

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 104 August 2022

Avington, Easton, Ithen Abbas, Martyr Worthy and Abbots Worthy



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WELCOME to the Valley News



It might have felt a little quiet after the wonderful weekend of Jubilee celebrations (there is one final report on page 6), but there was still the Flower Festival in Easton to come! I could have filled the whole magazine with photographs of the weekend - one made it to the front cover, and there are more on page 18. Although not everyone attends services in church, nevertheless the lovely church buildings are central to the heart of the Valley villages and they are used in all sorts of different ways; for instance the church in Itchen Abbas hosted pre-school children one day and over 65s on the next – a welcome cool church on the hottest day of the year! It is particularly wonderful that so many residents committed to putting a great deal of effort into supporting the church extension plans and thus to a village asset for future generations. The church halls are vital too, see page 33 for some of the many ways in which they are used. There are plans afoot for a greener Itchen Abbas and Avington Hall (page 22) and the Hall in Easton needs an Administrator (page 24) – might this be your opportunity to contribute to the community?

Two talented authors with Valley connections have books reviewed in the magazine this month – one on Winchester Prison and its inmates (page 25), and one with a challenging view about modern farming and how farmers are perceived (page 27). Excellent opportunities for summer reading!

The IVN inbox is infinitely variable, and this month there were so many interesting contributions that I had trouble fitting everything in. One or

two articles have been held over for next month and I apologise if what you wrote has been shortened in order that I could cram in as much as possible. Thank you to everyone who sent in contributions, and please keep writing and photographing all the exciting activities and opportunities in the Valley. Finally Vernon Tottle pays tribute to Penny Russell on page 24 – we are going to miss her very much. Brigid McManus and Sue McIntosh will be editing next month.
Verity Coleman

Itchen Valley News

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|--------------|--|
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Please send all contributions for September 2022 by Monday 15 August.
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Cover photo by Pauline Lund and other photos from various contributors.

What's On

National Garden Scheme Open Garden - The Down House Itchen Abbas SO21 1AX

Wednesday 3 August 12-5pm.

A two acre garden laid out as rooms in Itchen Abbas adjoining the Pilgrims Way. At this time of year see the agapanthus, herbaceous perennials and potager; a garden of structure with pleached hornbeams, rope-lined fountain garden, yew avenue and walks in adjoining meadows.

Admission: £5.00 children free.

Home-made teas.

Pat Beagley (Publicity) National Garden Scheme - Hampshire

Bumper Bramdean Car Boot Sale

Sunday 14 August

In aid of Home-Start Winchester, sponsored by Hellards Estate Agents.

Gates open to public at 8am.

Wood Lane, Bramdean SO24 0JW, directions from A272 and A31.

Boots £10, Vans /trailers £15, cash only.

Admission by donation, Refreshments available.

Why not clear out your garage or attic? Great bargains for all the family.

For more information call 01962 771971 or 07976 686979 or email chrisie.barrow@home-startwinchester.org.uk

Strange Times Quest exhibition

Friday 26, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 August. 10am-4 pm

St Mary's Church Hall, Kings Worthy. Strange Times Quest (STQ) will be opening their doors to visitors as part of this year's Hampshire Open Studios.

The event will showcase paintings the artists have been working on since last summer.

The group came into existence to help combat isolation when Covid prevented people from getting together in 2020. The STQ continues to operate remotely and membership is still growing. Monthly 'Quests' provide a topic for a picture and artists work 'Alone, Together', painting at home and sharing their pictures via e-mail. Whilst a number of members are local to Winchester, artists also join in from London, Yorkshire, Scotland and France. With 38 artists now in the group there will be lots to see, and tea, cake and conversation will be in ready supply for visitors.

www.strangetimesquest.wordpress.com

Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club

Sunday 4 September

The Annual Badger Memorial Match
See article on page 9 for further details.

The Grange Vineyard: tour and canap   evenings

Thurs 8 September 5-6.30pm

Fri 16 September 5-6.30pm

Zam Baring will lead a tour of the vineyard followed by a taste of the award-winning wines, accompanied by some of Becka Cooper's delicious canap  s (£35 per person).

Book at www.thegrangewine.co.uk

West Meon Music Festival

in aid of the Rosemary Foundation

8-11 September

Full details at

www.westmeonmusic.co.uk

**Alresford Art Society:
Thursday 22 September 2022
at 7.30pm**

Bishops Sutton Village Hall, Alresford
SO24 0AH

A demonstration of landscapes in oil by
Jerry Smith. Non-members welcome.
Admission £3.00.

Further information 01962 733031 or
www.artsociety.alresford.org.

Jen Boardman

**Worthy Earth Festival
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To order weekly veg boxes:
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**Boomtown: information for
residents**



10-14 August 2022

Traffic and Closures

Peak Traffic Times:

A272 from the A31 to Rodfield Lane:

Wednesday 10 August: 10am-6pm,

Thursday 11 August: 10am-6pm,

Monday 15 August: 8am-5pm.

A31 from M3 J9/Spitfire Link to

Alresford: Wednesday 10 August:

10am-6pm, Thursday 11 August: 8am-
6pm, Monday 15 August: 10am-5pm.

Rodfield Lane: Thursday 11 August: 8am-
6pm, Monday 15 August: 8am-4pm.

Morestead Road and Longwood Road:
Monday 15 August: 8am-4pm.

Road Closures

On Wednesday 10, Thursday 11 and
Monday 15 August, roads local to the
festival site may be closed to protect
local residential areas from excessively
heavy traffic congestion. Residents
wishing to use a road that is closed can
approach the accredited staff on duty
in these locations to gain access.

Local Traffic Management Plan

Gap closures on the A31 will be in
operation from 3am on Wednesday

Fireworks

There will be pyrotechnics involved in
the shows on the main stages on
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and a
firework display on Sunday evening.

10 August to 10pm on Monday 15 August

A31 Lane Closures

Lane closures and merges will be operational on the A31 Westbound during the festival - please use Lane 2 (Offside Lane) to avoid the event entrances. Lane closures and merges will be operational on the A31 Eastbound on Monday 15 August - please use Lane 1 (Nearside Lane).

Footpath Diversions and Car Park Closures

The South Downs Way will be diverted from Monday 8 to Wednesday 17 August inclusive. There will be signage in place showing the diverted walking route around the perimeter of the event site.

Cheesefoot Head Car Park will be closed from Monday 8 to Wednesday 17 August inclusive.

Contact:

Up to 5 August:

local_community@boomtownfair.co.uk

6-15 August:

Residents Hotline: 07568 967523

During the event: Urgent queries:
eventcontrol@boomtownfair.co.uk

Non urgent or ticket enquiries:
local_community@boomtownfair.co.uk

Last but not least...Avington's Jubilee party

On Sunday 5 June the village of Avington held a party for residents on the lawns of Lake House. Despite the overcast day there was a great turnout from the village. The loyal toast was proposed by Lt Cdr Henry Adams RN (complete with sword), and sparkling wine was provided by the Avington boules group. Everyone then tucked into the food and made time to catch



up with their neighbours. There were plenty of small children to enjoy the slide, the paddling pool and in particular the sausages, which seemed to slip down small throats with remarkable ease (sometimes two at a time).

