

ItchenValleyNews

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

Issue 126 | August 2024



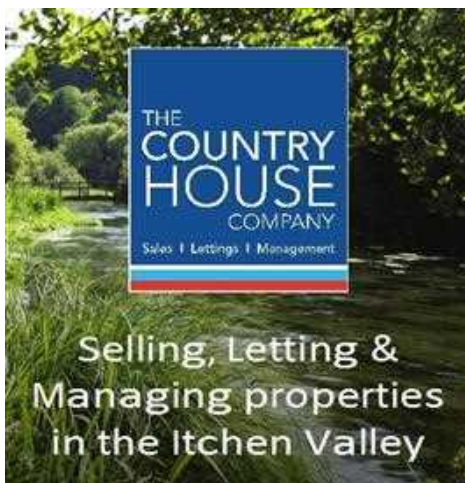
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WELCOME to the Itchen Valley News

Welcome to the August edition! High summer is with us, in spite of the rain the harvesters are out and the swifts are screaming, but it is still strange to come in from a walk with muddy boots at this time of year. It's not just the seasons changing of course, with a change of government here and the possibility of big changes in the US which will affect us all. There are no articles from elected politicians this month, presumably as everyone settles into new jobs and new alignments. We wish them all well. Thank goodness Patrick Appleby regularly keeps us all up to date with parish news (see page 12) Thank you to everyone who sent in articles (especially those wonderful writers who contribute to every issue). It was hard to find enough copy this month; some of you will have noticed that the magazine is now regularly 40 pages although we still have the option to go back to 44 if our inbox is inundated. We really welcome your stories and reviews of local events, and articles about all the many things that our readers are interested in – it may seem ordinary to you, but the rest of us may well be astonished! Would you review a book you have recently enjoyed, for instance? Or tell us about your business or about your friend who is an unsung volunteer hero? Have you been out in your garden with your camera? Please send us notices of the events you organise - the inbox is itchenvalleynews@gmail.com and our regular deadline is the 15th of the month, although sometimes there is a

bit of extra leeway – do ask. Brigid McManus has bravely written an obituary for her late husband Peter which you can find on page 20. He was a great support to the IVN and his scholarly and entertaining articles, particularly on opera, were much appreciated. You lucky readers, there are not one but two quizzes this month! John Lang's challenging general knowledge Valley quiz is up to No. 27, and Michael Smith has sent in a cryptic quiz with clues to British birds for those of you who enjoy word games. Next month's editor is Catherine Hahn *Verity Coleman*

Itchen Valley News

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What's On

Water Recycling 8 August at 7pm

A free online talk

Learn how water recycling could help us to cope with future shortages, as population growth and climate change affect our limited water resources.

The Watercress and Winterbournes scheme is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Book your ticket at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes

Millie's Fun Day 24 August

Millie Clarke is fundraising to support her baton twirling hobby. All are welcome. See flyer on page 23.

National Gardens Scheme 28 August 12 noon - 5pm

Bere Mill, London Road,
Whitchurch, RG28 7NH

Admission: £8.00; children free
Home-made teas.

The garden is built around an early C18 mill on an idyllic isolated stretch of the River Test, east of Whitchurch.

The gardens have been built incrementally over 30 years with extensive bulb planting; herbaceous and Mediterranean borders with



magnolia, irises, and tree peonies; summer and autumn borders; a traditional orchard and two small arboretums, one specialising in Japanese shrubs and trees.

The mill buildings were the original location of the Portal family business which first sold banknote paper to the Bank of England from the mill in 1724, and there are interesting industrial and agricultural archaeological remains, including reconstructed water meadow structures.

The owners farm the surrounding fields with traditional breeds of sheep and cattle. The Mill House and barns were rebuilt to exacting standards after a fire in 2018. The house and farm are self-sufficient in energy, waste and water and a butchery sells the home grown meat from the farm.

findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/19432/bere-mill

Pat Beagley

Beginners Watercolour classes September 2024

Martyr Worthy Village Hall.

Tuesdays 7-9pm or Wednesdays 1-3pm

More details at www.kirstinwhite.co.uk

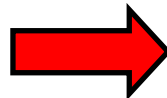
Easton and MW Cricket Club

1 September - EMWCC V MCC

7 September - Club season-ending
Celebration Match

22 September - Car Boot Sale

Further details opposite



Concert of renaissance music with the Amici Ensemble

Saturday 21 September

St Nicholas Church, Bishop's Sutton
6pm - 7pm Doors open 5.30pm.

Raising money for Blood Cancer UK.

In a short concert, this acclaimed consort of five viols, lutenist and soprano, will perform a varied selection of renaissance music, to delight and entertain.

Tickets £10 to include a welcoming drink. Pay on the door but reserve via stnbconcerts@gmail.com

Bedroom Farce

13-15 September

The Southwood Players present an open air performance of the Alan Ayckbourn comedy. Further details page 9.

