

Valley^{ITCHEN} News

Issue 100 April 2022

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WELCOME to the Valley News

Welcome to this Easter edition of the IVN. Sue and I are the third new team to try our hand at being editors. We are close neighbours in Itchen Abbas; Sue has lived in the valley with her family for 20 years and I moved from Winchester with my husband seven years ago.

April is arguably one of the best months with fresh leaves and flowers all around, albeit this year against the horrifying backdrop of the conflict in Ukraine. It's a comfort that whatever terrible events there are in the world, the daffodils will still come up.

We hope you enjoy the variety of features in this edition. The articles on the boules and cricket seasons certainly give the feeling that summer is opening up. We can also look forward to the Jubilee events in June.

A summary of the readers' survey is on page 27 and the whole editorial team has already taken note of requests for more features on local people - see Itchen Insight on Michael Morris, founder of Omnimed. John Lang has kindly agreed to create a monthly quiz for the IVN. His quizzes got many of us through the first couple of months of lockdown in 2020. On this theme, Steve Percy has written an evocative piece on his lockdown memories. There are two wonderful articles on the very successful Martyr Worthy Lecture Series which is coming to an end after running for ten years, unless others would like to take this on.

A number of contributions refer to the crisis in Ukraine, supplying information on how we as a community can help the refugees.

As this is the Easter edition, there is a lovely feature on Easter memories on

page 34 and the Easter church services are highlighted on page 30

This is Vernon Tottle's final IVN as Chief Editor after 100 editions, one of which he completed solo. Mary Hogg now takes on this important role.

Next month's editor is Verity Coleman.



Brigid McManus and Sue McIntosh

Itchen Valley News

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Please send all contributions for May 2022 by Friday 15 April. 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 Brigid McManus and other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Friday 1 April, 7.30pm

April Fool's Quiz Night

Itchen Abbas Village Hall. Tickets £15pp to include a ploughman's supper, tables of 6 or join a team on the night; in aid of Home-Start Winchester & District; prizes. For tickets call Sue Barham on 07776 041574 or email info@home-startwinchester.org.uk

Sunday 3 April, 10am-1pm

'I Need a Whisk' Springswap

Winchester Community Food Pantry, Unit 12, Winnall Valley Road
The idea is to reduce items going to landfill and for someone else to get the pleasure of using them. Any household and garden items small enough to fit in the boot of a car. Electrical goods should work but would be taken 'as seen'. Either donate by contacting Caroline Kirkman (07971 268852) or at the venue on the day.

Friday 8 April, 7.15 pm

Quiz!

Itchen Abbas Village Hall. Tickets £12.50pp (6 per table) to include a hot supper. Rotary Club of Alresford. To book please contact James Pinniger 01962 738788 or wjrp@hotmail.co.uk

Wednesday 11 May, 10am-4pm

Garden & Craft Fair

Upper Farm, Down Farm Lane, Headbourne Worthy, SO23 7LA. Entrance £5pp. Check website for more details: <https://winchestergold.org.uk/garden-and-craft-fair>

Boules 2022

With Spring arriving, the boules season will be underway shortly. Starting in April or May, each village will be arranging its own social evenings where players and supporters can meet, watch or play - Mondays for Easton, Tuesdays for Avington, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy. Newcomers are welcome. You don't have to be good to join in nor do you need your own set of boules – just turn up and enjoy the atmosphere.

Those keen to play have a few weeks to refresh their skills before the two inter-village competitions.

The first is a league arrangement (three rounds – one match against each of the other three villages). The second is a knock-out tournament (known as the "Triples") on a long (and hopefully sunny) midsummer evening. These are scheduled as follows (all are Tuesdays and home team first):

31 May – League round 1 – Easton v Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy v Avington

21 June – "Triples" Knock-Out - all 4 villages at Avington

12 July – League round 2 – Avington v Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy v Easton

2 August – League round 3 – Easton v Avington and Itchen Abbas v Martyr Worthy

There is a cup for each competition. Last year Easton won the League and Avington the Triples, but who will take home the trophies this summer?
Ralph Matthews

Thursday 26 May: Upper Itchen Valley Society Summer Party

The Upper Itchen Valley Society



invites all members to a Summer Party on Thursday 26 May 2022 at 6.30pm at Martyr Worthy Place, SO21 1AW by kind permission of Nicholas and Alison Karran-Smith. Also visiting the Walled Garden by kind permission of Simon and Lucinda Ffennell. RSVP by 19 May to upperitchenvalleysoc@gmail.com Parking available at Martyr Worthy Place.

Elaine Labram

Save The Date

Friday 3 June, from 12pm Easton Village Hall - Easton Village Platinum Jubilee Picnic Extravaganza!

See flyer above

Friday 17 - Sunday 19 June, Easton Flower Festival and Open Gardens

See flyer overleaf

Putting the FUN in fundraising: The Martyr Worthy Lecture Series

Four of us, Joanna Lang, Gilly Greenwood, Liz Platt and I, have had a great time over the past ten years organising fifteen lectures to raise funds for the Itchen Valley churches. It's been a wonderful excuse to get together regularly with a unifying purpose.

A backbone of the series has been John Lang's lectures reflecting his absorbing interest in all things maritime. We have been with him on the Thames, via the Dutch Golden Age and Venice, all the way to India and back. Other outstanding speakers have included world authorities on politics, on art and architecture and on our local natural world. Perhaps the most popular of all was Lady Carnarvon talking to us about Highclere and the



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Of course our focus was on the £30,000 we raised for the Parish, but almost as important has been the wonderful support from the community, not only with help on everything from food to microphones, but in buying tickets and filling the hall. Each lecture was preceded by wine and canapés which always turned into a very jolly party requiring multiple requests to everyone to take their seats and become an audience. Most of the current committee are now standing down, but with the hope that others will enjoy seeking out influential and interesting speakers and providing a welcoming atmosphere where all may enjoy their expertise.

Verity Coleman

Pancakes, pancakes all the way

On Shrove Tuesday hundreds (well over one hundred, but who's counting?) of pancakes were made and eaten with glee in Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall. Salted caramel, chocolate and maple syrup sauces and various other goodies offered alternatives to the traditional sugar and lemon juice. Carrot sticks, cherry tomatoes and other healthy goodies were also on offer.

It probably won't surprise anyone that



there were some of the latter left over, but no pancake mixture. Craft tables, games and stories provided a distraction for those who had eaten their fill.

Charlotte Appleby

Kim Wilkie: "Towards a Sustainable Future" - last in the Martyr Worthy Lecture Series

On 25 February, Itchen Abbas Village Hall hosted the final event in the highly successful Martyr Worthy Lecture Series with an inspirational talk by Kim Wilkie: "Towards a Sustainable Future".

