

# Valley News

ITCHEN

Issue 115 August 2023

Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas, Martyr Worthy and Abbotts Worthy



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# WELCOME to the Valley News



August is a holiday time so there is not very much in What's On for the month, but there is plenty happening in September and we are giving you advance notice of events as far away as next February.

Of lasting importance to all drivers in the Valley is the consultation about the Cart and Horses junction: a public meeting on 5 September is an important part of this. Non-drivers (if not sometimes passengers) may be more interested in the reduced bus fares until 31 October.

As we write, much of the world is suffering under intolerable high temperatures, but by the time you read this it may be floods and storms that are disrupting lives, yet reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions still seems way down the list of priorities, not only for Governments round the world but also for media organisations, but not the Valley News. We promise - no celebrity gossip here! Nor have we indulged in gloom and doom, although we do have an article warning of some of the difficulties encountered in 'going greener'.

If you fancy returning, just for couple of hours, to a simpler past you can do so on 24 September at St Mary's Church, Avington in the company of the Madding Crowd - highly recommended. Their performance at a previous event in the Heritage Open Days series (8-17 September this year) was hugely enjoyable.

We have included many photographs of birds and gardens which we hope you will enjoy. The skill (and patience)

of wildlife photographers is admirable. Our bird of the month is a regular treat and this month we have two in the space of one. In the spirit of children's trails at stately homes we offer you a baby, a bull, a boat and a blues singer to find in these pages - good hunting. If you email us with the page numbers (and your age) there might be a prize! Next month's editor is Catherine Hahn.

*Brigid and Charlotte*

## Itchen Valley News

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## What's On

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### Free Online Talks



**10 August, 7-8pm**

The Murky World of Water Resources,

Guest speaker – WildFish

**22 August, 7-8pm**

Southern Water's 2024 Water Resources Management Plan

Guest speaker – Southern Water

Book at: [www.hiwwt.org.uk/events](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/events)

### Bramdean Car Boot Sale



**Sunday 13 August**

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*Sue Gentry*



### Cart and Horses Junction Public exhibition

**5 September (3-7.30pm)** at

Winchester Rugby Club and online

survey live from noon o.n Monday 10

July and closing on Sunday 17

September at 11.59pm at:

[www.hants.gov.uk/](http://www.hants.gov.uk/)

[News/20230710CartHorsesJunc](http://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230710CartHorsesJunc)

[Survey](http://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230710CartHorsesJunc). Response deadline 17

September 2023.

### The Itchen Valley Choir

If you would like to join, just come along on **Wednesday 6 September** from 7.45pm until 9.30pm. There are no auditions so come and try us out. If you would like further details do please contact me.

*Jacqui Squire*

Secretary, Itchen Valley Choir

[IVCS.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:IVCS.Secretary@gmail.com)

### Heritage Open Days and Upoar! A fundraising talk for Hampshire History Trust

**7 September and 8 – 17 September**

Every September, thousands of people look forward to



Heritage Open Days and

flock to enjoy the ever-increasing

number of free events which pop up all

over the country. Hampshire History

Trust (HHT), the voluntary

organisation which coordinates

Winchester Heritage Open Days

(WHODs) across Hampshire, works

hard year-round to ensure that the

local festival programme is a success

every September.

HHT is not only committed to

community participation in history and

heritage, but it also believes that

sharing stories from our past enriches

all our lives. Stories connect people,

inspire curiosity, create meaning and

bring enjoyment, and WHODs, and the

trust's own Hampshire HistBites

podcast, accomplish all of these things.

HHT (Charity 1191377) receives no

regular funding and so relies on the

generous support from Winchester

BID, HCC and WCC, the time and

effort of its volunteers, and donations

from those who support its work or

have enjoyed its events. Not only is

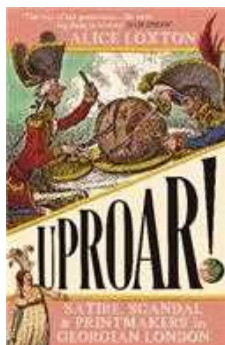
HHT very grateful to Winchester



College for its continued support as WHODs' lead sponsor but, on the eve of the festival, the College is also hosting the trust's special fundraising event - a talk by young historian, presenter and author, Alice Loxton.



With more than a million followers on social media, Alice has been described by Dan Snow as 'the star of her generation - the next big thing in history'. On the **7 September**, Alice will be speaking about her debut non-fiction book *UPROAR! Satire, Scandal &*



*Printmakers in Georgian London* – a brilliant new history of Georgian Britain through the eyes of the artists who immortalised it. She will also weave in her experiences over several years working at

History Hit TV, sometimes alongside well-known presenters Dan Snow and Dan Cruickshank.

Tickets to the Alice Loxton fundraising event are priced at £15 standard ticket and £30 premium ticket. Premium ticket holders will have a chance to meet Alice, enjoy a glass of wine and also a short College tour. More details can be found on the HHT website and are also available to purchase via Eventbrite - [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

HHT is always keen to hear from anyone with a passion for history and community projects who is interested in joining the team or becoming a trustee. For more information, please visit - [www.hampshirehistorytrust.com](http://www.hampshirehistorytrust.com)  
Nicky Gottlieb

## **Bramdean House Bramdean, Alresford SO24 0JU**

Opening: **Sunday 10 September** 1-3.30pm

Admission: £6.00, children free. Card payment available. Home-made teas.



Beautiful five acre garden best known for its mirror image herbaceous borders and one acre walled garden. There is a large and unusual collection of plants and shrubs giving year-round interest. The walled garden features prize-winning vegetables, fruit and flowers.

To the north of the house, five acres of garden slope up through the exemplary mirror-image herbaceous borders, planted with over one hundred genera and reaching their peak in June with nepetas, geraniums, tradescantias, Clematis x diversifolia 'Hendersonii' and galegas, followed by yellows and then the russets of late summer.



## **Church 250 years ago Sunday 24 September**

4-6pm: St Mary's, Avington

An afternoon led by 'The Madding Crowd' Singers in their period costumes, giving us all an opportunity to hear the barrel organ, to imagine church services in the Georgian period, and then to celebrate in the garden in 18th century style. No need to bring your wigs, gentlemen!

Rev'd Peter Walker

## Save the Dates

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### **The Martyr Worthy Lecture**

**Series** is back! The 2023/24 season will feature four top speakers in IA&A Village Hall. Full details next month.

Tuesday 28 November 2023

Friday 12 January 2024

Friday 2 February 2024

Friday 16 February 2024

*Verity Coleman*

### **Coward At Sea**

Saturday 21 October, see Page 22

## **Boules Competition 20 June**

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In the valley there is an annual boules knock-out challenge known as The Triples. It was held at Martyr Worthy Manor on Tuesday 20 June. Avington, Easton and Martyr Worthy each sent two teams of three players to compete for the Nigel Graham Maw Trophy. It was a lovely sunny evening, the garden was delightful, there were plenty of supporters and there was a generous supply of food and drink contributed by all villages.