Anna McGowan

Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club

The Hampshire Cricket League fixtures for our adult teams continue until the end of August. On Saturday 13 July 17 year old batsman Olly Bolton scored his second century of the season for the 1st XI against Steep CC, with Archie Oscroft contributing 69. A heavy shower caused play to be suspended during the EMWCC innings, requiring the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern formula to be called upon to calculate Steep's target score and their new total of overs. Following the usual head-scratching by the team captains, resorting to calculators and rule books, opinions from spectators etc a consensus was agreed and EMWCC eventually won by 47 runs. Currently placed second in their League (Division 2) after ten fixtures, promotion is realistically within their grasp.

**EASTON
CAR BOOT SALE**
Sunday 22nd September
1-4pm

Easton Village Hall & Recreation Ground, SO21 1EN

- Over 100 pitches
- Organised arrival system
- No queues for sellers
- Car pitch prices from £10
- Pre-booking advised (details to follow)
- BBQ lunch and bar
- Tea and cakes
- Craft market
- 1pm buyers entry: £2
- 12pm early bird buyers: £5

All proceeds will be shared between the Easton Village Hall & Recreation Ground (reg. charity number: 301809) and the Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club.



1st XI

The EMWCC U15s Boys have enjoyed a very successful inaugural season, ranked second in the Hampshire Junior Cricket Championship's Central Division. Noah Gillings is top run scorer with 199 so far. Oscar Eyssens has taken the most wickets to date with a total of 11. They are through to the final of their Regional Cup competition, from an original 19 teams, having beaten Overton CC by 23 runs at Overton in the semi-final.

The U11s Girls won a skills challenge competition at Hampshire's Utilita Bowl on 21 June and provided the Guard of Honour for the Hampshire T20 match vs Sussex. The team, under Charlie Gloyn's management, have progressed to the final of the Bethan Watkinson County Cup, beating Hursley Park CC by 78 runs in the semi final. Captained by Eva Raftery they also

won their League.

In previous years all Juniors' fixtures were carried out during the school summer term. However, the League has introduced a "Summer 100" competition this year, giving boys and girls the opportunity to continue playing competitive cricket during the holidays, via this new shortened 100 balls version of the sport.

On Sunday 1 September the club will be hosting the MCC in a declaration fixture starting at 10.30 am. All spectators are welcome to come along and support the EMWCC team; the bar and BBQ will be open all day.

Lynda Gray daten453@aol.com

www.emwcc.com

Magic champagne flutes

Readers of the Itchen Valley News will recall last month's article about my retirement as verger of Itchen Abbas church. As a token of appreciation

for my years in that role, I was given tickets for Arminel and myself to visit Glyndebourne opera house to see Mozart's 'Magic Flute'.

We went all dressed up, as you can see, and had a wonderful time



perambulating round the grounds, enjoying our picnic and watching a splendid production.

We stayed in Lewes overnight and walked around the town the following morning. The second photo shows a most peculiarly worded sign we noticed near some overhead cables. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the much appreciated gift.

Vernon Tottle

Homestart: the Mayor arrives in style!

A night of dancing and good food raised £2,000 for local family support charity Home-Start Winchester.

Special guests at the Meon Hall in Meonstoke included the Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester who arrived in style with event sponsors Bill and Rose Rawles of Bill Rawles Classic Cars, in a pristine 1961 Austin Healey 3000 Mk I.

Trustee Chrissie Barlow said "Home-Start is increasingly reliant on donations from supporters, sponsorship from local businesses and our own fundraising to support our work as we must raise over 90% of our annual income every year, which is why we are so grateful to sponsors like Bill Rawles Classic Cars for their unwavering support."

Home-Start Winchester supports young families who are struggling with issues like disability of a parent or child, mental health issues, homelessness, lone parenting, isolation or unemployment. Families are referred by GPs, health visitors and social workers and these families are supported in the home by weekly visits of trained Home-Start volunteers.

Sue Gentry (former Trustee)

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The Southwood Players Present
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a comedy
by Alan Ayckbourn



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Friday 13th September 2024 at 5pm ...and bring your own chairs!

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th September 2024 at 4pm

Tickets: £15 - Adults, £10 - 18's and under

www.southwoodplayers.org.uk

contact@southwoodplayers.org.uk

All proceeds to be split between Itchen Valley Churches and Multiple Sclerosis Society.
This amateur production of "Bedroom Farce" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Toe-tapping fundraising



Kasbah Swing Band entertained music lovers and pub goers with their fantastic tunes on Friday 28 June at The Flowerpots Inn, Cheriton. Donations to The Winchester Beacon were collected and the landlord has generously pledged to match what was raised on the night. Thank you to all involved and a big thank you to Kasbah Swing Band and The Flowerpots Inn for their support.

The Winchester Beacon



West Lea Farm Shop discover their fate in style!

What a time Sandra Bentley, Kasia Smith and I had attending the Countryside Alliance Awards Champions' Reception which was held at the House of Lords on Tuesday 25 June. Sometimes known as the Rural Oscars these awards celebrate rural businesses and communities and those who make



significant contributions to the countryside, and it was all thanks to our wonderful customers who voted for us and propelled us into the grand finals.

We drove to London as the trains have been so unreliable recently, only to find a State visit from the Emperor and Empress of Japan causing the closure of most of the main roads around central London. After ditching the car we jumped in a taxi and eventually made it to the House of Lords Terrace. We gasped at the spectacular view of the river, the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye. It was one of a very few blisteringly hot days this summer so we very much welcomed the offer of iced cool drinks (not all alcoholic!) and some delicious nibbles.

