

ITCHEN Valley News

Issue 114 July 2023

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WELCOME to the Valley News



June brought wonderful weather and lovely weddings amongst the glory of the English roses. It also happened to bring a very short window for editing the Itchen Valley News, so the editorial team came together to get it over the line; my particular thanks to Nathalie Paterson. We are fortunate to have a diverse editorial team which gives the News more variety, but we are very sorry to say goodbye to Jen Gaster whose business is on such an upward curve that she needs to focus her attention there. If you see her, ask her about taking the sales team to New York – priceless! And please don't hold back if you want to give editing the News a go! Mary Hogg, our Chief Editor, would be delighted to hear from you.

Our features on the three village halls highlight what the community can achieve working together. The halls provide venues for very diverse activities, including the Green Homes Fair pulled together at short notice in June by the Parish Council team - see the review on page 23. It demonstrated what we can all do straight away to rethink energy use in our homes.

On an environmental theme, most of us are worried about water quality in general, and the pollution of our rivers – not least the Itchen – and the sea. So it is good to see our politicians sharing our concerns and raising them in their respective spheres.

I think we all know that we are exceptionally fortunate to live in the Itchen Valley and it is up to all of us to work with nature to make sure it remains as lovely. Henry Labram tempts us out with a local walk on

page 30 accompanied by his excellent photographs. The Grange Festival on our doorstep is set in an Arcadian idyll – Peter McManus reviews the outstanding opera season so far on page 22. And Simon and Dorothy Broadley have included the vine as their Plant of the Month, to remind us that we are increasingly surrounded by vineyards. I'll drink to that!

Next month Charlotte Appleby and Brigid McManus will be editing.

Verity Coleman

Itchen Valley News

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What's On

Sunday 2 July at 6pm St Swithun's Church, Martyr Worthy

Patronal Evensong followed by drinks.
Everyone welcome.

Thurs 6 and Sun 9 July 2-5.30pm Crawley gardens, SO21 2PR

Four gardens for £10.00, children free.
Card payment available.

Home-made teas in the village hall.



The National Garden Scheme has been supporting the charity Horatio's Garden since 2015 and has donated over £400,000 to date to help create and care

for beautiful, accessible gardens in all eleven NHS regional spinal injury centres. So it was great news that Horatio's Garden - designed by Charlotte Harris and Hugo Budd - received a Gold Medal and Best Show Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023. The show garden will be moving to its permanent home in Sheffield's Princess Royal Spinal Injuries Centre.

This support is only available from the NGS through the generosity of our volunteers, our garden owners and the general public who support us by visiting our gardens. www.ngs.org.uk

Pat Beagley

Friday 14 July 10.30am - 12.30pm On the Way café Martyr Worthy Village Hall

On the Way is a pop up community café, usually held once a month from spring to November, mostly outside. It was set up by Lucy Pease and Nicky Barber, supported by a happy band of



Waybakers (cakes) and Waymakers (tea and coffee). Future dates can be found at itchenvalleychurches.org/calendar or join Lucy's WhatsApp group. All Wayfarers welcome!
Lucy Pease 07979 537697

Monday 17 July at 7.30pm Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall is open to all residents of the two villages. If you are interested in the Hall and its activities do come along. Business will include a review of the past year and plans for the future. Elected committee members will also be chosen to represent the local community.

An agenda and Annual Report will be available nearer the date through our website aavillagehall.co.uk or direct from me
(secretary@iaavillagehall.co.uk).
Ken Gordon, Honorary Secretary.

Thursdays 10am - 12 noon Dragons in Itchen Abbas Church!

The Dragons Mahjong Group, named after one of the tile sets in the game, is now meeting weekly in Itchen Abbas Church. Why not come along and give it a go? Anyone can join in, with or



without experience, as the game is very easy to pick up.

Refreshments and a warm welcome await you!

Arminel Tottle, 779611



The Hampshire Cultural Trust

A wide variety of events for the summer, for both children and adults, including at the Arc in Winchester and at the City Museum. Further information at hampshireculture.org.uk/events.

26 May – 16 August 2023

Constable: The Dark Side The Gallery at The Arc, Winchester

A selection of iconic masterpieces by the profound Romantic painter, John Constable, including 'Weymouth Bay' (1816) and 'A sluice, perhaps on the Stour' (1830-6) will be on display in a brand-new exhibition. See review p11.

Events at The Yard

Wednesday 5 July 7-8.30pm

Alice Vincent and Why Women Grow

Women have always gardened, but our stories have been buried with our work. Alice Vincent is on a quest to change that, to understand what encourages women to go out, work the soil, plant seeds and nurture them, even when so many other responsibilities sit upon their shoulders, and to recover the histories that have been lost amongst the soil. *Why Women Grow* is a much-needed exploration of why women turn to the

earth, as gardeners, growers and custodians.

Join Alice and Yard host Rebecca Fletcher as they explore lost histories, connections and stories of soil, sisterhood and survival.

Alice Vincent is a journalist and the author of three books, including *Rootbound: Rewilding a Life*, which was longlisted for the Wainwright Prize and named as one of the books of 2020 by the Financial Times and the Independent.

A self-taught gardener, Alice is a columnist for The Guardian and Gardens Illustrated and writes for titles including Vogue and the New Statesman. She has been documenting her gardening online since 2015 and has since launched a newsletter and podcast. Why Women Grow features guests such as Sarah Raven, Margaret Howell and Paula Sutton.

Tuesday 18 July 7.30-10pm

Gurdeep Loyal - Flavours of a Second Generation

Join us to feast on sumptuous flavours of a second generation, with award-winning food writer and columnist, Gurdeep Loyal, as we chat about his stunning new book, *Mother Tongue*, winner of the Jane Grigson Trust Award. Celebrating the hybrid third-culture cooking of second-generation migrants around the world today, Gurdeep explores his culinary upbringing which combined authentic home-cooked Punjabi food with inauthentic curry-house classics alongside a Western foodie cannon and wanderlust for travel, all in the pursuit of flavour.

Full of vibrancy, flavour and culture, Gurdeep's dishes embrace both deliciousness and downright inventiveness as he blends flavour and heritage in this fantastic amalgam of British and Indian cuisine.

As guests enjoy a supper cooked by The Yard team from *Mother Tongue*, Gurdeep will also demonstrate some of his recipes, sharing his culinary journey and new versions of some of his most-loved childhood dishes.

Friday 28 July 6-10pm and Friday 25 August 6-10pm

Join us at The Yard for fresh cocktails, great tunes and street food on the last Friday of the month. Booking isn't required, simply turn up, grab a drink from the bar, order some food and soak up the evening rays in our courtyard.

Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club

Home Matches: Saturdays 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 July

Annual Tug of War and Barbeque Thursday 20 July

From 6pm

Annual Cricket Sixes Competition and Hog Roast

Friday 21 July

From 10am

Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club

Some clubs are lucky enough to have one stalwart; Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club is fortunate to benefit from the continuous support of three players each with 50 years of membership! It was the time of flares, platform shoes, big hair, Slade and The Osmonds back in 1973 when Trevor Yeates, Andrew Dickety and Martin Hall first joined EMWCC.

On Saturday 27 May current players, families and Club supporters enjoyed a barbeque and social evening at the David Roth ground in Easton and

celebrated this anniversary, recognising the debt of gratitude to these legends of the Club. On a glorious evening after the League fixtures had finished former Club Chairman Adam Murch made presentations to all three players.

The ever-youthful Trevor Yeates defies his 50 years as a cricketer and continues to be a regular and key player for the Club's 2nd team. He recently took 6 wickets for 9 runs. Trevor is an all rounder and has scored six centuries over the years. As a seam bowler he was a long term member of the 1st XI's bowling attack. Trevor and his family have been continual supporters of Club life performing many important roles. Trevor served on the Management Committee in the 1980s and acted as the Club's groundsman on three separate occasions.

Club stalwart Andrew Dickety is the father of the current Club Captain Mark Dickety. Andrew and his family have been crucial to the organisation of the Club over many years. His two boys grew up scoring and collecting match fees and now both play for the Club and in turn bring their families to the games. Andrew was a batsman/wicket keeper. He has worked tirelessly on committees, arranging activities and managing and captaining various teams. He has been responsible for nurturing many young players, primarily through Indoor Cricket and Evening League cricket; and continues to actively support the Club's activities.

Martin Hall was primarily a batsman and wicket keeper. He was Club Captain for five years, 1st Team Captain for nine years and has served on various Club committees. Martin was also presented with a framed picture of the cricket ground, which listed the many trophies he has been instrumental in winning for the Club over the years of his



impressive career. These include various Hampshire Cricket League Championships, Winchester Indoor and Evening Leagues, the Tichborne Trophy, the Igglesdon Trophy and the Condor Cup. Martin has gone on to represent England Over 60s and 70s and played 10 Test Matches (five in Australia) for them with a top run score of 70. He has also represented Hampshire Over 50s, 60s and 70s for 22 years. In recent years he has played for the 3rd team, enabling young players to benefit and learn from his knowledge, experience and passion for the game.

On a memorable day for EMWCC the three Club League teams also achieved comprehensive wins. At Home the 1st team, captained by Ben Stanbrook, beat Bramshaw CC 1st XI by 3 wickets. Isaac Lowe took 3 wickets and Adam Kite 4, including importantly bowling out K. Patel on 50 runs. Opener Jamie

Banks top scored 41 runs, followed by Ben's 39.

EMWCC 2nd XI beat St Cross Symondians CC 6th XI by 166 runs. George Marshall-James scored 108 runs and Oscar Hunwick was 127 not out. There were three wickets for Sam Boulton and two each for Peter Burnand and Ben de Laszlo.

Playing at North Walls Recreation Ground, the EMWCC 3rd XI beat Compton and Chandlers Ford CC 's 5th XI by 141 runs. Jay Matharu scored 72 runs and Adam Murch and Noah Pounds took four wickets each. Noah also scored 28 runs and finished with bowling figures of 4 for 14 off 8 overs. New EMWCC members are welcome. Details of membership categories can be found at www.emwcc.com

Lynda Gray



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Valley Entrepreneur: Lucy de Laszlo at Artiologie

Tell me about Artiologie

Artiologie is all about sharing the joy and love of art. At Artiologie we are aiming to make art accessible, both in terms of price and where you can view it. We hope to make the process of looking at and buying art easy and fun.

Is your background in art?

My background is in finance, and not within the art world (although my husband comes from a family of artists and art historians!). But I have always had a passion for art and stylish interiors, and love how art can enhance your home and the feel of an interior.

You seem to have found a niche in the art market. What gave you the idea for Artiologie?

Artiologie was born out of my own journey with art. I found it hard to know where to look for and buy new art – it often proved time consuming, expensive and unsatisfactory. Then there is the question of framing. So I set out to solve these challenges and about a year ago I launched Artiologie, which offers a curated collection of beautiful and affordable art, all framed in bespoke handmade frames.

Tell me more about the collections.

The collections are intended to suit a variety of styles and interiors, but with one consistent thread running through - namely that each piece is beautiful in its own right. we only sell what we would be happy to hang in our own home. The collections are seasonal too, and are regularly refreshed

Setting up a new business is a brave and often tricky thing to do. How have you found it?

It was daunting, but exciting too as I



was so passionate about what I was doing. I decided to launch the first collection at our home in Martyr Worthy, believing it best to show the paintings in a home setting, which I think is preferable to the often sterile environment of a gallery. The inaugural Open House collection was well supported and the feedback I got was really positive - and I sold almost all the paintings. So with this initial validation, I had the confidence to keep going. I have hosted two more collections since, one in the autumn and one in the spring. I intend to continue showing regular seasonal Open House collections – my next one is planned for the autumn.

What has been challenging so far?

An early challenge was finding a reliable but high quality framer, who could offer something different with a high quality finish. I believe that I have found just that person – he is perhaps my secret weapon!

You are exhibiting with great success at Alresford Linen in Alresford. What led to this?

Alresford Linen is such a stylish store and is a great way to show the paintings in such a beautiful space, and to reach a wider audience. I aim to refresh the collection there regularly and offer a range of work by different artists and in varied styles.



Boules – League round 1

Boules started throughout the Valley during May, and the first round of the 2023 league competition was held on Tuesday 30 May with Avington at home to Easton.



Each village has two teams of three players, and a good supply of supporters came to enjoy the atmosphere and a generous supply of refreshments. At the start the weather was hot and the sun shone strongly and cast shadows across the playing surfaces, though later it turned colder and people donned their additional sweaters or jackets.

This was the first inter-village challenge of the season. In the initial two games all four teams started slowly. Then in both cases Avington gradually pulled ahead and reached the required 13 points; score at half-time was Avington 2: Easton 0. In the second half, the reverse happened; it was the Easton teams that were the more accurate with their throws, and they steadily took the lead and claimed both the remaining two points. So the result for the day was balanced and at the end of round 1, Avington and Easton are equal on two points each.

The next round of the league competition is on Tuesday 11 July. Before that on Tuesday 20 June, there is the Triples (the knock-out competition) which will be held at Martyr Worthy.

Ralph Matthews

What next for Artiologie?

I plan to launch on Instagram in the coming weeks, so watch this space! And in the future we plan to launch a pre-owned line to the business, where we would be able to sell paintings (if they meet our selection criteria) on behalf of clients.

Although my next Open House collection will be in the autumn, I currently have a selection of new paintings just back from the framer, so if anyone would like to have a peek, please drop me a line.