Kim Wilkie is not only one of the UK's most respected landscape architects but his expertise and blue sky thinking on sustainability is in demand worldwide. On his smallholding in the South Downs where he grew up, he has put into practice what he preaches. Kim offered a vision of the future in terms of the use and development of our land for housing and agriculture in which a 'land first' approach, collaboration between different fields of influence and taking the long view will all help to promote sustainability. Take towns and cities: Kim believes that when designing a new urban area, one should start with the land, not the buildings. 'Street trees' in urban developments are an afterthought and when they're finally planted, it's necessary to have root guards placed around them to prevent damage to foundations and services including pavements, walls, water and drainage systems. These guards cut the trees off from what, we now know, is essential for them to thrive - namely a



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connection with other trees and plants via their roots. He accepted the brief to design the gardens at the Chelsea Barracks Development in London on condition that they would be productive, rather than ornamental. Sadly, the residents turned out not to be quite as green-fingered as he had hoped, and so the 'allotments' Kim designed have morphed into more of a herb garden. However in his latest project, the expansion of the town of Faversham in Kent, in conjunction with the Duchy of Cornwall and the architect, Ben Pentreath, working allotments take centre stage in the master plan.

The same "from the soil up" approach should be adopted when designing an individual house, with the connection between the building and its productive land being key. This was dreamily illustrated by photos of Kim's time in Transylvania where some Saxon villages have retained their traditional, innately sustainable structure and continue to thrive on this basis. We saw slides of villages whose lanes were lined with tethered horses grazing on the verges and chickens roaming free. Each house has the same parcel of land behind it comprising a vegetable bed followed by a break of walnut trees (whose odour discourages midges) and topped by a small field. A small barn attached to each home houses the family cow and every day the village herd is led to and from grazing ground, with each cow returning by itself to its stable at around 5pm.

This bucolic idyll is clearly not within reach of us all, nor universally practicable, but it has clearly inspired Kim in his thinking and he has managed to apply its principles to his work, for example in a project in Oman. Again, taking the 'land first' principle, he



encouraged architects Allies and Morrison to design the new settlement on top of the hills either side of a wadi rather than on the wadi floor. The height and exposure would give the homes natural ventilation and Kim's design of terraced gardens on the hills' slopes meant that the 'grey' water produced by the settlement, having run down through the terraces where minerals act as a natural purifier, reached the wadi clean. Similarly, he advocates that new developments of any size should be designed so that grey water flows over grasses into dew ponds to be purified, rather than letting it run straight out to sea. This will save money and time in purification in the long run.

What do we do about existing urban areas? We're used to the term 'retrofit' being used to describe making existing homes more eco-friendly, but I hadn't heard the term being used before to describe how we can make existing urban areas greener. We were shown examples including the roofs of warehouses in New York which are

now being used to grow vegetables and ornamental gardens and even ground level patios are turned into productive micro plots.

In terms of agriculture, it was refreshing to hear an alternative to the rewilding catchphrase. Kim believes it is key to work with farmers in order to reach long term, practicable solutions. We were shown statistics revealing that species rich, grazed pastureland is significantly better at carbon sequestration than ungrazed grassland or even woodland. It was inspiring and comforting that one doesn't necessarily have to take retrograde steps in order to help the environment.

A central theme of the talk was the importance of collaboration. Like the roots beneath us, everything connects, and the over specialisation of disciplines such as agriculture, landscape design and architecture was lamented. Taking these thoughts into the present day and our own part of the world, Kim raised the issue of Winchester, which he considers 'the most amazing city in Britain'. Endowed with one of the most important chalk streams in the world, rare and wonderful water meadows and a Cathedral whose historic setting remains more or less intact, Kim reminded us of this gem which is but a stone's throw away from our valley and which needs our input and protection. Take the site of the old leisure centre at River Park. This now presents a unique opportunity to link Winnall Moors right through the city to the southern water meadows. We were urged to ensure that this opportunity was not lost. Hopefully the planners, environmentalists and designers can work together to ensure the best solution is reached, taking the long view and considering land, first.

Nathalie Paterson

What do Ronnie O'Sullivan, Joe Biden and Vernon Tottle have in common?

Apart from being talented, famous and cheered wherever they go? Ronnie always gets a round of applause from his snooker fans when he makes a century break, Joe Biden, by custom, made a speech to a joint session of congress after his first 100 days in office, and I'm stepping down as Chief Editor after 100 issues of the Itchen Valley News.



Yes, purely because we each have ten fingers and thumbs and also ten toes, the number ten has become a fundamental building block of our culture. And the magical ten times ten, one hundred, even more so. There are 100 pennies in a pound (at least there are now, but not when I was born), there are exactly 100 prime numbers whose digits are in strictly ascending order (look this up if you want to, it's rather interesting) and, by convention, water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. To achieve a century, be it 100 runs in an innings or 100 years in age, is something that tends to get celebrated in some fashion or other.

And after overseeing 100 issues of the Itchen Valley News, I am marking the occasion by retiring as Chief Editor. Technically I was Chief Editor for only 94 of those issues but I did the proof-reading and processing for printing under Matt Kurton for the first six months. It has been a tie, always having to be at home over proof-reading

weekend, but as I don't go away much, that wasn't a problem. The editors got used to my lists of suggested amendments but when the comments started to exceed 100 bullet points, they told me to stop listing every single comma and semicolon I changed.

One misconception I do need to put right. A reader told me the other day that, as I was stepping down, she would miss the April Fool's joke each year. I had to explain that I am not, and never had been, Loof Lirpa. That dubious honour rests with one of the other editors who stood down some months ago. Other humorous comments may well have been mine but not the ones for April the first.

The biggest problem with the magazine is the software we use to produce it every month. Microsoft Publisher is very good so long as you accept its quirks and contradictions. We have got round them by inventing our own tricks of the trade and, generally speaking, the magazine you see is usually free from defects. The odd error can get past me and you may have noticed the occasional spelling

mistook or of words order blunder and for all those I apologise.

I do need to thank all the contributors who have written to the magazine for these eight-plus years; without you putting pen to paper or more often, fingers to keyboard, we would have had 44 blank pages every month. And then there's the team members who all work towards getting the publication to you. The editors, the distributors, the deliverers, the advertising manager and the treasurer; they are all volunteers, they don't get paid for their time but by working as a team, magic can and does happen.

My very best wishes to Mary Hogg, my successor, and to everyone who will carry on producing this excellent parish magazine, the Itchen Valley News, hopefully for another 100 editions.

Vernon Tottle

Community spirit and wildflowers

The area of the Little Hayes Lane meadow in Itchen Abbas was originally



intended by the developers for additional houses, but it was found to be the site of an ancient Saxon burial ground so planning was not allowed. Now it is available for the enjoyment of residents and the plan is to continue to encourage the spread of wildflowers. We are being advised by Nick Martin (Allthingswildlife.co.uk), the son of one of the residents. He has suggested that as wild flowers thrive best on impoverished soil, we should remove most of the mulch remaining following the autumn cutting.

With this in mind, on a sunny Saturday afternoon in February, 20 neighbours of Little Hayes Lane gathered together in the meadow. Following some essential tree surgery, the meadow was covered in part with a significant amount of small twigs and wood chips.



We assembled with rakes and wheelbarrows to remove as much of this vegetation as possible, which would inhibit the growth of the wildflowers. It was also a perfect opportunity for neighbours, old and new, to catch up with each other after a long winter.

