and tools she employs in her work.

Friday 25th February 2022

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Martyr Worthy lecture series

John Lang's masterly talk, 'Venice and the Sea: An Odyssey', enthralled a full house on 23 November. He managed to guide us from La Serenissima's enforced origins in the Venetian Lagoon in 395 to the present day's dangers of higher-than-ever tidal surges into the city.

With superb maps of Venetian trading routes, plans of Venice and its lagoon, images of masterpieces from artists and details of the different ships constructed in Venice, we were steered through the centuries of Venice's increasing wealth and influence. The attention to detail, which was a feature of Venice's extensive success as a maritime power, was matched by John's in his description of people and events until Napoleon's rape of that city in 1797.

John's meticulous research and information, which were printed in the accompanying A4 folder, underpinned the range of his inspiring and entertaining anecdotes.



*A Venetian Mask for a young listener
enjoying her Grandfather's talk on Venice
in November*

The historical accounts of individuals, the skills such as glass making which were amongst things exclusive to Venice for centuries and great, albeit often terrible, events made this a human story of epic proportions. Those who were fortunate enough to join the Zoom version a few days later will have enjoyed this outstanding and memorable talk that has given enormous pleasure to people near and far.

Sarah Hunt



I am delighted to report that, in spite of Covid caution, over 150 people were able to hear John Lang's talk on Venice either in person or on Zoom. About £3,000 was raised for the Itchen Valley Parish, a fantastic sum. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets, your support is much appreciated. If you missed the talk it is still available at £20 per device from Joanna Lang at wangfieldhq@icloud.com

And the opportunities are not over yet! There are two more lectures in the series to anticipate!

We are delighted that nationally renowned local artist Tracey Sheppard, Master-elect of the Art Workers Guild, will be speaking in January about her work as a glass engraver. She has fulfilled commissions far and wide and many church buildings have been enhanced by her work. She has also

created numerous presentation pieces for royalty and others.

In February we are very fortunate to welcome Kim Wilkie, who lives in the South Downs National Park and has strong views about its mission. As an internationally renowned landscape architect and writer, he tries to understand the memories and associations embedded in a place and the natural flows of people, land, water and climate.

We hope to continue with the two lectures live, though Zoom remains a possibility. Please see the flyer on page 5 for further details of how to order your tickets.

Verity Coleman

Annual General Meeting of the Easton Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust

This took place on Wednesday 10 November 2021, face-to-face in the Village Hall rather than via Zoom as had been the case in 2020. All but one of the members of the committee were present, whereas disappointingly only 9 inhabitants of the village were in attendance, maybe related to the ongoing situation with regard to Covid. The minutes of the previous year's AGM were accepted, and the Chairman, Robert Hall gave his report,



saying what a difficult year it had been, with the loss of important village events due to Covid, but that since the summer, many usual activities in the Hall had returned, culminating in the very successful Lockdown Liberation Party in September and the wonderful Firework Display in November. Robert was pleased to announce that Helen Smyth had taken over the role of Bookings Secretary from Ina Williams, who was thanked for her many years of devoted service to the Hall, and presented with a bouquet of flowers, as was Iris Lacey, who also had stepped down from the committee.

Robert reported that a new Relationship Agreement between the EVH&RG and the Cricket Club had been forged and signed by both Chairmen, updating the agreed duties and responsibilities of both organisations to the Hall and Grounds for the future, and that a history of the two organisations had been written and agreed, and that the two documents would be available on the new Village Hall website that has just been launched. Robert thanked the members of the committee and many others for their hard work over the last year, and looked forward positively to the forthcoming year.

David Purser, the Treasurer, reported that despite Covid, the finances of EVH&RG were sound, mainly thanks to the receipt of almost £30,000 in support from the Government, via Winchester City Council, and that he hoped that the income stream to the Hall would return to nearer normality over the coming year.

Adrian Lee, Chairman of Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club reported that despite Covid, the Club had enjoyed a successful year at all levels of cricket, culminating in the 75th

Anniversary match and celebrations in early September. The Club was grateful for the ongoing sponsorship by Station Mill Gym (Seniors), Stables Pizza (Juniors) and Knight Frank (the Sixes Competition).

The committee were pleased to report that the new ground floor storerooms for the Hall and the Cricket Club were now complete, dry, in use and paid for, and the three elected members of the committee, Robert Hall, Lyn Russell and Harry Smith, having said that they would be happy to continue in office, were re-elected for the coming year.

Harry Smith

More good news for the Itchen Valley News

Mary Hogg has agreed to take over as Chief Editor when I step down in April after having overseen one hundred issues of this magazine.

Mary has recently moved to Chilland and was the sole editor of a similar parish magazine in her previous community.

Thanks to her and to the other people who recently joined the team as editors, the Itchen Valley News looks likely to continue for many years to come.

Vernon Tottle
Chief Editor, Itchen Valley News



We welcome:-

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Antiques - the ultimate in recycling?