I offer a consulting service for clients: if you are looking for anything specific, I would be happy to have a chat and see if I can help.

info@artiologie.co.uk

Lucy de Lazlo was talking to Nathalie Paterson

Constable: The Dark Side - a review of the exhibition at The Arc

The name John Constable may well conjure up images of tranquil, pastoral scenes with which we are all very familiar. 'The Hay Wain', 'The White Horse' and 'Wivenhoe Park' are all great works by this English landscape painter in the Romantic tradition. But, as the title of this exhibition suggests, John Constable had a darker side.

Art historian Nicola Moorby has curated this interesting collection of the artist's work to focus her gaze on the personal story of Constable and his wife Maria and to show how the struggles of the artist's life can be seen reflected clearly in his painting.

I always think chiaroscuro is a marvellous word. Its meaning in art is the use of strong contrasts between light and dark, usually bold oppositions affecting a whole composition. This effect elicits drama and passion, not words we associate with the Constable works we most often see. But Constable wrote about himself "I live by shadows, to me shadows are reality." He had a deep and loving marriage with his wife Maria but was often beset by anxiety



caused by the strain of providing for his family which comprised seven children under 12. We might say Constable experienced his own chiaroscuro. This obsession with light and dark is more clearly seen in his work across media such as pencil and ink as well as mezzotint, a monochrome printing process where the artist works from dark to light. In Constable's exploration of landscape and seascape during the late 1820s and 1830s, we can see good examples of these light and dark compositions such as 'Rainstorm over the Sea and Boat' and 'Stormy Sky'.

Constable's beloved wife died in 1828 and although he would finally be elected a Royal Academician the following year, the loss of Maria broke Constable's heart and he wore black for the rest of his life until he died in 1837.

Nicola Moorby is an independent art historian specialising in British art of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She studied at the University of York and Birkbeck College, London. The exhibition she has hung at The Arc is most interesting and thought provoking, illuminating as it does a little known side of one of Britain's most loved artists. The exhibition continues until 16 August at The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester.

Catherine Hahn

The Four Worthys

The Four Worthys, produced by local authors, makes accessible a large number of pictures of the Worthys specially selected from images collected over the years. With 50 double-page spreads printed in colour it presents a fascinating story of the Worthys up to modern times. There are views of the four villages, their people, buildings and a wide range of interesting events. It provides an essential guide to the way in which local communities have developed over the years, including Springvale and Hookpit, Kings Worthy village and Abbots Worthy, together with Headbourne Worthy and the hidden secrets of Martyr Worthy. Each section starts with a short historical introduction and every picture has an informative caption. For the first time, *The Four Worthys* provides a window into the huge numbers of documents and images collected in the Worthys Local History Group archives over the past 40 years and now stored digitally.

Barry Shurlock is a founding member of the group and a well-known local historian and Tim Underwood is a local designer with an MA in Book Design from the University of Reading. Published price £15. Special pre-publication price £12. Further information from lizshurlock@gmail.com, 07542 060573/01962 861913

The Worthys Local History Group

The group is open to all and new members are very welcome. Please visit the website for details.

www.worthyhistory.org.

The Cricketers Inn in Easton

The Cricketers Inn in Easton has been thriving over the last couple of months thanks to the new landlord Jay and his team. With the help of a designer the pub has now had an interior refurbishment, giving it a feeling of more light and space. The food is all homemade using fresh locally sourced produce when available. As well as traditional food the pub offers a scrumptious Sunday roast, and soon there will be the option to take away your favourite pub grubbs to enjoy in the comfort of your own home.

As well as delicious food the Cricketers also has a wide range of bitters, lagers, ales and wines, with the addition of guest ales weekly. During the summer why not have your favourite beverage on the sun terrace (the Cricketers also welcomes dogs). Check our Facebook page to find out about upcoming events such as quiz nights once a month, Monday night darts, Saturday morning breakfast, afternoon teas and so much more.

The Cricketers also offers accommodation in a family room, a double room and a twin room, all en-suite.

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The Practical Gardener

Readers will know that I often comment about the changing climate. So in December we had colder weather, then in the spring it was wetter and now it's hotter and drier. All this makes for challenges for any gardener. Those of us who like pots have a big task in hand. So what about automatic systems? Do they work? My experience is not always because when watering you have to respond to the actual weather. If the system is controlled by a timer, then a decision has to be made. It does save effort, that's for sure.

I bought several bare-root roses in March. Regular watering now is essential, but not every day. I believe this is necessary for any new shrubs and trees in dry times. I am a great believer in seaweed fertiliser (did you see the stupidity about the name when considering Weymouth beach?) I use old washing up bottles and add a small amount to almost every watering can. In dry weather, conventional fertilisers like Growmore won't work until it rains long and hard.

I wonder how many in our community tried "no mow May"? It seemed a good idea but then what do you do with grass that is too long to cut? The experts don't seem to answer practical questions like that. I know my battery mower would not cope. Might I suggest a solution, which is to leave a wild area in the garden? On that topic, my garden is fenced all round at the back, but because of a slope, the bottom gravel boards when laid level always leave a space. Ah, great for the hedgehogs, you might say. True, but also for rats, is my experience. I've had



to wire the bottom of two of my compost heaps.

The lovely sunshine has brought the best out of roses this year. With very little effort they are stunning, so my garden is full of colour. June is also the first month for cropping food: broad beans, new potatoes and lettuce all doing well with minimal effort. And the first tomatoes will be ready before July. My new plan with potted strawberries in the greenhouse is working; no issues with birds or slugs as yet but lots of care needed on watering.

I've seriously damaged a finger with a saw. A warning to be careful with all these modern super sharp tools.

Happy Gardening
Tony Gaster

Tiddler Joke

Jasper, age 5

What do you
call a bear with
no teeth?

A gummy bear!



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Jackie's County Corner

Water quality is a hot topic and I was pleased to join Margot Power on a group visit to the water treatment plant at Alresford recently. There we learned a lot about the science and the way the engineers manage the varying flows in very dry and very wet weather to avoid storm overflows. It is heartening to hear that the site has capacity to take the new developments in the town. We discussed how Southern Water manages the chemicals and other materials that arise from the waste water, but wherever we live in the division, we can all play our part too: only put the three P's* in the toilet, and please choose cleaning products with the lowest phosphate levels.

The County Council has a budget consultation out until 23 July. You can see a commentary before you respond. Can I urge you to take part? Often the low level of responses implies that citizens aren't interested, which I'm sure is far from the truth. Suggestions to reduce costs include cutting school crossing patrols, cutting Hampshire Waste Recycling costs by over 50%, and not resurfacing roads! But there are implications for social care for children and adults too: services which are already stretched.

www.hants.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

Talking of potholes; I asked three questions at the last HCC meeting about potholes, recycling, and the cost of travel for special needs education. My first question related to your complaints about tyre and wheel damage: how many complaints had HCC received about potholes in the first three months of 2023? The answer was a staggering 1,175, approximately 10 every day, distinctly increased from

the previous year. Answers to all three questions are on the HCC recording of 18 May 2023.