Many thanks to Ralph and Alison Matthews for hosting the event, to the organisers, the marquee tea and everyone who contributed food and drink. It all made for a very Avington afternoon.
Jacquie Squire

The Grange Festival review

It's time once more to review the opera season at The Grange Festival, and this year, thankfully, it was possible to stage the productions free of Covid restrictions. It would be difficult to come up with a list of three more different operas than were The Grange's choices this year - Verdi's *Macbeth*, Handel's *Tamerlano* and Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

The operatic version of *Macbeth* follows the story line of the Shakespeare play closely, and the setting of the production was faithful to its period - apart from the rather large number of witches which served as a

chorus! Many thought that Judith Howarth, in the dominant role of Lady Macbeth, was the star of the show, but this is not to diminish the quality of a large cast, including Gezim Myshketa (Macbeth) and Jonathan Lemalu as Banquo.

Maxine Braham directed and choreographed an engrossing production: a special touch was employed to bring Macbeth to the very front of the stage on occasion, sitting almost like a little boy on the naughty step. The chorus of witches, in particular, made an impressive sound embellished with virtuoso playing from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, who accompanied all three productions. *Tamerlano* was relatively unknown to most of us, and featured a small cast of principals without a chorus. Unusually, the two main roles featured the counter-tenor voice, with excellent performances from both Raffaele Pe in the title role and Patrick Terry as Andronico. Much of the dialogue featured sparring between these two, which took physical form as they boxed their way through one of the arias. Special mention should also be made of Paul Nilon as Emperor Bajazet, Sophie Bevan as Asteria and Angharad Lyddon (Irene), a recent winner of the Wessex Award. Clever



use was made of a simple set, with the action all taking place in the Royal Palace, also serving as a prison for the captured Ottoman Emperor, Bajazet. The use of modern dress did not jar, and the opera's relatively long duration certainly held the interest of your reviewer throughout.

Finally, *The Yeomen of the Guard* entertained full audiences, and was cleverly directed by Christopher Luscombe, returning to The Grange following his success with Verdi's *Falstaff* in 2019. Here, the set wonderfully captured the period setting of the Tower of London in the early 1920s, and a large cast powerfully conveyed what is considered to be the most serious of the Savoy operas. Many thought that Nick Haverson, as Jack Point, acted to perfection his cockney role. We were surprised to learn, when chatting to him afterwards, that his opera roles have formed a relatively small part of his stage career. Nick Pritchard sang the leading role of Colonel Fairfax, with Ellie Laugharne outstanding as Elsie Maynard. Heather Shipp as Dame Carruthers, and Graeme Broadbent as Sergeant Merrill, also impressed.

Peter McManus;

Photography Simon Annand





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Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club News

The busy schedule of summer fixtures continues throughout August for adults, although the Juniors' section slows down with the start of the school summer holidays.

Saturday 9 July saw EMWCC 1st and 2nd teams playing a double header against Longparish CC in the Hampshire Cricket League.

The 2nd team playing at Home won the toss and elected to bat. Aaron Burton with 48 runs, along with Hughie Lewis 27 and Captain Seb Stannard 25 were the highest runs scorers.

Longparish found themselves chasing 176 off the 45 overs. With three wickets apiece for Hughie and Oscar Hunwick EMWCC 2nds won by 47 runs.

Away at Longparish, the 1sts lost the toss and Longparish elected to bat. With three wickets each for Adam Carrick and Jordon Banks the total runs scored were 201 off the 50 overs. In reply EMWCC scored 206 off 47.2 overs. Captain Ben Stanbrook and Rory Wooster both made 42 runs and Jordon made 36; EMWCC won by two wickets. The 1st team is currently positioned midtable in Division 1 of the League.

In the Juniors' section the U13As played their Barfoot Cup semi-final versus St Cross Symondians CC on 6 July and were narrowly beaten by three runs. EMWCC scored 125 runs off the 20 overs with Oscar Williams's 30 not out the highlight of the batting. Casper Wilson and Oscar each achieved a wicket and Eddie Gloyn a run out. The age range of Club members is wide, from Under 9s to Over 70s! Martin Hall is a long-standing stalwart



and he recently attended the Boys U9s training. Martin is pictured at that session wearing his England Seniors' kit. He played 10 matches for England Over 60s with a top runs score of 70. Both Martin and another Club member, Stuart Hicks, represented Hampshire at Over 50s, 60s and 70s. Stuart reports his best ever bowling performance was 10 wickets for 21 runs. He is now aged 75 and says this was some years ago! Both continue to be actively involved in the Club and their wealth of knowledge and experience are invaluable.

The Annual Badger Memorial Match will be held on Sunday 4 September.

Adrian Lee, Chairman
fulford.lee@btinternet.com
Lynda Gray, Press Officer
ldaten453@aol.com

Easton WI

In July we welcomed members and guests to an impromptu talk by Glyn Williams, whose career is in the gas and oil mining industries. The challenges of reaching the 2050 net zero target are great and we will have to keep using banned resources longer than we should. His company monitors CO2 levels around the globe to prevent disasters, using optical cables deep underground where captured carbon is buried. New technologies are

working to expand direct carbon capture by vacuuming carbon directly from the atmosphere. We will have to migrate away from oil and gas and need to learn to use less energy and invest in wind and solar renewables. Glyn was happy to answer many questions and we learnt a great deal about the aspects of the energy and climate crisis and possible solutions.

The next meeting will be 7.15pm on Thursday 8 September in Easton Village Hall.

Sallie Peake

Boules: Knock-out Competition 21 June

It was the longest day of the year. The sun shone. Over 50 people came to Avington to watch or to take part in the Triples. This is the boules knock-out challenge when all four Valley villages send two teams to compete for the Nigel Graham Maw Trophy. It

takes the whole evening, and villagers had brought food and drink a-plenty to enjoy while the action was taking place. Play starts early, because three rounds are needed at first, to allow each village to challenge one of the teams in the other three villages.

In Group B Easton and Martyr Worthy won two of their games, with Avington and Itchen Abbas claiming one each, so the former teams claimed their place in the semi-final.

In Group A however things were more balanced, with Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy all winning two of their games. Deciding between three claimants required looking back at the underlying individual scores in all three games. Easton were clearly ahead on 19 game points, but there was only one point between the other two, and by a margin of 16-15 Martyr Worthy were just ahead. The four semi-finalists therefore were the two Easton teams and the two Martyr Worthy teams, raising the intriguing prospect that the





final could be between two teams from the same village.

