

Itchen Valley News

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

Issue 123 | May 2024



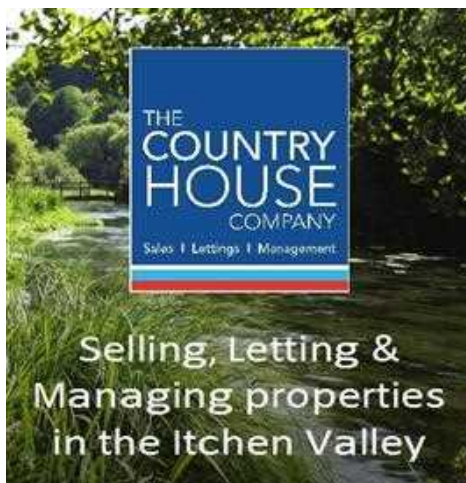
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WELCOME to the Itchen Valley News

Hello everyone, I hope you are going to enjoy this edition of the Itchen Valley News - and it looks as if the rain may finally have ceased. Roll on Spring! Top brownie points if you notice that the masthead has changed – we are indebted to Helen Ellis Brown who has been turning her graphic design expertise to updating the overall look of the magazine. More tweaking to follow, but our overall intention remains the same – to inform and entertain about everything Valley related. Please do remember when you reach for the List or Instagram to tell us too! We love to hear about your adventures, your new projects and the good causes that you support.

As the waters finally recede and we turn our attention to delicious seasonal asparagus and rhubarb or a glass of something delicious in our gardens, please remember our farmers who are trying to produce our food and make a livelihood whilst dealing with such difficult weather. I have just been on a day course debating whether or not rewilding is the answer to everything – as ever, its complicated. Let us know what you think

Meanwhile West Lea Farmshop's efforts to support local suppliers have been rewarded with a prestigious award (P23). I am in awe of Jake on his bicycle, already determined at the age of nine to raise money for his favourite charity (story P6) - and his Justgiving page is still open.

We are sorry to publish the last of Tony Gaster's Practical Gardening columns this month as he steps back

after over a decade (P10). Is there someone who would like to write a monthly gardening column please?

We are also very sad to report the death of Peter McManus on 18 April. He was a serious opera expert and wrote some excellent reviews for the IVN, which were so meticulous that it was never necessary to edit a single word. He was married to one of our editors, and we offer Brigid our heartfelt sympathy.

Next month's editor is Catherine Hahn.

Verity Coleman

Itchen Valley News

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Copy for the **June 2024** issue should be received
Wednesday 15 May 2024.

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Printed by Greenhouse Graphics of Basingstoke.

Cover photo taken by John Barber and other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Artiologie - Summer Open Exhibition

Chilland House, Chilland Lane, Martyr Worthy SO21 1EB.

May 6 (Bank Holiday Monday) - by appointment.

Tuesday 7 May | 1am-3pm, 6-8pm

Thursday 9 May | 1am-3pm. For further information: artiologie.co.uk and Instagram [@artiologie_art](https://www.instagram.com/artiologie_art)

The Big Walk for the Cinnamon Trust

6 May at 11am

Arlebury Park SO24 9EP

Cinnamon.org.uk/thebigwalk

Go LD Garden and Craft Fair

Wednesday 8 May 10am - 4pm

Upper Farm, Down Farm Lane, Headbourne Worthy SO23 7LA

In aid of Winchester Go LD

winchestergold.org.uk



Easton & Martyr Worthy Safari Supper

Saturday 11 May

This is a reminder that the application form was in the April issue of the Valley News. Last date for applications to be received is **Friday 3**

May or for more information please phone Anna on 779350

Martyr Worthy Village Hall: Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 6pm

The business of the meeting will

include approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM, reports by the Chairman and Treasurer, the election of the Management Committee for the coming year and any other matters arising.

All residents of Martyr Worthy aged 18 or more are entitled to attend and vote and will be very welcome.