Teams are designated A or B. In the early stages, there are three rounds and the teams play the other two teams in their group, with the winner and runner-up in each group going into the semi-final. In the A group this was Easton and Avington. In the B group it was Avington and Martyr Worthy. So the qualifiers for the semi-final were

Easton A versus Martyr Worthy B and Avington A against Avington B.

There was a short break and then the knock-out section commenced. With each village having at least one team to support, the result was wide open and supporters followed the progress enthusiastically. For Avington, it was team B that emerged victorious. On the other piste, Martyr Worthy and Easton were so well matched that, after the six ends had been completed, the two teams were still level on 5 points each. One extra end was played to decide the winner and it was the Easton team that went ahead at the critical moment.

So the final brought Avington B against Easton A and, as the play proceeded, the vocal support from the spectators grew. Shots which swung the advantage from one team to the other brought roars of approval. In the fifth end, Avington came from behind to draw level at 4 points each, so the result depended on the last end. The tension rose. Both sides had their chances but after the final throw it was Easton who claimed the prize.

It had been a thoroughly enjoyable evening and we were all grateful to John and Nicky Barber whose garden provided the setting. John Prince presented the Nigel Graham Maw Trophy to Simon Broadley and his victorious Easton team.

*Ralph Matthews*

## **Winchester Downs Cluster Open afternoon**

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On a very blustery day there was an open afternoon at Grange Farm, Tichborne, to showcase the work of the Winchester Downs Cluster. This is a group of about 40 farmers and land managers who have come together to





share their ideas in looking after the environment and wildlife, while still farming profitably.

They have meetings several times a year for farm walks, and talks from experts such as The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly Conservation or The Hampshire Ornithological Society. The range of topics was wide - from insects and pollination, hedges, field margins, winter bird feeding, dormice, bats . . .



Robert Raimes, our host, produced an enormous tractor and trailer to take us

round the farm, stopping at intervals to explain some of his methods. We saw his arable crop, this year biscuit wheat. Next year he'll plant spring barley and the third year a non-cereal crop such as maize. This keeps the soil in good condition. He leaves a 20 metre strip between the fields and the Itchen to keep nitrogen out of the water. Next we visited his very bonny-looking beef herd of pedigree Hereford cattle. This group consists of a bull (Mr Darcy) and his wives with their calves, who suckle direct from their mums until about

November when they are weaned. Robert pointed out that no products such as fly spray are applied to the cattle in the fields, only in the controlled environment of sheds, to keep chemicals out of the soil and river. He also has a vineyard but that was not on the itinerary!

This was an interesting afternoon, demonstrating the balancing act needed between farming, landscape and wildlife.

*Brigid McManus*

## In Memoriam

Karin Budgen of Cornfields, Martyr Worthy, passed away at the Winchester Hospice on 11 July. There are no dates for internment at the moment. *Edward Budgen*







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## A committal at sea service for Alan Melia

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Most of us have attended land-based funerals but fewer perhaps will have experienced a committal of ashes at sea, except for those mariners amongst us. I and six others had the honour to be included in a committal at sea ceremony of the mortal remains of Alan Melia, who died at home at Spinney House, Itchen Abbas in June 2022. Sally, his widow, thought it was appropriate for Alan's ashes to be scattered at sea after Alan's long career as a merchant seaman. Some of the ashes had already been consigned

farewell to Alan and honour his last wishes. A humanitarian service was read out before the scattering of the ashes and the poem, *The Beauty of the Waves*, by an unknown author, was recited. This is the last verse which has a powerful yet comforting message. 'So, when you miss my warmth and care, just wander to the ocean, And find me there amidst the swirling lapping of its motion. And know that all I ever was will not be found in graves, For all I was, will live within the beauty of the waves.'

Catherine Hahn



to the waters around Sydney harbour, Australia, that being a city and country close to Alan's heart.

So, on 27 June, we gathered on a dock in Portsmouth to board the launch Arkwright and motored out towards the Isle of Wight. Our destination was the waters over where the wreck of the Mary Rose was found and raised. This area of the Spithead, where at one time or another, Royal and Merchant Navy ships have anchored or transited, is also the very place where the Mary Rose sank in sight of Southsea Castle to the dismay of King Henry VIII. It was a very fitting place to say a final

## Jennifer (Jenny) Mary Faber, 1928-2023

---

Jenny's life started and ended on the banks of the River Itchen, where she was at her happiest. She was born in 1928 at The Cottage, Twyford, as were her siblings, and in 1937 the family moved into Hockley House in Twyford. The war years were spent mostly at Hockley, and included nights of hiding in the cellar there. She went to St. Swithun's School, first as a day girl and later as a boarder. Being wartime, she often had to bicycle there. She excelled at tennis and also continued



her family tradition of playing cricket. This was followed by secretarial college where she learnt shorthand and typing which resulted in her first job as Secretary to the Headmaster of Winchester College. From there, once wartime restrictions were over, she got a job at No. 10, Downing Street, dealing with the correspondence for the P.M. of the day, Clement Attlee. This involved the signing of the Official Secrets Act. In 1951, she married Tom at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Winchester and they lived for many years in Ampfield. She became keen on gardening, travel, music and singing. She took over managing the National Gardens Scheme for Hampshire for many years. She sang in three different choirs, performing in Romsey Abbey and also in Winchester Cathedral. She also volunteered in the Winchester Cathedral Library. The last 30 years consisted of life at Chilland, back near the banks of the River Itchen, surrounded by her many local friends whom she enjoyed

meeting at the various church services and at Cameo, over the bridge table, or walking down by the river. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were frequent visitors, making full use of the home and garden that she created, and where she was able to spend her final days. She is greatly missed by us all.  
*Caroline Faber*

## Saira's Kitchen

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Are you looking to treat someone or simply wanting to try something new? Ken and I attended a Pakistani Cookery Course at Saira's Kitchen in St Cross Winchester commencing at 5pm. We were part of a small group who learnt how to prepare and cook Samosas, Chicken Masale Wala, Daal, Peshwari Naan, and Pomegranate and Coriander Chutney.

The workshops are tailored to dietary requirements and interests. Indeed, Saira adapted my food to exclude the allium family of which I am intolerant. The professionally-run courses are kept to a minimum of students to preserve a homely feel and allow individuals to interact and ask questions. The course was advertised as a four hour experience, but we sat down to our extremely tasty creations accompanied by a bottle of English Lyme Bay Bacchus and left delighted by our evening's work at 10pm.



We were surprised to learn that Saira has been working in this industry for 25 years providing outside catering as well as courses. We had a really relaxing, informative evening thanks to Saira's organisation and friendly, encouraging approach. We will definitely be going again. For those who are interested, just google: Saira's Kitchen. You won't be disappointed!

*Mo & Ken Gordon*

## When Vijay Met a Legend

---

With Tina Turner's death recently, I thought a piece about our Easton resident Vijay Amarnani's encounter with her has some topicality. Vijay also has a photo showing him and Tina together. Alas, it is somewhere in piles of 50 year's worth of memorabilia in his loft and so far he's been unable to find it. Instead, I've attached one with him and B.B. King who was also on his schedule.

The people in the photo are (L to R) Alexis Korner, B.B. King and Vijay.