So at about 8.15pm the real knock-out started. All four teams were on their mettle and the play was extremely tight. When all the sections had finished, Easton A had beaten Martyr Worthy B by 5-3, and on the other piste Martyr Worthy A were just ahead of Easton B by 4-3.

Then came the final. Both B teams had been overpowered and Easton A played against Martyr Worthy A. The scores remained close for a while.

Then the tension rose among players and spectators alike as Martyr Worthy established a small lead, and in the final stage they increased this a little further to win by 6-4.

So for 2022 it was Martyr Worthy who were the winners of this competition and a delightful evening ended with their players being presented with the trophy.

Ralph Matthews

Boules: League Competition 12 July

For round 2 of the league competition one match took place as planned. Martyr Worthy were hosts to Easton. It was a lovely summer evening with swifts and hot air balloons in the sky.

The boules games were all close-fought and it seemed that either side could have won but in the end, Easton won three of the games and Martyr Worthy one.

However for the other match, Itchen Abbas were extremely short of players, and felt that they would be in the same position for round 3 three weeks later, so thought it more sensible to withdraw from the 2022 competition completely. The agreement now is that the league will be between the three other villages and those games will proceed as planned. From round 1, Avington has 3 points and Martyr Worthy 1. From round 2, Easton has 3 points and Martyr Worthy has 1. The final round will take place on Tuesday 2 August when Easton will be at home against Avington.

Ralph Matthews

Much Ado about Nothing

The Pantaloons were regular visitors to Avington pre-Covid, so it was great to see them back, this year performing Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado about Nothing* in a new venue - The Quarry in Avington.

The words "nothing" and "noting" meant the same in the late 1550s and so the play is actually about the ways in which the characters' "noting" leads them astray, making for some hilarious scenes.



The play has 15 characters, but the Pantaloons, as ever, performed it with just four actors. This added to the fun of the play with some very fast costume changes! There was some amusing audience participation and ad-lib lines which made the event very enjoyable.

The Quarry is an ideal venue for such events and we hope it will continue to be used frequently in future. It is sheltered from the wind and has some grassy banks which can be used for seating and a raised area for a stage. Many of the audience arrived early to participate in gourmet picnics before the show and the sound of champagne corks was certainly in evidence.

Rachel Cummins, Paula Gilmour, Sam Lightfoot and Christopher Smart are the Pantaloons and they brought Shakespeare to Avington in a wonderfully light-hearted way for a very pleasant afternoon. We hope to see them back again in 2023.

Linda Gaunt

Park Farm Open Day

Robert Stent and family held an open day at Park Farm, Avington on 2 July on behalf of the Winchester Downs Cluster group. It was a chance to see some of the exciting work carried out by the group and how this fits within a



productive arable farm.

The Winchester Downs Cluster is a group of farmers, landowners and land managers working together to nurture the environment on a landscape scale whilst producing food. The group has over 30 members managing nearly 10,000 hectares around Winchester. They are working together for landscape, habitat and biodiversity benefits on a scale that could not be achieved by working alone. They share best practice, implement new ideas, share philosophies and offer each other a support system to benefit farms, the connected footpaths and the wildlife.

The Open Day was also supported by the South Down National Park, Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust, Southern Water, Winchester Beekeepers and Itchen Valley river-keepers.

Simon Ffennell was on hand to answer questions about river management.
Robert Stent





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Easton Flower Festival and Open Gardens

Over the weekend of 17-19 June, visitors from far and wide came to Easton to marvel at its spectacular Flower Festival and explore the Open Gardens in all their glory.

St Mary's Church was festooned with flowers and it soon became apparent that this was not just an amateur effort, but the hard work and floral wizardry of a talented and dedicated team led by two professionals, Easton residents Pauline Lund (who is no stranger to exhibiting at Chelsea) and James Greig (Stem & Green Flower Farm).

Witnessing the church so exquisitely dressed in flowers was a true privilege - the sheer scale of the endeavour and the beauty of it took people quite by surprise.

The whole celebration weekend started with Thursday's Sparkling Preview: a drinks reception in the churchyard on a warm summer evening. Guests were treated to a sneak preview of the stunning flowers and listened to arias sung by internationally renowned opera soprano Claire Rutter, who generously gave her support to the event and helped make the evening such a memorable occasion.

Although the weekend's weather extremes brought their challenges, the flowers and the nine Open Gardens looked resplendent throughout.

Visitors enjoyed delicious cakes and refreshments in the Farmyard barn. Many took the opportunity to invest in original pieces of artwork displayed at the Art Exhibition featuring local artists Jules Hoffman, Kirstin White, Emma Lowres, Jean Wheeler and Jonathan

Chapman.

In addition to the beautiful Open Gardens whose owners had kindly flung wide their garden gates and welcomed visitors for the three days of the Festival, there was also a village Front Garden Competition. So many owners whose gardens are visible from the road worked very hard and the village looked glorious. There were Union Jacks flying and colourful bunting everywhere, including Welsh dragons, antique flags, wondrous regal garden figures and a red white and blue tea party setting, all giving Easton a special Flower Festival atmosphere. The judges found it difficult to decide on individual gardens but the three outstanding gardens belonged (in no particular order) to Jules Hoffman, Pauline and Charles Lund, and Becs and Iain Macleod, who were awarded Garden Centre vouchers.

Over the Festival weekend more than 500 visitors came and over £12,000 was raised for the St Mary's Church Building Fund and Ukraine Crisis Support. We would like to thank everyone who visited and gave their support in so many kind ways to help make the event a resounding success. It was fantastic to have such a happy celebration event in Easton after such a long time without these opportunities to get the village community together. The team of volunteers that organised the Flower Festival worked tirelessly to make the event a success and the beautiful gardens and flower filled church are a testament to all their hard work. Wonderful memories have been made of a gorgeous Flower Festival weekend and a legacy has been created by all the money raised that can benefit the village church for generations to come. *Charlie Gloyn*, Photos on page 18

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Celebrating in flowers, building for the future

In years to come we will always remember the month of June 2022 as the time of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. But many in Easton will also look back to it as that month when the village community put on the most incredible Flower Festival. Charlie Gloyn's article has brilliantly captured the colour of the Festival and highlighted the scale of its achievement. Visitors were indeed caught by surprise, even stunned. I was privileged often to be standing in the church and meeting visitors (lots from the Valley, but also from further afield). Many of them, as soon as they walked in, were visibly shocked. And, as they went out, they described to me what they had seen in effusive terms: "exquisite", "unlike anything I have seen before", "quite beyond anything I could have expected". And there were touches of humour too embedded within the displays with their subtle allusions to the Rectors' surnames: 'sweet Pease' and the 'Walker' boots outside the vestry! David Swinstead put it so well when he reflected with me:

"I was overwhelmed by the thought that, although the church has seen many events both happy and sad, and on occasion been filled with flowers, the interior has never in all its long history looked as stunningly beautiful as it did at that moment. I realised I was witnessing history, a very special moment, a 'once in a lifetime' event." So we all owe the Flower Festival Committee an incredible vote of thanks. Through careful planning, good teamwork and lots of hard work, they managed to make the church of St Mary's and the whole village a blaze of

colour, and created a community atmosphere that was almost tangible in its effect. Visitors wandering round the village and its gardens told me, "this is an English village at its best!"

