

# ItchenValleyNews

Abbots Worthy, Avington Easton,  
Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy

Issue 124 | June 2024



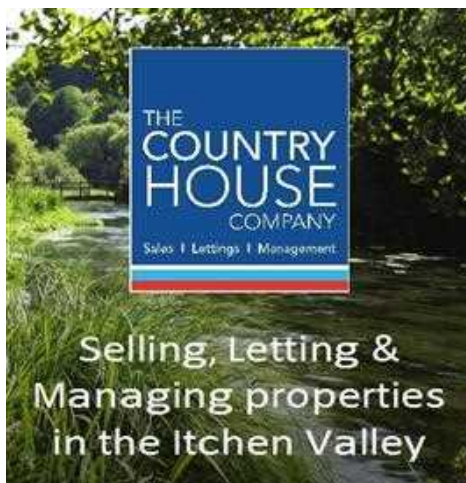
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# WELCOME to the Itchen Valley News

It does seem incredible that we are almost at the summer solstice, as the weather has been so grim until quite recently. However, the gardens are certainly showing the benefit of the weeks and weeks of rain, as evidenced by the Ceanothus 'Lemon and Lime' which is on the front cover and which has been bursting with flowers in my own garden. Read all about the delights of The Valley Gardeners' visit to two Hampshire gardens on Page 35. We highlight the splendid work done by one of the many volunteers in the valley, Caroline Kirkman, on Page 5 and celebrate the achievements of the many talented young people who live in our villages, such as the creative children who live in Malthouse Close, Easton. They have fashioned their own magazine and their story is on Page 11. Another talented youngster lives in Couch Green and would like your support on 22 June at the village hall in Itchen Abbas. Millie Clarke is on her way to represent the U.K. in Croatia in July - read all about her journey to success on Page 19.

Our rector has had a busy time recently. He's been mingling with royalty, as he and his wife attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace, and welcoming the Bishop to the parish.

There is a heartfelt plea for more boules players to join the Itchen Abbas team and some stunning photographs of the aurora borealis which was visible over our valley in mid May.

Verity Coleman has written a very interesting article about the re-wilding project at Knepp. It is certainly an

absorbing place so if you haven't been, it is well worth a visit and of course the theory of rewilding is very topical.

When I started to put this issue together, it was about 15 C outside and now, a few days later, it's gloriously sunny and about 23C ! I hope you enjoy the news and stories in the following pages but I am heading out to my garden, to do battle (organically of course!) with the slugs and snails who are eating my newly planted vegetables! Next month's editors are Charlotte Appleby and Bridgid McManus.

*Catherine Hahn*

## Itchen Valley News

Chief Editor Mary Hogg  
Editors Charlotte Appleby, Verity Coleman,  
Catherine Hahn, Bridgid McManus  
Advertising Jenny Sloan  
Distribution Lyn Jones IA&A 07899 92221  
Gilly Greenwood E&MW 779540  
Treasurer Michael Smith

**For editorial enquiries, articles, letters or comments, please email:**

[itchenvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:itchenvalleynews@gmail.com).

**For advertising enquiries, please email:**

[itchenvalleyadvertising@gmail.com](mailto:itchenvalleyadvertising@gmail.com)

Postal address for both: Itchen Valley News,  
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SO21 1EB.

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Cover photo taken by Catherine Hahn and other photos from various contributors.

## What's On

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### National Garden Scheme Hampshire

#### Stockbridge Gardens,

Thursday 13 and Sunday  
16 June 2-5pm

Stockbridge, SO20 6EX

Four gardens will open this year in Stockbridge, offering a variety of styles and character.

**Trout Cottage** is a small walled garden, inspiring those with small spaces and little time to achieve tranquillity and beauty. **The Old Rectory** has a partially walled garden with formal pond, fountain and planting near the house (not open) with a stream-side walk under trees.

**Shepherds House** on Winton Hill has herbaceous borders, a kitchen garden and a belvedere overlooking the pond. New this year, **Fishmore House** is a 6 year old garden on a three-quarter acre plot. The key elements of design being planting, water and a borrowed landscape.

Designed for accessibility incorporating bound gravel paths and no steps. Admission: £10.00 children free. Cashless Payments available.

#### Crawley Gardens

Thursday 20 and Sunday 23 June  
2-5.30pm.

Crawley Winchester SO21 2PR.

Crawley is a pretty period village nestling in chalk downland with thatched houses, 14th century church and village pond. There are four gardens opening: **Bay Tree House** has bulbs, wildflowers, a Mediterranean garden, pleached limes, a rill and contemporary borders of perennials and grasses; **Little Court** is a three acre country garden with



herbaceous borders and a large meadow. **Paige Cottage** is a one acre traditional English garden surrounding a period thatched cottage with old climbing roses in summer, and **Tanglefoot** has colour themed borders, herb wheel, kitchen garden, a Victorian boundary wall supporting trained fruit and a large wildflower meadow. Admission: £10.00 children free. Cashless payments available. Refreshments: Home-made teas in the village hall.

*Pat Beagley. Head of Publicity*

[pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk](mailto:pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk)

### Summer Fun Day in aid of Twirl-Versity

Saturday 22 June from 1pm at Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall (see poster on Page 21).

### Barn Dance and Hog Roast in aid of Home-Start Winchester

Saturday 29 June at 7pm.

With the Craigievar Ceilidh Band at The Meon Hall, Pound Lane, Meonstoke SO32 3NP.

Tickets £30 which include home-made salads and desserts, and bar selling wine, beer and soft drinks.

Book online (plus booking fee) at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/home-start-winchester-districts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/home-start-winchester-districts)

or email [chris.barlow@home-startwinchester.org.uk](mailto:chris.barlow@home-startwinchester.org.uk)

or call 07976 686979.

Evening kindly sponsored by Bill Rawles Classic Cars. See poster on Page 14.

### Alresford Art Society Annual Exhibition

Friday 5 and Saturday 6 July  
10am-5pm

Sunday 7 July 10am-4pm

Alresford Community Centre, West Street,



Alresford.