As we waited, we mingled with lots of other finalists and managed to secure a position next to the only functioning fan! We were warmly welcomed by Tim Bonner, CEO of the Countryside Alliance, and our excitement grew and nerves jangled as the winners in each



category were announced. Competition was fierce and eventually the winner of our category, Food and Drink, was announced as The Wild Meat Company, Suffolk who specialise in wild game.

We were really thrilled to have been part of such a prestigious awards ceremony, putting our little corner of the countryside on the map. We held our heads up high and reminded ourselves that we had already been crowned Regional Finalist, a huge achievement for such a small shop. Thank you, again, to everyone who voted for us.

Rachel Peppiatt

Pulse Cargo at the Hat Fair – how it went

The Hat Fair is the longest running outdoor arts festival in the UK and it celebrated its 50th birthday this year. The event takes over a number of

city centre locations bringing circus, magic, dance, acrobatics and comedy to the streets of Winchester for three days every summer. Acts from across the world come to Winchester each year to perform.

This year Pulse Cargo became a Corporate Supporter of Play to the Crowd (the organisation who organise Hat Fair) and, with our business being focussed on logistics, we offered our services as part of the Production Crew. Pulse Cargo provided a van and driver/crew-member for the entire week from the Tuesday before the event to the Monday after it, and was involved in all manner of event preparation and de-preparation (if that's a word!). I helped with running kit across the city to and from stores and show sites, setting up, laying dance floor, erecting banners, bunting, flags and signs, installing barriers and fencing, moving costumes and gear for performers, setting up stages and



basically anything else that was needed. We had very British weather over the weekend with a lot of rain and even some thunder, but the performers and Winchester residents all rose to the event and turned up regardless for which we were all very grateful! In amongst all the running around I managed to watch almost all of the performance aptly named 'Bamboo' by No Fit State Circus. It was held inside the Guildhall (due to the inclement weather) and was absolutely fantastic! "I have no idea how many gazebos we popped up (and down) over the week of the event. It was very hard work but extremely rewarding and I was so impressed by the team that Play to the Crowd put together to make this incredible event happen! We're looking forward to (hopefully!) being involved next year too."

*Thomas Beesley
MD, Pulse Cargo*

tom@pulsecargo.co.uk

Boules: Dick Hewitt Trophy: Round 2

All too often this summer the weather has not been ideal for boules, but the rain held off on 9 July as players from Easton and Martyr Worthy gathered at the Meadows. Liz Platt had been kind enough to open her beautiful garden for the match and Martyr Worthy families had laid on generous hospitality. We enjoyed a close contest in the latest round of the league to find the best boules team in the Valley.



The scores rose slowly but inexorably to 13 points and by the half time break for drinks and snacks each village had won a game. After the break time was running short, so it was agreed to play the remaining two games to 11 points only. Again, each team won one game and the evening ended 2 all.

Next Easton will meet Avington and all three villages still have everything to play for.

Simon Broadley

From the Parish Council



August in the Valley means Boomtown from 7-12, but setting up and dismantling takes place before and after those dates. Parish

Councillors have attended meetings with the event organisers and raised concerns regarding sound levels and traffic congestion problems. We have been told that after last year's event measures have been taken to mitigate these problems but we will have to wait and see. There is also a two page spread in the July edition of the Itchen Valley Forum which gives more detailed information. Along with neighbouring parishes we have also submitted our comments to the consultation on environmental scoping on the Boomtown site.

Local Residents Hotline 07841 383535 or eventcontrol@boomtownfair.co.uk

Couch Green continues to be an area that requires our attention. Most recently the warning of travellers nearby resulted in having to close the

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car park as a precautionary measure: annoying but necessary. Some of the fencing and one of the vehicle gates are in need of repair and we are looking for a contractor to carry out this work. One positive decision has been to purchase new rot proof picnic tables and some replacement seats for both Couch Green and the Old School Field in Easton. Choice of material caused some discussion at July's Full Council Meeting (FCM) and the rarity of a vote that was not unanimous. A case of Purists v Modernists. The Modernists came out as the majority.

At last after a considerable delay, caused by deliveries to the wrong address, the brackets have arrived to fit the Speed Indication Device (SID) to the alternative pole. Research has shown that these devices are more effective if regularly moved between different sites; the alternative pole is sited in Itchen Abbas on the B3047. If possible it will be sited on the pole to face traffic coming in one direction then turned round to face the other way before returning to the verge at Couch Green. One further site has been suggested by a resident and suggestions for others are welcome, but they can only be where there is a 40mph or lower speed restriction.

Before poles can be put up permission has to be sought with the usual form filling, and consequently it will take time.

A different piece of progress is that construction of a new website by a new provider is underway. It will mean that we will have new councillor email addresses and we have been instructed to come to our next FCM (in September) spruced up for new photographs. It is hoped that

once installed updating will be simpler and quicker as well as making it easier to access information.

Please note that our usual practice of having our FCMs on the first Thursday of each month has had to be changed due to various factors. Some are still on the first Thursday but others will be on the second one. Dates up to May 2025 and venues to the end of this calendar year are on the website and our notice boards.