"She was one of the most famous rock stars in the world but in person was a modest, genuine and generous woman". So reports Easton resident, Vijay Amarnani, who got to meet Tina Turner 40 years ago in Los Angeles.

Following 12 years working with London Weekend TV on programmes such as The South Bank Show, our young Vijay got his first freelance opportunity when asked to produce The History of Rock, a major eight part TV series in 1983. One exciting thing for him was that he would encounter, at close quarters, a number of his heroes such as B.B. King, Curtis Mayfield and Isaac Hayes – and Tina Turner.



And so it was that the star-struck Vijay was admitted to her modest house in the relatively unfashionable part of Beverly Hills to spend three hours chatting and filming by the side of her pool. He recalls that she was completely lacking in any airs and graces and was welcoming, open and helpful to Vijay's whole team.

Interestingly, she also expressed her gratitude to British bands such as The Beatles and Stones who had recently helped "re-import" black music to an eagerly receptive white US audience and helped her career enormously.

Tina finally closed the session by announcing that she had some grocery shopping to do but Vijay and friends could stay as long as they liked but "please close the front door securely when you leave". What a legend!

*Steve Percy*

## The Itchen Valley Choir

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Formerly the Itchen Valley Choral Society, formerly the Easton and Martyr Choral Society...

If you are visiting the Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, pause a moment, turn left when you go through the front door and hanging on the wall along the corridor you will see a large



frame containing photographs of the original Easton and Martyr Worthy Choral Society in 1923, when they sang at what was then the Winchester and County Music Festival. This choir was formed in 1922 from the Easton Church choir and first met for choir practice in Easton School, now a private house next to the church. It is uncertain why or when the choir moved its base to the old hall in Itchen Abbas (also now a private house) but they flourished there for many years until the new hall was built and opened in 2000.

The hall provides a light and airy space for choir practices, using the excellent upright piano donated some years ago in memory of Sheila Edmonds, whose family ran the agricultural engineering business on the land where the new hall now stands. Sheila, with her sister Jane, were the custodians of the old hall and sang for many years in the choir.

The 100 year-long tradition of choral singing in the valley is continued to this day by the Itchen Valley Choir under the baton of Jane Bryant. We organise a fun concert in December

to get ready for Christmas, and in the spring and summer terms we prepare for our part in singing with other local choirs at the Hampshire Choral Festival. In 2024 we will be joining forces with other choirs in Romsey Abbey to sing Mozart, Handel and a new piece by Derek Beck, a former conductor of the Itchen Valley Choir. If you would like to join, come along on Wednesday 6 September from 7.45pm until 9.30pm. There are no auditions so do come and try us out. If you would like further details please contact me.

*Jacqui Squire*

*Secretary, Itchen Valley Choir*

*IVCS.Secretary@gmail.com*

Some of the members of the choir in 2023 -







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## We've got mail! A Thank You card

---

This card from The Palace was received by The Parish Council in recognition of the commemorative Coronation Hedge planted by the Council at the Easton recreation ground in May.

*Cllr Steve Percy*



## Tiddler Joke

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**Knock knock.**

**Who's there?**

**Interrupting cow.**

**Interrupting C-MOOOOOOOO!**

*Olivia (9) Emilia (5) Blaney*



## Little Owl - bird of the month

---



I was so pleased to see this little owl! It used to be a familiar sight but I haven't seen it for at least a couple of years now - they are declining all over the UK. Its distinctive call can sometimes be heard in the day ... we saw it here perched in the tree with a wood pigeon ..the rare and the common!!

*Elaine Labram*

*Photo Henry Labram*

## More from The Grange Festival

---

Following the first two productions at the Grange Festival (reviewed in the July edition), Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades* completed a trio of first-class stagings. Unfamiliar to many patrons, this opera can appear dark and sombre, but the mood was often lightened by both the settings and the remarkable singing by both soloists and chorus. Originally set in the late 18th Century, the opening scene suggested an early 1930s ensemble of well-off families - rather unlikely after the 1917

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revolution!  
However, the children's chorus (from Twyford school) performed splendidly and we were soon getting to know the principal male soloists drawn from both Russia and Ukraine. Herman (Eduard Martynyuk) sang strongly as he developed an obsession with the secret winning

formula held by the Countess (wonderfully portrayed by veteran Josephine Barstow), and the relationship with her ward Liza (Armenian soprano Anush Hovhannisyan singing with beautiful tone) was sensitively developed through to the tragic dénouement in Act 3. Throughout the opera, the scenarios gripped our attention, not least the riotous song and dance episode early in Act 3 when Count Tomsky (Andrei Kymach, a former



Cardiff Singer of the World winner) joined his fellow officers performing on a bar-room table top!

Complementing a remarkable opera season the two Jazz evenings provided a lively contrast, with an all-star six piece combo (in the first half) demonstrating outstanding virtuosity as they took us through a wide selection of

Duke Ellington's work entitled 'From Stride to Strings'. A loudly appreciative audience made no secret of their enjoyment, while soprano Anush Hovhannisyan showed her versatility with several vocal numbers. The second half featured the resident Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra illustrating a side of Ellington's work that is less familiar, and they were joined for a rousing finale by the sextet in C Jam Blues. Most of us felt blown away!

*Peter McManus*



*Photo credits © Craig Fuller (Queen of Spades) & Maryana Bodnar (Jazz)*





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## The Valley Gardeners visit the gardens of Northamptonshire

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Northamptonshire is not a county I know at all. I have probably driven through it a couple of times but never stopped. I really should have. The villages and towns are charming and the locals friendly! The Valley Gardeners based themselves in the town of Oundle to explore nine gardens on our four-day, three-night holiday in June. Apart from one morning of showers, we had good – even hot – weather and were entranced by the variety and beauty of the gardens we visited. Our tour was arranged by Charlotte Strutt from Heritage Touring and as usual, she delivered a delightful short holiday full of beautiful gardens and a comfortable hotel.

Some of the Valley Gardeners were kind enough to write short pieces about the various gardens and Steve Gapper (*and Catherine Hahn - Eds*) took some really super photographs so my thanks to all of them.

**The Old Rectory Quinton.** This was the first garden we visited on our trip. Once through the magnificent wrought iron gates with metal-work sculptured foxgloves, it was a garden full of variety and interest although not to everyone's liking! It is a modern garden designed by Anoushka Feiler overlooked by a large beautiful honey coloured stone old rectory. The major part of the garden was divided into four with a central summer house and the whole garden is over three acres with paths throughout inviting you to explore. Outside this central hedged area was a natural swimming pool with a Monet inspired bridge over part of

it. It didn't look too inviting on the day we were there but it was a lovely pond with plenty of wildlife in it, I'm sure. One remarkable feature was a small grass maze in an area which was a wild flower meadow. The other most unusual feature was the trained plane trees forming a canopy over a table on the terrace. *Liz Stevenson.*

**Westbrooke House, Little Bowden.** This garden was a finalist in The Nation's Favourite Garden last year, a competition run by the National Gardens Scheme. We could see why as we approached the house and garden through a magnificent driveway of mature limes and giant redwoods. The Victorian house is surrounded by a walled flower and kitchen garden, a lower garden with pond and woodland paths and a meadow with wild flower area. Just heavenly. *Catherine Hahn*

**Coton Manor.** Coton Manor Garden is owned by Ian and Susie Paisley Tyler. They inherited the garden from Ian's mother, and knew nothing about the area or gardening, having lived in London.