The County Councillor grant scheme is now open for small grants. Each councillor has a total fund of £8,000, so you are advised to contact me before applying so that we can discuss your plans. Go to www.hants.gov.uk and search county councillor grants. This fund is open until the money runs out, so please contact me in the next few months to ensure you are not disappointed.

Although maybe not in your ward, the Cart and Horses junction is used by most drivers and cyclists. After the fatal accident in the autumn, the local councillors felt they had no democratic way to voice their concerns to the Executive Member, and it was a relief that he was persuaded to meet with Parish and City Councillors. We discussed every suggestion that you have put to us for short term junction improvements which are now being assessed for feasibility by the traffic engineers. We acknowledged that the time for major change is when building the new junction 9 and the County will be consulting on options for that new Cart and Horses junction in the summer, probably July-September. I raised this matter too, at the M3 Junction 9 Open Floor Hearing (OFH) in May. You can see the full OFH on the National Infrastructure Planning website; my presentation is also on my website.

Cllr Jackie Porter www.jackieporter.co.uk
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*The three Ps? Paper, Pee and Poo!



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Bell Ringing in the Valley

Over the past year bell ringers nationally have been busy, ringing for the Queen's Jubilee, the deaths of the Duke of Edinburgh and Her Majesty, followed by the acclamation of King Charles III. At the beginning of this year

towers throughout the land were asked to ring. Fifty ringers had been recruited over the Winchester area and many of them, together with local ringers, enjoyed tea together at Easton and rang for nearly two hours. They moved on to other local towers, having first rung at Avington. The bells



we found ourselves with five ringers and six bells, so when 'Ring for the King' was announced, to encourage new ringers to learn to ring for the Coronation, we held a very successful taster morning in St Mary's, Easton. As a result, with dedicated help from Roger Booth, Ian Redway, Edmund Wratten and others, we now have six new ringers, some of whom are already ringing regularly before our services. They are to be applauded for their enthusiasm and dedication in learning so quickly. On Coronation Day itself

at Martyr Worthy and Itchen Abbas were also chimed so the Itchen Valley did their bit.

Such was the interest that a hand bell taster session was held in Easton and we have been given a set of hand bells and are forming a team which we hope will be good enough to perform by Christmas. On 30 September 30 hand bell ringers will gather at Ropley for a special have-a-go session, and thereafter we will practise one afternoon a week.

If you would like to be part of this - the more the merrier, no special skills required and it is a lot of fun - do please contact me.,

Judy Bishop

judybish@hotmail.com/ 01962 779205.



Martyr Worthy bell ringers

St Swithun's Martyr Worthy has a new team of bell ringers – from left to right Jim Christie, Kelly Marriage and Libby Christie, with baby Grace getting in the swing from an early age. The three bells were installed when the church tower was built in 1871. Two of the bells were cast in the 1600s with the inscription "In God is my hope". The bells, which were originally full swung, are now swung chimed to the tune of various versions of "Three Blind Mice", as the tower is no longer structurally sound enough to withstand the pressure of full swinging.

Simon Ffennell

Shirley Dorothy Steele 1927 -2023



Shirley Steele was a remarkable lady, and this was well evidenced by the wonderful eulogies delivered at her memorial service at Christ Church on Tuesday 6 June. Reminiscences came from her book *Apples of Gold*, in which shares her experiences and 'life hacks' gathered along her 94 year journey. Her younger brother, Chris Ralling, described their early years growing up in Kent during the war and her niece, Jo Ralling, talked of childhood visits to Worthy Park Grove, where the Steeles had lived since 1986. Shirley and her late husband David, who died in 2009, were members of the Stewards' Trust, where David was chaplain from 1965-1973. Shirley and David were evangelical Christians, and spent many months of the year travelling throughout Europe and Russia teaching the Bible.

For 20 years they were evangelists in the Alps, planting the seeds for what has now become the thriving English Speaking

Church in Verbier, which today provides chaplains for Sunday services throughout the ski season. We met them in Verbier in the 80s, as did another chalet girl member of the congregation whom Shirley had befriended. That exemplifies the draw that Shirley had on so many people. Shirley, who was a descendant of Sir George Williams, was also an active supporter of both the YMCA and the Ashburnham Christian community. As a widow she took great interest in the children of Princes Mead School, just yards from her house, and attended their prayer meetings. The children loved her and brought her hot food during term time. It was very special that 15 children were able to attend the service and sing a song in her memory.

These last years she became frail, but was adamant she did not want to move out of the home she loved. She however never felt alone, explaining that she always had three friends with her, 'the Father, Son and Holy Spirit'. She will be much missed, but now lies in peace with her beloved David in Magdalen Hill Cemetery.

Frits and Sara Janssen

Her neighbours these last three years

Battle of the Atlantic 80th Commemoration May 2023 in Liverpool

Stephanie and I had the great privilege of attending the 80th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of the Atlantic in the city of Liverpool over the weekend of the 26 to 28 May. It was a fantastic occasion helped by a warm-up act called Eurovision. I was there for two personal reasons: my parents were intimately involved, and

for the last 20 years I have been attempting to set up a national memorial for the campaign.

The Battle of the Atlantic lasted for six years. It was actually a campaign but Churchill named it a "battle" and that has stuck ever since. This logo for the commemorations shows the scope of the Atlantic campaign, especially those sea lanes connecting Britain with North America. Our survival as a nation depended upon keeping these sea routes open and bringing over from North America all the men and munitions required to liberate occupied countries of Europe after the Normandy landings.

The German aim was to starve Britain into submission by a U-boat wolf pack strategy against merchant shipping. U-Boat is the generic name for German



submarines (Under-Sea Boat). Until spring 1943, the submarines were very successful in sinking a high level of shipping. The tide turned with a convoy (ONS5) targeted by



60 U-boats with the instructions to destroy the whole convoy and force the allies to rethink how they reinforced Europe. My father, aged 31, was the senior officer of the escort group for that convoy. The U-boats failed, with six sunk and others damaged, and marked the turning point in the campaign to keep the sea lanes open. The key event of the commemoration was a church service and opening of the national memorial in the Liverpool Parish Church of our Lady and Saint Nicholas, close to the famous Pier Head and the Liver building. I had the privilege of reading the gospel which started with the words 'Jesus said no one has greater love than this—to lose one's life for one's friends' and finished with him saying 'I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another'. We then moved outside where the Princess Royal opened the memorial - a small garden of reflection overlooking the Mersey with paving consisting of the logo shown to the left. The last main event was a Drumhead service and wreath laying at the Pier Head. The bands were from the Royal Marines and the German Navy, and there was a fly past by a historic

Lancaster (probably the most important factor leading to turning the tide against the U-boats). I loved a musical performance by university students depicting the contribution of the Wrens

in the Western Approaches Tactical Unit in the campaign headquarters. A Wren was a member of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS). The service was abolished as women are now fully part of the Royal Navy. The unit's role was to devise new tactics against U-boats and teach those tactics to ships' captains and officers. The performance depicted a 20-year-old Wren who not only corrected an experienced Captain's reply to a tactical question but also fell in love with one of the unit participants. That young Wren became my mother. When I explained this to the actor she burst into tears!