Free admission. Original art work for sale by local artists. Sponsored by Hellards Estate Agents.

### **Events at The Arc Winchester.**

#### **Grayson Perry: Essex House Tapestries – The Life of Julie Cope**

Until Wednesday 12 June, during The Arc opening times.

Two exquisite tapestries tell the life story of Julie Cope, a fictional character created by artist Grayson Perry. The tapestries illustrate key events in the heroine's journey - the first, titled 'A Perfect Match', portrays Julie's early years from birth to marriage. Her later years, second marriage and death in a tragic accident are depicted. Golden and rich in cultural and architectural details, the tapestries contain a social history of modern Britain to which everyone can relate.

£4.50 Adult or £5 with Gift Aid donation / £3.50 concession or £4 with Gift Aid donation / £2.50 Child or £3 with Gift Aid donation

<https://www.arcwinchester.org.uk/event/grayson-perry-essex-house-tapestries-life-julie-cope>.

#### **Dan Evans, Dulcimer player, guitarist and singer**

Friday 21 June, 7.30pm

With over three decades of professional experience, Dan has built a niche career as a world-class exponent on both the mountain dulcimer and acoustic guitar. He composes original, nature-themed music and sometimes accompanies it with his fine baritone voice.

[enquiries@arcwinchester.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@arcwinchester.org.uk) for information.

## **Valley Volunteer: Caroline Kirkman**

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Q: How long you have lived in the valley?

A: I moved here 17 years ago with my husband, Phil, and four boys.

Q: Please tell us about the Unit 12

Food Pantry - what is it, when did it start and what is your role there? Do you have help from volunteers in the Valley?

A: I started helping in the Pantry in 2021. Initially, I helped when it was open and then I started collecting food from supermarkets. Eventually, I did more fundraising and talks to groups so I stopped helping in the Pantry so much and concentrated on fund and awareness raising.

In the last month I have been asked to join Unit 12 on a more formal, but still voluntary, basis and am now a Director of Unit 12 CIC - which is the equivalent of being a trustee of a charity.

We are really lucky as we have several volunteers from the Valley who help when the Pantry is open as well as with supermarket pick ups and fundraising events. Occasionally, we have awareness and donation days at Tesco and the volunteers are key to that being a successful event. As supermarkets are thankfully getting better at stock control they are annoyingly producing less excess food so our collections of perishable items are dwindling. We rely on donations of long life items and have to purchase more and more perishable items with fundraising monies.

Q: What do you think are the best and the worst thing about the Itchen Valley?



A: I love the “green-ness” of the valley - driving along the B3047 and seeing all the seasonal changes in the hedgerows and trees is such joy. I look forward to being out walking more with Tallulah my puppy. I think the railway line is like nature’s cathedral when it’s in full leaf.

Q: The worst thing?

A: Public transport!

Q: What is your favourite film?

A: My favourite film is *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* - it’s just brilliant! I must watch it again!

Q: And your favourite book?

A: My favourite book changes depending on what I’m reading! *The Long Ships* by Frans Bengtsson is one and *One Big Damn Puzzle* by John Harding another. I get a bit involved with books so avoid anything too sad or too aggressive! More recently *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus and *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens have really touched me.

Q: Your best one-liner or quote?

A: It’s got to be from my hero Bevan “No society can legitimately call itself civilised if a sick person is denied medical aid because of lack of means”. Or anything Bette Midler says!!  
*Caroline was talking to Catherine Hahn.*

## Brew with a View

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Ina and Sallie say that summer dates for Brew with a View will be a “bit random” but they hope to hold them on 19 June and 3 and 24 July with 17 July as another possible date. Keep an eye on the Itchen List and Easton Village Hall Facebook page.

## Avington Car Boot Sale

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The sale, which was held on Sunday 28 April raised about £1,000 in funds for village fabric including the war memorial, the 18th century church, the well, the countryside park and the graveyard. Congratulations to all involved. Above are parking attendants Chris Cawte, Tony Wright and Mike Lane and below, on the gate, John Hoskins and Sonia Cragg.



## Comings and goings

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We welcome Rachel Geere and Ryan Daly at 11 Couch Green who are getting married in Itchen Abbas on 22 June. Congratulations!

# The Valley Quiz No. 25

## June 2024

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1. In the Winnie the Pooh books, there is only one female character. Who is she?

2. Take 2 varieties of milk. Pasteurised and UHT. What does UHT mean and why is it different?

3. If you stood at the North Pole, in which direction would you face?

4. What was the time at the Mad Hatters Tea Party?

5. Orient Line steamships were given names beginning with the letters OR. What and where are the original

Orcades, Orsova, Oronsay and Orontes.

6. Nearly all bananas retailed in the UK are imported through a single port. It isn't a million miles away from the valley but where is it?

7. What is the name of the river that many believe divides England into north and south?

8. What, and where, is A23a and what does its future hold?

9. What was the event in Sarajevo, Bosnia, that triggered the First World War?

10. Which county in England after Cornwall has the longest coastline.

*Answers on Page 37*

## A Big Thank You from the Itchen Valley News

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A big thank you to all those who have already responded to our request last month for a donation to the *Itchen Valley News*. We need your donations to help cover our printing costs which are more than £10,000 each year. If you have been busy and not yet got around to it but would still like to support us, please would you do one of the following: send a cheque to me at 1 School Lane, Itchen Abbas, Hants, SO21 1BE; or pay online to, "Itchen Valley News", at HSBC, sort code 40-46-39, account no. 61856251, using your name as a reference. The Itchen Valley News is produced every month by volunteers and delivered free to all households in the Valley with information of all sorts about what is happening locally. Thank you.

*Michael Smith, Treasurer*

### Photos of the Aurora Borealis in May





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## Wrong plant, wrong place?

A keen eyed Valley dog walker spotted this huge plant in rough undergrowth at the side of a footpath. It looked as if it was made of plastic! Totally out of keeping in a field, what was this mystery plant doing here? It was identified it as *Allium siculum* (syn. *Nectaroscordum*) or Sicilian Honey Lily and one theory is that a bird may have spread the seed from an adjoining garden to the path. Did you spot it?