And, as Rector, I must state my immense gratitude for the funds that were raised. Ten percent (a biblical 'tithe') will be given to the fund recently established to support the Ukrainian refugees in the Valley. The remaining funds will contribute to the proposed building project at St Mary's Church. The plans for this extension work (providing a toilet, a meeting room for children and kitchen facilities) were drawn up before Covid and have been submitted to the diocesan authorities. However, it is entirely appropriate that residents in Easton should have the opportunity to hear more about the Project and make their comments and suggestions. So there will be a public meeting in Easton in September. Please look out for the date when it is announced and do your best to come and join us if you would like to.

At the Sparking Preview I reflected on those Easton villagers who met for a drink one night over a thousand years ago (perhaps on the later site of the Cricketers Inn?) and resolved, then and there, to build a church in their village. How many generations have been blessed by their hard work throughout the last millennium. We now have the same opportunity: to do something which will benefit not only us but people for many years to come.

This Flower Festival may thus have been indeed a 'once in a millennium' occasion, with the potential to bless many generations into the future millennium as well. A big thanks to all! With best wishes and prayers
Rev'd Peter Walker



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Itchen Valley Churches

Sunday 7 August

11am - Informal Garden Service - Southwood House, Itchen Abbas
please see information below

Sunday 14 August

10am Parish Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 21 August

8am BCP Holy Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas
11am - Informal Garden Service - Martyr Worthy Manor
please see information below

Sunday 28 August

10am Parish Communion and Baptism - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Summer Time in the Itchen Valley

We are looking forward to our Informal Garden Services this month. Everyone is invited and will be made to feel very welcome but please do let us know by the Friday lunchtime if you are intending to join us on the Sunday (admin@itchenvalleychurches.org). There will be a short talk and perhaps some songs, followed by an opportunity to enjoy your picnic with friends old and new. Remember to bring your swimming costumes and towels if you would like to enjoy the pool. These services are weather-dependent and unfortunately won't take place if it rains - our website will give updated information.

Rector - Revd Peter Walker

revd.peter@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 588313

LLM - Mr Gerry Stacey

gerry.stacey@biblesociety.org.uk 01962 620263

Parish Administrator - Beccy Clark

admin@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 779845

www.itchenvalleychurches.org



Summer at Stem and Green

In mid June we celebrated the much-applauded Easton Flower festival, when nine gardens and our flower field were opened to the public. Visitors were also treated to a visual spectacle, a tonic of floral delight in St Mary's Church, masterminded by florist extraordinaire Pauline Lund. Stem and Green were fortunate to have been given free-rein in the bell tower and our idea was to create a meadow fit for local bees, a celebration of the local flora that keep our pollinator army alive. The display began with 10-foot beech branches framing the west window, whilst below sat a traditional white beehive and a sea of locally picked bee friendly flowers - foxgloves, buttercups, geums, and alchemilla. It was also a chance to show many of you round our field, to see first-hand where all our stems are grown.

Then in July we welcomed just over 50 members of the Valley Gardeners to our flower field. After a tour I gave a talk about our mission to grow the exquisite and sustainable cut flowers. We covered sustainability, soil health and how flower growing may change in the face of the climate emergency. Thank you to all who came.

James Greig



Easton memories



The Flower Festival also provided a chance to share some village memories. Here are some from Penelope Kellie and Chas Harvey – does anyone else have memories and photos to share?

From Chas to Penelope:

I do, of course, remember you! I have attached a photo of my old family home, Thatch Cottage – now called Steps Cottage. The Chiddys, my grandfather's family, were there from at least the 1870s until sometime in the early 1950s. My great grandfather was also born in the village in 1857, but I don't know if that was in the same house. My grandfather was one of eight children.

The family also owned several other properties in the village. The bakehouse was just up the lane by the Cricketers, but is now long-gone. The two white cottages opposite the Cricketers were also owned by the Chiddys. The one on the right, St Christophers, was occupied by Great Aunt Amanda (my twice-great aunt) - a formidable lady by all accounts - who lived until the ripe old age of 94. She was the longest-lived family member until my mother (the last person born a Chiddy from our line) outlasted her. The cottage on the left (I think it's called Cranleigh) was where my Great

Aunt, Emily Jelly, lived until she became ill in around 1970 and moved to her daughter's in Southampton. My Great Uncle Will lived in The Cranny until just before his death in the late 40s. Grandad met my Nan in the village. She was governess to the children of the Harris family (also buried in the churchyard, just inside the gate), who lived in the house on the corner near Thatch Cottage. Their daughter Ann later became godmother to my Mum, who lived the first few months of her life there, before moving to Basingstoke, where I still live.

Penelope writes:

The Harris family used to live in Grasmere and the last Harris - Simon - died in April 2022. His father and stepmother are buried to the right of the lychgate. After retiring from James Harris and Son (it was later sold to Savills) Jimmy Harris concentrated on farming at Awbridge near Romsey. His son Simon used to come to services in St. Mary's about once a month because of the family connection

Itchen Abbas School

After the previous couple of years it feels lovely to be able to finish the school academic year on such a positive note. Firstly, it is my pleasure to congratulate every child and member of staff following the fantastic SATs results from this year. Our children have achieved significantly above the national average and the Hampshire average in EVERY key stage. Even in normal times these results would be regarded as exceptional but with the past couple of years behind us and what the children and staff have been through, it makes it even more special.

It was wonderful to see the Year 6

(Foxes) class performing their review of their time at school in front of parents, friends and also the wider community. Well done to all of the children and staff for their hard work in making this such a memorable (not to mention hilarious) experience – the children were all fantastic!

Everyone had fun at Sports Day this year, with the children enjoying both participating and supporting their team mates as usual. This is always such a lovely event but so good for parents and families to be able to share in it again.

Special thanks should also go to the Itchen Abbas parents who worked so hard to make the Sports Day Fete so much fun and to raise £425 for the school. As Governors we know just how important this money is to our small school and the £4,000 that has been raised during this academic year really will make a massive difference. Having been involved in fundraising for the school in the past, I know how challenging this can be and how much hard work it entails so we are massively grateful and hope that a new team will come forward to take on this very important and enjoyable role in the new school year. As the children and staff enjoy a well-earned break, we look forward to reporting more news from the school in September. *Beccy Clark, Vice-Chair Itchen Abbas School Governors*



Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall goes green

We have a project to put solar panels on the south-east facing roof of the hall and to change our gas boilers to a ground-source heat pump. This will not only be a clear contribution from the hall towards reducing its carbon footprint, but it should also greatly reduce our £4,000 per year energy costs.