Hopefully all interested in our many footpaths will have kept the map from the centre pages of July's Valley News. As published elsewhere our ride brush cutter and its volunteer councillor driver have been busy cutting paths from 19 in the West to 12/50 in the East. Thanks also to former Cllr Percy for his cleaning of Easton village sign. If you have signs near you that in need and can be safely cleaned please have a go, it makes a great difference to the appearance of the Valley and our four villages.

Patrick Appleby

The Valley Gardeners visit RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival

I had not been to the RHS Hampton Court Flower show (as it was called then) for many years. I remembered it as a more relaxed, informal but more spacious version of the RHS Chelsea Flower show and with, of course, the wonderful setting of Hampton Court Palace and the river as its backdrop. We made an early start and had hoped to arrive by 10am when the festival opened. Approaching the grounds along the A308 with, I thought, 15 minutes to go, I informed the 50 Valley

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Gardeners that we would “soon be at the show”. No sooner were the words out of my mouth than the coach ground to a halt and we sat in that traffic jam, creeping forward inches at a time – tantalizingly close to the Palace – for an hour and a half! Finally at 11.45 we arrived in the coach park but there was no sign of what had delayed us. Oh,



the delights of modern road travel The highlight for me that day was the huge floral marquee which seemed even bigger than the one at Chelsea. It was crammed with every type of plant and flower you could imagine, with some stunning arrangements and creative displays. Pictured here are the Hoyland



Plant Centre’s stand which featured agapanthus and nerines, and an edible art display of heritage vegetables from the slightly strangely named company, She-grows-veg. The latter company, trading only online, won a gold medal and the New Design Award.

Outside, in the intermittent drizzly rain,



it was quite hard to visit every corner of the showground even though we were there for over four hours, as it really is a huge site. Personally, I did not find the show gardens as appealing as I had hoped, and I was somewhat disappointed that shopping for all types of merchandise, many unrelated to gardening and horticulture, dominated the show. But there was a lot to see and admire and some interesting talks, including how to go peat free in your garden. Or you could visit the Pollen station and cast your vote for the best pollinator. As it was the week of the General Election, this was very amusing. This dog clearly knew who he was voting for!

For those interested in attending the Hampton Court Festival in the coming years, the RHS has big plans afoot. The show will run as normal in 2025 at Hampton Court. After that, the show will become a biennial event, and in 2026 a new show will be held at the historic grounds of the Badminton Estate in Gloucestershire. In 2027, the show will revert to Hampton Court.

Catherine Hahn



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Church News

In the Rector's absence, we can report that there have been two lovely weddings: on Saturday 1 June, St Mary's, Easton was the setting for the wedding of Harry and Rachel Brown; and on Saturday 22 June Ryan and Rachel Daly were married in St John's, Itchen Abbas. We wish both couples every blessing as they set out on their married life together.

The long-awaited internal repairs have begun in St Mary's, Easton. The masonry repairs on the west side are finished and the repairs to the south side are on track. The project has been seriously delayed by the discovery that the roof truss in the north side, which keeps the walls from bulging out, has rotted, probably due to a water leak. Hopefully this repair can be done whilst the builder is on site and the scaffolding in place etc, thus expediting the repair and saving us future costs. Look out for details of our fundraising event on 9 November in the September edition of the Itchen Valley News.

Churchwardens

Merry Patronal supper in Martyr Worthy

St Swithun's Day is 15 July, but fortunately those attending the celebrations to mark the event at the church dedicated to him in Martyr Worthy did so on a lovely sunny evening on 14 July. The 15th was rainy, and as many people know, if it rains on St Swithun's Day it will rain for the next 40 days – but don't worry, it is only a legend!

Many of those who attended the service went on to the MW Village Hall to enjoy a glass of wine (or two,



courtesy of the Friends of Martyr Worthy Church) smoked salmon and quail egg canapes, followed by a delicious chicken and grape salad, with a variety of pavlova and brownies for dessert. It was a convivial evening, well attended from all over the Valley and we were delighted to welcome the Revd Andrew Micklefield, who joined Revd Peter in leading the service and preached the sermon. We were all delighted to see him and Fiona looking just the same, but many of us exclaimed in surprise that his children are now so many years older than when they attended school in Itchen Abbas!

Charlotte Appleby





Church Services in August

Sunday 4 August

10am Morning Worship – Martyr Worthy

Sunday 11 August

10am Holy Communion – Itchen Abbas

Sunday 18 August

10am Parish Communion – Martyr Worthy

Sunday 25 August

8.30am Holy Communion (1662) – Martyr Worthy
10am Rectory Garden Service – Itchen Valley Rectory

**Please check our website in case of changes
to any of our services and locations.**

Rector - Revd Peter Walker

revd.peter@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 588313

LLM - Mr Gerry Stacey

gerry.stacey@biblesociety.org.uk 07554 438973

Parish Administrator - Beccy Clark

admin@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 779845

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

Obituary: Peter McManus

Born in Southport in 1941, a precious only child, Peter was precociously clever from the start. He was educated at St Mary's Southport from where he won a scholarship to St John's College, Oxford to read classics. At Oxford he made friends for life. As well as college, life revolved around the



Catholic Chaplaincy, where he fell in love with Margaret Hill over a Newman Society washing up bowl. From Oxford he was recruited by IBM as the computer age was dawning, working first in London and eventually in Hursley. Peter and Margaret married, had three children and settled in Winchester. He quickly rose through the ranks at IBM and the job of which he was most proud was introducing the IBM personal computer to Europe. Taking early retirement at 52 he soon started an IT company with three friends and began a life which included plenty of volunteer work.