The garden is on a sloping site, facing south and south west with beautiful views. We first entered the terraces around the house, to be greeted by the wonderful perfumes of jasmine, roses and philadelphus. The use of the warm



sandstone and brickwork as it wove around the terrace planting was very attractive. The next garden “room” on our journey was entered through an arch of *Rosa Phyllis Bide*. Following this was the woodland garden, with many beautiful mature beech trees. At the end of the path there were three rather grumpy Kunekune pigs from New Zealand! We re-traced our route to the pond where beautiful bog planting included primulas, purple iris and astilbes either side. A rose (*Rosa Skyliner*) arbour by the smaller pond had a beautiful perfume and the sound of running water completed the scene! Whilst walking back to the lawns in front of the house we passed the borders, with colour co-ordinated plants. We were greeted by the crowing of a bantam cockerel whilst the hens busied themselves on the lawn. In the distance, framing the view, were a flock of colourful flamingos to complete the scene. *Remony Moser*.



**Cottesbrooke Hall.** Approached through remarkable parkland with lakes, bridges, uninterrupted tree lined vistas and grazing sheep in every direction, Cottesbrooke is a wonderful Queen Anne house surrounded by truly magnificent gardens. Mostly set out in rooms, still showing traces of former significant designers through

the ages: a formal parterre, an avenue of statues, ponds and pools, arts and crafts pergolas, a wild garden, magnificent specimen trees, highly perfumed climbing roses and most impressive of all, deep borders with plants of immense stature, proof of many years of enriching the soil. The soft, calm planting in subtle hues of cream, blue and purple made this a garden that was hard to leave.

*Judy Bishop*

**Red Hill Lodge Oakham (Rutland).**

Day 3, we celebrated the summer solstice by crossing into Rutland for our first visit of the day, Red Hill Lodge. This relatively new (2003) Arts and Crafts style house sits on a four and a half acre sloping site with some prairie style planting, a beautiful natural swimming pond, rose garden, fernery and orchard. A pretty water feature – a black water pond with carved stone sculpture and rill – overlooks an unusual grass amphitheatre with immaculately maintained turf tiered



seating. The soil excavated for the project had been moved to one side creating a huge grassy mound which could be climbed by a spiral path and gave views over the surrounding countryside and a viaduct, said to be the longest in Europe. Needless to say, a number of the party climbed the mound and were rewarded by seeing a crossing goods train.

*Janet Pooley*

**Castor House.** The house and gardens have been owned by the same family for generations. A welcoming small rose-filled walled courtyard was the start and end point for the visit, adjacent to the old brewhouse where small beer had originally been brewed for workers on the estate. A walk along a peony-lined path to a living willow arbour, and uphill through woodland containing magnificent trees, leads to a meadow with native wildflower planting and a clay-lined wildlife pond, begun as a lockdown project in 2020 and already naturalised. Returning through the woods, a stumpery has been developed in an area of damp



shade, with ferns and associated planting, and closer to the house are clipped yew and copper beech hedges which lead to a vegetable garden, originally designed by Bunny Guinness. It has a central wooden pergola with a seating area, and apple trees underplanted with herbs as well as a wide array of vegetables. Descending from there is a steep terraced slope designed as an Italianate garden, with a series of ponds linked by a rill and flanked by acanthus and fastigate yews. The rill feeds into a larger oval pond on the same level as the house and a large summerhouse sits opposite the house.

*Rosemary Thompson*



**Titchmarsh House.** Titchmarsh House was accessed down Plum Pudding Lane! Alan Titchmarsh had visited on many occasions and helped the village raise funds for the church and shop and knew this garden well. It is known for its nearly 500 species of rose, as many irises in the spring, and the unusual trees. The owners, being dendrologists, were particularly proud of their pomegranate tree which had survived the harsh winter. We had lunch on a sunny terrace enjoying this charming garden which brought a wonderful end to a privileged view of some remarkable gardens in Northamptonshire. *Angela Wheeler.*  
*Edited by Catherine Hahn*





### **Sunday 6 August**

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

### **Sunday 13 August**

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

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

### **Sunday 20 August**

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

### **Sunday 27 August**

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

11am – Informal Garden Service - Itchen Valley Rectory

*followed at 12pm by family fun activities - bring your own picnic  
everyone welcome*

### **Parish Visiting**

During the next few months of summer weather Revd Peter is hoping to give a significant amount of time (especially in the late afternoons) to go round meeting people at their front doors and getting to know a wider cross-section of the residents in our four villages. He would welcome the opportunity to connect with more people and to listen to any needs or concerns in the community. If anyone would like to arrange a longer visit at a specific time, please do contact him (details below).

**Rector** - Revd Peter Walker

revd.peter@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 588313

**LLM** - Mr Gerry Stacey

gerry.stacey@biblesociety.org.uk 01962 620263

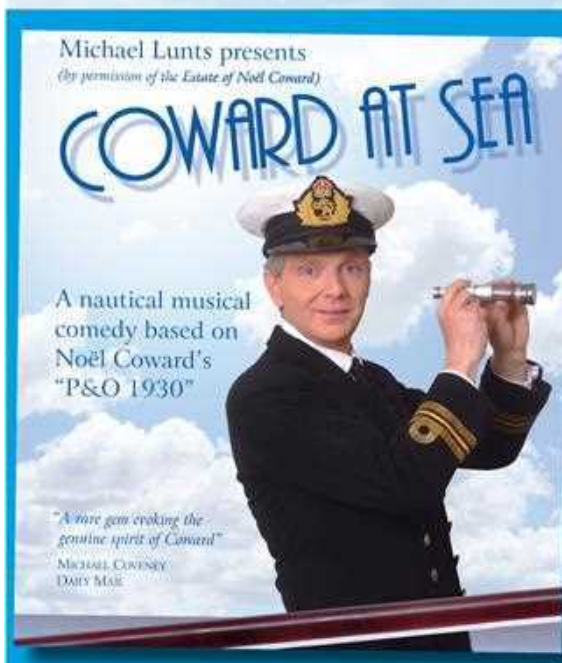
**Parish Administrator** - Beccy Clark

admin@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 779845

**[www.itchenvalleychurches.org](http://www.itchenvalleychurches.org)**

# Michael Lunts presents a nautical musical comedy based on Noël Coward's P&O 1930

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023 at 6pm**  
**in St Mary's Church Easton**



## Coward at Sea

This is a rare opportunity to sample another side of The Master's lyrical genius, his light verse and in particular this wonderful "drama in verse", set alongside music from the period by Coward and his contemporaries.