Guy Green

Chairman Management Committee

Brew with a View

Wednesdays 15 and 29 May 3 - 5pm

Easton Village Hall

All manner of cakes, with tea or coffee.

All welcome.

Kingsgate Voices: One Foot in Eden

Saturday 18 May at 7pm

Holy Trinity Church SO23 8DG

Tickets £15 from

jan.brook@brookfamily.org

or 01962 714030

www.kingsgatevoices.co.uk



Open garden, picnic and dog show

Sunday 19 May 11am - 3pm

Martyr Worthy Place, SO21 1AW.

With special thanks to the Karran-Smith and Ffennell families for opening their gardens in aid of the Bramston Bursary Foundation.

Join us for a family Sunday exploring this stunning setting. Friends, family and dogs are all welcome. Bring a picnic and enhance it with delicious salads and cold food from our food stall on the day. For additional fun, our dog show returns.

There will be a new children's treasure hunt (with prizes) to keep everyone entertained. Our plant sale also returns with some plants kindly donated by The Hairy Pot Plant Company, so you can choose some new additions for your own garden. Your ticket includes a complimentary slice of homemade cake and a free drink.

Tickets in advance: Adults £10 Children FREE.

On the day: Adults £15

Children: FREE

hub.stswithuns.com/event/open-garden-picnic-and-dog-show

Upper Itchen Valley Summer Garden Party

Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 6.30pm

The Upper Itchen Valley Society committee invites all members to a summer garden party at Manor Farm House, Easton, SO21 1EQ by kind permission of Philip and Lucy Wolfe. Please RSVP by 15 May if you wish to attend. We welcome new members, please email for joining details.

Elaine Labram

upperitchenvalleysoc@gmail.com

The Big Sleep Out 2024 Supporting Trinity Winchester Friday 24 May from 6pm in the grounds of Winchester College.

It's a great way for families, corporates, and individuals to support Trinity Winchester and raise awareness of homelessness while having an enjoyable evening. There will be on-stage



entertainment, yoga and reflexology in the well-being area, crafts and activities, plus local food vendors. From 11pm participants bed down for the night under self-made cardboard shelters (prizes given for the best shelters). Non-sleepers are also welcome to join!
trinitywinchester.org.uk/bigssleepout

Easton Village Hall and Recreation Ground AGM Wednesday 29 May at 8pm

in Easton Village Hall.

Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm. All "inhabitants of the area of benefit of 18 years and upwards" are welcome to attend and vote at the meeting. Inhabitants who are under the age of 18 are welcome to attend, but may not vote. You will all be most welcome.

Harry Smith

Chair EVH&RG Committee

Alresford Art Society Thursday 30 May at 7.30pm

Flowers in Mixed Media

A demonstration by Wendy Jelbert. Bishop's Sutton Village Hall, SO24 0AH. Non-members welcome, admission £3. Further information 01962 732043 or artsociety.alresford.org.

Jen Boardman

01962 7330311 07798 933027

Save the Date

Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket club

Thursday 25 July
Annual BBQ, Tug of War and Juniors celebration game

Friday 26 July
Easton Sixes

www.emwcc.com



Soggie Doggies raise funds for Home-Start



Fifty walkers strode out into the Hampshire countryside this month to raise funds for local family support charity Home-Start Winchester. Dogs of all shapes and sizes took part, from tiny Yorkshire terriers to a Doberman and, despite lowering skies, all took off full of beans to tackle walks of two different lengths. The short walk walkers arrived back at base unscathed but those on the long walk arrived drenched to the skin, as the clouds opened half a mile from home.

Event sponsor Dan Bliss joined in with his friendly Lurcher called Cody and some of his colleagues from Gay Dog Boarding Kennels at Bradley. “It’s always a good excuse for a different walk, as Home-Start ring the changes every year,” said Dan, whose family business has been involved with the walk since 2018.

The £750 raised will support the charity’s work in and around the city of Winchester, where Home-Start supports some 85 families each week, either in their own homes, or at their five family groups and drop-in centres. Home-Start Winchester supports young families who are struggling with

issues like disability of a parent or child, mental health problems, 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 volunteers.