The meadow is approximately 1.2 acres and already has many examples of meadow flowers in the north-east corner and on the adjacent roadside slopes.

A late summer cut will be necessary, the extent of the cut varying each year. Leaving a quarter to a third each time will allow a refuge for insects and other species. This area should change each year. We plan to maintain a mown path through the meadow to allow access without damaging the fragile flowers. The peak time for the meadow flowers will be around late May to the end of June.

Frank Martin and Sue McIntosh

Ukraine

Having visited Ukraine and met many wonderful people there, I have come to love the country and find it difficult to believe they are suffering so much through war. Talking in the valley I have recognised the concern we have for Ukraine and how important and right it is that we should do what we can as the caring and committed community we are.

At a meeting in Itchen Abbas on Tuesday 15 March, attended by about thirty people, there were so many willing and enthusiastic people with such a range of skills, including several offers of accommodation, that I have no doubt that the Itchen Valley will be able to support several families, not only with any physical needs but also with the social and community support that will be so needed by those who have fled a war zone.

We are aware of many others who are wishing to open their homes to refugee families. If that is you, it is worth registering with the government 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, this will at least get you 'on the system'. Donations of clothes, food and money are currently well catered for. However, there will also be a substantial need to help in due course



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to support Ukrainians with other resources—such as transport, advice about schooling, doctors, language and communication etc.

The current government scheme requires you to ‘find your own Ukrainian’. The good news is that we already have some contacts with people and organisations in Eastern Europe. We also have the strong support of our MP Steve Brine and local councillors. We are also in conversation with local businesses who can offer employment opportunities. We are looking for people to help in a wide variety of ways. Whatever your skills, do please contact us at the church’s designated email address: ukraine@itchenvalleychurches.org. We look forward to being in touch with you and working together with the whole community to offer the best possible welcome at this most difficult time.

Gerry Stacey

Obituary - Francis John Hobbs, September 1927 - February 2022.

Ninety-four years ago, Francis Hobbs was born in Easton, just a stone’s throw from the cricket ground in Chapel Lane, in one of the Council houses that his father, a carpenter, had helped to build. He was the third child of a family that would grow to three sisters and four brothers, three of whom would play cricket for the village team.

Francis grew up in Easton and married his sweetheart, Jess, at St. Mary’s church in 1949. They moved into ‘The Nook’, a rented cottage at the other end of the village, and later occupied other houses within the Itchen Valley.



However, Easton was always “Home”. Francis loved to recall his early days growing up in the village and to remember the people who had shared those experiences.

He recalled that his association with Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club began soon after it was formed in 1946, when the village teams of Easton and its neighbouring village, Martyr Worthy were merged because of fewer local players following two world wars. He remembered that he wasn’t there for the first season as he was doing his National Service. However, his older brother Vic was there and that it was he who had helped to clear and burn the vegetation that had invaded the pitch during the war years. Somehow, the local thatched cottages survived the flying embers driven by a strong wind that had unexpectedly come down the valley!

During the club’s early years both Francis and Jess were actively involved – he played and Jess kept the Score Book. They took on other roles, helped to organise the End of Season celebrations and acted as Fixtures Secretary in the days before a League was formed. In addition to fixtures with

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local village clubs, there were more distant games that required a coach outing - an enjoyable and memorable occasion for all.

When Francis's playing days ended, he became an Umpire, as did his brother-in-law, the late John Guest. Both had been prominent at the club and for many seasons they umpired at Easton, and for the Winchester District Association. John was made a club Life Member in 1989 and in 1994 Francis and Jess were made Life Members with Francis also becoming a Vice President, roles that he accepted with humility and willingness. In recent years he was delighted to see his club making significant ground improvements. The redevelopment of the former Easton Village Hall and separate Cricket Pavilion into a combined purpose-built building provided modern facilities. His enjoyment at attending the club's 75th Anniversary Celebrations in 2021 was clear for all.

Sadly, Francis passed away on 2 February. His funeral at St Mary's, Easton gave a fitting tribute to a loved family man. Senior club officials, past and present, attended to pay their due respects and on behalf of all at the club, we send sincere condolences to Francis's family and friends.

Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club

A 10 Question Quiz for the Itchen Valley

1. Only two cities in the world have a cathedral named after St Swithun. One is Winchester. Where is the other?
2. What is the world's shallowest sea called and why is it in the news at the moment?
3. Which British Monarch was given the nickname 'Sailor King?'

4. What does the name Ukraine mean?
5. What is the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2?
6. What is the shortest book in the Bible called?
7. What is the average temperature of water emerging from a spring in England?
8. In what country will you find the Chang Jiang, the third longest river in the world, and by what name is it more usually known?
9. The most northerly bit of land in the British Isles is an islet called Out Stack or Oosta. What is the next most northerly bit called. (It was inhabited until 1995.)
10. What is a murmuration and where can one be found?

Compiled by John Lang.

More about John on the next page.





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John and his wife Joanna moved into the Itchen Valley from Scotland in 1981 and remained until 2016 when they downsized to Alresford. John served in the Royal Navy as a submariner until retiring as a Rear Admiral in 1995 and then became the UK's Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents for 5 years. In retirement he has been involved in a range of marine related charities, has written a book about the loss of the Titanic, became a lecturer on maritime history and a compiler of quizzes.
[Answers to the quiz are on Page 40]



From The Parish Council.

In recent years, speeding has been amongst the forefront of concerns that Itchen Valley residents have brought to the attention of the Parish Council.



The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) takes place at 7pm on 28 April in Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall. The meeting will start with a talk by Dr. Hannah Greenberg who leads the "20 is Plenty" campaign in Hampshire. So whether you are for or against slowing the traffic in our villages, come to our APM, hear about the campaign and ask questions. This is also the opportunity to find out what we have been doing in the past year, what we hope to achieve in the next one, ask us your questions and raise any issues

with us.

A piece of good news: we have a new Councillor. John Beresford of Itchen Abbas has agreed to join us and was co-opted onto the Council at our March Meeting. He has a professional background in the housing and construction industries, which will be a great help when it comes to planning issues. He has already been involved in village matters and it is thanks to his efforts that drainage problems and flooding between the bottom of Station Hill and The Plough have been addressed. It also means that we are back to a full complement of ten Councillors as well as having a good spread of representation across the valley.

However, having achieved a Council of ten members, we are once again needing a Parish Clerk. Mark Taylor our Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer had only been with us a few months and was rapidly learning all the tasks and duties of the role. Out of the blue, he was made a once-in-a-lifetime offer that understandably he has accepted. We thank him for his work over the past few months and wish him well in his new career.

Although the position of Clerk/RFO will be advertised outside the Parish, it would be wonderful to have someone who is a valley resident. Local knowledge is a great asset. The job is part time, working from home with two evenings a month in one of the village halls. (August is the exception when we aim to have a break and no meetings). Training is available, a laptop and printer etc. provided and most important of all, it is a paid position. If you are interested, please let Yvette Riley, myself or any member of the Parish Council know and we can tell you more.