June is the season of roses



## Birds in the Valley

How often do you stand and listen to the birds in the Valley? And if you do, can you recognise the different bird songs? Most of us will recognise the cuckoo when we hear

Cuckoo



it – down in Chilland it was calling loudly during May – but sometimes it can be difficult to distinguish one bird from another and what sounds like one or two birds can turn out to be four or more.

Among the more common birds we hear in our gardens are the blackbird, robin, wren and chiffchaff as well as the various tits, all of which have a different song, and sometimes more than one song which makes it even more difficult to distinguish! The common chiffchaff, for instance, has a song which is reflected in its name, though it sometimes seem to sing, somewhat jerkily, 'chaff chiff', rather than 'chiff, chaff' with variations on the theme. Confusingly the slightly harsher 'chiff chaff' that can be heard may be the great tit, although that too has a number of different calls which have been described as 'high-pitched up and down'. Wrens, despite their size, have a loud, bright, musical song and if you hear a scolding 'chip-chip' in

the hedge it may well be a wren giving its alarm call. The melodic song of the song thrush can be heard, often high in a tree, and is sometimes confused with the blackbird which also has a sweet song (as does the robin). If you can make out 'ribbit, ribbit' you are listening to a thrush!

As you walk in the Valley there are other birds you are likely to hear, including the yellow hammer – 'a little bit of bread and butter please' is how their song was described to me - and the hammering of a woodpecker, usually the great spotted. Swallows and martins can be heard chattering away and you may hear swifts screeching as they pass overhead. At night you may hear various owls, including the tawny (t-whit-t-who) and barn (harsh screech).

There are many different warblers, some of which reside in the Valley – the sedge warbler has a slightly grating, fast-paced



Sedge Warbler

song whereas the reed warbler is more melodic. They can both be heard singing from the reed beds along with the cetti's warbler. The

blackcap with its varied, loud rich warble also gives a harsh 'chakchak' call which helps when trying to identify it.

So next time you are outside, or indeed, inside with the windows open, take a moment or two to listen to the sounds around you. And if you have difficulty identifying what you are hearing you can

download one of the many bird apps such as Merlin (free!) onto your phone as a useful tool. I find it invaluable!

*Mary Hogg*

*Photos courtesy of Hampshire Bird Photography*

## Easton W.I.

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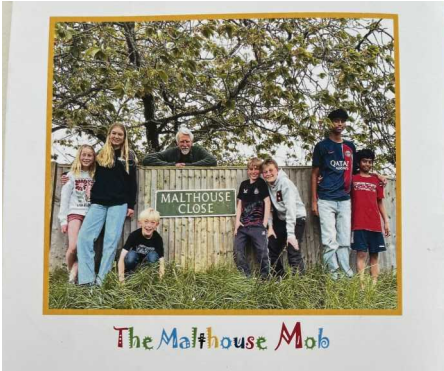
In April, members enjoyed a visit to the Whitchurch Silk Mill, a heritage working museum, built in 1816 on land owned by the Dean and Chapter of Winchester Cathedral. It is the oldest silk mill still weaving silk using Victorian machinery in its original building. Extensive alterations began in 1871 when silk merchant William Maddick inserted a middle floor to the building and created a mill pond and channel across the front of the building, connecting it to the mill race giving more power to the waterwheel which still powers some of the machines. The Mill wove silk for the linings in Thomas Burberry's raincoats and makes fabrics for academic and legal gowns. Repairs to the cast iron water wheel were possible during Covid when the mill was shut down, enabling the heritage engineer to work on the wheel.

*Sallie Peake*



## The Malthouse Mob Mag

Meet the very talented group of youngsters who all live in Malthouse Close, Easton and make up this self styled “mob”. They are Flossy, Heidi, and Oscar Barrett; Freddie and Dexter Hill and Shayan and Thiyan Srikantha. Together with author



George Mann as their mentor, they have produced a magazine from scratch. George told *The Itchen Valley News* about his young protégés. ‘The idea of the Malthouse Mob Mag was to allow the nine children in Malthouse Close to have an insight into how a publication is planned, printed and assembled. It required their creative input, a team approach and various challenges. The greater insight was the high quality and range of the literary and artistic material each of the children produced with such great enthusiasm. There is much hidden talent in Easton and a project, such as this, may encourage others to pass on their experiences too.’ The front cover of the magazine is a map of Malthouse Close showing where the children live. On the inside pages, the first drawing and poem is by Heidi Barratt, aged 9, and features

a “rainbow swan”.

‘This is the rainbow Swan,  
He is the only one.

His feathers shimmer with colours,  
The others are much duller.

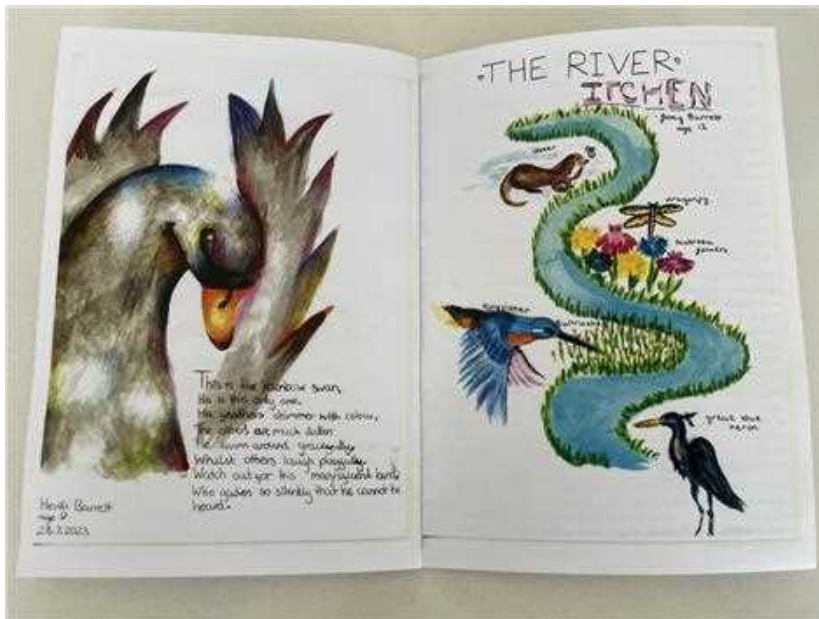
He swims around gracefully  
Whilst other laugh playfully.