**followed by drinks and canapés**

**£25.00 per head - in aid of St Mary's Fabric Fund**  
**please book tickets by contacting Penelope Kellie**  
**T: 01962 779317 M: 07860 402942 E: [pkellie@pkworldwide.com](mailto:pkellie@pkworldwide.com)**

## St Mary's Easton - Repairs

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I am not sure how many residents are aware that falling debris inside St Mary's Church was the first clue to the fact that we have problems. Looking up behind the timbers in front of the Chancel Arch it was possible to see that the plaster was bulging slightly outwards. Further inspection of the abutment of the nave roof with the stone chancel wall above revealed the



likely cause to be failure of the external cement join designed to channel water onto the tiles and thence down to the guttering. Assessment by our architect has led to a repair

project (which will also pick up jackdaw damage to external walls), that we hope will be done later in the summer. However, until scaffolding is in place and the tiles lifted, other possible damage to leadwork and timbers cannot be fully assessed. The PCC has approved plans to at least complete the external repairs based on funds available in the fabric fund.

Depending on what we find, these repairs are likely to exceed the current free fabric fund that we have available and so it may be that we have to use some of the funds specifically donated or raised for the church extension, such as those from the Easton Flower Festival and Open Gardens event. We do not do this lightly but are sure that most will regard the current building to be the higher priority, not least because any application for planning permission will not succeed if the existing church fabric is not in good

order.

After a period of drying out we will then be able to see if the internal plaster work stabilises as it dries through the winter. The interior of the church will then need to be addressed to some degree. In the worst case this will require the unstable plaster to be extensively removed and replaced using scaffolding - at a minimum the walls bear scars of the old heating system, repairs to the chancel ceiling now dried out, and rising damp behind the organ/vestry. Regardless, the fabric fund which has suffered from the COVID shutdown and diversion of our attention on the extension, needs to be augmented to cover these repairs and others to the steeple roof as we lose tiles to high winds and the woodpeckers practicing their drilling technique.

We on the DCC are therefore busy arranging a programme of events to raise funds over the next year, starting with an evening with Noel Coward in the form of Michael Lunts' excellent one man show staged in the Church. Michael delivered a previous highly amusing show based on the music of Flanders and Swann which was very well received, so please put **Saturday 21 October** in your diary. See opposite for full details and booking arrangements. Plans are in place for the return of the Duck Race and a 'Bridge Party' next year and we are also working on a repeat visit of a London Gospel Choir who filled the Church twice over on their previous visit. These and other events still in gestation will be announced as we progress and your support in helping us to raise funds will be greatly appreciated.

*Chris Ellis and Mary Purser -  
Churchwardens*



## The Practical Gardener

---

This is the time of year to enjoy the garden. If you grow your own, which those of us who care about climate change try to do, then it's harvest time. Sadly we seem to have a glut of things and then need to find ways of storing. Early potatoes need to be cool and dark which is not so easy. Onions can be tied up to dry. Freezing is one option for beans and peas but I just enjoy them when I can and I try to pick whilst they are young. It's not too late to sow more. I have just used the potato space for spinach and French beans which both grow quickly. Tomatoes are very demanding. They need regular watering, tying up, removal of side shoots and more, compared with cucumbers in the greenhouse which seem so easy. However we grow these for flavour and you really can tell the difference from bland supermarket products. Large shrubs have been growing strongly in recent months and by that I mean shoots 1 metre long. So I feel



now is a time for pruning, to try and keep things in shape. I always shred the cuttings but keep the prickly stuff separate, maybe for the brown bin. Properly shredded material is great for composting and that is an essential for any garden. My shredder works well as long as the material is dry and not too green, so I try and mix green with woody to avoid blockages.

I'm not a lover of ivy (like the centurion who always went from three to five). I see it as the fastest destroyer of fence panels. It's amazing how far ivy will travel in a lawn if left untouched.

My garden is full of colour and the collection of perennial plugs from Suttons has really done well and is great value. The boring part is dead heading but it has to be done. (I wonder if there is a link here to school holidays?). I've noticed lots of aphids this year but also some ladybirds. I had to spray my new young fruit trees earlier in the year but hopefully not anymore. This is the best month to buy seeds which are often at half price but check they are still in date. Lawns take a disproportionate amount of time and cash. Many experts have been telling us what to do. But my lawn is also a pathway. However my plan is to reduce the lawn every year and expand the growing areas. I'm contemplating a tropical garden!

Happy Gardening. *Tony Gaster.*



## From our MP

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First of all, thank you to all those who've written since I announced I would not be standing again in Winchester at the next election. I suspect this Parliament has some way to go yet - so much still to do both here and in Westminster – but thanks for the kindness.

Residents will have heard a great deal lately about the NHS as it marks 75 years. We've honoured that locally by securing £40m of capital investment to develop an elective hub and orthopaedic outpatient facility at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It will provide more capacity and allow more operations to take place therefore improving access to elective, planned surgery such as hip and knee replacements.

Our Trust is also developing proposals to build a new outpatient facility, also in Winchester, specifically for orthopaedics. Scheduled to open in early 2025, this is part of the ongoing investment into services in the city. Winchester is heard in the corridors of power because that's my job.

Secondly, Owen Carey was just 18 when he suffered a fatal anaphylactic reaction after eating a chicken burger, which was stated on the menu as being plain grilled, at a restaurant in London. Owen's sister, Emma Kocher, lives in Winchester and I am working with them to secure a change in the law to prevent other families suffering their agony. We recently met with the Food Minister at DEFRA as part of that. They've created 'Owens Law' which calls for legal change to put more appropriate and accurate information about the allergens in their food on menus, changes in the regulations around proactive discussions with

customers about allergies as well as changes in guidance and industry practice for the restaurant sector. The campaign also wants to see greater research into the causes of allergies and proper recording of, and a national register for, anaphylaxis deaths.

You can help us by visiting [www.owens-law.co.uk](http://www.owens-law.co.uk)

Finally, residents and their representatives have worked hard for years to secure changes (and some even wanted HCC to succeed) for a safer junction at the Cart and Horses. So it is pleasing, now we have moved past the extremely difficult - but absolutely necessary - police investigation following last year's fatality, to see proposals to improve this difficult spot. You can drop into the Winchester Rugby Club on Tuesday 5 September (3-7.30pm) to get involved or visit [www.hants.gov.uk/cart-and-horses-junction-improvements](http://www.hants.gov.uk/cart-and-horses-junction-improvements)

There's so much more on my work, across Westminster and the constituency on a wide range of issues, on my website but also on my socials which are a great way to stay in touch [fb.com/SteveBrineMP](https://fb.com/SteveBrineMP)

Have a great Summer and look out for me on my Summer Tour which will be up and running as usual in the constituency.

*Steve Brine MP*



Photo is with our Trust Chief Executive down at the RHCH

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## From the Parish Council.

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Boom Town takes place this month and you will have seen the notices advising of road closures. They are there to keep Boom Town traffic away from the Valley and do not apply where residents need access. However please be aware of the traffic restrictions on and around the A31. It is interesting that at our most recent Full Council Meeting under "Public Participation" there was comment made that the notices had gone up too early. On a previous occasion we had received a comment that they had gone up too late! Some feedback on what is considered the right length of warning time would be useful.