Catching up from work delayed by Covid restrictions continues. One sign of that is that after two years we are back to having a full complement of five notice boards. The one outside Martyr Worthy Village Hall has finally been refurbished and put back on its posts. As a comment has been made about difficulties for some in reaching to the top of the board, a platform in front is being considered. With the exception of the left hand side of the Itchen Abbas notice board, which is reserved for official notices, any suitable notice can be put on the boards but please, once they are out of date, can those who put them up remove them. Hoping to see as many residents as possible at the APM on 28 April.
Patrick Appleby.

Winchester City Council Updates

From Councillors Margot Power and Russell-Gordon-Smith

Broadband on life support: families, businesses and homeworkers struggle with appalling broadband speeds across our ward, some as low as 2 Mbps. Over the last few years a number of community volunteers have grouped together in Alresford and the

surrounding villages hoping to benefit from the Government's Rural Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, part of making Britain digital. Unfortunately, after 18 months all but one scheme has been rejected by the Government, leaving residents in limbo and with serious efficiency implications for rural businesses, home workers, etc. A recent scrutiny meeting was cancelled by Hampshire County Council. This is another example of non-delivery by the Government of a flagship policy. We will keep raising this issue at all levels. Help with energy costs: houses falling within council tax Band A-D are due to receive a £150 rebate to cover the ever increasing cost of gas and electricity. Regrettably, Winchester City Council was prevented from applying this rebate directly to your council tax bills, which would have been the most cost-effective solution. Therefore, its staff are having to create a special payment run.

Local energy generation: with the war in Ukraine we are starting to think more about community energy generation projects. Can we use the power of water, what about more solar panels on roof tops and can we think creatively about our sewage treatment plants as a source of energy? Margot has written to the Chairman of Southern Water about such a scheme for the Alresford treatment station. It's disappointing that the Hampshire County Council group buying scheme for solar panels hasn't been a success. We need to keep pursuing alternative energy sources to diversify and reduce our reliance on hostile countries for energy. If you're interested in joining the conversation then contact us at aiv@winld.org.uk

Cross-party agreement for steps to support asylum seekers and refugees in



Winchester District: Given the latest refugee crisis occurring we are proud that there was unanimous, cross-party support at Winchester City Council for our motion to make the Winchester District a more welcoming place to refugees and people seeking asylum. This means being proactive and taking practical steps, in dialogue with local and national organisations supporting refugees and people seeking asylum, to welcome and integrate all people into our communities, activities and culture and to challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found. To facilitate making Winchester District a place of sanctuary to those fleeing persecution and violence, the city council has allocated a £25,000 budget to help establish the 'City of Sanctuary' principle.

Cllr. Margot Power

From Councillor Fiona Issacs

Easter Egg Hunt 2022 - This year, as usual, I will be helping run the Easter Egg hunt in Alresford. An extremely popular event with all the children across our ward. Lots of children from the Itchen Valley schools and villages join in the fun. Forms will be able to be downloaded from The Alresford Chamber website directly, or will be in school bags. Leaflets will also be free to collect from The Swan Hotel, Oakleaf Stationery, Billy Goat Shoes and the Alresford Gift Shop.

Street Surgeries - This month I have been in Easton for my monthly street



surgeries, continuing my tradition of ensuring the rural wards receive street surgeries as well.

Cllr. Fiona Issacs

Jackie's County Corner

I was pleased and humbled to be a part of the 'Stand With Ukraine Vigil' arranged with City of Sanctuary, Southampton, Winchester Visitors Group (who support refugees day to day) and Winchester City Council on Monday 1 March at Abbey Gardens. We notified the public through social media and despite the terribly wet weather, between 300-400 people attended to stand with the Ukrainian people. Please make donations via www.dec.org.uk who work with many other charities too. There are links to more ways to help on www.hants.gov.uk.



The storms of late February brought home the fragility of our services. This month, I am looking especially at the services that we need for our education, homes and businesses to function.

Emergency planning: I met with HCC regarding their emergency planning when trees come down, blocking roads. It was an unprecedented event, but I'd really like to see HCC man the phones at the weekend instead of having to make a call to 101 when we know there is a weather event on the way. The best way to report a fallen tree remains online (plus picture if you can) or email roads@hants.gov.uk. In

the light of the effects of the storms, will you be amending/ updating your personal emergency plan? I got the chance to speak to some of the tree surgeons and electricians. They deserve our thanks, working in such dreadful conditions.



Electricity: many of you endured power cuts in the recent Dudley, Eunice and Franklin storms.

Some residents are trying to beat electrical dependency by installing Solar Panels and Back Up batteries, using an HCC sponsored scheme introduced last year. With just 25 home projects completed, and 271 cancelled out of over 1500 requests, it is clear that the supply chain isn't as resilient as hoped. Many people have paid significant deposits. I have raised this with the Leader, Cllr Mans, so if you know someone who committed to this scheme, please ask them to contact me. Thank you.

Residents needing help with fuel, food or heating should contact their children's school, WCC (01962 840222) or Citizens Advice (0800 2787861) for assistance. Grants can be given to families or any adult over 60. The County Council is cutting the street light levels again by 65%. This time, it is all through the evening, not just late at night. But they can set higher light levels according to area, so if you think this will affect your safety, please let me know, and we'll make a plea for your journey to home or work to be better lit.

If you have a site on which you'd like HCC to plant a tree, please search 'tree planting' on www.hants.gov.uk.

Good news: Hampshire's new Local Transport Plan LTP4 is out for a twelve week consultation now. It is a large document, but with good ambitions and lots of detail and worth reading. Go to www.hants.gov.uk & search 'LTP4'.

Cart and Horses: another month, another accident as commuting traffic grows again. The traffic engineers made changes to speed, light levels, and added CCTV following the fatality and subsequent accidents pre lockdown. HCC argue that the junction has been safer since then. I disagree that this is a typical year; the traffic itself has been so much quieter. I have seen the CCTV footage of two recent accidents: it is distressing to watch, and a pattern is emerging. I have asked for consideration of stop signs as a temporary measure until Junction 9 is complete, but I believe we need to show strength of opinion to National Highways, as they finalise their road scheme for junction 9, right up to the Cart and Horses. I have shared a petition on Facebook, and it is on my website too. www.winld.org.uk/SafeCH Cllr. Jackie Porter. www.jackieporter.co.uk tel/text: 07973 696085 jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk twitter

Steve Brine MP

No sooner had Covid moved off the front pages, as we transition from pandemic to endemic, the world was plunged into another crisis with President Putin's war against Ukraine. We simply do not know what changed world this



event will lead us to but I suspect it will be far-reaching and shape our lives in one way or another for many years to come. Like all of you, I feel a sense of helplessness too but as an MP I can vote to impose the toughest suite of sanctions in our history against Russia and I have done so. More will come and not just from the state as companies and individuals vote with their feet.