Sue Gentry

Cycling to keep dogs safe

Itchen Abbas resident Jake Kurton, aged nine, put his love of cycling to great use recently, riding 100 miles in March to raise money for Dogs Trust. Jake originally challenged himself to ride 100 kilometres during the month to raise £100 for the charity. But after managing to achieve that distance just halfway through March, he extended the challenge to 100 miles – and eventually raised an incredible £415. Jake rode in all weathers and on many of the Itchen Valley’s roads and trails, with his sister Emily joining him for several rides. He also spent an





afternoon cycling over 40 kilometres on the famous Goodwood motor racing circuit. He completed the challenge with friends from Itchen Abbas Primary School braving gale force winds alongside him to cycle the final miles.

"I chose to raise money for Dogs Trust because they are my favourite charity and it is where my grandma and grandad's dog, Frank, came from," said Jake, who can often be seen walking his family's Labrador Ella around the Itchen Valley. "It was a tough but fun challenge, and I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who sponsored me."

There's still time to add to Jake's total by donating at www.justgiving.com/page/sarah-kurton-1709308424706

Boules 2024

The boules evenings are now starting weekly in all Valley villages, on Mondays for Easton and Tuesdays for Avington, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy. They are primarily social, allowing locals to play, watch or simply

meet up in a friendly atmosphere. Newcomers are welcome. Experience is not necessary and there will be spare boules for those who do not have their own set.

As in previous years there are two competitions with cups to be won, a league event for the Dick Hewitt trophy and a knock-out tournament (known as "the Triples") for the Nigel Graham Maw Cup. For these events villages enter two teams of three players who must all be residents of Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas, Martyr Worthy or Abbots Worthy. For the league there are three rounds, on Tuesday 28 May, Tuesday 9 July and Tuesday 30 July. The Triples knock-out is held on the longest Tuesday and will be at Easton on 18 June.

Martyr Worthy are the current holders of the league trophy and Easton of the knock-out cup.

Ralph Matthews

Great Wall of China found on pub floor

Well, actually, it wasn't *The Great Wall* and it wasn't actually great at all. But

it was a wall, a wooden one, and it was Chinese and it was found on the floor of *The Plough* in Itchen Abbas. It had been left behind after a game of Mahjong (the rack used to hold one's tiles in place is referred to as a wall).

With the kind permission of Ashley, Mahjong has been played in *The Plough* on Tuesday afternoons for some months now. Anyone is welcome to come along and give it a go; there is no charge, just buy a drink and join in. Beginners are welcome as we are





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All equipment is provided, although a visit to the Great Wall of China is an optional extra at your own expense.

Arminel Tottle

Easton & Martyr Worthy Cricket Club

On Saturday 7 April members from all sections of EMWCC assembled to tackle spring maintenance and cleaning at the Club to ensure the pitch and clubhouse were ready for the summer season. Luckily the weather was fine and the good number of Club volunteers turning out ensured everything was achieved in record time. The players present then undertook their first training session in the nets - and adjourned to The Cricketers Inn for some refreshments after all their efforts!

The recent exceptionally wet weather has prevented our groundsman Lee Padwick from even starting to roll the square, and based on the current conditions it is unlikely the square will be playable before early May. Scheduled friendly warm up matches have been postponed and the only outdoor training possible so far has been in the nets.

Juniors' training evenings are planned to commence during the week beginning 15 April with the first Club BBQ evening on Friday 19 April. Friday evening training incorporates Cricket Hoppers (U7s), U9s (boys & girls) and U11s training. Spectators are welcome to attend and enjoy the BBQ, bar and enthusiastic activities on the outfield.



Back row: Rashmi Bhintade, Charlie Gloyn (Capt), Elloise Clarke, Clarissa (Boo) Fortescue. Front row: Liz Gault, Ava Neilson, Eve Srikantha, Lucy Marett

In other exciting news, our Ladies Softball Team won the Dummer Cricket Indoor League and progressed to the Hampshire County Indoor W10 Finals.