Always gregarious and public-spirited, he gave much time to committees and practical work for deserving causes. He was a trustee for Wells for India,

now called Water Harvest, and helped to establish LSO St Lukes as a music venue. In the parish he worked with the ecumenical Churches Together and helped establish the local Covenant with the Poor. He provided practical support to the communities of refugees displaced by conflict, first from Syria and more recently from Ukraine.

Much of his time was taken up with the Wessex Glyndebourne Association of which he was a knowledgeable and efficient Chairman for many years. After Margaret died of Alzheimers, we married and had some very happy years in Itchen Abbas, sadly not enough. An opera lover, a wine connoisseur, a serious Christian and a generous host, Peter will be sorely missed.

Brigid McManus

Tiddler Joke

What do you call a dancing cow?

A milkshake!

Evelyn James Aged 6



The Valley Quiz No.27

1. Which city is the capital of the Republic of China?
2. What do the Øresund, Great Belt and the Kiel Canal have in common?
3. Mesopotamia was the cradle of civilisation. Where was it?
4. What is Britain's smallest bird?
5. If you look up at the moon and see its right-hand side is illuminated, is it waxing or waning?
6. What is the standard railway gauge?
7. Which one of the three Brontë sisters wrote 'Agnes Grey'?
8. Which country in the world has the largest number of islands?
9. When opening a bottle of champagne, you start by removing some or all of the foil. You then untwist the wire cage before removing the cork. How many twists are there on the wire cage?
10. Which nation has an average elevation of 6549ft and possess the oldest surviving internationally recognised border with its neighbour?

John Lang

Answers on Page 37

Pub spy at the Flowerpots Inn: As fete would have it

"Buy your Cheriton Fete raffle tickets here! One pound each! Five pounds a book!" We got two books but told the seller we would have gone home before the prize draw. "Give us your phone number - and what would you



like if you win?"

"Maybe a voucher, any voucher. Thanks."

Armed with our £35, yes £35, winning voucher, we arrived at midday last Friday for our heavily-discounted lunch at the Flowerpots Inn. We hadn't been there for decades and were pleasantly surprised to see a much extended and modernised pub with a greatly enlarged car park. And from the number of cars we saw turning into the pub entrance during our meal, that extension was certainly needed. It was a sunny day and many of the patrons were sitting outside, leaving the bar area less crowded. Had it rained however, there was a large open-plan barn available with enough tables and chairs to accommodate everyone currently enjoying the fresh air.

Having decided on the grilled trout with a mussel and white wine sauce, it was a little disappointing to be told the fishmonger hadn't arrived that morning and that all fish dishes were cancelled. So lamb rump with spiced port sauce for her and ham, egg and chips for me. Despite the swell of customers, both dishes arrived quickly, were nicely presented and tasty as well as generous. The house Pinot Noir wine was very agreeable whilst the orange juice and lemonade for the designated driver was, well, just like any other orange juice and lemonade.

But the stars of the meal were the desserts. Thai coconut sticky rice with mango for her and banana panna cotta with chocolate ice cream for me. Both puddings were refreshingly sweet and imaginatively presented, decorated with pansy blooms and marjoram. The full bill came to just under £60 but that winning voucher allowed me to get away with paying less than half!

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Fizz Fest at The Grange

On an unexpectedly warm and dry Sunday afternoon at the end of June, The Grange hosted the Vineyards of Hampshire's annual Fizz Fest up at their winery on Burges Field. After months of preparation and apprehension, mostly in relation to the endless torrents of rain, The Grange were going to welcome huge swathes of visitors for a day of wine tasting and revelry for the first time since the winery was built in 2022. Buoyed by the prospect of tasting a roster of twenty plus wines from Hampshire's finest vineyards, almost 1,000 visitors made their way up the beaten track with the verdant vineyard whetting the appetite. Fizz Fest was marking its 10th anniversary and The Grange was suitably decked out to celebrate this landmark day. Bunting clad the gazebos and enormous painted letters spelling out 'FIZZ FEST' towered in front as the guests made their way through the entrance and to the winery, around which the festival centred. An array of brilliant food vans and local producers were able to sell their wares, including Becka Cooper who had prepared the most fabulous spread of seasonal salads, cakes, and bagels for the masses. The Alresford Ukelele Jam jammed out, playing the classics under the awning of the winery, Facing the front of the winery stood a marvel of a marquee where all the tastings were happening and crowds filled deckchairs and sat around shabby chic pallet tables, glasses filled with our county's best sparkling (and some still) wines. The Grange's IWC gold medal-winning **WHITE FROM BLACK 2020** vintage, a pinot meunier-only sparkler



was a stand-out favourite for The Grange. The vineyard and winery tours were intermittently announced by the band and the colourful brigades sauntered with jollity. Others enjoyed masterclasses in the winery tasting room with Harry Pickering, the Head Winemaker at The Grange. The atmosphere on the day was truly befitting of the occasion – a successful day made even more brilliant by the fabulous guests who smiled, laughed and drank their way through it.