Vice Admiral Mike Gretton



Opera at The Grange Festival

The Grange Festival has started with a bang. Opening with a brand-new production of Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, they followed up the next day with a Double Bill featuring Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* as a taster for Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*.

The production of all three operas is outstanding, while the singing is (naturally) first class.

The Mozart opera is legendary for its apparently supercilious treatment of women's roles in society. This production was played with such humour and attention to detail that such thoughts were quite absent, at least according to all the audience members that I spoke to. It was staged in a period setting of 1763 Naples that

worked extremely well. It turns out that Naples at that time was exploiting the discoveries of Pompeii and Herculaneum to become the Ibiza of its day - as people used to say, what happens in Naples stays in Naples! The six soloists were brilliantly chosen both for their singing and their acting capabilities. In the scene depicted,



Samantha Clarke (Fiordiligi) is threatening Nicholas Lester (Guglielmo) with her parasol, while Kitty Whately (Dorabella) and Carolina Lippo (Despina, disguised as a doctor) look on in amazement!

The production of the Double Bill exploited the latest projection technology (skilfully managed by local talent Nina Dunn) to perfection. A simple ski-jump stage construction, totally without scenery, moved



seamlessly in *Orfeo ed Euridice* from a pastoral setting to the depths of Hades. Remarkably, mezzo Heather Lowe sang the role of Orfeo usually taken by a male counter-tenor, and then went on to sing as Dido in the second half. Other cast members similarly doubled up. In the second half, the projection system was used at times to simulate the idea that we were watching a video captured on social media, as the setting imagined Queen Dido as a wealthy celebrity, welcoming Aeneas (sung by James Newby) arriving by air! This updating of the period worked remarkably well. Harry Christophers conducted his own orchestra, with his Sixteen providing the chorus, supplemented by acrobats (pictured on the previous page) lending spectacular action to an otherwise relatively static setting.

We await the third production of the season, Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades*, which will be reviewed in next month's issue. *Peter McManus*

Photo credits © Craig Fuller

Learning at the Grange

With a big group of children and carers we spend a half term afternoon in an opera workshop led by the wonderful Rob, culminating in a chance to sit in on the technical dress rehearsal of *Così fan Tutte*. By then we had acted out emotions, learnt one of the tunes and been addressed by the director and one of the actors in full costume. We were ready for a lifetime as opera fans! *Verity Coleman*

The Green Homes Fair

The Parish Council Environmental Working Group, led by Steve Percy, organised an impressive event at the



IA&A Village Hall on Father's Day. It attracted a very good turnout; Stuart Mills of the charity Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (www.winacc.org.uk) said it was the best attended home energy event he has seen in the Winchester district. There was information on many aspects of 'going green'. It was pointed out that solar panels and battery storage are now appropriate for everyone; with the cheaper panels and higher energy prices the ROI (return on investment) is as good as it ever was, and increasing. There is a system to suit most situations if householders look at their current electricity consumption and consider likely future increases (move to an electric car?). Additional insulation is also a no-brainer for everyone and if you are needing to replace a gas boiler heat pumps deserve serious consideration. We also had the opportunity to find out about how the solar panels and battery storage systems are working for the Hall itself. Even on the day of the Coronation (remember how it rained?) enough was generated to fully charge the batteries and provide all the Hall's needs.

It was an interesting morning and we thank everyone who worked hard to organise it, and those who came to inform us and answer questions. We all need to think about what we ourselves can do to reduce the impact of climate change.

Charlotte Appleby

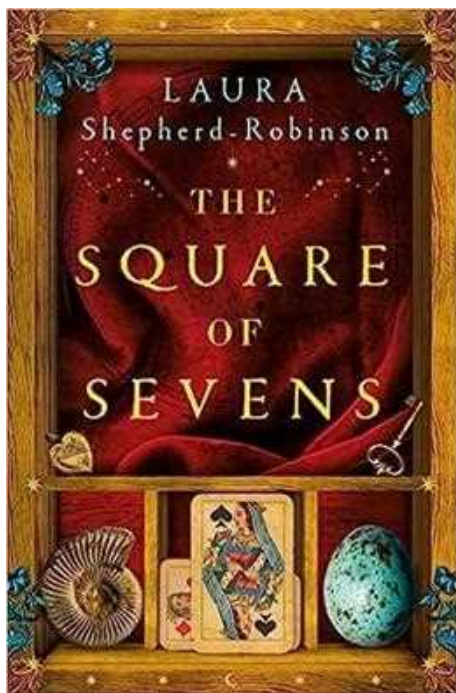
Book review: *The Square of Sevens*

From award-winning novelist Laura Shepherd-Robinson comes an epic tale of fortune and identity set in Georgian high society. If it's mystery, intrigue and heartbreak you seek, then Shepherd-Robinson's latest novel, *The Square of Sevens*, will be just the thing. As a girl known only as Red travels from village to village with her fortune-telling father, they pay their way with an ancient method of cartomancy known as the Square of Sevens. When their luck quickly sours, Red's father befriends a gentleman scholar, offering him an antique document containing the secret behind their gift for augury, in exchange for a promise that the scholar will take Red into his care. Amidst the Georgian splendour of Bath, Red's fortune-telling skills are a

delight in polite society but the questions she has about her identity gnaw at her soul. These mysteries draw Red to London and into the grand houses of two of the most powerful families in England. However, others have too embarked upon their own investigations and remain determined to locate the stolen secret of the Square of Sevens. Whilst Red's quest attracts attention, danger and reward in equal measure lie in wait.

Rebecca Fletcher

Rebecca Fletcher is literary interviewer and host/programme curator at The Yard Hampshire where she has hosted conversations with many bestselling authors including Joanne Harris, Simon Sebag Montefiore, Nikita Gill, Dr Rupy Aujla and Jessie Burton amongst others. For her latest events, visit www.rebecca-fletcher.co.uk or follow on Instagram @margotgoodlife where she hosts a monthly book series, Are You Sitting Comfortably.



City Councillor Report

It's extremely sad news to hear about the upcoming closure of Lloyds Bank in Alresford. I know many residents and businesses alike are very concerned. I am working closely with Steve Brine MP who will be visiting Lloyds Bank to discuss things further. We are contacting LINK to ensure two cashpoints remain in Alresford and there is no gap in provision. I will let everyone know as soon as there is positive news.

Overnight parking charges: the current administration, the Liberal Democrats, have introduced overnight parking charges in Winchester City car parks. I have joined businesses and residents in raising concerns.