EMWCC Ladies Captain Charlie Gloyn reports:

It has been a busy and productive winter season for the Easton Ladies' team. On Sunday evenings they have been fighting through the rankings of the Dummer Indoor League, which has grown to twelve participating teams from opposition clubs across Hampshire. The competition culminated in a big Final Festival on Sunday 17 March between the top six teams and Easton was able to take the Regional Championship! A great achievement on the part of the EMWCC Ladies, ending in first position out of the 12 Dummer League teams. As Regional Champions they qualified for the Hampshire County Indoor W10 Finals at Gang Warily on Sunday

14 April against Clanfield CC and Cadnam CC, who had both won their respective Regional Indoor Leagues too. Competition was fierce in both matches with some excellent bowling and fielding from the Easton Ladies. However catches win matches and too many wickets fell as they faced some exceptional bowlers from the opposition and fell short of putting enough runs on the scoresheet. The EMWC Ladies can be proud to finish ranked in third place overall in Hampshire, taking home their bronze medals from the Winter Indoor League. They are now focusing their sights on their real goal: retaining their place as winners of the outdoor Summer League for the third year running. Good luck Ladies!

The Club fields three Men's teams, playing at all levels within the Hampshire Cricket League on a Saturday afternoon and training on Thursday evenings, one Ladies Softball team training on a Tuesday evening, and Juniors (Girls and Boys) squads from U15s to U7s training on Monday, Wednesday or Friday evenings, depending on their age grouping, with matches on Sundays and sometimes during the week. A total of 15 teams entails the Club hiring and borrowing pitches from local schools and cricket clubs to host all the home games. New Junior and Senior members are always welcome, more details on our website www.emwcc.com
Lynda Gray. ldaten453@aol.com

The LAST Practical Gardener

Tony Gaster has written his Practical Gardening column every month since January 2011, (as well as serving as an Editor for ten years). It is a wonderful sight for a harassed editor to see his article and photos appear in

the inbox – and even to know that it won't be a problem if an overfull edition means it gets spiked! Having moved away from the Valley, Tony has now decided that it is time to stop, and we would like to pay tribute and express our gratitude. Thank you Tony for your unfailing support of the Itchen Valley News. For his final column Tony has gathered together some of the things he has learnt and enjoyed over his Itchen Valley gardening years. Ed.

I came to Winchester in 1979 to a house with a small garden and lots of other things to do. Moving to the Valley in 2004 everything changed. I had time and a huge garden. I started with a friend who was expert in landscape design and he came up with ideas which I slowly put into practice. What I wanted from my garden was colour, produce and privacy.

I soon discovered that the country had other issues like pests. The first was rabbits, so a rabbit proof fence all round was essential (I learned how to do that as a scout). Birds also liked what I grew so netting became necessary for much of the produce. Then came deer which needed a tall fence to keep them out.

I had little practical knowledge of gardening although I had had large gardens in Shropshire. So whilst I think it's helpful to have some books and listen a bit to the experts much seems to come from practical experience. My garden already had a greenhouse, a really essential item, which turned out to be hugely productive. It was in a good place and had power connected, vital for growing.

There were areas of the garden which needed to be fenced and



others which benefitted from a hedge. I found yew to be most successful. Privacy comes from shrubs and it pays to see what else

people around are growing well. There's always a choice between plants which grow fast and big and those which might be more colourful and small. So a mix is the right answer in most cases.

Although I am also a lover of trees I had two big conifers removed as they were dominant and not pretty. But I planted ten or more new trees of different types. The garden already had a small orchard and I gradually increased it. For some reason, pears did not work and the cherry only pleased the birds. So apples and plums were the success stories.