Following on from Fizz Fest, The Grange will be putting on a series of 'Thursday Lates', on every alternate Thursday beginning on 1 August to drink the wines, have a bite to eat and relax in the idyllic surroundings. There will be food collaborations with Becka Cooper, who is dreaming up some sublime, seasonal food. Barbecues will be fired up and the inimitable Grange Land Rover bar will be in full operation, serving wine by the glass and by the bottle. The first Thursday Late will also be the launch of the new **PINK 2018** Magnum so get down there if you'd like to taste that!

For vineyard tours and information on Thursday Lates keep an eye on updates through Instagram and the website

[@thegrangewine](https://www.instagram.com/thegrangewine)

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The Bird Quiz Part I

The clues all lead to British birds.
Part 2 next month.

1. At the end of the day a place to put the jam (8)
2. The sign of a dull but happy dog (4,7)
3. I said it's between the eye and the top of the knee (3)
4. Gives totally the wrong signal to motorists (8)
5. Vesta finds her perfect match (4)
6. What a wizard (6)
7. Sounds like a victory for small talk (8)
8. An adventure for 007 (9)
9. Unravel this clue with what is found at the ends of a rainbow (6)
10. For passing time (5)
11. Sometimes it moves and looks just like a castle (4)
12. Someone who uses a large spade dropped off 50 (8)
13. Flags put out to celebrate the maize harvest (4,7)
14. Prize winning Tartt (9)
15. Is this one searching for blackberries? (9)
16. Drums and pipers entertain this one (4,5)
17. Said to be stealin' the limelight at Christmas (5)
18. Quite a large pile on the floor (4)
19. Cost of getting a bus to the meadow (9)
20. Sounds like mother couldn't eat another thing (6)

Answers on page 37
Michael Smith

Our Wild Valley: Summer fair day

The brightest sunshiny day allowed the woodland at Itchen Abbas Primary School fair to really show its true calming potential! Thank



you to all who came to Green Shoots Forest School at IAPS. Elaine Labram, Chair of the Upper Itchen Valley Society, came to visit so we were able to thank her for the funding from UIVS. Funds also came from our Parish Council, for which we are very grateful. Elaine had a tour of the school woodland which gives so much to children every week at Forest School sessions. Vernon and Arminel Tottle also joined the team in the shade and went exploring after a glass of homemade lemonade made by our Chloë. It was a massive team effort from Itchen Abbas parents. Jonathan Chapman illustrated a brilliant sign and leaflets for our Forest school. Thank you also to our friends and family - Tom built the set determinedly, Chloë and Sam added craft ideas and demos, Pat Henderson provided flowers, my sister Kate joined in as did Caroline



Kirkman, and Maddy Davidge also helped with woodland craft and chatting with families before sending them off on our scavenger trail. Rebecca Prior of www.boutsidefs.com provided the very useful tables plus a nephew who was brave enough to put his hand in the mystery nature box! Thank you to those I didn't get to chat to and to all the youngsters who got stuck in and all the patient and fun parents. Mr Bogan has expertly fitted Forest School sessions into curriculum time,



so each child has a term or more each year. Friday woodland mornings for pre schoolers will begin again on September 13th. Contact millersj24@yahoo.co.uk for more info and booking. Summer days!
Sophie Rogers

Itchen Abbas School Fair

What an amazing first-ever Summer Fair! The Itchen Abbas parents did an incredible job at putting together such a great day. This was a chance to show off our school grounds and invite people into the school who may not always get the opportunity. I



really enjoyed chatting to our current families, families of previous years and to families who have moved away and it was also fantastic opportunity to talk to local residents who came to join us and prospective families for the future. Even the weather behaved and helped make the day an absolute delight. I hope that next year we will continue to have everyone's support in running another fantastic event. Finally, a huge thank you to our sponsors and to everyone who came along to donate money towards our school and the projects that will really enhance the children's learning opportunities at Itchen Abbas - we made over £2,000, which is an amazing achievement.

Rob Bogan
Head Teacher, Itchen Abbas School



Itchen Abbas School News

This term, all of the children took part in one of the biggest online assemblies with hundreds of schools taking part nationwide. Online, they were joined by special guest, Paralympian Stef Reid MBE, to learn all about the journey to become a world-class athlete ahead of the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics. We can't wait to see how she gets on later this year!

Year 5/6 also continued this sporting theme by joining our Henry Beaufort Cluster Schools at a Sports Festival - we were very proud of all of the children for participating so enthusiastically and demonstrating the values of courage, compassion, creativity and curiosity. Our children did an excellent job of representing our school and members of staff from other schools commented on how well behaved our children were. What a wonderful production we were treated to at the end of term, when the Foxes Class performed - 'Let The Games Begin'. The children have not only worked so hard to

learn all of their lines and know where to be but if you had the opportunity to come along, I hope you agree the singing - in particular the solo parts - was outstanding! Even during rehearsals when children have been away, others have stepped into the roles and really showed such camaraderie. Miss Jones and Mr Robbins have worked incredibly hard and should be rightly proud of the children - thank you to both them and Mrs Banks for the amazing props and backdrop - making this year's production such a triumph.