In early December two friends and I attended an evening talk that was part of a series given by local interior designer and antique dealer Max Rollitt at his barn-showroom in Yavington, "Treasure in the Hold". The theme of the evening was that buying antiques and using reclaimed materials when furnishing one's home is the 'ultimate' in recycling. The guest speaker was Maria Speake, co-founder of the architectural salvage and interior design company Retrouvius.

Like a set for a period feature film, the large barn, which has been home to Rollitt's antiques collection since he moved to Yavington a decade ago, was transformed over lockdown into a series of realistic rooms including a dining room, bedrooms and drawing room, displaying his furniture, art and 'objets', most of which are for sale. Seated for the talk on a selection of antique sofas and chairs in the 'drawing room' with its beautiful, reclaimed Georgian windows, roaring fire and curated art and artefacts, we might have been spending an evening at the country home of an old friend with exceptionally good taste, in almost any era from the 1800s to the present day. The trend of exhibiting art, furniture and collectables 'in situ' is growing and another local example is the recently-



opened house-gallery of Jenna Burlingham Fine Art in Kingsclere. I digress...

We learned about Max's journey into antiques and interior design, via furniture restoration, which began when, prompted by his mother's insatiable thirst for property particulars while living in Winchester, time and time again he designed his perfect house. Maria Speake's odyssey into reclamation was sparked when she met her future husband and Retrouvius co-founder while they were each skip-diving for an architecture project while studying at the Glasgow School of Art. But the seeds were sown long before then when, during her childhood, her archaeologist father would deposit her at the Ashmolean as day care, where Maria would while away the hours lying down on top of Egyptian sarcophagi, breathing in the history.



A favourite lecturer of Maria's at Glasgow instilled in her the mantra of preserving good interiors, no matter what style they were in or period they were from, and she and her husband embarked on a mission to salvage the fixtures and fittings of Glasgow's old buildings which, at the time, were being readily bulldozed to make way for new housing. Today, Retrouvius is widely regarded as a trailblazer in the preservation and use of reclaimed materials in interior design.

The soiree gently unfolded with interesting and entertaining anecdotes from both experts and a consensus that one should always live in a new home for a period of time before changing its interiors and that there should be a two generational moratorium on a decision to knock down any building, to allow our appreciation of its architecture enough time to mature. An interesting question posed was: what will become the salvage-worthy materials from this generation?

Working tangentially in interior design and architecture, I am all too aware of the waste generated when new homeowners instinctively rip out perfectly good fixtures and fittings, and even tear down houses, to put their own 'stamp' on their new home. Replacing them with reclaimed materials and antiques, or rebuilding the house as an 'eco home' is a paradox. But in the status quo, looking to antiques and reclaimed materials is surely preferable to buying new and generating yet more 'things'. One need look no further than our very own Itchen List in this respect. I've often thought that a household could be almost entirely furnished from its myriad offerings.

Nathalie Paterson InteriorDesigners.net

Where do butterflies go in winter?



Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust

Think of butterflies and usually we associate them with sultry summer days, but have you ever wondered how these delicate insects survive harsh winters in the UK?

Butterflies are ectothermic – or cold-blooded – meaning they cannot regulate their own body temperature and instead rely on external heat sources to warm up. This is why butterflies perch on leaves to bask in the sun or, conversely, seek shaded spots to cool down.

Butterflies struggle when sources of heat become harder to find, hence why British winters pose a problem. To overcome temperate climates, butterflies have adapted in remarkable ways to survive.

The most common way butterflies overwinter in Britain is either as a caterpillar or chrysalis. To protect their soft and vulnerable bodies, caterpillars find refuge at the bottom of plants or bury themselves in leaf litter or soil where they wait, hopefully undisturbed,



Comma butterfly © Amy Lewis

Itchen Valley Churches

Sunday 2nd January

10am Parish Communion in Modern Language
- St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Thursday 6th January - Feast of Epiphany

11am Communion and Video - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 9th January

8am - BCP Holy Communion - St Mary's, Avington
10.00am All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas
6pm Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Sunday 16th January

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

Sunday 23rd January

10am Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
6pm Evening Prayer Taize Style - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 30th January

10am Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton
4pm Valley Worship - Avington Barn

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

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

admin@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 779845

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

until spring. This tactic is used by 42 of Britain's 59 butterfly species, including orange-tips and common blue.

Another option, and one of the safest, is to wait it out as an egg. The brown hairstreak is one butterfly that employs this strategy.

Less common is the method chosen by five of the UK's most recognisable butterflies, namely brimstone, comma, peacock, small tortoiseshell and red admiral. These species overwinter in their adult forms and, in late summer or early autumn, will seek out safe and relatively warm spaces, such as inside sheds, garages, log piles or even rabbit holes. They wake when temperatures rise and so are occasionally seen on warmer days in the depths of December and January.

Finally, the humble painted lady butterfly escapes the cold of British winter by making an epic migration to northern Africa in an incredible quest for warmer climes.

Despite these mighty displays of adaptation, butterfly numbers in Britain are decreasing rapidly. Formerly common species, like the small tortoiseshell, have fallen by 80% in Southeast England since 1990.