The first part of the proposal is to put at least 28 panels on the roof and to have battery storage for night time requirements. This will cost around £20,000, part of which will be grant aided. The next step will be the replacement of our aging gas boilers with a heat pump. As a community building, we qualify for substantial grants towards this £35,000 scheme. To make sure all this happens, the village hall has to show support from the community. We will be asking for donations from the residents of Avington and Itchen Abbas. Please be prepared to be generous as this is truly a project that will benefit everyone. There is a large "Donate" button on the village hall website.

Christopher Langford, Chair of the Village Hall Committee



Flower of the month



Continuing last month's theme of orchids, here's one that's harder to find. A plant of beech woodlands, the Broadleaved Helleborine can display up to 100 individual orchid flowers on one stem. This one will most likely be bulldozed when the new M3 Junction is improved. A fair price to pay for removing the inconvenience of afternoon delays?

Simon and Dorothy Broadley

Our Wild Valley: colour and life

The Hampshire flora group is a wonderful thing! I had a day out with laid back and like-minded amateurs and experts, all on the search for arable weed species: Venus looking- glass, fine-leaved fumitory and round-leaved fluellen - all tiny but joyous and a bit

like looking for the needle in the haystack. Once you had one you then realised you were standing on a few! We found small scabious and field scabious, rough, long-headed and



common poppy and a very pink yarrow for no reason. We tuned in to the field, the paths and the woodland edges and gleaned all it had to offer.

We also ventured into a small SSSI that had been designated years back and is no longer managed for its chalk grassland flora and the 100 or so juniper bushes (counted in 1970s by LK Ward who published a paper on the importance of juniper). We found a single female tree, which will not be able to reproduce alone. To keep grassland flowers, mowing or grazing or a herd of elephants is needed to keep back scrub. Otherwise it will, by succession, turn into scrubby woodland, losing the vital mosaic of grassland and small shrubs. No



management here has been a disaster for the chalk grassland flora and juniper.

Photos of round-leaved fluellen with small yellow flower, and greater scabious with a marbled white butterfly

The Conservation of Juniper: The Associated Fauna with Special Reference to Southern England, Lena K. Ward, Journal of Applied Ecology Vol. 14, No. 1 (Apr 1977), pp. 81-120 (40 pages)

Published by: British Ecological Society
Sophie Rogers



Bird of the month

In this hot weather, you may think the cormorant with its outspread wings is cooling off. In fact, it is drying out its wings following a dive to fish, as it cannot make its feathers waterproof and the outer ones remain wet. It's a bird of coastal and inland waterways, often found in groups. Unfortunately it sometimes fishes in our river!

Text Elaine Labram, photo Henry Labram



Job opportunities

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 Hall Administrator is a key individual in ensuring the smooth and effective running of the Hall. The role would suit a motivated and organised person used to working on their own initiative. There is a salary for the post, on a part time self-employed basis. Please contact Lyn Russell evh.booking@googlemail.com

Hampshire History Trust

Hampshire History Trust, the charity which runs Winchester's Heritage Open Days, is searching for a Trust Secretary to join their supportive and welcoming board to ensure the board functions smoothly. Key skills include relevant experience, knowledge of the Charities Commission Trustee Duties and Responsibilities, good IT skills, analytical skills, ability to communicate. Trustees serve in a voluntary capacity but with the satisfaction of supporting a distinctive and highly-regarded heritage organisation.

Closing date for applications end August 2022 To find out more visit Hampshirehistorytrust.com or email: trustees@hampshirehistorytrust.com

Winchester Bereavement Support, an independent voluntary organisation, is recruiting new Bereavement Visitors to join the team. The charity has been offering a service

to bereaved individuals in Winchester and the surrounding areas for forty years. We are planning to run a new Training Course and would be very glad to hear from anyone who might be interested.

Contact 01962 620010 or Secretary@winchesterbereavementsupport.org.uk

Worth every Penny

Never missing an issue, Penny Russell has created the front cover of the Itchen Valley News for over a hundred editions.

It's the first page you see as you pick up your copy from your doormat every month.



Penny always made the most out of the photographs sent to her by each month's editor. Even when the image was below the expected standard, she wove her magic, sharpened it up, cropped it to leave just the part that was needed and then added the titles, matching them to the colour of the picture.

She did all this so quickly and so professionally that the editors almost didn't notice its prompt arrival in the inbox.

As well as this monthly task, it was Penny who set up the layout of the magazine for the very first issue. She decided on the spacing, the column width and the font. She set the artistic tone, the grammatical rules and introduced us to the Economist Style Guide. With only one change (increasing the size of the font), the

magazine you are reading today has been produced to the same design as the very first edition. Penny has now decided to call it a day. The Itchen Valley News thanks her for all the practical help and advice she has freely given over almost nine years. *Vernon Tottle, former Chief Editor*

Doing Time: life behind the walls of Winchester Prison

Doing Time, a thought-provoking exhibition supported by Hampshire Cultural Trust, launches this summer. It shares the stories of the people who live and work at Winchester Prison, and it will be touring libraries and civic venues across the county. The exhibition and an accompanying book tell the story of 175 years of Winchester Prison history, the harsh prison regimes of the past and today's focus on education, training and re-form.

Prison life is revealed in a series of interviews with staff including Governor James Bourke who shares the challenges of supporting prisoners with complex social, mental and physical needs. The impact of what often can be life-changing education and training, healthcare and counselling is told in the words of prisoners who have turned their lives around at HMP Winchester.

I spent over six months visiting the prison before, after and during the pandemic when prisoners were almost permanently locked in cells. The exhibition was curated by Leonie Mountney. Photography by award-winning Winchester photographer Javid Akhtar features throughout, revealing the stark reality of prison life.

Each year, 2,000 men pass through



Winchester Prison: on remand, awaiting release or serving sentences. The book and exhibition provide an overview of the many individuals who make up the prison – from teachers and prison officers to the prisoners themselves. Their stories reveal the huge challenges that the prison faces operationally as well as the dedication of the people who work there. They also highlight the pitfalls of a criminal justice system where reoffending is far too common. The stories told by prisoners are particularly insightful, revealing how debt, drug addiction and lack of family support can all lead to crime.”

Deborah Neubauer, Director of Community and Impact at Hampshire Cultural Trust, says: “The exhibition and book have provided real insight into what life is like behind the walls in one of Winchester’s most prominent landmarks. The stories that have been shared are both challenging and inspirational.”