Many residents will have received notices of a drop-in consultation meeting regarding the Cart and Horses Junction. Given the level of concern it is hoped that as many as possible will attend on 5 September. As Parish Councillors we were also invited to a preliminary meeting which was helpful. As ever it has taken time and persistence by our County, City and Parish Councillors to make progress on this issue. Short term improvements showing who has right of way will be in place very soon and a long term solution to make this junction safer for all will follow the consultation process. Our ride-on brush cutter has been put to good use and thanks to Chris Jeffes the surfaces of our footpaths have been kept clear at a time when there has been rapid growth by a variety of vegetation. This has enabled us to make use of the Lengthsman on other work. There is still a problem with



over-growth onto paths from adjacent land and once again the request is for land owners to see that this is cut back. Recently a level of duplication between the Full Council and Finance and General Purpose committees has been found. To improve efficiency, under the guidance of Richard, our clerk, it has been decided that the Finance and General Purposes Committee be given new Terms of Reference, and is now the Finance and Audit Committee. Under normal circumstances it will meet quarterly instead of monthly. Meeting dates, time and location can be found on our website.

Yvette Riley, who has been on the Parish Council for longer than all bar one of us, has decided to stand down, due to many other commitments. She has been one of the most active members for many years (somewhere between ten and twenty). In that time she has: looked after the Open Spaces portfolio; been our webmaster; a member of the Planning Committee; a member of the Environmental Working Group; taken on the role of honorary Clerk/RFO for several months (when the previous Clerk left at short notice) and, most of all, chaired the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the past seven years. We owe her a great deal of thanks for the time, effort and administrative skill she has put in to both the Parish Council and the local community for so many years.

That leaves a vacancy for a place on the Parish Council which can now be filled by co-option. If you are, or know of anyone who might be interested in joining us please talk to any of the Parish Councillors who can give you a good insight into what is involved, or email our Parish Clerk. [parishclerk@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk) Patrick Appleby.

## Jackie's County Corner for August

I hope you are enjoying the summer – but as I write, there seems to be no shortage of water as the rain continues to pour! Water butts fill quickly on days like this, and I'd like to find some volunteers who could help others install water butts in their gardens. If you are interested, please let me know.



I hope that you managed to complete the County Council's Budget consultation, but if not, here's your chance to have your say on another topic. This month, I invite you to join in the consultation for a redesign for the Cart and Horses junction, drawn up by HCC as part of the submission for M3 Junction 9. Please note, this design is not funded, so capital funding must be agreed before it could go ahead. Following detailed assessment of suggestions from the public, small changes have been agreed which hopefully will be done by the time you read this, but this consultation is for a complete redesign to join onto a new junction in 2027. There is a public exhibition on 5 September (3-7.30pm) at Winchester Rugby Club. The online link is: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230710CartHorsesJuncSurvey> Response deadline 17 September.

Water treatment: of great interest at City and County levels, there is new legislation for owners of 'private water treatment plants' which include small developments and individual properties. This applies from October 2023. You can see the detail on my

website or use this short link [www.tinyurl.com/private-watertreatment2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/private-watertreatment2023)

Flash flooding continues to be a problem as heavy rain falls over a short period. Please report all flood matters on [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) for speedy maintenance. Thank you

Road, footway and countryside complaints, flooding, overhanging trees etc must be reported online at [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) to start any action. I'm afraid the old days of calling up the highways officer have gone and all matters which might require resources start with a reference number. If you don't receive a satisfactory reply from your complaint, please let me know with the reference number. Many thanks.

I have recently been appointed to Hampshire's Health and Wellbeing Board and attended a Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) meeting at HCC. The agenda items and topics of discussion included:

- Shortage of NHS dental services for adults and children
  - Looking again at the Pharmacy availability as the situation is worsening with community pharmacies closing. This is resulting in even more limited access for those without a car, long queues and medicines shortages. I have asked for the Winchester district pharmacies assessment (compiled by Hampshire's Public Health team) to be updated to reflect the current position. If either of these matters affect you, please feel free to contact me.
- Did you complete the South Western Railway public consultation on station change proposals?

Especially if you need assistance or use a train occasionally, I'd still be interested to hear your opinions about ticket offices. I am sure we will examine the



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**MAY**

14th. Floral meadow-box arrangement

20th. Watercolour painting with artist Becki Clark

**JULY**

8th. Ceramic tile making with potter Sarah Pearson

15th. Hand-tie bouquet arrangement

**JUNE**

10th. Bowl arrangement with florist Louise

Bradshaw

17th. Floral photography with Simon Bray

**SEPTEMBER**

10th. Painting with artist Jenny Muncaster

16th. Hand-tie bouquet arrangement

For more information and to book [www.stemandgreen.co.uk](http://www.stemandgreen.co.uk)

proposals in detail at HCC as part of the public transport offer and I'd like to represent your views.

Two new services for 60+

- A regular coffee morning/carer support group for families coping with dementia will be held at The Dower House on the third Wednesday of the month (Springvale Rd, Kings Worthy), starting 16 August 10.30am-12noon, and thereafter. Contact Kim Torkington, Dementia Advisor, Carer Support & Dementia Advice Hampshire 07507 968408 or email [kim.torkington@andovermind.org.uk](mailto:kim.torkington@andovermind.org.uk)

- A new informative website:-  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/livelongerbetter/keepconnected>  
Cllr Jackie Porter,

## City Council Report

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### Water Quality

Jackie and Margot recently enjoyed a fact finding trip to the Appledown Lane Water Treatment Plant. Our

party included water engineers, an environmental hydrologist and river keeper so the questions were wide ranging. Southern Water were informative hosts.

A factor in the decline of river life is the high level of nutrients in the water. In simple terms – if the invertebrates can't thrive due to eutrophication, we won't have any kingfishers. We asked about the installation of a phosphate stripper during the water treatment process at the Alresford works.

The answer is that a phosphate stripper may be installed, but the investigatory report will not be published before 2027 at the earliest. Even with phosphate stripping in place, not enough phosphate will be removed to reach the 'good' quality of discharged waste water that we would wish. However, the degree of attenuation by chalk and vegetation as the water filters down through to the aquifer and river will certainly improve matters. If there are fissures in the chalk water can run more directly to



the river and avoid this natural filtration process. There are suspicions that this may be causing a problem at Ovington. Hydrology is of the essence.

As a result of the excess nutrients problem, as described above, and critically that of phosphate, the approval of planning applications which will increase the flow of domestic waste water have been put on hold. This sort of application includes new residential properties, sub-divisions of large houses and changes of use to residential. This legislation has been put in place by the Government to avoid further long term damage to our rivers. Feasible mitigation/reduction methods are being worked on. The phosphate problem only applies to the water catchment area of the River Itchen, which includes all of the Alresford and Itchen Valley ward, but not all of the District.

*Margot Power 01962 734167*

*Russell Gordon -Smith 01962 733219*

## Use it or lose it

The cost of a single bus journey will continue to be capped at £2\* on most Stagecoach routes in England until Tuesday 31st October 2023. It takes about an hour to take a scenic ride to Petersfield through some lovely villages and countryside.



## Welcome

We welcome to the Itchen Valley our new neighbours, and newly-wed, Paul and Julie Garabette, who have recently moved into Avington. St.Mary's Church in Avington resounded with music, prayer and love as Reverend Peter blessed their marriage in front of a pew-filled congregation of family and friends. We wish them all the happiness in the world as they begin this new chapter in their lives, in our beautiful valley and friendly community.