I can also speak up about the humanitarian crisis and Britain's role in that, which I have done no matter how hard it was for Ministers to hear. There is always more we can do, and there are many things we are doing that Government Ministers simply cannot shout about on the ten o'clock news, but I am often reminded our Western alliance is a team effort with many countries doing their bit. You can stay updated on what I say in the House on this, and the various ways you can help including the exciting Homes for Ukraine scheme which I know the Itchen Valley is really leaning into, at stevebrine.com/news.

Since my last column for the *Itchen Valley News*, I have presented to Parliament a Bill on a subject very close to my heart – breast cancer.

Its purpose is to increase uptake of NHS Breast Screening Programme appointments, especially in groups currently less likely to take up the offer, and to extend eligibility to people at an increased risk of breast cancer because of their family history. My hope is to influence the debate, and the ongoing Health & Care Bill, because we potentially have a looming crisis in this area as a result of Covid and the need to drive up early detection. You can find out more about my Bill at stevebrine.com/breastcancer.

Tackling addiction (both drug and

alcohol) is a real passion of mine and something I have returned to time and again, both in Government and from the backbenches. I recently visited two organisations that help in this field; Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), who hold groups in Winchester every day of the week, and a really interesting new organisation called *Help Me Stop*. AA invited the Mayor, the Dean and myself to mark its 70th birthday recently and we were reminded this is an organisation that is truly a beacon of light and continues to do so much to help us battle one of the major addictions which blights so many lives. If this is your battle, or someone you love, see aadarknessintolight.org.uk. Finally, the work of our armed forces is never far away in a place like Winchester (and wider Hampshire of course) but I cannot tell you how much I am learning through my time as a member of the current Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. In short, we visit army facilities all over the country to help us understand their work, their challenges and inform debate in Parliament.

In recent months we've been to Helicopter Command at RAF Odiham, Sandhurst, Army Medical Services and



PUMA helicopter on the way from London to RAF Odiham

the Specialist Weapons School near Westbury where we saw our potent anti-tank weapons systems. It was a timely visit as very soon after they were in active use by our Ukrainian friends. We often say the British Army is one the best in the world and we're not wrong.

Steve Brine, MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

The Valley Gardeners experience the Orchid Festival at Kew Gardens

Over 5,000 orchids, mostly from Costa Rica, have been gathered together and artfully displayed in the Princess of Wales Conservatory at The Royal Botanic gardens at Kew and we were lucky enough to enjoy the spectacle of the orchid festival in early March.

This special visit had been postponed twice due to the pandemic so it was with a real sense of anticipation that we entered the warm and humid glasshouses. This year's route around the conservatory was designed to recreate the lush and diverse landscape of Costa Rica. We were transported through the wonders of this biodiversity hotspot, which ranges from the dry tropical forest of the north Pacific to the rainforests down on the southernmost coast of the country.

During our journey through the glasshouse, we were charmed to encounter an assortment of native animals replicated across a series of stunning horticultural displays. Monkeys, sea turtles, toads and hummingbirds, all intricately hand-crafted from plants, really added to the feeling that we were walking through a rainforest.



Costa Rica has of course a unique position in the world as a biodiversity hotspot. It was recently awarded the inaugural *Protect and Restore Nature Earthshot Prize*. It is home to 5% of the planet's biodiversity despite only occupying 0.03% of the world's surface and thus Costa Rica is a role model for the conservation of biodiversity with a quarter of its land held within protected forests or reserves.

Catherine Hahn

Itchen Insight

I spent a delightful hour with Michael Morris of Itchen Abbas asking him about his life and his Business here in the valley. He gave me a tour of his pristine offices with warehousing in Itchen Abbas.

Where were you brought up and where do you live now?

I was born in Woodingdean, Brighton and grew up in Maidstone and Wimbledon. I have been working in



healthcare since leaving school and my career path took me all over the world, ending up on secondment in South Africa. In 2003 I came back to the UK and moved to Winchester to join my family. I moved to Little Hayes Lane 5 years ago with my partner Tomasz.

What are your hobbies? We both love travelling, cycling, gardening and work.

Your champagne moment?

Organised and ran an international Distributor Conference in Sheffield, which was a great success.

Tell us a surprising snippet? Not a legend yet!

Favourite place in Hampshire? Home

Best thing about the valley? Open spaces, lovely walks, friendly neighbours, a local pub, and the West Lea Farm shop – delicious cakes for Board meetings

Worst thing about the valley? No superfast broadband, no strong mobile signal, electricity outages and the Cart & Horses junction.

Favourite book or film? *'The Man Who Listens'* by Caldwell Taylor.

Best one-liner or favourite quote?

'Doctor, there's a patient on line one who says he's invisible.'

'Well tell him I can't see him right now.'

What is your business?

Omnimed, based at the Abbas Business Centre in Itchen Abbas, are importers and distributors of single use medical devices sold throughout the UK to NHS and private hospitals. These are used in endoscopy, colonoscopy, gastroscopy, cystoscopy, and bronchoscopy. Having made many contacts all over the world I decided in 2008 to set up my own business. The business took off after I was asked by many hospitals for a disposable version of quality reusable devices which my Chinese supplier was able to start to produce for me. I operated firstly from my spare room while living in Badger Farm and I moved into our current premises 18 months ago. There are currently 6 staff altogether. One lives in Itchen Abbas and the rest live in and around Winchester.

What got your business through lockdown?

Overnight, procedures using our equipment stopped. Two members of staff were furloughed, and the rest worked from home. After three months the NHS had established Covid safe protocols of continuing Endoscopic procedures that needed our accessories; orders picked up once more as the procedures slowly increased. At first, I worked in the office alone and during the quieter periods, Tomasz and I took the opportunity to completely refurbish the office and warehouse facilities on site.

What do you like best about work?

The staff. No one I have employed has a medical background and I have enjoyed nurturing their skills

and investing in their development, watching them grow and care about the industry they serve.

What are your plans for 2022?

To keep growing the business – I will be looking to take on more staff soon as we grow and diversify into other healthcare sectors. To continue enjoying working on the garden and on our home. We would like to cycle more often, exploring more of the local countryside. We have booked several cruises this year which we are very excited about, having missed out on travel over the past couple of years. And finally: I have always wanted to have a lovely home, in a lovely location, with a five minute walk to work, a five minute walk to the pub – slightly longer on the way back! Happily, I have all that now.

Michael Morris was talking to Sue McIntosh

Hope on the Horizon

“There is a light at the end of the tunnel!”

We all need, on occasions, to hear such words.

And perhaps for many of us, we need them now

more than ever: waiting for the end of another long winter, emerging ever-so-slowly from the grip of the pandemic and reeling from the world-disturbing warfare in Ukraine.

Concerning Ukraine, please read what Gerry Stacey, our Licensed Lay Minister, has written on page 12 in the light of an initial meeting he hosted in St John’s church, Itchen Abbas, on 15 March. By the time you read this, however, we hope some more detailed

information will have reached you via email on the Itchen List, enabling everyone in the valley to have a clear idea of local initiatives.

For many, this situation hangs like an oppressive cloud over even the brightest of days; and we will likely sense our still being under this cloud when we come in mid-April to celebrate the events of Holy Week, leading up to Good Friday and Easter Day.