Growing vegetables can be demanding. Because of the chalk, I started with raised beds (and I saw the experts agreed). Today, timber is expensive and only lasts about 7 years but I think it is the best material to use. The vital part is a good supply of compost and most material in a garden can be composted. Whilst some crops such as soft fruit must stay in the same place, vegetables benefit from being in different places in subsequent years. I worked on a five year cycle. The exception was asparagus.

The easy things to grow are potatoes, onions, garlic, beans, peas and brassicas. Root crops can be difficult to germinate. The greenhouse was home to tomatoes, cucumbers and

some experiments. An electrical propagator helps. There were failures with seeds which I put down to them being dead - you can't take them back!

I love colour and had several flower borders, which can be quite demanding. I think the trick is to use blocks of colour, not just one lone plant. Many can be grown easily from seed, then look at the garden centres for what catches the eye. Annuals are hard work but worth the effort in small areas. I often failed to get plants in the right place, usually because those at the front were too tall. No big deal.

I'm no great fan of lawns, far too much work and there's always something wrong. In my current garden I have been building paths which I think look good, get you from A to B without getting muddy feet and are made of stones. It's wonderful watching our little dog leap over them chasing a ball. Paths made from bricks or slabs will require maintenance at some point.

The only problem I had with the paths was getting some steel edging. There is no longer any supplier which is local and it can be quite expensive. I bought strips 2m long and 7.5cm high.

In my gardening, I have been greatly encouraged by talks from The Valley Gardeners, a wonderful club. I am much less convinced by some of the experts and right now all our gardens are affected by rain, the soil is sodden and compacted and likely to be so for some time. There will be hard work to come but my 50 tomato plants are doing fine!

Happy Gardening
Tony Gaster

The Valley Gardeners visit Highgrove House gardens

It was a freezing cold April morning with an Arctic wind blowing when we left Itchen Abbas for our journey north-west to Gloucestershire. A royal residence was our destination and the last time we had visited Highgrove House, in 2005, HM King Charles was still the Prince of Wales and he and the then Camilla Parker-Bowles had just been married.

Fast forward 19 years and the gardens we toured in April had matured and softened greatly since our last visit. New installations, such as the wildflower meadow, were welcome additions. The wildflower meadow is a haven for wildlife and an untamed beauty, dotted with oak, chestnut, poplar, and beech trees. Developed by Miriam Rothschild in 1982 with a 32-species seed mix, more seed-rich green hay is added each year to introduce new species.

Highgrove consists of a series of interlinked gardens which have been lovingly created over the past 40 years. I think one can feel the King's natural artistic ability in some of the imaginative, quirky and even comical touches you come across as you tour the garden for 90 minutes. There is a rich variety of flora and fauna because of course, as we all know, the King is (and always was) a true believer in organic and sustainable gardening; indeed, long before it became the



popular way to manage a garden. One area I remember really finding unattractive when we visited in 2005 was the newly installed stumpery. Why on earth would one want these pieces of strangely shaped driftwood or cut down trees in one's garden, I thought, rather rudely. Now I see the point, as the unfolding ferns and other plants such as bluebells, primroses and

hellebores had taken up residence and beautified this shady area. Later in the year, I am sure the iris, hostas and autumn flowering cyclamen will look just

splendid too. I had to eat my harsh words.

The gardens have been designed, as The King says, to "please the eye and sit in harmony with nature". From the classic order of the Cottage Garden to the pastoral beauty of the Wildflower Meadow, there are highlights in every season. A landscape which was once simply lawn has been transformed into a magnificent, ever-changing canvas. We really enjoyed re-visiting Highgrove gardens and were very happy to know that The King is there every weekend to rest and recuperate.

Sadly, no-one is allowed to take photographs of the gardens, except of the reception area, so the image here is reproduced by kind permission of Highgrove customer services.

Image by Leanne Punshon / © Highgrove 2024.

Catherine Hahn

Donations to the Itchen Valley News

Please would you donate to the Itchen Valley News?