I am very pleased to announce that our school is now able to offer wraparound care (before and after school) for those parents who require it for their children. We have a very exciting range of activities to take part in after school until 5pm (4pm on Friday) and before school from 8am every day.

Squirrels and Hedgehogs had an amazing trip to Newhouse Farm. They all came back so excited - especially after their tractor ride! Thank you to Kevin Milner for helping organise the trip and to the New Alresford Town Trust for allowing us to use their minibuses to transport the children. It





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is so lovely to be part of such a fantastic community! We received an email from Natalie at the farm to say, 'We all had a lovely day - glad you all did too. The children are a credit to the school team, they were a joy to have at the farm.' You can't really ask for better feedback than that - I am very proud of them all.

*Rob Bogan
Head Teacher, Itchen Abbas School*

Coot Confusion

As a common sight on our local chalk streams, coots and moorhens are the cause of much confusion. In addition to being mistaken for ducks (they're actually in the rail and crane family), these black birds look quite alike, especially from a distance. Luckily, there are some top tips for telling the difference between the species.

By far the easiest way to recognise these birds is by their faces. Moorhens have bright red beaks that extend up their foreheads and have a yellow tip at the bottom. The beaks



Andrew Parkinson



Guy Edwardes

of coots, by contrast, are a similar shape but white or pale pink in colour. In fact, this distinctive feature is where the phrase "bald as a coot" comes from!

If you can't catch a glimpse of the bird's face there are other clues to look for. Coots have fully black bodies, while moorhens have dark brown backs and white patches on their wings and tails. Coots are also a little larger; their average wingspan is around 75 cm, compared to the moorhens' 52 cm.

Things get a bit trickier if the bird you've spotted is young. Baby coots have black bodies, but also bright red beaks and a shock of orange-red feathers around their heads, necks, and shoulders. Baby moorhens, meanwhile, are black all over, although they do share the same red-and-yellow beaks as the adult birds. When the babies grow into the bird version of teenagers, they take on somewhat duller colours. Juvenile coots are a smoky grey, and juvenile moorhens are a dusty brown. At this age neither species will be sporting their adult beak colours, so the moorhen's white patches are a good way to tell them apart.

The location can also be important: whilst both birds frequent chalk streams, coots are more comfortable out in the open, and spend a lot of

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time away from the riverbank. Moorhens, on the other hand, like being close to dense vegetation – a handy place to hide from predators.

Tick treatments and the river

As the weather warms up, our dogs may be feeling the heat. Your dog might love taking a dip in your local river, but did you know that this can harm the habitat? Spot-on tick and flea treatments can wash off in water, leaving your pet unprotected and killing the aquatic insects that many other animals need for food. Consider using tablet treatments instead, or cooling your dog off with a paddling pool at home.

Sophie Evingar

Sophie.Evingar@hiwwt.org.uk

Plant of the month: Hemlock



Hemlock loves wet conditions, so the last few months have proved ideal for it to thrive. Hemlock resembles in appearance many of the members of the parsley family, but **beware**, all parts of the plant are poisonous, the seeds in particular. So better not to touch or fool about with it!

Dorothy and Simon Broadley

The Itchen Valley Choir – singing is good for you!

Singing is good for you – it is creative, has been proven to have great health benefits, is very rewarding, and is hugely enjoyable. In scientific terms, there is now a growing body of research which shows that this can amount to better physical and mental health: making music really is good for you. It is also a brilliant way to meet new people, especially if you are new to this area. One member of our choir recently wrote “Thank you – I so enjoy the fun, laughter and welcome I have been given by all”.

The choir meets in the Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall (plenty of free parking and The Plough just next door) on Wednesday evenings during the school terms.

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 at the Hampshire Choral Festival. In 2025 we will be joining forces with other choirs at The Anvil in Basingstoke to sing Verdi’s Requiem together with a new piece written by Derek Beck, a former conductor of the Itchen Valley Choir.

If you would like to join, just come along on Wednesday 4 September

from 19.45-21.30. There are no auditions so come and try us out. For further details please contact me or see our Facebook page.

Jacqui Squire

Secretary, Itchen Valley Choir

IVCS.Secretary@gmail.com

Citizens Advice Winchester District



Could you join our local volunteer advice team?

Citizens Advice Winchester District is inviting new volunteers to join their adviser training programme starting this October.

If you are looking for an interesting and rewarding volunteer role that helps local people find solutions to their problems, understand their rights, and fight for social justice then this is the role for you! No previous experience is needed to join us as an advice volunteer as you'll undergo a comprehensive training and mentoring programme before supporting people with advice.

What we expect from our volunteers:

- Complete our nine-week training programme this October (two half days a week, plus self-study);
- An on-going commitment to volunteer one day a week for at least 12 months;
- A friendly and outgoing manner;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Comfortable using computers and learning different IT platforms;
- Able to travel to our advice hubs in Winchester or Wickham.