But there are several ways you can help these amazing insects:-

- delay cutting back old plants and tidying up leaf litter until spring to provide butterflies with places to overwinter

- leave a wilder area of your garden, with long grasses, ivy, shrubs, weeds and nettles to provide vital butterfly habitat

- plan to plant some nectar-rich plants in your garden or window box for butterflies when they wake up in spring. Pollinator-friendly options include cowslips, rosemary, forget-me-knots, bugle, sweet William or heather

- if you find a butterfly in your home, garage or shed, carefully catch the butterfly and place it in a cool spot.

Once the butterfly settles you can gently move it to an unheated room in a shed, porch or garage. Remember to let the butterfly out of the building when it awakens in spring

Jake Kendall-Ashton

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Kerri's Catch

Kerri's Catch has been a stall holder at Hampshire Farmers Markets selling fresh fish and shellfish for seventeen years now, making it one of their longest standing stalls. Kerri is just about to celebrate twenty years of being in business, although her family



have been selling fish in the docks in Portsmouth for many, many years. I went down and met her on the quayside and had a tour of the shop next to Gunwharf Quays, which also includes wholesale and the warehouse at the back where they pack up the shellfish.

Kerri recounted the family story of how her Mum sent her Dad out one day with their savings to buy a couch but instead he came back with a boat! Apparently her Mum wasn't best pleased, and still has not had a new couch! Her Dad was working in the dockyard but realised he could earn more money by fishing at the weekends, which Kerri's mum then started selling in the market in Charlotte Street in Portsmouth.

They've had the warehouse on the docks since the eighties, originally just selling wholesale but eventually getting a counter as they couldn't keep the retail customers away. Kerri joined the family business twenty years ago when her father bought her a market stall and she hasn't looked back. Until this year, that is.

Kerri thinks it's a combination of Covid, Brexit and the fact that people increasingly want things ready prepared and packaged, and are not so sure what to do with whole fish, that business has taken a dive. As well as the fact that she can't compete with the supermarkets and their imported fish with the cheaper price tags.

At one point the family business had thirteen boats in their fleet but now they don't have any at all, and have to rely on local fisherman, who still land to them. I asked Kerri why she thought this was and she quickly responded, 'name me a young person that wants to go into fishing now? Everyone's into



computers, no-one wants to go out to sea, at night, it's cold, it's hard work, it's dangerous.'

Then of course there's the weather. She says it's been a terrible year for the fishing industry as the water has been so cold, and has never warmed up, and the crabs either died as they never came out of hibernation to eat or there weren't any. There hasn't been a year like it for Kerri as in the past she has always had an abundance of crab but not this year.

Apart from crab, which are sold cooked, live or dressed, Kerri usually has a wide selection of both fresh and cooked fish and shell fish, including cod, bass, bream (both whole or filleted), red and grey mullet, mackerel, monkfish, gurnard, Dover sole, lemon sole, brill, turbot, plaice, squid, octopus, cuttlefish, oysters, whelks and cockles (live or cooked), mussels, clams and winkles (live), and last, but

certainly not least, scallops in or out of shell.

So if you love fresh, local fish, please continue to support Kerri's Catch! You will find her at the Winchester Farmers' Market on the second and last Sunday of every month.

Polly Howard

The Practical Gardener

Now is the time to get all those big machines checked and serviced. If they have to go away to get this done, don't leave it, get them booked in for service now. If like me you do most of it yourself, find a quiet moment to order parts needed.

Probably most leaves are down now and I have areas of snowdrop and other early spring flowers where it pays to rake or blow off fallen leaves. My beech leaves take a long time to rot down and water seems to be a key to this. So leaf bins need to be in the open with no lid unlike compost which needs to retain heat.

There's a lot of green material that

should be cut down now.

Some of it is very tough like runner bean or brassica stalks. I usually burn these or put them in the brown bin. Most

annuals and perennial cuttings will compost well. Now do you leave dahlias in the ground or not? Fine if a mild winter but I recommend a good mulch up to 10cm.

January is a good month to divide perennials or move them. Always pays to ask friends or family if they need the odd root of something. It's also a month to think about the first sowings of sweet peas, broad beans and tomatoes in a frost-free place. I have a new greenhouse, Eden by name, carefully designed not to allow it to be insulated for the winter. It will have to go. I'm a firm believer in having a power supply in my greenhouse (properly installed of course).





There's been a lot of information about planting trees in the IVN. Great stuff, everyone should take part, not for just a jubilee or whatever but because we need trees. If you cut one down, plant two more. And trees should be sympathetic to our climate and the space. Lawson cypress look fine when I'm tall but they soon get to 2m and much more and then become a problem. I have a wonderful book: "Planting with Trees" by Andrew McIndoe, plenty of helpful advice therein.

My new home has the roughest lawn I have ever seen. It's anything but flat and full of moss in places. Clearly it's been long neglected. Now the question is: how much do I spend on a lawn and who to go to. My experience suggests there are lots of people out there who want to spend your money. Be careful, ask around and see what others have found.