Thank you to the ladies of Avington who gathered flowers from their gardens and decorated the church so beautifully in preparation for the occasion.

*Corinne Kozok*



## Just off to my fourth festival of the year!

And I am doing it as part of my work!



And no, not Glastonbury: the picture is from the Big Church Festival in Sussex which is the largest Christian festival in the UK - with over 20,000 attendees.

So why am I working at festivals? Many will have seen the press - especially around the last census - about the decline in religion. And it is true that, in some of the more traditional churches, attendance is in decline; yet, in many other areas, Christianity is alive and flourishing - something which becomes evident at these Christian festivals.

Christian festivals have been around for many years; but recently their size and number has grown significantly. I work for the Bible Society, an organisation that is working extensively with festivals to help with mission and bible confidence; and they have asked me to visit for research

purposes to understand why there is this recent growth.

Many go, I've discovered, as part of a group of friends, family or church. This evidently enhances their experience at

the event and helps them grow in faith; many then return to their churches with new ideas, experience and fresh enthusiasm.

There is also such a wide variety of festivals, suiting a wide range of tastes. Spring Harvest (held at Butlins) is very strong on families - with activities and worship for everyone. Big Church is the closest to a Christian Glastonbury: it's a young person's event, mainly under canvas, and with a variety of music and 'spoken word' venues - ideal for youngsters to take a group including non-Christian friends. Meanwhile New Wine, strong on Bible study and evangelism, works on developing faith and enthusiasm that visitors can take home to grow their own church.

If you've ever felt churches are a bit old-fashioned and maybe uninviting, I'd encourage you to consider getting a taste of a Christian festival such as



these: you will find a vibrant Christian community, full of life and hope, growing in faith together, and returning refreshed and invigorated to work within their communities. If you want to know more about Christian festivals come and ask me: it might be the best holiday decision you make for next year!

By the way, the festival I am just off to is Creation Fest in Cornwall, started as an outreach to the surfing community by a guy who just wanted to tell them that when you know God, your life begins to change. Well it did, there is now a four day family festival full of faith for all.

*Gerry Stacey - Licensed Lay Minister*

## Flower of the Month

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Scabious, a rather unattractive name for a beautiful wayside plant. Our reference book tells us of "a West Country custom ... a girl would give each bud the name of an eligible



young man, then wait to see which developed into the finest flower."

I mean, how would you remember which flower was which, and who's to say which of these is finest? A dating app is probably more useful?

*Simon and Dorothy Broadley*

## The Valley Quiz No. 16

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1. Who went "bunburying" and in what?
2. Who said "There is nothing, absolutely nothing, so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." To whom was it said and in what circumstances?
3. Red, Orange, Yellow Green and Blue are five of the seven colours of the rainbow. What are the remaining two?
4. Where will you find the Drake Passage?
5. What are you likely to be doing if using a Filbert, a Pochard Box, a Rigger, Liquin and the Chiaroscuro technique?
6. Which city is the furthest West. Edinburgh or London?
7. What began in Pudding Lane on the 2nd of September 1666
8. It used to be called Stalingrad. What is it called now?
9. What did Julian, Dick, Anne, George and Timmy get up to?
10. What is the wettest capital city in Europe?

*John Lang*

Answers on page 40

## Prince's Mead News

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Local independent school Prince's Mead has achieved the highest acclaim possible by being found excellent across all areas in their Independent Schools' Inspection (ISI). The co-educational school, which started out in the then Headmistress' home in Winchester on Christchurch Road, celebrates its 75th Anniversary next year. It was highly praised for both its academic and pastoral achievements by ISI inspectors who visited the school last month. Inspectors were impressed that the pupils achieve high academic standards and are successful in entrance assessments to senior schools, a significant number of pupils gaining scholarships. They also praised Prince's Mead's contribution to the local community stating that "pupils look forward to and enjoy the opportunities to help the local community".

Adam King, who joined Prince's Mead as Headmaster last September, said: "I am very proud of the team at Prince's Mead and of what we have achieved. You can't get any better accolade than double excellent at inspection and I am heartened by the wonderful comments we received from parents, as part of the process, who think Prince's Mead prepares pupils well for the next stage of their education. I am so proud to be the Head of a school that champions happiness, confidence and the desire to succeed."

To read the full report and find out more about Prince's Mead School please visit

[www.princesmeadschool.org.uk](http://www.princesmeadschool.org.uk)

*Lucinda Watt*

## Hazards in going Green

---

There is much to recommend going green. My problem has been too many salesmen and a dearth of independent advisors. I installed solar panels more than 10 years ago. They were expensive but the return from the government tariff was excellent and the saving on bills was considerable. I did not realise that the guarantee was on the panels alone and the inverter failed after about eight years – it is now included in a comprehensive cover. To put in a battery at the time was too expensive for the benefits but I have now been waiting over two years for my battery. The local authority group purchases failed twice because, like most public sector purchases, they were based on cost alone. A battery, with the ability to work during power cuts, fell foul of the power network's supposed overloading – easily remedied with a simple adjustment which was too much trouble for a quick in and out provider.

I am fortunate to have a swimming pool, hence two gas fired boilers. Both are nearly 20 years old and have been prone to malfunction. Time for replacements and what about air source heat pumps? I started with the pool and an installer recommended by the pool company. The answer they said was a heat pump which was much better than the type I had discarded before and would attract a £5,000 grant – not true. The grant only applies if air source replaces all gas heating for the whole property. When I found a proper expert he asked if I wanted a green solution at any cost. We settled on a new and much more efficient gas boiler,

together with a new set of controls and I suggested replacing both boilers at the same time for some cost saving and some further fuel efficiency. The boilers are now installed but that is not the end. The installer found a gas leak underground and my gas meter is apparently too small for the gas load that it has been serving for 20 years. This might well explain why the boiler kept failing but nobody thought of that. The size of the pipe from the road had to be surveyed and is adequate and a new section of pipe put in to by-pass the leak, but I still need a new larger meter. That is not the responsibility of Octopus but Southern Gas Networks and their ordering system and timetable are impenetrable. I wait. What I have learnt is that a good pool cover regularly used and maybe a degree less pool heat does almost all the heating needed for the pool after a start-up period – a very green solution, and also do allow a contingency when deciding on any heating installation.

On a parting shot, fast fibre has its issues as well. Under the local grant scheme Open Reach have just installed fast fibre. They placed it at one end of my house where the old telephone lines entered my house not the middle as requested. BT then sent me the wrong kit which had to be replaced. So I now have 3 extra discs which almost provide unnecessarily fast wi-fi cover, but are not compatible with the remaining landline. My alarm company also advised that the wi-fi and alarm were not compatible and I needed to pay for a new alarm system. Their engineer called and told me that the salesman was vastly exaggerating. The

replacement kit would only add mobile cover if the internet failed - not a great comfort with Itchen Valley reception. This is quite a cautionary tale that has been time consuming and exhausting. Try to find proper experts and look at what might go wrong before starting out.