Initially, we might think these religious festivals seem rather irrelevant in our modern, trouble-ridden world, where we see so much evidence of human evil and oppressive regimes playing their power-games.

Yet people could have said exactly the same in the first century. Then, as now, there was a nation that longed to be politically independent. They were gathering in their capital city (not Kyiv, but Jerusalem) to celebrate their annual festival of freedom from slavery and oppression, but were doing so under the beady eye of the oppressive Roman overlords. This is what Jesus walked right into. Everyone watched. What would this powerful figure do? In the end he did not lead the expected rebellion, but seemingly set about fighting a different battle. It also seemed, by Friday lunchtime, that he had lost. Yet, by the Sunday evening,



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news was spreading that he had won. Evidently, he had been fighting far bigger enemies than the Romans, the enemies of human evil and even death itself.

This is what his followers, ever since, have celebrated on Easter Day, the bodily resurrection of Jesus as a sign that God has conquered death itself and that there is indeed, for all of us, a “light at the end of the tunnel” and, for the world as a whole, the strong hope of a new creation.

Please join us at some of our services in Holy Week (see page 30) or, if you would prefer just to follow this famous story on your own, we will be making available on the church website an audio-recording of a narrative I have written, which describes the events from Palm Sunday to Easter Day in 12 short instalments. It's entitled *The Week that Changed the World* and I hope you will find it a real resource of encouragement in this fast-changing world in which we now live.

With best wishes and prayers

Rev'd Peter

Itchen Valley News Survey Summary

Thank you to those who took the time to complete the IVN Survey that has been featured in the last two months' editions. The purpose was to ensure the editorial team were giving the readership content that they valued and to do this, it was important to understand what that was.

Overall, those who responded rated the IVN 8 out of 10 for interesting content with local community events, countryside, nature and climate, and local history – people and places all topping the table for most interesting

sections. The section that was rated the lowest was local politics and government so whilst it is important to know what is happening and how we are being represented, the IVN will endeavour to reduce repetition in these areas.

A few of you have kindly offered to contribute to future editions and the editors will be in touch to explore this further. Thank you to those that volunteered.

Regarding what content the readership would like to see that currently does not appear, we received a variety of responses and will try to weave those into future editions. Suggestions included details about activities for local children to participate in and a more forthcoming and forward-looking 'What's On' and diary notices section with details of how to get involved with those events. Several respondents also asked for a challenging quiz, wordsearch or crossword and puzzles to test our brains. We have already explored this and have a quiz for you on page 16.

The other area of interest was to bring local people and community groups into focus – not just our 'official' representatives, but people who play an active part in the local community. In the last edition we featured Penelope Kellie of Easton and explored her early life in Africa and on the previous page we speak with Michael Morris, founder of Omnimed in Itchen Abbas

In essence, we asked, and you answered. The editorial team will take all responses on board and hopes to continue producing a local magazine that is informative of local people, history, community and events.

Jen Gaster and Catherine Hahn

The Practical Gardener

Have you noticed how much experts tell us what to do and when? Yet not all the advice is consistent. It is my firm belief that if you have a garden, it's there for enjoyment. It's also a learning experience which fortunately for the most part does no harm if you get it wrong.

It's great to see many in the valley wanting to plant trees for the Jubilee. Trees themselves can often cause upset and those in gardens, unlike the countryside at large, do need managing. Big trees that come to the end of their natural life, or those that have disease, need to be felled. We have to be very careful not to plant too close to a house any tree that is likely to grow very large. Roots can cause property damage.

Trees are a critical part of our landscape and we need to look after them. Recent storms will have shown the result of neglect. Railway companies often seem surprised when trees are blown over and block tracks. Whilst conifers are mostly not native in our county, they are favoured for being evergreen. The volume of leaves collected in the autumn from deciduous trees can be astonishing. There is an excellent book in the Hilliers series called "*Planting with Trees*". Most specialist nurseries will give advice on planting, final size and maintenance.

April is perhaps the busiest month in the gardening year with everything beginning to come into new life. My new garden has too many fence panels. They are not very pretty. So I am looking at planting some fast growing shrubs. Choisya is one of my favourites and likes chalk. However, it must be remembered that any shrub that is fast



growing will need pruning at some stage, so there will be work to do. Readers will know that I am a great fan of growing things to eat. In the fruit garden, I have been cutting back old raspberry canes and some blackberries but also planting new ones. Autumn fruiting raspberries usually need no protection from birds. I've recently learned that we should stop using fertiliser. It's all down to the eco-cycle but may also be linked to where some of the chemicals originate (Russia). I wish I understood why some seeds germinate well and others do not. It's almost impossible to know if the original seeds are useless or it's in the method. My experience is that keeping seeds from one year to the next can be an issue. It makes for an exciting time. Well, my potatoes are in the ground under fleece, broad beans under a cloche and more onion sets planted. Very little effort needed!
Happy Gardening! Tony Gaster.

Easton WI

In March, members met up on Zoom and were joined by Mary Smith, past Headteacher at Maidstone Girls'

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Itchen Valley Churches

Sunday 3 April - Passion Sunday

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

Sunday 10 April - Palm Sunday

10.00am Parish Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas
6pm Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Monday 11, Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 April

7.30pm Compline - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Thursday 14 April - Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion - St Mary's, Easton

Friday 15 April - Good Friday

10am Way of the Cross - Starting at bottom of Church Lane, Martyr Worthy
2pm The Last Hour - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 17 April

8am BCP Holy Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas
10am Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton
6pm Songs of Praise - St Mary's, Avington

Sunday 24 April

10am Valley Worship - St Mary's, Easton
6pm Evening Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas

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

Grammar School who discovered a scrapbook marked 'War Diary 1939 – 1946'. This contained sketches and amusing illustrations by the art mistress, Helen Keen, documenting life at the school during WWII. Originally Mary planned to publish just the drawings but decided to research the school. From local newspaper archives and the local library she tracked down 53 'old girls'. They told their stories and anecdotes of how they were educated during the war and so produced a book entitled '*A Schoolgirl's War*' which was the subject of her talk. In 1938 the school moved from Maidstone town centre to its new building, built for 'peace, happiness and sunshine', but twelve months later when war broke out and evacuees arrived at the school, the girls were told not to come to school until bomb shelters had been finished. Postcards were sent home telling pupils which morning or afternoon they were to go to school to collect lessons to do at home.

In February 1940 the shelters were completed so when the air raid sounded, teachers and children would file down the steps into the tunnels, which were built in zigzags so that a direct hit would not blast through the entire shelter. Each section was big enough to seat a class of 30 girls on long wooden benches. The tunnels were very narrow, so to enable a path through, the teacher would shout "legs left!" which worked very well. Lessons continued in the shelters, with equations chalked on the wooden walls that are still visible. The shelters were noisy as often there would be a battle going on overhead. They were airless, cold and damp with earth floors and Elsan toilets. The first two winters of the war were particularly cold so the



girls had to wear extra clothing in case they had to use the shelters.