Happy New Year!

Tony Gaster.

From our MP

Happy New Year. Let's hope it's a good one or the very least different to the last.

Just before Christmas, the Government produced a new 10-year drugs strategy

that promises real change. I welcomed it in the House of Commons as a thoughtful piece of work and I stand by that. It contains an

ambition to reduce overall drug use towards an historic 30-year low and contains commitments across government to break drug supply chains while simultaneously reducing the demand for drugs by getting people suffering from addiction into treatment, and deterring recreational drug use.

The plan is to stop the cycle of crime driven by addiction, keeping violence out of neighbourhoods across the country and saving lives through reducing the number of drug related deaths and homicides. The plan is supported by record investment of nearly £900 million of dedicated additional funding. And if you think this is something that only affects inner city areas, think again. This affects us all and it blights lives across our country.

The 10-year plan is also the formal, substantive response to the Independent Reviews of Drugs led by Dame Carol Black and it accepts all of her key recommendations. The plan sets out 3 core priorities: break drug supply chains, deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system, and achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs

For one, this will be achieved by continuing to roll-up exploitative and violent county lines – which I have written about before in this magazine and have seen at work here in Winchester - and strengthen our response across the drug supply chain, making the UK a significantly harder place for organised crime groups to operate.



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With our County Lines team at
Winchester Station

Secondly, we will be investing heavily to rebuild drug treatment and recovery services, including for young people and offenders.

And third, we will be strengthening the evidence for how best to deter use of recreational drugs, ensuring adults change their behaviour or face tough consequences, and with universal and targeted activity to prevent young people starting to take drugs in the first place. You can see more, watch what I said in Parliament and comment at www.stevebrine.com/new-drugs-strategy

Finally, I have written a lot about Green Winchester and events leading to – and since – COP26 in Glasgow. Our focus now shifts to holding Ministers to their promises made and delivering our Net Zero Plan published in the autumn. Further to this, I will be holding a very special AskTheMinister event in Winchester early in the New Year with COP President Alok Sharma MP. Look out for details of that and sign-up to receive my GW updates at www.greenwinchester.com

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

With apologies to Bobby Helms

If you don't know who he was, look
him up and sing along!

Valley News, Valley News,
Valley News Rock
Editors swing and treasurers ring
Spelling and grammar are bushels of fun
Now the publishing has begun

Valley News, Valley News,
Valley News Rock
Adverts are filled and then they get
billed
Putting the mags through your doors
everywhere
In the frosty air

With the photos and the right nose
For stories and great reviews
Got to compose with the right prose
Then pester locals for their interviews

Giddy up editors, using your wit
Copy and paste ad hoc
Thank you to everyone doing their bit
That's the Valley News Rock!

Vernon Tottle

Chief editor, *Itchen Valley News*

Our Wild Valley: Great Happenings, Big Thoughts for 2022.

What with the big stuff going on over my head, I asked my university friend Rob for his thoughts on COP26. He has worked in Africa since we graduated for African Conservation Development Group (ACDG). Rob is the science and environmental director: Dr R. Morley, but most of all

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Cough



Fever



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his love for Africa is in his blood. His thoughts are that:
1. The private sector has really woken up and come to the party. It is very

fringe to hear anyone not in agreement that global climate change is very real and a huge threat. The private sector brings money and expertise and an ability to direct money to where its needed

2. Real recognition that forests are key and that existing forests especially so - linked to this a realisation that efforts to date have been ineffective for forest conservation and there is no getting away from a need to pay forested countries - especially HFLD (high forest cover low deforestation rate) countries to maintain forests.

3. Big push to consider biodiversity - especially in terms of resilience - as part of both threat from climate change and as a mitigation factor (we need the diversity to keep options open).

4. Not sure 1.5 degrees C is achievable - I really hope it is but emphasis is also on net zero by 2040 - I prefer a 1.5C target rather than net zero.

He then noted that after he left, the agreement of China and America to work together was made and is very significant - they (seem to) recognise that this issue is far bigger than their disagreements on trade and conflict in the South China Sea. Their website is: africanconservationdevelopmentgroup.com The foundation of their approach lies in systematic planning and the optimisation of land-use to deliver landscape-wide economic, environmental and social benefits.

This theme I believe is a no brainer to apply to local land-use and throughout



the UK. Along with empowering positive mindset skills of negotiation between stakeholders, with scientific data, political and public pressure, surely, though we may feel as small as a spider, we can make something as beautiful, intricate and effective as this wintery spider web for our future environment?

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year 2022.

Sophie Rogers

New Year - New Beginnings

New Year resolutions may not last long, but we all know that it's useful sometimes to 'turn over a new leaf', looking at things with fresh eyes, doing familiar things

but in slightly different ways, trying out a new routine. So in the Itchen Valley Churches we'll deliberately begin the



New Year by starting up some new things.

For those who'd like to take a fresh look at the Christian faith, and to ask questions about the historical Jesus and his aims and agendas, we'll be starting a five week course from 19 January, held via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7.15pm, and entitled 'Introducing the Real Jesus'.