Watch out for this magnificent bird,  
Who glides so silently that he cannot  
be heard.’

Front cover



Overleaf is a drawing of the River Itchen by Flossy Barrett aged 12. It shows the curves of the river and the flora and fauna which inhabit the banks. Here is the great blue heron, there a kingfisher, probably taking cover amongst the bullrushes and scabious flowers which line the water’s edge. This is certainly a wonderful début publication by the Malthouse Mob and we hope there will be future publications although with such stiff competition, we on the *Itchen Valley*



News team had better look to our laurels!

*Catherine Hahn*

## **ITCHEN ABBAS BOULES**

'Once they played boules in I/A  
With plenty of players to play  
A mere 36

Could be seen - what a mix  
Of people from around I/A.

Martyr Worthy, Easton and  
Avington too  
All played boules - t'was such a to do!

The matches were fun  
Hard fought one by one  
As all sought a trophy or two!

Alas on the pistes in I/A today  
With numbers halved who go down  
to play  
With a squad so small  
It's no use at all

So we can no longer join the fray.  
Many founder members still play  
with us.

We eat, chat and drink without  
fuss.

We have great fun,  
We always have done  
And we play boules - THIS IS US!

You need only six to make up a  
team,

You'd think - no probs - an  
experience dream  
BUT - Only five live in I/A,  
Only they are ones who can play  
Against the other villages - BIG  
SCREAM!!'

So HELP US PLEASE!!  
Stage 1 - DO YOU LIVE IN  
ITCHEN ABBAS ? YES - Goody  
We can offer experience, we can  
offer boules and teach you to play!  
It's very simple like many sports but  
strategy comes into it too.

*Jenny Sloan. jenny@sloan-home.co.uk*

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## From our M.P.

First of all, many congratulations to all who were elected to Winchester City Council last month and thank you to former



councillor, Fiona Isaacs, who served the Alresford & Itchen Valley well in my opinion and worked very hard for us. I wish her and Colin well for the future.

In Parliament last month, I voted for the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. Smoking is our biggest preventable killer so there is no more obvious target for healthcare gains to save lives lost to cancer, heart disease and stroke each year. Governments have acted in the past and we've seen smoking rates tumble. It's time to finish the job and this Bill is part of that. We talk a lot about the pressures on the NHS, about public satisfaction, systems and staffing but the truth is – demand continues to outstrip supply and we cannot continue to increase the health budget faster than GDP (Gross Domestic Product). We must think long-term about population preventative health.

The proposed measures seek to create a SmokeFree generation and modelling shows us that if the age of sale were increased by one year every year – as proposed in the Bill – smoking rates among 14 to 30 year olds are likely to be zero by 2050.

True we cannot get away from the fact that we will have a situation at some future point where a 50 year old can legally smoke while a 49 year old cannot. It is rather inelegant I accept but it misses the very point of the

“SmokeFree” ambition this Bill has at its heart.

It doesn't criminalise existing smokers and it ensures the purchase of tobacco by those under-age will not be criminalised by this legislation - compliance will be the responsibility of the business as is the case with the current law. It makes it illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone who is born on or after New Year's Day 2009. That includes my 13 year old son.

By passing this legislation the state is saying to him, it's not OK to start smoking when you reach 18 and I think when we look back, we will ask how did we ever say it was. And by doing so my son never becomes that 49 year old. That's the point. This battle, and the coming one around the use of nicotine pouches, are one to define our times in my opinion. In this debate we often hear about the 'nanny state'. I have always believed that in a publicly funded healthcare system we have a right – and indeed a responsibility – to act on public health because it becomes everyone's problem when we don't. Finally, I paid tribute recently to my dear friend Kris Hallenga who founded the breast cancer charity CoppaFeel after her terminal diagnosis at just 28 year of age. Kris died last month but leaves a valuable legacy and her work has / will save many lives. We met early in my time as an MP and, in 2014, I





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asked Kris if she'd come to Winchester and speak to young people about the importance of knowing your body and checking your boobs. She said, yes, but only if we could do all three secondary schools in one morning! We did and, as this beautiful and glamorous young woman spoke at the Kings, Westgate and Henry Beaufort school assemblies, (pictured on previous page) you could hear a pin drop. Having lost my own Mum to breast cancer, this was both personal and professional. Find more information at: [www.coppafeel.org](http://www.coppafeel.org). See much more my wider work as our MP, at [www.fb.com/stevebrinemp](http://www.fb.com/stevebrinemp) and [www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com).

## Plant of the Month - Wood spurge



Wood spurge ( *Euphorbia anygaloides* ) is an evergreen perennial native to Eurasian woodlands. The milky latex substance that the plant exudes is toxic and a potential skin irritant. It produces unique green-yellow flowers which certainly brighten up a dull spring day.  
*Dorothy and Simon Broadley*

## Easton & Martyr Worthy Safari Supper



The weather was perfect for the 2024 Safari Supper held on Saturday 11 May. 54 people took part and all enjoyed an evening of good food and excellent company. It was agreed that it was a great way to catch up with old friends and neighbours and a chance to make new acquaintances.

Thank you to everyone who took part and particular thanks to Judy Bishop who hosted the finale in her home.



We are delighted to say that the evening raised over £500 in donations which will be split between St Mary's Church and Easton Village Hall.  
*Terry & Anna McGowan*

## A shady deal

---

Sunny day. Driving the car. The sun beating down on the side of your head. You swing the sun visor round but it isn't long enough to cover the whole window. So you squint and your face gets burnt.