The exhibition Doing Time will be at Winchester Law Courts on

10 September and The Great Hall on 17 September with other dates and venues throughout Hampshire.

The book is available from P&G Wells. www.pgwells.co.uk (£7.99)

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Rooted

'Stories of life, land and a farming revolution' by Sarah Langford

was partly inspired by her grandfather, Peter Flindt, who farmed at Hinton Ampner, and her uncle, Charlie, who has now taken over the tenancy. "My grandfather Peter," she writes, "was a hero who fed a starving nation. Now his son Charlie, my uncle, is considered a villain, blamed for ecological

catastrophe and with a legacy no one wants." In *Rooted*, Sarah weaves her own story around those who taught her what it means to be a farmer.

From her childhood memories of Hinton Ampner, the book travels around England, meeting dairy farmers crushed by the low price supermarkets pay for milk, disillusioned pig farmers and small scale organic farmers. Their stories are often frustrating and heartbreaking. Farmers face accusations of ecological mismanagement by a hostile urban media whilst battling extreme weather and political changes. One third of British farms make no money. Sarah's own story, as a barrister in London for ten years until the arrival of

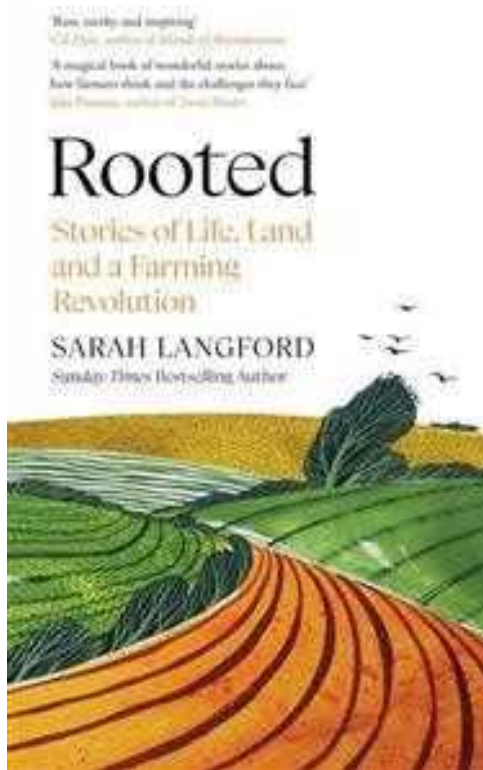
her two small sons and her husband's redundancy, explains the family's sudden return to her in-laws in Suffolk and their small farm. Sarah and her husband Ben take on the management and running of this farm, employing regenerative methods. They replant hedges, reclaim old field names, go organic, introduce new crop rotations, plant trees and wildflowers, extend field margins and bring in grazing animals. They see the land begin to

flourish and meet other farmers doing similar things.

Rooted is more than a book about farming; it's about a movement taking hold in the countryside which has the potential not only to fix our ecological problems but our social ones too, with the ability to reframe our connections to our food, our planet and each other. The conversation around regenerative farming has gone from a whisper to a shout. Sarah, the novice regenerative farmer, shows the

humanity behind the farming industry. *Rooted* is published by Viking/Penguin books at £16.99 (hardback).

Helen Langford



From our City Councillors

You will know that we have been less than happy with the priority given to our aquatic environment. We are therefore very pleased that the resolutions below were agreed by Winchester City Council in July. Paraphrased for brevity, the Council aims to:

1. Protect the catchments of our rare and precious habitats, the Itchen, Meon, Test (Dever) and Hamble as far as possible from the cumulative impacts of pollution, including in line with its local planning policy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

2. Recognise evidence of deterioration of water quality from both private and statutory waste treatment systems due to the cumulative impact of nitrates, phosphates, micro-plastics, pharmaceuticals and multiple sewage discharge events, and seek to better understand the impact on our local rivers, wildlife and the health of our residents.

3. Draw on relevant evidence that assesses the cumulative impact of pollution so that this is appropriately factored into the local plan, including the overall level of future development.

4. Ask the Health and Environment Committee to invite senior representatives from Southern Water, the Environment Agency, Salmon and Trout Conservation, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and Natural England to attend a meeting to allow for a better understanding of the current levels of pollution and remedial action being taken in this regard. NB Riparian owners could speak in public participation.

5. Ask Southern Water, from this date

onwards, to clarify which treatment works will be managing the sewage in its planning consultation responses for major developments; whether it has the information available to assess the impact on the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers or seas; and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required).

6. Request planning assessments, from now onwards, include appropriate coverage of the impact on watercourses in all reports on major developments, including the potential for the development to affect sewage outflow into watercourses, so that this information is clearly and transparently set out.

7. Support the devolution of the Environment Agency power to impose fines on water companies for pollution of local watercourses to local authorities and asks the Leader to seek to achieve this alongside other authorities through a future County Deal or other means.

8. Ask the Leader and Cabinet to collaborate with other Local Authorities facing similar water quality problems in order to best understand how we can use our influence to reduce and mitigate the damage done to our watercourses.

9. Lobby the minister in charge of planning, and our local MPs, to make changes to legislation ensuring that future planning applications for developments of any size in communities that are not on mains drainage are obliged to assess the potential impact of sewage treatment and run off on local watercourses.

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Cllr. Russell Gordon-Smith 01962 733219

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From the Parish Council

As the warm summer continues the Parish Council have allocated extra funding to keep paths and bridleways clear in the



Valley. Can those whose hedges and trees have grown over onto Rights of Way please help by cutting back this summer growth.

Generally when something unexpected happens there are a number of postings on the Itchen List, plus a few emails to the Council. This was anticipated when the bus shelter in Itchen Abbas was removed in mid July, but quite surprisingly, no one seems to have noticed! Don't panic, it has not been stolen. One of our farmers in the valley has generously lifted the shelter off its foundation, put it on a trailer and taken it to a barn where it will be refurbished. We have to thank him not only for moving it, but also for providing some excellent undercover space to carry out the work. Once again, this is another project that has been delayed by Covid. The roof shingles will be completely renewed and any sections of rotten timber replaced. A polycarbonate window will also be fitted to allow those waiting to see the bus approach without having to sit in a draught. Once complete, the shelter will be put back in place and hopefully we will be able to resurface the floor as well.

Speeding traffic is still on the agenda and whether to support "20 is plenty". A number of comments have been

received, both for and against having this speed limit in certain parts of the Valley. During August we would like to hear more comments from as many residents as possible on whether there should be further speed limits in parts of the Parish. These will be considered at our Full Council meeting in September and a decision taken as to whether to support the "20 is plenty" campaign. You can send your views by emailing our clerk or any of the Parish Councillors (lead Councillor on this is David Wolfe). All our councillors' email addresses can be found on our website. Don't forget, you can come to our meeting in September and hear this discussion.

A reminder of two other areas where support and participation from residents of the Valley will be appreciated: first is the Environmental Survey, which can be found on our website. Like it or not, this subject is too important to ignore and everyone who can should be thinking about it. Completing this survey is not just about letting us know what your views are, it also is there so that you can think about what you can, or are doing to help us towards a sustainable environment and leave a better world for future generations.