Grass cutting project: I attended the



latest project meeting and was pleased to feed back that finally, after two years of raising these issues, areas that previously had been mis-

managed have received cuts on time, sight lines improved and cuttings removed. I did highlight some areas where safety cuts had not been done due to tall flowers which then hindered visibility at a junction. I asked for reassurance that sight line cuts will take priority as safety must come first.

Cllr Fiona Isaacs 808072

fisaacs@winchester.gov.uk

From The Parish Council



In the last month there have been two important meetings. Both are linked physically by location, by a common factor, roads, and both are

on the western borders of the Parish. The first meeting was the next stage of the process for the M3 junction 9 project. Those who registered as interested parties have made their submissions in writing and at the meeting. National Highways have produced a report with these submissions and their replies to them. If you want to look at this document follow the link on our website. Be warned: to read the whole document will take time as it is quite technical and over 70 pages long. If you wish to just look at the Parish Council's submission and National Highway's reply they are on page 34, reference 3.44 RR044.

The other meeting (at long last) was on the Cart and Horses Junction with Councillor Nick Adams-King, Hampshire County Council's cabinet member for Highways and Transport. Thanks to our County Councillor Jackie Porter for arranging this meeting which was attended by a number of interested parties including two of our City Councillors. At the time of the meeting the police report on the fatal incident was not available. Despite that and the fact that the report might say that the junction layout was not a contributory factor to the fatal incident it was agreed that both short and long term solutions were needed to improve safety. There was an indication that the County would be looking at a possible change to road markings and signs but there are various statutory procedures that have to be followed and to introduce these measures would take approximately two months. More long term solutions to improve layout of the junction are being looked at and there has been suggestion of a double roundabout. Please wait until plans are published before making any comment or suggestions. Making comment or suggesting various road layouts at this time will not help and is more likely to slow the process down. Returning to the physical link between these two junctions it is clear from the reply in M3/J9 report that they will not include the Cart and Horses Junction as part of the Junction 9 project.

A different risk, but this time to those on foot. The bridge over the river at the bottom of Church Lane Martyr Worthy that is part of footpath 25 between there and Easton is not in good condition. Although not that old, as many will be aware, this bridge has had, and continues to need, replacement of rotten boards. Overall

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it is in need of significant serious repair, or more preferably replacement with an entirely new bridge made of a material less likely to rot than the present one. The County Council Access Officer is aware of the situation. In the meantime please take care when crossing this bridge. If you see a rotten board please report it to HCC Access or let one of your Parish Councillors know. Please do not try to remove rotten or loose boards and definitely please do not throw them in the river. While still on the subject of footpaths thank you to the person who offered us a redundant trailer and the team who refurbished it. Its primary use will be for transporting the ride on brush cutter which will hopefully allow us to cut more and further afield footpaths while also saving costs. We have also managed to have a number of bridleways in the Valley cut. As many of these join one of our neighbouring parishes we are pressing for them to do the same.

You may have seen the notice that a casual vacancy on the Parish Council has occurred. Unless there is a demand for an election (hopefully not as it would cost the Parish a lot of money) the vacancy will be filled by co-option at our next meeting on 6 July. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council please let Richard our Clerk or any of the councillors know. If you would like to find out more first please talk to me.

Patrick Appleby

From our MP

The issue of water quality and combined storm overflows (CSOs) has shot up the agenda in recent years. As a result, I have worked really hard to educate myself - and in-turn I hope

constituents when they get in touch about the subject.

If it were easy CSOs would never have been a thing in the first place, so anyone who tells you it's a simple fix is deceiving you, and I think most reasonable people know that. Also, and I find very few people genuinely know this, it's essential to understand why overflows are not simply switched off by Ministerial decree. It all goes back to a Victorian sewerage system which was never built for this level of development, or indeed rainfall.

This Government has done more than any other on the issue of water quality starting with proper monitoring so we know the extent of the problem. That has given great publicity to the issue, but that's the serious business of Government, not the luxury of opposition.

The 'Storm overflow discharge reduction plan', brought about by the Environment Act I voted for requires water companies to make their largest infrastructure spend in water company history to increase capacity. It is backed by up to £56 billion capital investment, and we have ring fenced now unlimited fines from water companies so that they don't go to HM Treasury but stay in DEFRA for environmental projects.

Last year I visited Southern Water's water treatment works at Morestead Lane (pictured) to really understand how the waste-water process works. I also visited Thrupton (near Andover) to see how their 'Pathfinder' project is pioneering a way to tackle groundwater infiltration into sewer systems; which adds to the pressure that triggers a discharge. I am staying close to Southern Water to understand how they are interpreting the Environment Act and urging them

to go further and faster.

No-one is pretending this is easy. Our Victorian sewerage system combines storm and ground water with that produced by toilets, dishwashers and bathtubs. Without a discharge it would literally come back up your loo and plug hole. We want to change that, which is why we're facing up to the problem and acting. This is painstaking work so far from ignoring the situation, the Government and I are taking it extremely seriously and taking action to provide better water quality in this country.



Finally, I have spoken out against plans by Winchester City Council to start charging for parking after 7pm in most city centre car parks. Clearly many residents supported this council and the current administration in May – and it has a big majority to force it through - but you have to win the argument as well as the vote in my experience. This is the last thing the city needs right now in terms of the night-time economy, and it's going to be especially unwelcome for residents out in our villages who may have no choice but to drive into Winchester for an evening at a restaurant, bar or such like. Do tell your city councillors what you think (either way) and perhaps they can feed that into the leadership.

Steve Brine MP

Who is G.T. Patch?

I wonder if anyone knows the author of the May Day traditions article which appeared in the June issue of The Itchen Valley News? Well, it is



confession time because I must tell you that the article was written by Chat GPT. GT Patch is an anagram of that name. My co-editor Jen and I thought it would be interesting to try this natural language processing tool which is very much in the news. We put in various instructions such as “May Day” and “traditions in the UK” and pressed the button. What you read is pretty much word for word what was presented to us. We made just a few tweaks.

It would be interesting to get your opinions but we found the article correct in all facts and written fairly well. Perhaps it is our human bias but my only criticism would be that it read slightly more like a fact sheet than a well thought out article. The original contained numerous colons which we removed and that softened it. But if you just read it once and quickly, I suggest you would be unlikely to twig that this was generated by AI technology.

As we know, Chat GPT and AI technology in general is highly controversial and as Elon Musk wrote ‘ChatGPT is scary good. We are not far from dangerously strong AI.’ Sam Altman, the chief of OpenAI, which owns ChatGP, said on Twitter that ChatGPT had more than one million users in the first five days after it launched. What next, one wonders.

Catherine Hahn

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2.6 miles, 70 mins, easy, mostly off-road, OS map Explorer 132.