Battery operated lamps were used until electricity was installed 18 months later, but the light given out was still very dim. When the Doodlebugs flew over, there was no time to get the children into the shelters so the girls had to hide under their desks, protecting their heads as a priority.

Helen Keen depicted all these scenes in great detail and humour. She died in 2005 aged 95, but her wonderful sketches are now illustrating Mary Smith's book, '*A Schoolgirl's War*'.

Sallie Peake

Jubilee Trees in Avington

Those who helped to plant them won't see the fruit of their labours, but future generations happily will. Residents of Avington have planted some trees as their contribution to the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The volunteers, armed with spades, forks and pickaxes, braved bitterly cold winds to plant five Elms that have been bred from a Dutch Elm



Disease Resistant Elm on both sides of the road from the Avington Lane hump back bridge leading to the golf course. Organiser, Christopher Langford said "It's the village contribution to mark 70 years of the Queen's reign and at the same time it does enhance the approach to our village, especially after the recent storms and Ash Dieback have ravaged so many trees in our area".

There are also plans to plant a copper beech towards the golf course as well as conifers to replace some of those lost from Avington Countryside Park over time.

Christopher Langford

Compost to Mitigate Climate Chaos

It has long been my belief that compost is a gardener's best ally. Whether you like to grow fruit, vegetables, herbs, trees, ornamentals or lawns, the benefits of compost are legendary. Not only does compost feed your plants with a slow but steady release of nutrients, it nourishes and conditions the soil. Its ability to lock away carbon into the soil is an opportunity not to be missed. For the above reasons I am often dismayed by our willingness to have our compost material collected and removed.

I suppose for people who can afford it, it would seem to be a sensible proposition, to have to pay the Council to remove your compost material, only then to have to buy it back as finished, bagged compost. However this system of Council collection does burn up a lot of CO₂ producing diesel in the collection, production, packaging and then re-distribution process. Furthermore it does introduce a lot of plastic bags into the environment,

which ultimately need to be disposed of by incinerator or landfill.

All of this CO₂ releasing activity being unnecessary when it is realised how easy it is to have compost.

When the biomass the soil produces is returned to the soil through composting, the soil responds abundantly. By having a veg patch, a herb garden, fruit trees or bushes growing on soil that you have reconditioned with your own home made compost, you can, in time, significantly provide food for yourself and your family.

Maybe in the face of climate change, a growing population and depleting farm soil it is time to ask ourselves this question. Is it not time to start taking responsibility by looking after the soil? By looking after our own food needs? By reducing our own carbon footprint plus food miles? By taking control of the chemicals in our own food?

Is it not time to relearn some of the skills necessary to compost, to replenish the land and to feed ourselves?

Eddie Morgan is a teacher of organic growing and lives in Easton

A Memory of Lockdown

It is now two years since the first Covid lockdown came into force when we were ordered to work from home if possible,



avoid any social contact and only leave the house for essential shopping and one hour's exercise per day. These unprecedented restrictions were widely observed, resulting in an unaccustomed tranquillity in the air



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redolent of times past, leading me to record these impressions on the evening of Good Friday 2020.

*Just now I was in the garden, watering.
It was a bright and balmy evening, the air quite still.*

This Covid Good Friday, the traffic was strangely silent, all tractors were safely stowed away and no pilots made their final approach.

And walkers and bikers had taken an early bath from their walking and biking.

A blackbird filled the air with joy and I heard two boys kicking a football to one another several gardens away.

It felt like the nineteen fifties.

Steve Percy

Easter Memories

Easter Eggs were a totally different ball game when I was a child. Coming up to Easter, the windows of all the sweet shops were filled with chocolate eggs of various sizes wrapped up in coloured foil. The larger eggs were enclosed in attractively decorated boxes in the shapes of lanterns, parrots, swans, clocks, rockets to name a few. Others were covered in pretty coloured net done up with a ribbon and had a rose attached to them. Some of the smaller eggs came in china eggcups or mugs. The larger eggs were

the most attractively presented and as a result were far more expensive. In addition to the chocolate eggs there were appealing

chocolate hens, ducks and rabbits. The smaller eggs came in gold net bags and the very little ones in long clear plastic tubes, or were simply sold by the quarter. These were of solid chocolate or filled with a praline paste. There were also cream filled eggs, which were sold loose, covered in green, red, gold or blue foil with a yellow chicken decoration on them. Some of the hollow medium or small chocolate eggs were also sold loose.



The newsagents sold Easter Cards decorated appropriately and we always received several.

On Easter Sunday we had a special breakfast – chocolate

Easter Eggs included! We always started with halved grapefruit with a maraschino cherry, small individual packets of breakfast cereal, hard boiled eggs that Mum and Dad had decorated with amusing faces in pencil, then boiled up in cochineal to make them look pink, toast, butter and marmalade, then finally our chocolate eggs. By Easter Monday we'd all but finished our Easter Eggs. Chocolate doesn't last long when you're a child.

Arminel Tottle

New numbering system for the Valley

Many residents will have seen lots of posts on the Itchenlist about deliveries going astray. The issue has become so serious that the Council and the Post Office have got together and intend to



put in place what they see as an infallible system to prevent this happening any more. This has already been discussed with some groups in our community and not all are agreed with what is proposed. Those amongst us who are more numerate might quickly see the benefits.

Several different systems have been considered, one even involved a fleet of drones. Another suggested every on-line order should be accompanied by a photo of the front door, then front doors should be painted in different colours. However, the committee which has met 14 times so far couldn't agree on this. The final idea is that every home will be given a number but not just homes, every building as well. So, for example, there are 4 churches in the Valley and they will be numbered 1 to 4. It is rumoured the churchwardens cannot agree which should be church number 1 so a special meeting has been convened to debate

this.

Homes will be allowed to keep their names for the sake of sentimentality but for example, The Old Manor, Main Road will become just 347 Main Road. Each of the four villages will be allocated a series of numbers, so Easton could be 1-200 and Martyr Worthy 201-400. Small signs will be erected at street corners to advise those delivering or visiting. Those properties that have had a number prior to this new system will probably have to change. So 4 Station Hill might become 326 Station Hill.

There are still some unsolved issues such as one property being turned into two which would then need two separate numbers. To make life easy, the Post Office wants a consecutive numbering system wherever possible. It's not clear yet whether pubs and village halls will be numbered separately or follow their road sequence. The Council dismissed the



Is someone you know facing hard times due to rising fuel costs?

If someone you know is facing hard times due to the current fuel crisis and rise in utility bills or as a result of other challenges, the WVT can help. The Trust has been given extra funding by local Christians to help individuals or families living in the rural areas of Winchester who may be suffering hardship during these difficult times.

Help is available immediately and is not conditional on income, size of house or any other measure. All discussions will be in strictest confidence.

If you are in need for any reason, or you know someone who might be, please contact the Itchen Valley Trustee at penny@flemons.co.uk

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idea of having more post codes and the Post Office was sure that a property number and a post code would be sufficient to avoid any errors.