No more! With some A4 card and a few elastic bands, I've solved this annual problem. I did mine with black card and grey elastic bands to match the interior décor but you could use whatever colour you prefer.



Fold one sheet of card in three, portrait wise, to create an open-ended envelope. Fold the other sheet lengthways in two so it slides tightly inside the envelope. Make a short lip on one end to form a handle. Use the elastic bands to hold the envelope in place on the visor and there you are. No more annoying sun blazing on your face. Make two and be kind to your passenger!

*Vernon Tottle*

PS I had to buy a whole bag of grey elastic bands although I only needed three so I have plenty to spare if anyone needs some for their own visors. PPS In case anyone fancies making their second million from this, © vernonsvisors.

## Millie's baton twirling fundraiser 22 June

---



Millie Clarke, who lives in Couch Green, has been selected to represent the U.K. in Baton Twirling in Croatia in July at the European Championships. Her Mum Rebecca writes:

'Millie has been a baton twirler since she was six years old and has been with Twirl-Versity for the past two and a half years and has accomplished so much in such a short space of time while twirling with this team.

Her amazing coaches Jessica Whitbourn, Kayleigh Smith and Sarah Collins put everything into making these dreams possible for all their athletes, so we are hoping to give something back to them by organising this amazing fundraising event. Baton twirling is a non-profit organisation and

we rely heavily on donations and sponsorships.' This event, on 22 June at the Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall from 1pm. is open to everyone so do come along and support her on the day. Please see the poster opposite. Any donations for raffle or tombola prizes, or any sponsors would be greatly appreciated, or if you have a stall you would like to host on the day please get in touch.

Rebecca Clarke:

07884221201.

01962 779524.

Rebeccaclarke630@yahoo.co.uk.

## Jackie's County Corner

---



The city council elections are over and a new municipal year has begun. At election time, all councils are in the 'Pre- Election Period', previously called 'purdah'. This lasts about five weeks before Polling Day in which no major decisions may be taken - but background work had continued at HCC.

The good news is that the County Councillor Grant scheme is open for applications from the 1 June. You can go onto [hants.gov.uk](https://www.hants.gov.uk) and search 'county councillor grant scheme' or use this link: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>. The website advises you to

contact me about any application you'd like to make. Please do this: there may be a more appropriate grant - maybe with more funds available!

You may have seen me out in your community, talking to people at their own doorstep. This is an important part of our work, and hearing opinions and concerns not only about the Council, but Police, Health, and Water services for example, is a key part of my work as your councillor and the opposition spokesperson for Children at Hampshire County Council.

So, it was shocking to hear two statistics recently. Every community needs new social homes and it is our responsibility as a society to meet those needs. A home does not need to be owned to be secure. Continuing to press for home ownership as the ultimate prize - or investment - is a myth to be busted. The first is that 145,000 children are in temporary accommodation across the UK. This is because the only homes that are available are either too expensive or not in the right place. We can only imagine the trauma if moving to temporary accommodation means you have to leave your school, your friends and maybe puts your parents out of a job they cannot now reach.

The second statistic was that 30,000 women per year are experiencing traumatic births. It is quoted that 60% of NHS malpractice claims are for this reason. As the Hampshire Hospital Foundation Trust is planning its new services within the new hospital configuration, this is a huge concern. I welcome the work at national level to address this, and can only hope that it will bring about rapid improvements to a maternity system which is so understaffed here and across the UK. The last statistic is the number of



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children who are not of a healthy weight. We must find ways to allow children to be active day to day, to be able to cycle safely with parents and walk to school rather than being driven. Now meetings have restarted, I will be working with HCC to ensure their recently approved Transport Plan, LTP4, will work for all residents and business in the Itchen Valley Division. Next month, I will be tackling the continuing problem of broadband 'notspots'. If this still affects you, please let me know.

*Cllr Jackie Porter*

*Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk or Text/tell  
whats app: 07973 696085.*

## **From The Parish Council**

---

At the end of April the Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting (APM). Thank you to all who came, listened to our guest speaker, our reports and asked questions. For more details please see the article on the following page.



At the beginning of May we held the Parish Council AGM. Although all are welcome to attend it is not as interesting as the APM. The two main tasks for the AGM are, the passing of various statutory documents and, agreeing who on the Parish Council does what. A change from past years is that we have agreed, for the moment, not to have our two committees, Planning and Finance. Most of the work of these committees can be covered at Full Council meetings. On the rare occasions where decisions are needed prior to the scheduled meeting and emergency Council meeting can be

called. The aim is to save some of the duplication that has taken place in the past and to give more time to other work done. However there will still be portfolio holders for Planning and Finance. Portfolio holders are: Planning - Christopher Langford; Finance - Stephen Andrews; Highways and Transport - David Wolfe with me in support; Rights of Way - Denise Rosewell with Chris Jeffes in support; Law and Order - David Swinstead. Representatives on Village Hall Committees; Itchen Abbas and Avington - Christopher Langford; Martyr Worthy - Paul Moffatt; Easton - David Wolfe. Paul Moffatt has been re-elected Vice Chairman and I have been re-elected Chairman.

The Rights of Way Working Group is led by Denise Rosewell with Chris Jeffes, Paul Moffatt, Christopher Langford and me as Parish Council members. The Environmental Working Group is for the present led by me with Christopher Langford, Chris Jeffes and David Wolfe as Parish Council members with two former members as well who we hope will continue. Both these groups are run on a less formal basis than Full Council or Committee Meetings. All who are interested in these aspects of parish (and wider) daily life are welcome to join in at meetings or participate in specific projects such as tree planting or helping to maintain our numerous footpaths. If you would like to join in the activities of either or both of these groups please talk to Denise or me. With warmer summer weather here at last everything is now growing rapidly and keeping as many footpaths open for walkers is a major task. Chris Jeffes has been working hard with the ride on brush cutter to keep the surfaces clear, and volunteers, aided by the Ramblers,

have been cutting back growth encroaching from the sides on a number of paths. We will also continue to use the Lengthsman to help with these tasks through the summer. Work on the footpath that runs from the bottom of Church Lane in Martyr Worthy to Easton Lane (footpath 26) is now scheduled to start with a new contractor in the second week of June. Whilst this work is underway the section of the path where it is taking place will be closed. There is an alternative route from Church Lane just south of the Churchyard wall which then rejoins with footpath 26.