We are a voluntary organisation. About 40 people, all unpaid volunteers, are involved in editorial, admin and distribution. We only pay for the printing which amounts to about £10,000 per year and is only partly covered by advertising revenue. The shortfall is made up by your donations without which we would not be able to produce the IVN in its present form. We need your support. The enclosed addressed envelope can be used to send your donation (cheques to 'Itchen Valley News'), or you can pay online to, 'Itchen Valley News' at HSBC (sort code 40-46-39, account no. 61856251), using your name as a reference.

We hope you enjoy the magazine which is delivered free to some 800 households. We aim to provide you with interest about local matters and keep you in touch with the local community. Many thanks for your support.

Michael Smith, Treasurer

How Green Is Our Valley?

The project team working on the proposed installation of solar panels and batteries for Easton Village Hall received a welcome boost in April. The



hall's Chairman, Harry Smith, has successfully applied for a grant of £25,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund to finance the project. The aim is to significantly reduce running costs and minimise carbon emissions, as Itchen Abbas and Avington Hall did last year. Over the coming months the team will be finalising the project specifications, appointing a contractor and supervising the work. Best wishes to the team for a successful conclusion to this important project.

Steve Percy

Election 2 May 2024

Please consider using your right to vote on Thursday 2 May. You will need to take photo ID to your polling station. The Constitution of the IVN states that it 'shall be free of political bias'. We publish the articles from our Winchester City and Hampshire County Councillor and from our MP on this basis.

winchester.gov.uk/elections

Ed

Jackie's County Corner



So good to see lighter nights at last! With summer events starting this month,

please look out for The Watercress Way stand at local fetes and fairs. If you are running an event, please let me know - we'd love to come along. Since the County Council took over responsibility for parking on roads across the county, issues are arising

right across the division, especially in Alresford.

This also means that *all* concerns about road markings, flooding, and road and street works faults must be reported online to Hampshire County Council. For simpler problems (including reporting fly tipping), you can use www.FixMyStreet.com too.

The County Highways team does not have inspectors and relies mainly on public reports. If you see a pothole without a surrounding white line, it means one of two things: either it hasn't been reported or it isn't deemed bad enough. So please retain your tracking number and track it online as you would a parcel. If nothing gets done, please let me know so I can chase it.

The www.hants.gov.uk search box can help with most things, but recently I have been asked how to apply for a Disabled Parking Bay (called a Blue Badge parking space) on the road near to the home of a household. This information may be of use to readers too.

hants.gov.uk/transport/parking/bluebadge/bluebadge-parking-place

The County Council has many roles, including social care of adults and children, but it isn't a housing authority. But I'm acutely aware that inadequate or expensive housing can make life more difficult. I'm often asked 'how can I apply for a Council house or flat?'

To make a start, you need to look at the Hampshire Home Choice pages on the Winchester City Council website hampshirehomechoice.org.uk. This describes the process and what you will need to do to get started on your journey.

If you still live at home with parents, getting to the top of the list may take a

while, and meanwhile you can see what is available for rent or for shared ownership.

The rain is pouring (again) as I write this, but even so, Water Companies are saying there may be a water shortage in the summer. A gentle reminder if your tap ran dry earlier this year: have you claimed your compensation yet? Affected residents have been granted sums from £30 to £400 so if you haven't made your claim yet, it may be worthy doing so. If you are struggling with your bills, you can also apply for a hardship grant southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/community/customer-and-community-grants/customer-hardship-fund

The HCC Future Services consultation is now closed, but the threat of loss of School Crossing Patrols, School and Subsidised Bus transport, and the smaller Recycling Centres (Alresford is the smallest of 24) is very real. We really need facilities within villages and towns to make sense of our community: without them we risk being merely a development of houses. I am currently asking residents who use the bus services -do they enable you to manage without a car? If they do, I'd love to hear from you. If they don't please let me know why.