The second reminder is that Councillors are coming round to collect signatures for the petition to change the Civil Parish into a single ward for election of its Councillors. They will have a leaflet explaining why this is needed, and if you need to know more after that please ask the Chairman.

In August we now take a break from meetings, so enjoy your summer and we will catch up with more news and action in the autumn.

Patrick Appleby, IVPC Chairman.

From our MP

Current events in Westminster move faster than ever these days and, given I am writing this mid-July, I will steer clear of the politics. You can stay abreast of my involvement and/or views on it all at stevebrine.com or more instantly on Facebook, [fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBrineMP). Suffice to say, it matters a great deal (and constituents will know I very much wanted a change in No.10) who our next Prime Minister is, but regardless I have a job to do and am getting on with it as I have for more than 12 years.

My work in Parliament has been as varied of late as it's been long, including speaking on the subject of pharmacies and their role as a key provider of primary care working alongside our family doctors – and support for the UK medical cannabis industry. I have also, through my role as Chair of the all-party group on childcare and early years, raised concerns over a proposed change to the ratios of staff to children in nurseries, as the Government announced new plans to address the cost, choice and availability of childcare. My interest in global health policy remains undimmed and I recently took part in a four-day study trip to Uganda which focussed on reproductive health and family planning in a country where



the population is ballooning, and maternal mortality is among the highest in the world. Our cross-party group travelled to Kampala and the rural north in Luwero and Kabelega.

One of the best aspects of my job is visiting local schools and community groups to chat with young people. I visit schools across the constituency frequently to meet with head teachers and Governors, but we always make time to have a Q&A with the children and/or their eco-teams.

Tours of the iconic Palace of Westminster are available (free of charge during the week) again now, courtesy of my office. You can come as an individual, with a local community group or your school/college.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need my help with a casework issue or just wish to get/give an opinion. Online is easy but you can always call the team on 0207 219 7189 or 01962 791110 if you prefer to make a local call.

Steve Brine, MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

Jackie's County Corner



I have received several complaints right across the division about cancelled bus services which leave residents stranded,

and so I have raised this with Stagecoach and HCC. It seems that they will only announce cancellations on Twitter, which is completely unsatisfactory.

The County Council has recorded their disappointment that that they



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| 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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------|
| 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 |

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| 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 |

were not successful in receiving any Bus Back Better (BBB) funding. The original BBB fund was announced as £3bn, then cut back to just £1.4bn, resulting in only 31 of 79 bids being successful. Add to this, the pressure on commercial services at present: Covid, shortage of passengers and shortage of drivers are playing their part. This puts considerable pressure on the County's transport discretionary funding which includes a taxi run-bus services, CANGO, community bus grants and support for smaller link buses such as the 95 and the 240.

However, good news: HCC received a flood aid grant of over £0.74m, which included Phase 1 of the Outer Winchester scheme. HCC claimed an additional sum of £0.243 m for phase 2 of this scheme in February 2022, which will be spent in this financial year.

HCC also received £9.4m in developer contributions in 2021/22, mainly used to provide road improvements and school places, including special school places, which are still under considerable pressure. In addition well over 13,000 young people now have an Education Health and Care Plan in Hampshire alone. I continue to work with local families on these plans but please contact me if you feel that you need assistance.

HCC has also received £0.8m to develop a business case for a 'Mini-Holland' for Winchester: the bid focus is to improve walking and cycling to and from the city centre, and potentially introduce some Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) in the city too. All of this will be subject to public consultation, so please watch for more detail to come.

Kings Barton roads: I know that many parishes are affected by decisions made

by Cala and HCC about the final road system at Kings Barton. A new County Executive (Cabinet) has just been formed, and so I am afraid the pressure to get this right for all residents both in Kings Barton and across the north of Winchester has started anew with correspondence and a conversation with the new Exec Member, Cllr Heron. He has agreed to meet me to see the roads (as they are now) this month too.

We are living in an increasingly digital world: you may find it useful to receive gov.uk updates from Julia Lopez MP on this. This week's update includes guidance for online access / applications for the right to work, right to rent and DBS checks. All of this assumes however that you can access these forms online, and retain a copy for yourself. Using a public computer at the Library may be residents' only form of online access. At present, Library staff can help if you need a paper copy of a form.

Ukraine update: despite requests, HCC has refused to contemplate using Cornerways for refugee housing. The Government has announced that Britain will take Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) from Ukraine - this is a whole new challenge to add to those coming from other parts of the world and HCC councillors are expecting a full update on the implication and actions for the County Council w/c 11 July.

*Cllr Jackie Porter : 07973 696085,
email jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk,
www.jackieporter.co.uk*

The Valley Quiz No. 5

1. How many countries are there in the Commonwealth and which has (a) the largest population and (b) the smallest?
2. Which country features the car registration code UA?
3. The expression "Crossing the Rubicon" means "The die is cast" or "No turning back." What and where is the Rubicon, and who crossed it?
4. If you land at John Lennon airport, where are you?
5. What is the name of the large cut diamond set in the front of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's crown?
6. What links the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty and the Bordeaux Railway Bridge?
7. What is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter called and what is the approximate constant in numerals?
8. Shortly after the Queen was crowned in 1953, she set off on a six month Royal Tour of the Commonwealth. What was the name of the ship that she sailed in for most of the tour?
9. What was the name of the station with a bare platform that Edward Thomas stopped at one hot afternoon in June 1914, and heard the birds singing?
10. Originally a fishing village and market town, Shanghai is now the world's most populous city. What is the name of the river that runs through it?

John Lang

Answers Page 40

Editorial apology

We somehow managed to miss out the answer to the last question in Quiz 4

last month, for which our apologies.

The answer to the

question *What is the main ingredient of WD40? And what do the letters WD mean?* should have read *WD40 is a unique blend of several lubricants but is 50 -60% naphtha (petroleum). WD means Water Displacement.*

Coincidentally, the Times correspondent in Los Angeles also found this question intriguing last week.

Apparently the formula is hand written in pencil on a notepad and locked away inside a bank vault in San Diego. The company claims the oil dates back to the 1950s when the Rocket Chemical Company finally created a product to fight rust at the fortieth attempt – hence Water Displacement 40.

Editor



Itchen Insight:

Rebecca Prior, Forest School

What is the Outside Forest School?

The name Forest School is often confusing because people think it's a building! I am an independent self-employed Forest School teacher. My role is to ensure that everybody can try new things or improve their confidence to try new things. It is important to feel confident enough to fail and that sense of security comes from knowing that they won't be judged but they will be encouraged.

Why do you love it?

Ultimately because it helps me with my mental health and my sense of who I am. Even on days when it doesn't go to plan, I know I've made a difference to somebody and that's very special.

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How did the pandemic change things for you?