Following last month's report on Couch Green, the good news is that the topographical survey has been carried out and produced some interesting ideas. These are being looked at carefully in consultation with interested potential users. Once there is a plan that can be costed, the search for funding will start.

### **Stop press: the Development Consent Order for the M3 Junction 9 Improvement Scheme has been granted.**

*Patrick Appleby*

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

There was a good turnout for the Annual Parish meeting on April 25 to hear an interesting and very well delivered presentation from Maggie Shelton about the work of the Watercress and Winterbournes Project. The presentation on '20 is plenty' originally advertised had to be replaced due to illness and we were lucky to get such a high calibre alternative, very relevant to the Itchen Valley, although we are near



the southern edge of the area. Although there are encouraging developments the health of the unique chalk stream habitats is still very much a cause for concern. If you are interested in finding out more, or volunteering with the project have a look at [www.hiwwt.org.uk/watercress-and-winterbournes](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/watercress-and-winterbournes).

The formal APM reported on the activities of the Parish Council and what it plans for the coming year. The meeting began – and ended – with wine and conviviality and the Parish Councillors were thanked for their hard work on our behalf.

*Charlotte Appleby*

## **Itchen Abbas School News**

Firstly, we would like to say a MASSIVE



thank you to everyone who came to our Volunteer Day last month! We



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had 27 adults, plus a number of helpful children, come to support jet washing, clearing and building! We really appreciate all the work that was completed, so thank you to everyone for donating your time to keep our school looking amazing!

This month, we had a visit from Charlotte and Gemma who came from Naomi House and Jacks Place hospices in Winchester. We have teamed up with them to help them achieve their mission to make a difference to the lives of seriously ill children, young adults, and their families. They came to talk to the children about the work they do, as well as explaining about a



fundraising walk which is taking place in a few weeks' time - in which we are hoping our children and parents will get involved (Clarendon Way Walk 2024). We

have returned to the woods for Forest School with Year 3 and we have been making journey sticks to celebrate spring life and our new Forest School shed! We had an unofficial opening and naming of the shed with Mrs Davidge cutting the garden twine and naming it 'The Bluebell Shed'. Thank you to all who helped build it. Otters also joined in for our first fire in ages where we cooked pitta bread and pears!

Our Year 4 Forest School group began this half term with blue skies and no wind. Talking about climate change, and weather, the challenge was to make a shelter for a different climate.

The children were very keen and worked hard on their communication skills as well as learning about knots and managed to produce some imaginative ideas.

Last term, the Squirrels class had an amazing opportunity to visit Henry Beaufort Secondary School to build bird boxes with their DT team. The children had an incredible day and had lots of fun, representing the school very well. They were also invited to a lovely house in Easton to see and feed some very young lambs, donkeys and even fish! This was an incredible opportunity and we are extremely grateful to Judy Bishop for arranging the visit.

In music, Hedgehogs are learning about West African animal's sounds.

Children listened to the sounds of them and selected different musical instruments to recreate the sounds they made.

We have had great fun exploring more about electricity in Otters class.

Every group managed to make their bulb light up and we even managed to complete some circuits with switches too!

Hedgehogs have also been learning



about seconds, minutes and hours when telling the time. We used the iPads to time who was the quickest in the class from one point to another! In RE Foxes class have been learning about 'The Golden Rule' of always treating others how you would like to be treated yourself. The children created some amazing posters to put up around the school to remind the younger children why this rule is so important. Brilliant work Foxes!

We had a visit from the Sport teacher at Henry Beaufort who came to lead an Athletics PE lesson with a Secondary School spin! The children got to have a go at running parachutes, athletic ladders and a variety of games. All of this was in preparation for Henry Beaufort's Sports Festival in July - which Foxes class will be attending!  
*Rob Bogan*  
*Head Teacher, Itchen Abbas School*

The 'Itchen Abbas Parents' have been busy organising a new Summer celebration to be held on the 29 June. We want to encourage the whole community to join us on the beautiful green space behind the school. Expect a little music and plenty of good food. There will be lots of games and activities for the children and we will also be hosting local businesses and crafts, so plenty for the adults to browse too. You'll also be able to take in a forest school demonstration and book a guided tour of the school. A perfect opportunity for any prospective families to get to know us better! All money raised from the event will be donated towards further projects at the school, including providing new trim trail equipment.

We are still interested in hearing from businesses and traders who might like to join in and showcase their products at the event. Please contact:  
[hello@itchenabbasparents.org.uk](mailto:hello@itchenabbasparents.org.uk)

## **Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club**

---

EMWCC's first League matches were played on Saturday May 11th. The David Roth cricket ground looked magnificent in the warm spring sunshine, showcasing village cricket at its best.

Unfortunately, the 1st XI fixture away at Purbrook CC was cancelled because their pitch was still waterlogged. Our 2nd XI played at home vs Mansbridge CC 1st XI. EMWCC won the game by 9 wickets. Jack Whiting bowled 7 overs and took a 5 wicket haul, going for only 21 runs. The 3rd XI won their match

vs Oakley CC's 3rd XI by 5 wickets. The Friday evening social and BBQ have been very well attended, despite some cold evenings in April. Treasurer Stuart Upcraft reported he seemed unable to purchase enough sausages and burgers locally to match the necessary demand from the children attending! EMWCC is indebted to our Juniors' Co-ordinator, Laura Skilton, for all the work she carries out to support the Juniors. Her good humour, commitment and efficiency are remarkable. Thanks to our Groundsman Lee, we managed to get some matches playing at Easton which will hugely help with fixture management throughout the

summer. Our U11s Boys have now completed six matches, all unbeaten with comfortable scorelines. The two Girls U11s teams play in the local Hampshire Girls League and their first fixture was against each other. Our U13s have also had a great start, particularly with a solid win against St Cross CC. The U15s have had some poor weather luck and haven't got started yet but we'll report back once they have!