Nick Owen

## Bird Watching in Pembrokeshire

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We've always wanted to see the 'penguins of the north' so when the opportunity came to go on a bird watching and photography holiday to Pembrokeshire in June this year, which included a trip to Skomer and Ramsay Islands, we seized the chance. Penguins of the North? Well, they are more familiarly known as Puffins but bear some similarities to Penguins. There are three different species of Puffin, the tufted and horned

being found in the North Pacific and the Atlantic Puffin in the North Atlantic Ocean. On Skomer Island there



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are 25,000 breeding Atlantic Puffins so the chances of seeing them are high. And if you go on a wet, miserable day, you are likely to see more than on a fine sunny day as they tend to stay close by, rather than going far out to sea. At least this is what we were told when the rain was beating down and the visibility was poor. And Puffins we saw. They nest in burrows as do the Manx Shearwater, another species nesting on Skomer, and the ground is honeycombed with holes. Visitors are requested to stay on the paths to prevent stepping unwittingly onto a hole and causing it to collapse, trapping the chicks and parent. Skomer has the largest breeding population in the world of Manx Shearwaters, over 300,000, but they are difficult to see as they spend the day out at sea, only returning to land in the evening. Whilst Shearwaters are skilful flyers,



Puffins with their short wings are clumsy and have little ability to steer when in the air, so unwary bird watchers are likely to find a small black and white missile flying straight at them and having to duck so the bird doesn't crash into them. Occasionally they manage to fly directly into their burrows with their mouths full of silvery sand eels for their hungry chicks. More often they crash land and

then have to walk some distance to find the correct burrow – which they seem to do without much difficulty. Their chicks are covered in a downy brown fluff and live underground until such time as they have to learn to fly, once they have their adult plumage.

Visiting a bird hide to escape the



worst of the rain, we found ourselves sitting under a Swallows' nest. The adult Swallow sat on the edge of the hide or a branch just outside summoning up the courage to enter and feed her chicks despite our presence.

But Skomer has much more to offer than just Puffins, Shearwaters and Swallows. The island is teeming with different varieties of birds including Curlew, Choughs, Peregrines, Razorbills, Guillemots, Kittiwakes and Fulmars to name but a few. Black Rabbits have also made their home here and out at sea common Dolphins and Grey Seals abound. On Ramsay Island we watched Choughs (a member of the crow family with red legs and beak) wheeling around in the sky, showing off their acrobatics, looked down on seals cavorting in the bay and saw black backed gulls, kittiwakes and fulmars swooping past us.

Taking a cliff top walk one afternoon,

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thankfully in lovely  
sunny weather, we  
saw linnets,  
stonechats,  
meadow pipits and  
many more.

Walking on we had  
a view of a kestrel  
hovering on the  
cliffs at eye level.  
It's not often you  
find yourself looking down on a bird of  
prey!

One of the highlights of the week was a  
visit to a nature reserve near Fishguard  
where we had the amazing experience



Mary Hogg

of watching a  
kingfisher for about  
an hour as it fished  
for its breakfast.  
The usual sight for  
me of a kingfisher  
is a flash of blue  
and a 'did you see  
that?', so to watch  
one for so long  
was breathtaking.



© Mary Hogg



© Mary Hogg

## Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club Update

Amidst a blaze of colour on Friday 21 July eight teams competed in the Easton Sixes, as a culmination of EMWCC's two-day fundraiser event.

The annual Tug of War and BBQ were held the previous day. The evening was well attended, and spectators also enjoyed two Juniors' interclub

friendly cricket matches.

Andy's Warriors proved to be the most skilful and tenacious and

won the Tug of War Cup. The evening included various fun pulls, including eight players from the Club's Ladies W10 team, captained by Elloise Clarke. They undertook a best of three versus Juniors Under 11s and managed to win two of the three pulls, with the opposition fielding anything between 16 and 28 competitors!

The annual Sixes cricket tournament was sponsored by Knight Frank again. Paul Moffatt's excellent hog roast lived up to expectations. The bar was provided by The Plough from Itchen Abbas. The brightly coloured



playing shirts ensure the different teams can be easily identified. This year saw the addition of a 'super over' when all scored runs count for double.

At lunch, players and spectators were joined by the Club's President John Roth, a spritely 102 years young and his wife Daphne a mere 98 years, who had travelled from London for the event. John and his family had moved

to Martyr Worthy during WW2 and he has always held a place in his heart

for the Valley. John's father, David Roth, purchased the cricket pitch in 1946 to enable cricket to be played in perpetuity in the Valley. At that

time the two cricket teams of Martyr Worthy and Easton amalgamated into one, due to the shortage of men available to play.

The final was played between Fenwick Elliot Eagles in red and Station Mill Health and Fitness wearing lilac. Station Mill, captained by Club Captain, Mark Dickety batted first and scored 94, eventually winning by 20 runs. The Sixes Cup was presented by the Club's

Vice Chairman John Brewer.

[www.emwcc.com](http://www.emwcc.com)

Adam Murch, Retired Chairman

Lynda Gray, Press Officer

[ldaten453@aol.com](mailto:ldaten453@aol.com)

# Welcome

Welcome to Hazel, born Sunday 9. July 2023 to Jessica (née Ffennell) and Freddie Muirhead



# Local monthly information

## Itchen Valley area waste collections:

Black and brown garden bins on Fridays 11 and 25  
Green bins on Fridays 4 and 18  
Glass boxes on Friday 18

## Hampshire Farmers' Market in Winchester

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

## Full Parish Council Meetings:

The next meeting is on September 7 (IA&A Village Hall)

## Bus information

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

### To Winchester:

Monday to Friday

Sch 8:20 NSch 8:23

9:23 12:43 15:43 17:23

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

### To Alresford:

Monday to Friday

10:39 13:39 15:19 17:14 18:09

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.

The information on the bus stops is not to be relied on.

**Quiz Answers**

1. Jack and Algeon in "The Importance of Being Ernest"

2. Rat to Mole in The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Graham. Rat was rowing Mole, (who had never been afloat before), across a river.

3. Indigo and Violet.

4. It is the body of water linking the South Atlantic with the South Pacific and lies between Cape Horn and the Antarctic Peninsula.

5. Oil painting.

6. Edinburgh.

7. The Great Fire of London.

8. Volagrad.

9. Known as the Famous Five in the popular Enid Blyton novels, they were four children and the dog Timmy who had one adventure after another.

10. Podgorica, the capital of the Balkan nation Montenegro.



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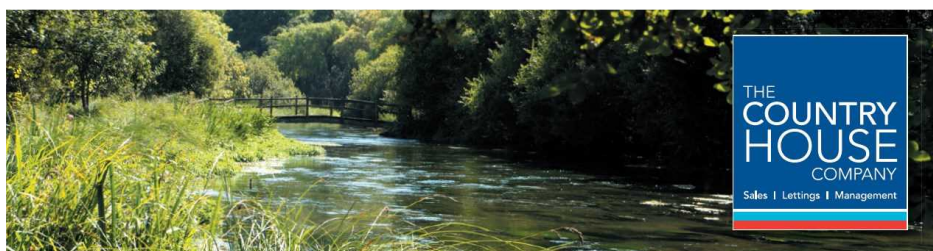
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