Cllr Jackie Porter

Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

07973 696085 www.jackieporter.co.uk

From our MP

This year will almost certainly see a General Election and I am quite sure the environment will feature. Who knows, there may even be a full range of candidates this time but let's wait and see. What I know for sure is that whenever I visit a local school and talk to the next generation it's right at the

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top of their agenda. I know from personal experience that the

Itchen Valley will be no different in this regard. Good news recently therefore that the UK is the first major economy to halve its emissions – having cut them by 50% between 1990 and 2022, while also growing our economy by 79% over the same period. This compares to a 23% reduction in France and no change in the USA. You may not hear it from the media, or more partisan figures, but they are the official figures. With renewables now accounting for more than 40% of the country's electricity – up from just 7% in 2010 - this shows the UK is leading the way on cleaner energy. These reductions are largely due to cutting emissions from energy generation, through the shift away from using coal to using renewables. In 2012, coal provided almost 40% of UK electricity, but later this year this figure will be zero. So the UK has cut emissions faster than any other G7 country over the last decade and this has allowed us to take a more realistic approach while reaching our green targets, to ease the burden on local families.

But that doesn't mean the work is stopping. Since September alone companies have announced plans for £30 billion of new investment across the energy sector, including to advance green technologies and support green industries of the future. We have also set more stretching targets for 2030 than most countries. We plan to cut emissions by 68% by 2030, which is more than the EU, Japan or the United

States. We have also increased our renewables electricity generation from just 7% in 2010 to nearly 50% now. In an election year, you can expect the cynicism to be at peak levels but I think these are all positive achievements. Secondly, and linked in a way, Ministers have just announced we are increasing the State Pension by 8.5% as we stick to the plan for pensioners, offering dignity and security to those who have worked hard all their lives and paid into the system. This year's increase, hot on the heels of last year's highest ever cash increase of 10.1%, means that from the start of April pensioners are set to receive an extra £900 a year. Oh and you'll have seen the Chancellor commit to the Triple Lock; expensive but the right thing to do. And we are also continuing to protect those most vulnerable by boosting benefits by 6.7% to ensure a genuine safety net exists whilst we support those towards financial independence through work.

Steve Brine

MP for Winchester & Itchen Valley

From the Rectory: Love your Story 2

Last month I opened up this theme of how in our families there can be great value in remembering our stories - calling to mind memories we've shared or that were important to our parents and grandparents. It helps us all to know 'where we've come from'. And, strangely, by looking back, we often gain a better sense of direction for the future. The Christian claim is that there is one particular event which - although we might not initially recognise it - is the key point in *all* our stories. Look back to this, and you'll gain a new sense of direction: the Resurrection of Jesus.



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It's worth reading the original accounts to sense how utterly shocked Jesus' followers were as they saw the grave clothes in the tomb (wrapped around an absent body?!) and then met with the Risen Jesus. This was not something they were expecting, nor something they could have concocted. They were confronted by compelling evidence of a verifiable fact. Truth had turned out to be much stranger than fiction. And now, the rest of their lives would be spent going in a whole new direction. As they looked back to this event in history, the story of their own lives was transformed.

The same can be true for us. That's why we celebrated the events of Holy Week and Easter together in the Valley. It was good to see so many coming out from all the villages - whether on Palm Sunday (following Judy Bishop's donkey to St Mary's Church, Easton), on Good Friday (following the Way of the Cross towards St Swithun's Church, Martyr Worthy, see front cover) or on Easter Day (in the morning celebrating communion in St John's Church, Itchen Abbas or, in the evening, enjoying the

bells of St Mary's Church, Avington before our 'Songs of Praise' service). I am so grateful for all those who helped in so many ways in all of this—and doubly so this year, because I myself needed to be absent for the seven days leading up to Good Friday in order to spend time with my dear sister Jen, who died in Exeter hospice on the Wednesday of Holy Week. That was a precious time (yes, involving the sharing of many family stories) but also one which gave me a keener sense of the unique truth which the Christian Church has to share with the world - the hope we can have (even by a hospice bedside) because of the resurrection of Jesus. When we look back to Easter, it's amazing how the future looks so much brighter. And that's why I am glad we have one other opportunity in the Valley to look back to the Easter story in a special way on Sunday 12 May. Easter was so early this year - back in the cold days of March - and many families were away; so we've set aside this day when, hopefully in some warmer weather, we can have a 'second bite at the cherry'. Bishop David Williams will be with us all day as we celebrate the Christian



Spring cleaning at St Swithun's

Sunday 5 May

10am Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton
4pm Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall

Thursday 9 May

8.30am Ascension Day Service - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Sunday 12 May

Fifty Days that Changed the World

We will be telling the Christian story - focused on the time between Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and his Ascension. Bishop David Williams will be with us throughout the day.