We'll be looking at some videos from my *In the Steps of Jesus* Film Series, tracing Jesus' movement throughout Galilee, and studying some passages from the opening chapters of Mark's Gospel. You are most welcome to join in, seeing the sites of the Holy Land, and taking a relaxed look at the person of Jesus—hopefully seeing him with fresh eyes.

Others might prefer to come on a Thursday morning (at 11.00am in St John's, Itchen Abbas) for some coffee and Bible teaching based on the Psalms and the Gospels. We'll start on Thursday 6 January (the feast of

Epiphany) with a celebration of Holy Communion focused on Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan: the place from where Jesus set out to announce the long-awaited arrival of God's Kingdom. And our Sunday services will have some new features too. On January 2 we will start the New Year by celebrating Holy Communion according to the traditional pattern of the Book of Common Prayer, but couched in modern language (i.e. 'you', not 'thou' etc). Hopefully the great riches of this 400-year old liturgy will sparkle afresh as we hear it in modern idiom - combining the best of the old and the new.

And at the end of the month on 30 January we will try something new with an informal Valley Worship service at 4.00pm in Avington Barn (Park Farm, Avington, SO21 1BZ). This might work well for families - perhaps for those with children who have sporting activities on Sunday mornings.

Finally, January always closes with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with other denominations, especially the Roman Catholics in the Itchen Valley. Do join us at St John's, Itchen Abbas on Sunday 23 January for an ecumenical Evening Prayer service based on the style of worship developed at Taizé, the Catholic community in France; or for the service on 30 January in Winchester Cathedral at which Fr Mark Hogan will be preaching.

Any one of the above might be opportunity to set out into 2022 with new insights and goals.

I pray that, in this way, you will indeed have a blessed and peaceful New Year.

With best wishes and prayers

Rev'd Peter



IN THE STEPS OF
JESUS

Bird of the Month



This unobtrusive little bird spends a lot of time scuffling around in hedges. It is not a common bird table visitor but can often be found foraging below. Dunnocks have a surprisingly sweet and quite loud song in the Spring when the males perch up on the top of a bush or bramble and become highly territorial. Dunnocks are one of the main hosts for the cuckoo and seem not to notice the cuckoo's egg which is quite different to its own blue eggs. *Thanks to Elaine and Henry Labram*

From the Parish Council.

The Parish Council report for the December edition of the Valley News ended with the announcement that the Summary Report on the consultation of the latest proposals for Junction 9 had become available. Having looked at this report, the good news is that the separate link



between the A33 and the Winnall roundabout is still there. The disappointment is the lack of specific information as to where the surplus soil will be located and no indication as to whether there will be any improved access to Winchester for cyclists and pedestrians wanting to travel to and from the Valley. Hopefully more information on these aspects will be provided at a later date.

As the calendar year draws to a close, the Parish Council has to prepare a budget for the next financial year. This is as ever a balancing act between a wish list of projects and keeping expenditure at a sensible level. It is pleasing to report that present proposals are that we will not be increasing the precept (the Parish Council's share of Council Tax) for 2022/23.

With Covid resurgent, we are back with the dilemma of whether to hold our Full Council and Committee meetings in person or not. Unfortunately present legislation prevents meetings being held remotely. The alternative to holding meetings is to use delegated authority. Fortunately before remote meetings were no longer allowed, the Parish Council set up and approved a system to do this. (For those who wish to see the details they can be found on our Website under Standing Order 27). We used this between May and July last summer. It was hard work for those with delegate powers but worked well and may have to be used again.

The Lengthsman scheme has worked well over a number of years past and it is understood that it will continue until March 2023; after that funding for it from HCC may end. Generally the scheme has worked well for us and other parishes, keeping many of our

footpaths open and other useful work. The Rights of Way Working Group is considering the best way of keeping this work going should HCC funding cease. Continuing on access to the countryside, at a notable cost, the Ox Drove, which runs from Lone Farm in Itchen Abbas to the woodland further north, has been cleared. Strictly this is a “highway” and therefore the County’s responsibility. However, like most organisations, HCC’s resources are not unlimited and for them this has been for some years a very low priority. Knowing it to be a popular route that over the years has become close to impassable, the Parish Council has got the work done. If now kept under control by more frequent cutting it should be easier to keep it open for horse riders, cyclists and walkers.



Very recently, yet another plank broke in the bridge at the south end of Church Lane, Martyr Worthy. Amazingly it was rapidly

repaired, probably less than twenty-four hours after it was reported. Things in local government can happen quickly. So a very big thank you to HCC Access team for their speedy response. As previously reported a long term solution is needed to remedy the problems with this bridge. A reminder that weather permitting, work will start in January on the eastern section of footpath 31. Notices advertising this have been put in place and further notices will go up once work starts. Please keep away while

work is taking place and follow the diversion signs. All being well it should take about ten days.