New Junior and Senior members are always welcome. Please visit our website: [www.emwcc.com](http://www.emwcc.com)

*Lynda Gray*

## Exploring rewilding at Knepp

---

The landowner at Knepp, Sir Charles Burrell, inherited 3,500 acres and Knepp Castle in West Sussex in 1983. Sited on heavy Weald clay, it proved impossible to make it pay using intensive farming techniques, so he and his wife Isabella Tree made a dramatic decision to stop intervening on the land, a process now known as re-wilding. From 2000 to 2006 they gradually stepped away from traditional farming and allowed the land to regenerate. Grazing animals were introduced to mimic how wild herds would have shaped the vegetation – Longhorn cattle, Tamworth pigs, Exmoor ponies and fallow and red deer – and animals not seen in England for centuries, beaver and white storks. This story will be familiar to many of you, but perhaps not to everyone, and it is a revelation to join one of the many safaris and overnight options now available on the estate. This wildlife tourism, together with a



restaurant and an organic butchery, are a significant contribution to the business plan. We went on a morning walk with an excellent guide and saw (and heard) first hand the astonishing diversity of wildlife that has found its way to the estate in the last 20 years, joining the animals that have been deliberately introduced. We were too early in the year to hear the cuckoo or the turtle doves, but our guide was determined that we were not going to return without hearing the nightingale and we were duly rewarded. The white storks wheeling overhead are a truly dramatic addition, and we could see the oak tree nests where they are rearing a new generation.

Knepp is an experiment, and a dramatic one. Is it still farming? Could, or should, the land provide more food for humans? Where is the balance of prioritising supporting nature and the condition of the soil versus intensive farming? How important is food security? Does animal protein have a place? I am no expert, but I think these are questions that we might all consider. PS Spot the stork in the tree above!  
*Verity Coleman*



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### **Sunday 2 June**

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4pm Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall

### **Sunday 9 June**

8.30am Holy Communion (said) - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
10am All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
6pm Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

### **Sunday 16 June**

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

### **Sunday 23 June**

10am Parish Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
4pm Summer Praise - St Mary's, Easton

### **Sunday 30 June**

8.30am Holy Communion (1662) - St Mary's, Avington  
10am Morning Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

**Rector** - Revd Peter Walker

revd.peter@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 588313

**LLM** - Mr Gerry Stacey

gerry.stacey@biblesociety.org.uk 07554 438973

**Parish Administrator** - Beccy Clark

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## From the Rectory: Joy in the morning

---

It's so good to see the sun again after a few days of rain and gloomy skies, and to feel the warmth of the summer sun - as we did a few weeks ago after a particularly cold and wet first May bank holiday.

And, each day, there's nothing like a sunrise - to bring us a sense of hope. Whatever may have happened the day before, whatever the mistakes we may have made or the painful experiences we may have gone through, the sunrise can help us start out afresh: this is a brand-new day, full of new possibilities. As it says in the book of Psalms (30:5): 'weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning'.

Within Christian thought, such optimism is not just the result of wishful thinking, but is anchored in something that truly occurred in history: God raising Jesus from the tomb at sunrise on the first Easter morning. When this happened, truly the darkness, sin and tragedy of the previous few days had been overturned, and so a new day of hope had dawned.

That's why in recent weeks we have continued to celebrate the good news of Easter in our Itchen Valley churches. This was especially so in St Mary's, Easton: sadly, two of the services we had planned to take place there (including Easter Sunday itself) had to be relocated to St Johns, Itchen Abbas, because of the risk of plaster falling away from over the chancel arch. Yet that did not prevent us from hosting two other services there to ensure we

celebrated 'Easter in Easton'.

One Sunday afternoon we had a small band of musicians leading us in an informal service of Easter Praise, designed more for younger families. And then, a few weeks later, Bishop David joined us in our celebrations of '50 Days that Changed the World'. After a morning service in Itchen Abbas Village Hall (focused on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and his Last Supper with his followers) we came across to Easton to focus on Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension. I am so grateful for all those who worked so hard on that day and especially for the various musicians who came to help us in our celebrations: a small choir of pupils from Prince's Mead, a choir assembled under the baton of Tim Tyler, and the 'Gospel Jazz' group from Oxford. And it was great also to be joined by Fr



Mark Hogan from St Peters Roman Catholic church in Winchester.

In his short reflection on Easter, he used the analogy of a bike ride that he once did from south to north, up to John O'Groats. As he looked out over the ocean, he realised he could only go further north by using his eyes, not his feet. His pedalling could only get him so far. So too, he said, there comes a point, when considering Jesus'

resurrection, that the analysis of history will only get us so far; when, instead, we need to reach forwards towards the Risen Christ with eyes of faith and trust.

There's an encouragement here - however dark the days may seem - to reach out to God in prayer and to trust he is indeed able to bring us the light we need through the Risen Christ.

That's been something of my own experience during this month.

After the funeral service for my sister in April, her son said to me how he now understood for the first time how it is the Christian confidence in the Resurrection that alone can turn such an event from a tragedy into a gateway for hope. It doesn't take away the grief of the weeping; weeping may indeed 'endure for a night', but, because of the resurrection of Jesus, joy will surely 'come in the morning'. I hope that, whatever you may be facing, you will begin to sense the reality of this hope. It's something perhaps to ponder each time we see a beautiful sunrise, helping us to be joyful - after all, "it's a brand-new day!"

*Rev'd Peter Walker*

## **At the Buckingham Palace garden party**

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On Wednesday 8 May Georgie and I had the enormous privilege of being amongst 8,000 guests attending the first of this summer's Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace (the invitation had come because the role of Rector of the Itchen Valley - for reasons lost in history - is, what is known as, a

'Crown Appointment').

We were blessed with the first really hot afternoon of the summer, so it was lovely to be able to walk around the lake and see many of the garden shrubs in full bloom, and then to queue up for a much needed drink and sandwiches.