(L=left; R=right; SA=straight ahead; TJ=T-junction))

World Class is how I describe our stretch of the River Itchen and the Valley, and this walk will show you some of the best parts. It is a beautiful walk: varied, interesting, fun and suitable for most abilities and age groups.

Start at Itchen Abbas Village Hall, cross over the B3047 and go south towards Avington. Note The Plough on the corner, a perfect place to relax for refreshments on your return.

Pass St John's Church (open to visitors) and cross three bridges over the river.

L at the TJ, then R almost immediately up the stony track beside the Golf Club. (If its open coffee may be available). At the car park turn L along the undulating track which after a while becomes grass; keep SA until you reach the copse at a high point.

This a lovely quiet spot with views across the Valley, and in summer is breezy and cool under the trees. Follow the path steeply downhill through two metal "kissing gates"; turn L onto the lane at the bottom. After 450 yards, R at the footpath sign,



round the old gate and across a wide wooden bridge. Linger as you cross the next footbridges among the tall reeds, looking for birds and listening to their song. You might see a kingfisher!

Be careful of the traffic as you reach the B3047; cross SA through a gap in the hedge on the other side. This runs along the bottom fence of The Grange vineyard. At the end, you want the second footpath on the R (immediately after the 40 sign). There is a small gate

beside the larger one which leads up the slope on the edge of the field under the tall shady trees. and round into Baring Close. Turn R at the end up the hill for 50



yards, then L as indicated by the footpath sign. Now keep SA until you reach a fence, L and R, and R again when you emerge on Little Hayes Lane. SA downhill passing IA Primary School, L at the bottom arriving back at the Village Hall.

Henry Labram



Sunday 2 July

10am - Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton

4pm Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall

6pm - Patronal Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy - [details below](#)

Sunday 9 July

8.30am - Holy Communion (said) - St John's, Itchen Abbas

10am - All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 16 July

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

Sunday 23 July

8.30am - Holy Communion (1662) - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

10am - Morning Worship - St Mary's, Easton

Sunday 30 July

8.30am - Holy Communion (1662) - St Mary's, Avington

10am - Morning Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

St Swithun's Patronal Evensong

Everyone is invited to this service at St Swithun's Church, Martyr Worthy, our guest preacher will be Revd Sarah Tillett. The service will be followed by drinks outside the south door of the church. This is always a wonderful opportunity to thank everyone for all their help and support during the year.

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

Creating a meadow in Avington

We were both inspired by the wild flowers at the 2012 Olympic Park, but it wasn't until we moved to Avington that we had the opportunity to create a meadow. The garden is about three quarters of an acre. The rear section is elevated and abuts open fields so it seemed natural to plant with a wild flower mix for a more informal and less manicured area, acting as a link between the farm fields and the lawns closer to the house.

We were fortunate that we were able to strip the garden back and landscape it. The ground was rotavated, graded and re-profiled and then sown with a



seed mix from Emorsgate (EM5) in late 2021. This mix was about 80% grasses and 20% wild flowers, which include yarrow, musk mallow, meadow buttercup, cowslip, common knapweed, betony and of course oxeye daisy. The first summer - 2022 - we had a good mix of flowers and a lot of poppies (red and purple) but this year the oxeye daisies have dominated the meadow. We understand that this early dominance should be short-lived, and indeed this is echoed by the Emorsgate website. Yellow rattle (semi-parasitic on grasses) wasn't part of the mix but was very evident in the first year. It seems to have done its work and is less visible this summer. So we may look



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back on 2023 as our summer of oxeye daisies! Another great benefit of wild flower meadows - apart from how attractive they are - is the easy maintenance. Once the grasses started to spring up in April/May we started cutting defined paths in them and have repeated this weekly. This has given us well defined paths of

short grass flanked by masses of daisies about a metre tall. We'll cut everything down to about 2" with a strimmer or brush cutter in late August and then leave it on the ground for a week before gathering it up and putting it onto the compost heap. We're committed meadow gardeners now!
Christopher Chawte

Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

The large glass, timber, brick and tile building that dominates the middle of Itchen Abbas was opened in 2000 as a replacement for its much smaller village hall ancestor. That had been originally opened as a men's reading room in 1902 with a smaller ladies' reading room added four years later. Those rooms were entirely adequate as a hall serving the two villages for several decades. Even large local events, like the Flower Show, could be accommodated using both inside and outside areas although, if it rained, it then became a real squash with everyone crowded indoors.



The day-to-day running of the hall was supervised by Jane Edmonds, who lived at the Old House across the road. She took the bookings and arranged the

cleaning and maintenance. More importantly, she and her sister Sheila had the keys and woe betide anyone who tried to use the hall without their permission!

Despite some minor extension work to improve the kitchen, by the 1990's it became clear that a larger building

would be beneficial for everyone. The Edmonds engineering factory site nearby became available and, under

the leadership of David Humphrey, a major consultation exercise followed by significant fundraising was undertaken. Having demonstrated local support, grants were

forthcoming and work commenced in 1999.

The barn style design was created from a desire that the building wouldn't be just a large bungalow combined with a request that it should be suitable for badminton. The new hall began life in June 2000 with a vibrant party and flamenco dancers. Nevertheless, within the twenty or so years of its life, the original design has been improved with extended storage, more toilets and solar panels. The hall offers all the facilities a hirer might need, including lots of parking, a fully equipped kitchen and two sizeable rooms with direct access to



plenty of garden space. Local residents can hire the hall at heavily discounted rates. As well as regular lets for sports, singing and dancing, it is also used for one-off family events such as birthday parties and weddings. Details of the building and what we can offer are on our website

www.iaavillagehall.co.uk that also has a bookings diary. The hall manager, Izabela, or any of the trustees would be happy to show you around.

Vernon Tottle

Itchen Valley Montessori

A day in the life of Itchen Valley Montessori begins with the arrival of the adults. A prepared environment is key when following the Montessori approach - pencils are sharpened, equipment checked and cleaned so everything is ready. The pre school is set out in a way to create a warm welcoming and nurturing environment. Great care is taken by the highly experienced and trained staff to select activities that support the children's learning through play. As Maria Montessori said, 'play is the work of childhood'.

The children arrive and day begins.



When all the children have arrived we gather for a short circle time. We talk about any news that anyone has and what is planned for



the day. We have lots of different activities. There's cooking - very hands on using lots of helpful skills; Rugby Tots - time to fine tune our physical skills as well as play some fun team games; singing - a wide range of songs; forest school - connect and understand more with the world around us and dance, modern to traditional music.

We come together mid morning for a nutritional snack. This is a time for socialising and developing communication skills. The children help prepare the fruit and tables as well as clear up at the end. Washing up is always very popular.

We have a lovely garden at the village hall.

Outdoor play and exploration are an essential part of our day. The garden is an extension of our classroom and offers the children time to enjoy lots of different activities. The mud kitchen, sand tray and water play are always popular as well as the climbing frame.