Looking at a continuing problem that involves both the environment and dog walkers using our footpaths, sadly the problem of disposal of dog poo bags has to be raised again. We have asked for and await three more multipurpose (green) bins to be placed in the Valley. Our City Councillors are following up on this for us. One specific problem is the open bin close to the picnic table at Couch Green. It is not suitable for disposal of these bags. It is difficult to get it emptied on a regular basis and incurs costs. Solutions are being looked at but until then, can all concerned use the green bin in the car park at Couch Green. It is only a short walk from the picnic table.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to plant a tree for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The number, without including any at Couch Green and in the Country Park, has exceeded one hundred. All those who have volunteered should have received their certificate. If not please let us know. A number on receiving their certificate have pointed out that they have not yet planted a tree and asked the question “what are we to do now?” The answer is simple. No immediate hurry, but sometime between now and the spring, find or buy a suitable tree of your choice (size is not important), locate a suitable spot in your garden, dig a hole and plant a tree in it. If the weather is dry remember to water it once a week,



then watch it grow – remember that a tree only contributes significantly to reducing CO₂ if it lives to maturity.

Our Environment Working Group is preparing leaflets asking everyone in the Valley to think about what action they can take to help the environment and especially reduce our carbon footprint. We hope to get as many leaflets as possible distributed by the end of the year. The leaflets include a list broken into categories that suggest various actions that can be taken. You may not agree with everything in the letter or on the list, you may have already taken some of the actions, and some may not be possible for everyone. The point of the leaflet is to keep climate change and the actions to reduce our carbon dioxide output as well as other environmental issues in everyone's mind.

From all of the Parish Council have a good Christmas and let's make the best we can of 2022 and beyond.

Patrick Appleby.

From the City Council

At our Parish Council meeting we dwelt, yet again, on the difficulty of reporting what we believe to be stolen property and all the other suspicious activity we see.



The webpage is not easy to find so I keep it on my shortcuts.
www.hampshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/soh/seen-or-heard/

It is easier than 101, and quicker, but still not as easy as it should be. I am now on the Police & Crime panel and making it easier to provide information is a regular matter arising at our meetings. There is, we are told,

a new system waiting in the wings, but implementation costs money.

Margot Power

News from CPRE

CPRE's latest report on the state of brownfield in England has found that this previously developed land could accommodate over 1.3 million new homes – an increase of almost 10% on 2020. However, the proportion of brownfield plots that have planning permission is currently the lowest since records began – down from 53% last year to 44% now – and it is clear that, despite recent warm words from the government, these sites are not being prioritised.

Instead, housing developers continue to target the countryside's green fields, even as they become more vital than ever for tackling the climate and biodiversity crises. Build on brownfield first – surely a 'win-win' solution.

Winchester City Council, according to the CPRE data, has only about 10 hectares of brownfield land, but the South Downs National Park has almost 50 hectare. The table does not tell us what acreages do and don't have planning permission, they give that data for sites and units and taking WCC and SDNP together just under 40% of both sites and units have planning permission – slightly worse than the national average of 44% given above.

CPRE is calling for new national planning policies to prioritise the recycling of land for housing. CPRE President Emma Bridgewater has personal experience of reviving derelict land and buildings in the West Midlands through her Stoke pottery factory. She launched our report by calling for the return of a 'brownfield first' policy, as a 'win-win solution that holds back the

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tide of new buildings in pristine countryside and aids urban regeneration at a stroke.’ Emma also welcomed the government’s ‘warm words on developing brownfield land first’ as ‘a welcome change of direction’, referring to the new housing secretary Michael Gove’s recent evidence to the housing, communities and local government select committee.

On 8 November, Mr Gove told MPs, ‘I am very keen, working with Homes England and local government, to get a

brownfield first policy that really works, and to provide people with the sort of housing that is welcomed and needed ... and, I hope, affordable in urban settings that we need to concentrate on.’

This is great news for our campaign, and follows the housing secretary’s October pledge that ‘making the most of previously developed land is a government priority and it will help protect our cherished countryside and green spaces.’ We at CPRE have long argued that well connected brownfield



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sites can provide the homes people need – close to jobs, services and existing infrastructure.

CPRE believes the best way to achieve this is to incorporate a comprehensive 'brownfield first' policy in the National Planning Policy Framework, to ensure suitable brownfield land is developed before any greenfield or Green Belt land is considered. To be clear, we're not talking about the disused sites that are important for wildlife, but the wasted spaces that blight so many communities.

Find out more about CPRE's campaign for brownfield first at: Brownfield is best

Want to help us keep the pressure on the government to introduce these sustainable solutions? Please consider joining our movement as a member now, or make a one-off or regular donation. Your support is greatly appreciated and could make a real difference.

From CPRE edited by Charlotte Appleby. To read the full report and study the tables go to <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/recycling-our-land-the-state-of-brownfield-report-2021/>

A hint from Hinton

Visiting the National Trust's stately home at Hinton Ampner recently to see the Christmas decorations, I was struck by the ornate simplicity of their



paper chains. All they had done was take small strips of wrapping paper, folded them over and then stuck them end to end to form a chain of circles. Surely an excellent activity for Boxing Day when all that left-over present wrapping can be recycled into something beautiful rather than be consigned to the rubbish bin.