There is a massive emotional deficit through all age groups. It was noticeable when I went back in June 2020 to see how students had lost their social skills or ability to work as teams and to be generous and kind with each other. But being outside in nature resets all of us. The pandemic has brought a lot more people to nature but that doesn't mean that it's easy to get into nature, and that's something that Forest School does.

Is it only for children?

No! I offer courses for adults to come outside and meet other adults at the Forest School. It is my hope that these sessions will be partly sponsored by companies supporting their employees' well-being and delivering corporate social responsibility (CSR). You definitely don't have to be a certain age to enjoy swinging on a swing! Happy memories of being children are often associated with being outside.

It is my hope that The Outside Forest School is able to provide support to anybody who wants it through creating bespoke opportunities outside with me.

Rebecca Prior spoke to Jen Gaster

Contact Rebecca on
boutsidefs@gmail.com or
www.boutsidefs.com

The Practical Gardener

I have memories of 1976, yes, a very long hot and dry summer. Right now, so it is for 2022. It's been a struggle to keep up with watering. I decided to make two new beds, one for perennials and one for shrubs. The latter was in a part of the garden which I don't think had ever been dug. I used the

rotovator in six passes to try and break up the ground and free it of stone. It was not easy but preparation is always important. I'm now producing my own compost in quantity so that came in handy and I watered for two hours. The next day some of the plants were wilting. This time I was more careful with water – one gallon per plant per day. This is a wake-up call to install more water butts, too late for this summer but clearly necessary.

It's interesting that my greenhouse is doing OK - but it has to go. Siting a greenhouse is difficult but I am now tempted to have a lean-to against the new garage wall. This will provide



warmth and its easy to get power. Whoever put up my existing greenhouse took no account of prevailing wind. When the door needs to be open in hot weather, it's important to have some protection. Now is the time to give plaudits to my family in the old home. A huge success in the greenhouse with tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergine and chillies. First time for Jen and a job well done. I am pleased to report both broccoli and cauliflowers have done well in the vegetable garden. There's lots of talk about succession planting and must plan this for that next year. Apart from some weeding, there really is very little

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work in growing your own.

My old petrol mower is coming to the end of its life. It's very heavy and noisy. I decided to look at a battery mower. No worries about fuel, much lighter in weight and quiet. As I already had some Bosch 36v equipment and because the batteries are interchangeable, I decided to keep to this brand.

Happy Gardening

Tony Gaster.

A Retriever 'Working Test'

One Sunday morning a few weeks ago I set off with my labrador Bonnie to participate in a retriever working test just outside Blandford in Dorset.

The term retriever includes labradors, golden retrievers and flatcoats. The purpose of the working tests is to find out how well a dog works with their handler and takes direction to find the object - a canvas 'dummy'. There are usually two sorts of retrieves. In one, the dog sees the dummies being thrown, and has to retrieve them in the order directed. In a 'blind' test, the dummy is placed out of sight of the dog and handler. The handler is told approximately where to look and the dog has to find it, relying on their handler's directions and their own ability. The dog has to listen to whistled commands to go back, or stop and move to left or right. When the dog arrives in the right area, depending on the scenting conditions they may have to hunt quite hard to find the dummy. Some tests may combine both types of

retrieves. The terrain used can be open fields, woods or water.

Dogs are called forward individually for the majority of the tests, but there is always one test which involves between two and five dogs walking in a line and each dog being sent separately for one or two retrieves. The purpose is to test the dog's steadiness and ability to walk beside their handler at heel, whilst other dogs are working. Working tests are very popular and there are usually between 25 and 50 dogs and handlers in any one competition. The tests are set at different levels of difficulty, depending on the age and ability of the dogs

competing, with Puppy (under 18 months), Novice, and Open being the main ones. The distances dogs are sent can vary, and experienced dogs may be asked to go 150 yards or more from their handler. There will be four or five different tests for each dog to complete, with marks awarded out of 20 for the ability shown by dog and handler.



On this particular day I was competing with Bonnie in an Intermediate Test, and we had five different tests to complete, two in woods, two in the fields and one across a pond. Most of the tests required the dog and handler to work together as a team, with the dog having to trust the handler's directions rather than making assumptions about where to look. Scenting conditions were tricky which meant the dog really needed to listen

to the whistle. When it came to the awards I was totally amazed that my little dog had won – an unexpected and wonderful outcome to end a very happy day. *Mary Hogg*

Flight delayed or cancelled?

A lot of people will be worried after seeing the recent travel news. If you face issues, the Citizens Advice website has lots of information about what to do when your flight is delayed or cancelled. If you're not sure what to do, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 or speak to a local adviser on 0808 278 7861.

Lesley Rose, Advice Services Manager for Citizens Advice Winchester District

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in August

Black bins and brown garden bins on Friday 12 and 26 August

Green bins on Friday

Friday 5 and 19 August

Glass boxes on Friday 19 August

Farmers' Market in Winchester

Sundays 13 and 27 August

Parish Council Full Meeting

No Meetings in August

Bus information

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Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (**Coll**) 09:49 11:49 13:19 15:19 17:11 18:09; (**NColl**) 09:49 11:49 13:19 15:19 17:09 18:09

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

Key: **Sch** School days only; **NSch**

School holidays only; **Coll** College days only; **NColl** College holidays only

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. There are 56 members of the Commonwealth. (There were 54 until June 2022 when Gabon and Togo joined.) The member with the largest population is India with over 1.5bn inhabitants while the Pacific Island of Nauru has only about 10,000.
2. Ukraine
3. The Rubicon is a relatively short river on the eastern side of Italy, and it was Julius Caesar who crossed it in 49BC.
4. Liverpool
5. The Koh-i-Noor "The Mountain of Light."
6. The French engineer Alexandre Gustave Eiffel. He specialised in metal structures and designed the metal frames of all three.
7. The ratio is known as Pi or the number π , a mathematical constant, commonly approximated as 3.14159.
8. The Shaw Saville liner SS Gothic.
9. Adlestrop
10. The Huangpu or Whangpoo. (It feeds into the estuary of the Yangtze River.)



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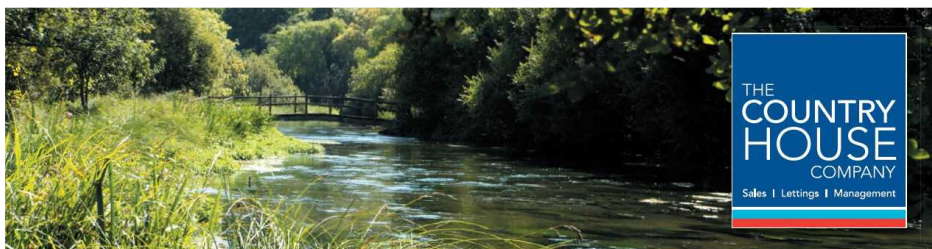
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