When the national anthem sounded at 4pm, it meant the King and Queen had arrived on the palace's back steps. They then walked very slowly along two separate 'avenues of people'. Fifty minutes later they reached the meeting point of the two avenues (from where the photo of King Charles was taken) and proceeded briskly to their tea-tent. Fifteen minutes later they walked back



quickly to the palace and we were left to enjoy the band's music - and more sandwiches! It was great for Georgie and me to see other royals (such as the Duke

and Duchess of Edinburgh) as they talked with people nearby, and also, just before we left, to bump into none other than my 'boss', Bishop David Williams (so it was good we had been on our best behaviour!).

Overall, it was an incredible privilege to attend, and certainly one we shall not be soon forgetting!

*Rev'd. Peter Walker*

## The Valley Gardeners

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As a club, we travel far and wide in our quest to visit beautiful and interesting gardens all over the south of England. However, there are many such gardens close to home and on 15 May we stayed in our own county and visited Weirs Barn and West Green



House gardens. Luckily for us, it was a gloriously sunny Spring day. Weirs Barn garden was designed and built by architect

Robert Weir Schultz in 1900 and his friend Gertrude Jekyll is believed to have helped with the planting of the garden. The present owners, Terence and Jane Lyons have cherished this exquisite garden for the last 38 years, which has the most delightful features including 15 topiary peacocks!

After a delicious lunch at the Phoenix Pub across the road, we travelled about two miles to visit West Green House garden. As the National Trust tenant at West Green, Marylyn Abbott indulges her talent for artistic extravagance in the garden after a



long career as Artistic Director of the Sydney Opera House. There is always something lavish which catches the eye; this time the deep, deep purple iris dotted through the walled garden and potager were drop dead gorgeous and the Iris Sibirica which formed a “stream” around the outskirts of the property looked simply ravishing.



Finally, we soaked up the rays whilst having tea in the delightful courtyard area before the journey home. It really was an extremely relaxing and fulfilling way to spend the day.

*Catherine Hahn*



## The Alresford Surgery News

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In our recent patient survey, a common theme has been our telephone system. We have listened and successfully upgraded our system in May. Patients are now told where they are in the queue and have the option of a 'call back' should they not be in a position to stay. We are really hopeful this will improve the experience for our patients contacting the surgery.

*Have you had your NHS Health Check?*  
The NHS Health Check is a check-up for adults in England aged 40 to 74. It can help spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia. An NHS Health Check is repeated every five years between the ages of 40 to 74 years, but checks were paused during the Covid pandemic. Our patient care coordinator is working through a mighty list of eligible patients, but if you think you should have been offered an NHS Health check please get in contact to book in.

**Carers Week, 5–11 June.** Do you look after a friend or relative?

- getting their shopping
- doing their paperwork
- providing emotional support
- going to appointments with them
- picking up their prescriptions

Please join the practice in the national campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.

You can find a wealth of useful information on being a carer on our website: <https://alresfordsurgery.co.uk/health-information-support/carers>

## Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall Volunteer Treasurer Wanted

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Are you looking for a meaningful way to contribute to your community? Our Village Hall charity is seeking a dedicated Treasurer to join the management team!

Role: Volunteer Treasurer

Commitment: Approx two hours per week.

Skills Needed: Basic experience with spreadsheets.

This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to a vital community resource, helping us manage our finances and ensuring the hall continues to offer a facility for local events and activities.

If you have a knack for numbers and an interest in community service, we'd love to hear from you!

For more information, please contact *Christopher Langford*.

*chair@iaavillagehall.co.uk 07801666140*

### VILLAGE HALL INFORMATION

Easton Village Hall

[www.eastonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.eastonvillagehall.co.uk)

07308 863972 or

[evh.booking@googlemail.com](mailto:evh.booking@googlemail.com)

Martyr Worthy Village Hall

Lucinda Ffennell 779701 or

[martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:martyrworthyvillagehall@gmail.com)

Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

[www.iaavillagehall.co.uk](http://www.iaavillagehall.co.uk)

Hall Manager: Izabela Young

[manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk](mailto:manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk)

07947 191229

Village hall callbox 01962 791021



Thank you to Revd Peter for this photo of bluebells taken in early May.

### Quiz Answers

1. The kangaroo, Kanga, the mother of "Roo."
2. Pasteurised milk is heated to no more than 70°C whereas UHT (Ultra High Temperature) milk is heated to 135°C and desecrates every bug, several enzymes and a few vitamins. It doesn't have to be refrigerated and can last for years.
3. South.
4. Six o'clock.
5. Orcades: the ancient name for Orkney. Orsova: a Romanian port city on the river Danube. Oronsay: a small island attached at low water to the Hebridean island of Colonsay. And Orontes: a river in Syria.
6. Portsmouth.
7. The River Trent, the UK's third longest river.
8. It is the world's largest iceberg, currently adrift in the Southern Ocean and heading very slowly towards South Georgia. It is twice the size of Greater London, weighs nearly one trillion tons and is melting.
9. The assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife Sophie, by a Serbian nationalist student in 1914.
10. Essex.

## Local monthly information

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### Itchen Valley area waste collections:

Black and brown garden bins on Fridays 1, 14 and 28 June  
 Green bins on Fridays 7 and 21 June  
 Glass boxes on Friday 21 June

### Hampshire Farmers' Market in Winchester

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

### Full Parish Council Meetings:

13 June 2024. Please check Parish Council website for details of venue

## 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

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## CONTACT US

Please contact us for further information on the services we offer.

**WINCHESTER** 1-2 City Business Centre, Hyde St., Winchester, SO23 7TA **01962 84 10 41**

**ALRESFORD** First Floor Offices, 11 Broad St., Alresford, SO24 9AR **01962 735 705**

**SUNNINGDALE** 61 Chobham Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire, SL5 0DT **01344 63 79 60**

**LONDON** 19 Eastbourne Terrace, Paddington, London, W2 6LH **0203 457 0301**

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