Once trained, our advice volunteers continue to receive ongoing support from our experienced team of supervisors and have access to plenty of tea and biscuits! Our volunteer advisers come from a range of backgrounds including; students, retired people, people getting back into work after career breaks and people with part-time jobs. Volunteering with us offers a great way to increase your employability, build confidence, learn new skills and make an enormous difference to the lives of local people.

To register your interest and organise an informal discussion, please get in touch with Citizens Advice Winchester District

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More details can be found at www.citizensadvicewinchester.org.uk/volunteer

Liv Thomlinson

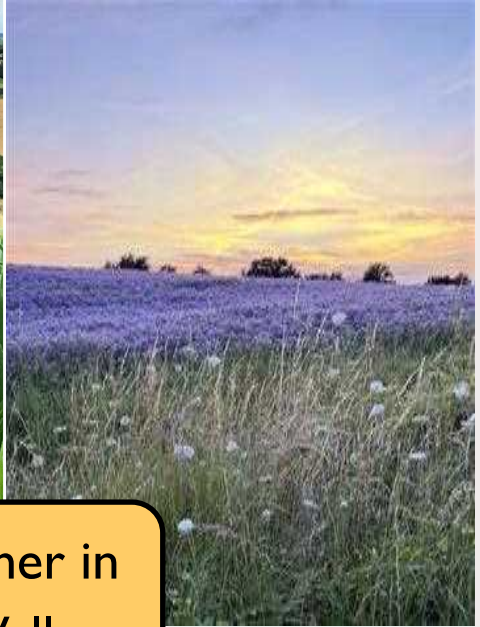
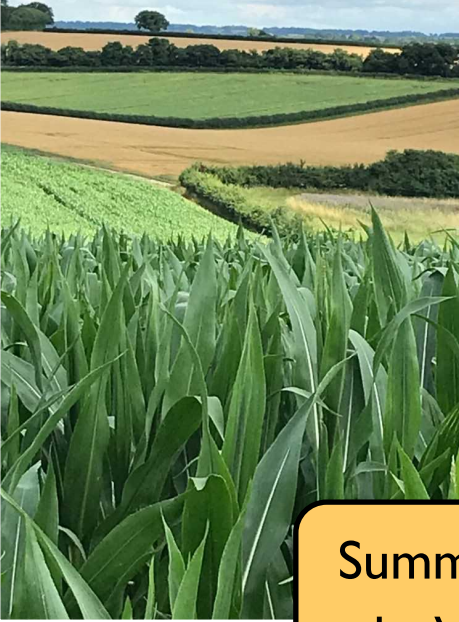
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Summer in
the Valley



Bumper Alresford Art Show

Alresford Art Society organisers are delighted with their 2024 exhibition which notched up artwork sales of over £3,200. Some 625 visitors took part in the People's Choice competition, voting for their favourite exhibit, and Richard Cox of Old Alresford, not only scooped this top prize with his delightful Bridge at Ovington but also won Best Acrylic with his painting of the Itchen at Itchen Stoke.

Other exhibition winners were Best Floral - Snowdrops by Clifford S'Souza,

Best Oil - Caracoli Coffee by Jacky Snowdon,

Best Mixed Media - Mackerel by Emma Barker,

Best 3D - Robin by Jen Boardman and Best Watercolour - A Mother's Love by Cat Mills.

The exhibition, supported by Hellards estate agents, was opened by past Mayor Cllr Angela Clear, who was impressed by the artwork on display,



declaring that she “couldn’t draw a straight line with a ruler”.

Angela had stepped into the breach as the General Election had wreaked havoc on the Society’s plans over the weekend, and Mayor Russell Gordon -Smith was unable to open the exhibition because of the change of day. “We had to set up in record time too,” said Society President Sue Gentry. “We couldn’t get into the building until early morning with opening scheduled at 10am.

However, our new hanging team, headed by Charly Savory, rose to the occasion

and we were able to open the doors with minutes to spare.”

Sue Gentry



Valley Quiz Answers

1. Taipei. Capital of Taiwan, the Republic of China.. Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China.
2. They are all navigable waterways enabling ships to enter and exit the Baltic Sea from the open sea (North or Norwegian Sea,)
3. The literal translation means, "Between two rivers." It is the land, now Iraq, that embraces the Tigris and Euphrates and is regarded as the cradle of civilisation.
4. The Goldcrest along with its near relative the Common Firecrest.
5. Waxing. (i.e. the illuminated crescent gets larger each day to reach a full moon)
6. 4ft 8½in – derived from the original specification of an imperial Roman war chariot and the distance between the wheels.
7. Anne Brontë.
8. Sweden with 267,570. Norway is next with 239,057.
9. Six
10. Andorra in the Pyrenees. Its border with France is the oldest recognised border.

Bird Quiz Answers

1. Nightjar
2. Grey wagtail
3. Jay
4. Redstart
5. Swan
6. Merlin
7. Whinchat
8. Goldeneye
9. Curlew
10. Hobby
11. Rook
12. Shoveler
13. Corn bunting
14. Goldfinch
15. Brambling
16. Sandpiper
17. Robin
18. Shag
19. Fieldfare
20. Fulmar

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections:

- Black and brown garden bins on Fridays 9 and 23
- Green bins on Fridays 2 and 16, Saturday 31
- Glass boxes on Friday 16

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Monday to Friday

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

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