Vernon Tottle

A Town Like Alice by Nevil Shute

You may have seen the film with the same title, but that the film only covers the first half of the book, and doesn't really explain the title. The second part of the book takes place some years after the end of the war – World War II that is – and describes how a young woman who inherits some money sets to work to make the lives of other people better, firstly in Malaya (as it was called then) and then in Australia. In Australia her aim is to turn a small outback town into a town like Alice Springs – one with two cinemas, 'shops for everything, fruit, ice-cream, fresh milk' and a swimming pool. She sets about it with intelligence and imagination and the book follows the progress to an inevitable happy ending. It is an old-fashioned book and the gender and racial attitudes and language might well shock you, but you may be interested to get a different perspective on some eternal issues.

Bookworm



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Marmalade

This family recipe gets updated every year as adaptations seem appropriate.

1kg organic Seville oranges

2 unwaxed lemons

2kg preserving or granulated sugar

Put the oranges and lemons in a very large pan with 1½ litres of water. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook for an hour or so until the fruit is very tender.

Leave to cool. When they can be handled, drain the liquid into a bowl, remove the fruit and put the liquid back into the pan. Cut each orange in half and squeeze gently into a sieve set over the bowl – you want to collect the pips and it doesn't matter that some of the pulp will be squeezed out too. Cut the peel into neat pieces of the size you want them to appear in the finished marmalade. Put the pieces back into the pan containing the liquid as you work. Rub any remaining bits of pulp through the sieve and add to the pan; discard the pips (they will have done their work of providing the pectin). Make sure that the fruit has completely softened; if not, simmer for a bit longer. Then add the sugar and cook gently until it is completely dissolved. When the liquid is clear, bring up to a fierce boil, initially for ten minutes.

Meanwhile organise your recycled jars: maybe ten. Make sure they are completely clean, either putting them through the dishwasher or washing by hand and drying in a moderate oven. The crucial and tense bit is making sure there is a good set. Two alternative or supporting methods: either use an instant thermometer to read 220°F/105°C or drop a dab of the marmalade onto a very cold plate (maybe from the freezer); it should



wrinkle when rubbed with your finger. Don't fool yourself; if it's not right, boil it up again. When you are satisfied, allow the marmalade to cool a little in the pan, then put into the jars, cover with waxed discs, put the tops on and, when cold, add the label.

Verity Coleman and past generations

There is only one unique

The word “unique” means the only one of something. In more general use it can be (mis)used in phrases such as “the koala is unique to Australia”. But this phrase doesn't have the emphasis on only one of its kind. There are many koalas, not just one koala.

I came across this idea of uniqueness recently when looking at a database of members of an organisation. Two members, unrelated, had accidentally been attributed the same email address. It took a bit of work to identify which member's email address was correct and which had been entered wrongly.

But it was clear from the start that two people cannot share the same email address (unless they want to, such as a husband and wife). And then I

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wondered, is an email address the only unique thing that someone can possess? I know lots of people have the same clothes as I do

(being an icon of fashion, that isn't surprising) and a fair number bought the same car as mine in the same colour. My bungalow is probably the only one that looks like mine, having been adapted and extended over the years before I moved in, but it would be possible to build a replica if anyone wanted to do so.

But nobody can have the same email address as I do.

Is there anything else that is totally unique in this world?

A good discussion topic for Christmas Day lunch perhaps.

Vernon Tottle

Easy Holiday Puddings

Four sauces to go with vanilla ice cream. The first three can be made in advance and stored in a jam jar in the fridge and reheated briefly in the microwave - stir well to avoid hot spots. If they have got too thick add more water when you reheat (or, since we are talking Christmas, alcohol, unless feeding children).

Fruit Mince Sauce:

1 ½ cups of the mince pie filling kind of mincemeat - or however much you have left in the jar, if not enough add some sultanas, or currants, or chopped apple

½ cup of dark brown sugar

60ml pineapple juice, or apple juice.

Combine all these in a small saucepan and simmer until slightly thickened then add a shot of rum or brandy unless making it for children.

Chocolate Sauce:

30 g butter

1 ½ tablespoons cocoa powder

½ cup boiling water

1 cup sugar

About 2 tablespoons golden syrup - it is almost impossible to measure golden syrup but it helps if you put a tablespoon in the just boiled kettle to heat the spoon up before drying it quickly and using it to measure the syrup while it is still hot so the syrup slides off it into the pan.

Heat and stir until all mixed and sugar dissolved, then boil steadily without stirring for 5 minutes.

Apricot Sauce:

Even easier, this one - a jar of good apricot jam, ½ the jar of water and 2 tablespoons rum with maybe a bit more for luck. Boil it all up together for 5 minutes and then maybe add a bit more rum just in case? Stir well. Or you could use marmalade instead.