One local delivery company, much commented on the list, was sent a trial pack but they seem to have lost it. The Council has agreed to provide new numbers for everyone and has set out a system as to where these should be placed. It is understood that a small fee of £50 will cover this cost. The Post Office will send its staff on a week-long training course to ensure the new system is properly understood. Members of the community will be soon invited to a weekend of familiarisation

The plan is to implement the system on April 1.

Loof Lirpa

Easton Village Hall and Recreation Ground

The Village Hall Committee is keen to appoint an enthusiastic and committed person to the role of Easton Village Hall Administrator. This is an interesting and flexible role with a varying workload, and provides an opportunity to help manage, look after and develop a valuable community asset. The Village Hall hosts a wide variety of groups and events, from regular users who visit the Hall weekly, to one-off hirers who hold parties and other events at the Hall. The Hall Administrator is a key individual in ensuring the smooth and effective running of the Hall. The role offers a great deal of flexibility in managing your time, and would suit a motivated and

Easton Village Hall evh.bookings@gmail.com www.eastonvillagehall.co.uk

Sally Stanyard School of Dance	Most days - contact Sally for details	Sally	07835 773280
Emily Bray Pilates	Tue and Thu 0900	Emily	07876 033893
Dionne Yoga	Fri 0845	Dionne	07961 888676
Bump and Baby Yoga	Mon, Tue & Wed	Janet	
Enjoy Zumba	Sun 0930	Helen	
Bridge	Monthly Mon 1000	Maureen	

Martyr Worthy Village Hall [Lucinda Ffennell martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:Lucinda.Ffennell@martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.com)

Sherin Shefik Yoga	Mon 1730 Sun 1900	Sherin	
Watercolour Art Classes	Wed 1000 & 1245 Thu 1000	Kirstin	07484 392197
Basket Weaving	Various dates	Louise	01962 773105

Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall [Izabela Young manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk](mailto:Izabela.Young@iaavillagehall.co.uk)

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Rugby Tots	Tue 0915	Phil	0845 3133258
Ladies Short Tennis	Wed 1430	Arminel	01962 779611
Itchen Valley Choir	Wed 1930	Vernon	01962 779611
Short Mat Bowls	Thu 1400	Brian	01962 738810
Badminton	Thu 1930	Mike	01962 779651
Badminton	Fri 0800	Jake	07789 984591
Swing it	Thu 2000	Neil	07825 709691
Arts Society, Alresford	Monthly Tue 1300	Gilly	01962 779540
Tango Milonga	Monthly Sun 1330	Yohann	01962 622447

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organised person used to working on their own initiative. There is a salary for the post, on a part-time "self-employed" basis. For more information, please contact Lyn Russell at evh.booking@googlemail.com or on 07308 863972

Harry Smith

Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club Update

Following on from the indoor training over the winter, both junior and senior sections of the club plan to commence their outdoor training at the David Roth Cricket Ground in Easton during April, weather permitting. Friendlies fixtures are booked for three Saturdays in April, with senior league matches scheduled to start in the first week in May; juniors and Ladies fixtures will start in May as well.

Training days have been arranged as:
Mondays:

Boys Under 11s
and Under 13s

Tuesdays: Ladies

Wednesdays: Girls Under 11s
and Under 13s

Thursdays : Seniors and Under
15s

Fridays: Boys and Girls
Under 9s and
All Stars

The first competitive match for the seniors section will be the National Village Cup. This is a national knock-out competition giving village cricketers the opportunity to play in the final at Lord's. EMWCC has been drawn in a local derby against Tichborne CC, to be played at our home ground on Sunday 24 April.

Club Profile - Our Club Captain, Mark Dickety.

Mark's association with EMWCC goes

back many years. His father Andrew played for the Club for over 40 years, he was the Sunday and Midweek Captain and is now a Life Member. His Grandmother Joyce Yeates lived in the village and was also the Club Treasurer.



Mark essentially grew up around the boundary at EMWCC. He started playing at Easton from 10 years old which was the lowest age group at the time.

Mark is a batter / wicket keeper. He went through the Colts set up and moved into the 3rd Team where they won their division in his first season as a senior. He moved into the 1st Team as their wicket keeper aged 18. Mark then took on the responsibility of Captain of the 2nd Team and Midweek Team, before moving on to becoming 1st Team Captain, a position he held for 6 years. Mark's main achievement as 1st Team Captain was winning promotion back to Division 1 of the Hampshire Cricket League in 2017, where the team still plays. Mark's leadership skills were evident at an early age and he was elected Club Captain 7 years ago aged 27. During this time the Club has expanded to nearly 200 playing members across all sections.

We are fortunate to have a young dynamic Club Captain with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, who is well known within the Hampshire cricketing community and is actively involved with Hampshire

Cricket. Mark also helps to run the Winchester and District Indoor Cricket League and he coaches the EMWCC All Stars (5-8 year olds), where he hopes to enthuse the next generation of cricketers, including his son Charlie, who started as an All Star last season.

Whilst valuing the strengths and traditions of village cricket, Mark is keen to influence development of the grass roots game to meet the needs and wishes of today's players. In real life Mark is a Mortgage Adviser. He was married in Martyr Worthy church and now lives in Chandlers Ford. His wife Louise is a ward sister at the Countess

of Mountbatten Hospice. They have two small children Charlie & Elsie, whom we very much hope will become the 3rd generation of Dickety cricketers at EMWCC.

Lynda Gray Press Officer EMWCC
ldaten453@aol.com

Adrian Lee Chairman EMWCC
fulford.lee@btinternet.com

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in March

Black bins and brown garden bins on Friday 8 and Saturday 23 April. Green bins on Friday 1, 15 and 29 April .

Glass boxes on Friday 1 and 29 April.

Farmers' Market in Winchester

Sundays 10 and 24 April.

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Thursday 7 April 1A village hall

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Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Winchester:

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(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.

Answers to the Quiz

1. Stavanger, Norway
2. The Sea of Azov with an average depth of 23 feet is linked to the Black Sea. Its coast-line is shared between Ukraine and Russia.
3. King William 4th
4. Borderland
5. Covid
6. Obadiah. It has a single chapter of 21 verses.
7. 10° - 12°C
8. At 3900 miles long, the Yangtze Kiang is the world's longest river to run entirely within a single country: China. The Yangtze Delta alone generates as much as 20% of China's GDP. The name Chang Jiang means 'Long River' in old Chinese.
9. Muckle Flugga in the Shetland Islands and north of Unst. A lighthouse was constructed on its highest point and first lit in 1858.
10. A mummuration involves a large group of starlings that twist, turn, swoop and swirl in flight to form constantly changing shapes. These events occur at dusk towards the end of the year and above their communal roosting sites.



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Boys matches on Sunday mornings
Girls practice and matches on Wednesday evenings
All under 9s practice on Friday evenings
All Stars TBC
Ladies practice on Tuesday evenings

Website: www.emwcc.com

Club Contacts:

Seniors: seb.stannard@btinternet.com
Seniors: markdickety@hotmail.co.uk
Boys and Girls: juniors@emwcc.com
Ladies: charliegloyn@icloud.com



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