The children bring packed lunches from home. We all sit together and this is a time to foster social interaction and encourage good table manners.



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We also have an ongoing programme of events including Christmas play and party, parents' evenings and sports day. A highlight this year was the Easter dance party that raised money for both the village hall solar project and garden equipment.

All this would not be possible without the support of the village hall and our amazing staff. The village hall committee and staff are so supportive and make everything run smoothly. Thank you. Our team makes the magic happen come rain or shine. They turn up with a smile and a kind word day after day. They really do go the extra mile each and every day. I don't think I will ever be able to say thank you enough.

Caroline Butcher

The Valley Gardeners: Day at The Newt

The Valley Gardeners have been looking forward eagerly to their visit to The Newt for almost a year, since we put it in our programme, and I am happy to report that it was not a disappointment. Weather wise, it could have started better; the east wind was icy and the sun refused to come out but intrepid gardeners are prepared for all climates in one day! We arrived at what some have called the most



impressive car park in the country and indeed the planting in the car park was stunning. Swathes of tall purple alliums filled each patch of spare ground, accompanied by the most beautiful planting of perennials which softened the harsh metal reality of cars, coaches and charging stations brilliantly.

The Newt is a hotel in Somerset, created from the 17th century house and extensive grounds which were formally the seat of the Hobhouse family for over two centuries. Renowned garden designer Penelope Hobhouse gave Margaret Hobhouse's Victorian vision a new lease of life in the 1970s, followed by Nori and Sandra Pope, whose experiments with colour delighted and inspired thousands of visitors in the mid-1980s. More lately, Italo-French architect Patrice Taravella - who believes a garden should be both beautiful and useful - has taken on the modern rejuvenation of the gardens. Mixing ornamental and



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productive elements, they are now a feast for both the eyes and stomach. Approaching the hotel and gardens from said amazing car park, we traversed a very classy board walk over wild (or rewilded?) woodland. An impressive welcoming visitor centre led us through its arch to reveal the heart of The Newt's magnificent set of new buildings, the Cyder Bar, the Farmyard Kitchen and the Garden café, which has a splendid view over the kitchen garden and orchards. Our group split into two to enjoy an hour's tour of the gardens with charming and very knowledgeable



young guides, both full time gardeners there. We were only about 15 minutes into our tour when the sun decided to appear and the temperature shot up by about 15 degrees. At the same time, a low growl from afar increased in volume until above our heads appeared the unmistakable shape of a Spitfire. This iconic aeroplane proceeded to entertain and thrill us with a 10-minute display of daring manoeuvres: loop the loop, wing waggling and spins, with the plane often approaching the gardens at terrifyingly low altitudes. We realized that it was the anniversary of D-day (6 June) and later found out that The Newt management had organized this display to entertain their hotel guests. Perhaps this is not so surprising, as one night at The Newt will set you back in the region of £1,000! The gardens lie in the cradle of a low and luscious valley with gently sloping hills to both sides. There are so many features in this garden to enjoy such as the Roman Villa, the Beezantium and the Viper, a serpentine treetop

walkway. Some of my highlights were the colours gardens, with a winding brick path leading through gardens of many different hues, sheltered by dry stone walls. In the kitchen garden, I admired the experimental Hügelskultur which consists of piles of branches as well as compostable biomass plant materials, covered by a long mound of soil which, in truth, looks like a burial mound! Adopted by permaculture advocates, it is suggested the technique helps to improve soil fertility, water retention, and soil warming, thus benefitting plants grown on or near such mounds. Snaking up the hill from the valley floor is the squash arch which is an extremely long and elegant metal archway, tall, wide and twisting. This had just been planted with squash on either side but by September, it will be dripping with succulent fruits of all types.

The Newt is certainly a destination garden and most definitely worth a visit. You can find out more about it at thenewtinsomerset.com/garden

Catherine Hahn

The Valley Quiz No 15

1. It is one of the globe's wealthiest nations but has neither a railway link nor airport. It is also the world's oldest sovereign state. Where is it and what is it called?
2. Where did Mr Toad live?
3. By what name is Beethoven's 6th symphony more often called?
4. What was the spy story called that featured Carruthers, the Dulcibella, Dollman, and Davies. With, for good measure, some fog thrown in between the Ems and the Jade!
5. What does a lepidopterist study?
6. What sailed at 4pm precisely every Thursday afternoon from

Southampton, and where was it going?
7. Which were the two sides competing in the FIFA World Cup Final of 1966? Who won and what was the score?

8. It begins as the Tsangpo and ends as the Jumna. What is it and what is it called in between?

9. What are the five letters of the alphabet that are never used in the written Welsh language? (Or how many can you guess?)

10. You are visiting the NPG to see Joshua's Mai. Where are you and what is the attraction?

John Lang

Answers on page 40

Plant of the Month: Pinot Meunier

Just outside the beautiful village of Hambledon is the vineyard of that name, the oldest operating commercially in England. Here you will find this vine which appears as if leaves



and blooms are dusted with flour (seen here before the flowerbuds opened). The French swots will already have guessed it gets its name from a resemblance to a dusty 'miller' in French. The grapes are an essential minority ingredient for a well balanced champagne or Hambledon fizz.
Dorothy and Simon Broadley

Quiz Answers

1. It is the microstate of San Marino in Italy.
2. Toad Hall
3. The Pastoral
4. *The Riddle of the Sands* by Erskine Childers. The Ems and Jade are two rivers that discharge into the North Sea via the Frisian Islands.
5. Butterflies.
6. During the latter years of the 20th century, a Union Castle Liner, with coloured hull, would sail from Southampton for Cape Town.
7. England and Germany were the finalists. The score at full-time was 2 -2 but, in extra time, England scored twice to win 4-2. Geoff Hurst scored a hat trick.
8. It is the 2,466 mile long River Brahmaputra that has its source in Tibet and discharges into the Gulf of Bengal through Bangladesh and the Ganges delta. It is the world's 9th largest river by discharge and 15th longest.
9. K,Q,V,X and Z.
10. The venue is the National Portrait Gallery in St Martin's Place, London, and the attraction is Sir Joshua's Portrait of Mai. Omai was the first Polynesian to visit England. He was brought here by Captain James Cook in 1774 in HMS Adventure.

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections:

Black and brown garden bins on Fridays 14 and 28 July
 Green bins on Fridays 7 and 21 July
 Glass boxes on Friday 21 July

Hampshire Farmers' Market in Winchester

Second and last Sundays of every month, 9am - 2pm.

Full Parish Council Meetings:

The next meeting is on 6 July (IA&AVH)

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

To Alresford:

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10:39 13:39 15:19 17:19 18:03

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

No Sunday or bank holiday service.

Key: Sch School days only

NSch School holidays only

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas. Times are 5 minutes later (or earlier) at Easton.

VILLAGE HALL INFORMATION

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