Affogato:

This can be delicious or awful in restaurants so make it at home the way you like it: strong sweetened coffee poured over good vanilla ice-cream. Getting the ratio right is an art that needs practice. Have fun!

Winchester Association of National Trust Members

If you are a member of the National Trust you can, for a very modest fee, also join the Winchester Association. You can then enjoy interesting talks - currently taking place via zoom - on the first Wednesday of each winter month. The most recent one was about the history of Christmas and the



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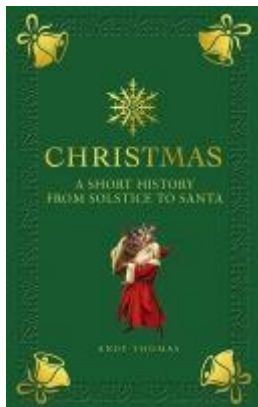


2021 Poppy Appeal

May I thank all those in the Valley of all ages who have supported the Poppy Appeal this year. Last year I reported a total raised of £3,351.24. This year (2021) the total raised was £5,129.45. The Poppy Appeal Collectors are to be congratulated for their part in raising this magnificent total.

Your Local Poppy Appeal Organiser

speaker, Andy Thomas, drew on his extensive research to show us the connections between Mithras, Horus, Wotan and some of our current Christmas traditions. In early Victorian imagery, an old man with a beard is riding on a goat - Wotan chased across the sky on a sled drawn by goats. Reindeer came later. Did you think that it was the Coca Cola company who turned Father Christmas red? Not so; they merely capitalised on an existing trend as an old man with a beard became less like a Green Man and more of a jolly gift bringer. I finally learnt why Christmas Day is not actually on what we now regard as the winter solstice (21 December) - 25 December is the first day after the solstice when the sun rises in a different place, showing that the year has turned from increasing darkness to increasing light - a moment we all look forward to. I have also finally got the answer to a question that puzzles me every year - is it 5 January or 6 January which is the last day to have your Christmas decorations up? Answer: 5 Jan.



On January 12 the talk is about the perils of the Grand Tour and future talks cover Japanese gardens, Malta, the Highlands and Islands and Threads in a Trade Route Tapestry by our own local hero John Lang.

So do join the W.A.N.T.M. - email membership@ntwinchesterassoc.org.uk

and please mention the Valley News. All the various NT local associations are trying to recruit new members and it is helpful for them to know what prompts people to join.

Charlotte Appleby

Jackie's County Corner : January 2022

Happy New Year!
The County Council has received £7m funds from the Department for Work and Pensions to distribute over the winter for food,



fuel and utility/ heating costs. 50% of the funds are for families, the remainder for other vulnerable households. Parents of children can apply through schools and colleges. Citizens Advice are able to channel this money to residents. I urge you to ask anyone who needs help to contact Citizens Advice direct 0808 278 7861, or refer to me if you wish.

You can also use a Community Pantry whatever your circumstances, giving you at least £15 food when you purchase a £5 voucher. Open Mon—Thurs, 10-2pm, delivery service available. For more details go to www.unit-12.org , call/text 07547 932511

Children's Matters:

School staff are amazing! I have been visiting schools in my division to thank schools for everything they are doing and to talk about the impact of the last two years on children.

The variants of Covid 19 risk normal school life again, and I'm pleased to see

the Children's Commissioner, Rachael de Souza condemning the idea that we could close schools again.

Ofsted resumed inspections in the Autumn Term and it was pleasing to see two local schools being recognised as 'good'. **Don't forget that the last date to apply for an Autumn 2022 primary school place is 15th**

January 2022: forms online or from your local school.

Cllr Jackie Porter www.jackieporter.co.uk

jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk 01962

791054 (ansaphone) and tel/text 07973 696085

Christmas tree blues

Twelfth Night has been and gone and it's time to take down that Christmas tree. If you're going to put it out for the council to recycle, note that this will be done on Friday 14 January and on no other date. Leaving it out and expecting it to be collected on Friday 7 January will just create an obstruction for seven more days.

If you're anything like me, you find getting the tree into the house easy, all wrapped up in its netting. But taking it out again afterwards is so frustrating with the branches hitting the furniture and doorframe, shedding needles everywhere. Last year, for the first time, I hit upon the idea of cutting the branches off the trunk whilst the tree was still in its holder. The branches and the trunk were then taken out of the house separately and, with enough care, no needles were shed on the carpets. You may already be doing this but it takes a while for inspiration to hit the Tottle household!

Happy Twelfth Night!

Vernon Tottle

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in January

Black bins and brown garden bins on Friday 14 and 28 January. Green bins on Friday 7 and 21 January. Glass boxes on Friday 7 January. Christmas trees on Friday 14 January.

Farmers' Market in Winchester

Sundays 9 and 30 January.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Thursday 6 January. 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.

Christmas services:

Thursday 23 December - normal service

Friday 24 December, Wednesday 29

December, Thursday 30 December and

Friday 31 December will be a Saturday

service. Otherwise no service until

Tuesday 4 January when the normal

weekday service resumes.



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