11am Palm Sunday to the Last Supper

Join us in Itchen Abbas Village Hall as we retell the story of Palm Sunday and focus on Jesus' Last Supper, followed by a picnic lunch.

3pm Easter to Ascension

Bishop David will be preaching at a 'Songs of Praise' service in St Mary's, Easton - focused on both the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. This will be followed by a garden party, accompanied by 'Gospel Jazz' musicians.

Sunday 19 May

10am Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
6pm Reflective Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 26 May

8.30am Holy Communion (1662) - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
10am Valley Worship and Ark
please check website for location

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

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story once again, remembering those 'fifty days that changed the world' that started with Palm Sunday

and culminated in Ascension Day. In the morning we will be in Icthen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, when we will focus on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then his Last Supper with his friends. This will be followed by a picnic (please bring your own) in the Hall. In the early afternoon we will be in St Mary's Church, Easton, for an up-beat 'Songs of Praise' service focused on the story of Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension. This will be followed by a Garden Party, with a 'Gospel Jazz' group playing in the background.

I do hope you might join us at one or both events. Hopefully they will be a lot of fun, but also a good opportunity to learn more about this famous story and to love it yet more.

Revd Peter Walker

Pulse Cargo support Play to the Crowd

Play to the Crowd is an arts and education charity, supporting the Theatre Royal, the Hat Fair - the oldest continuously operating outdoor Arts Festival in the country - and the Playmakers: a range of community engagement and creative learning programmes and activities. Play to the Crowd involves up to 140,000 people annually in cultural activity at the heart of the community.

Pulse Cargo is a logistics company



Pulse Cargo Director, Thomas Beesley, with The Trick Brothers at Hat Fair 2023

based in Martyr Worthy, experts in worldwide freight shipping. After learning that Play to the Crowd would no longer receive any core funding for the Hat Fair from Arts Council England, and driven by his longstanding admiration for the festival, Thomas Beesley, Director of Pulse Cargo was moved by the festival's funding needs. Pulse Cargo will now be a Corporate Partner, supporting Hat Fair Festival logistics. Their swift offer of support highlights their commitment to the charity's mission to delight and unite communities through the power of live performance.

Thomas expressed his enthusiasm for the new partnership, saying "We are absolutely thrilled to partner Play to the Crowd! It's hugely important to us to give back and be a part of our local community, and this new partnership represents our commitment to supporting organisations carrying out such important work. Play to the Crowd do some amazing work in the performing arts, not least the Hat Fair which I have attended many times (and been pulled up as a volunteer on occasion too!). We are honoured to be able to play a (small) part in helping

this event continue to be a regular fixture in Winchester."

Hat Fair 2024

Friday 5 – Sunday 7 July 2024

Winchester's international outdoor Arts festival will once again bring captivating circus, dance, music, comedy, theatre and more to the city's streets and its FREE!

tom@pulsecargo.co.uk

info@playtothecrowd.co.uk

Itchen Entrepreneur

Louise Amphlett of Lifetime Pet Cover Ltd

Originally from Nottingham, I moved



to the South East for work in my late twenties. I moved to Winchester in 2012 and then to the Valley in 2014 and started my business that same year.

We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful place. Having the South Downs on our doorstep is a joy, particularly at this time of year - May is my favourite month in the Valley. I used to be a keen cyclist but my bike has gathered dust in the last couple of years, as the demands of the business took over. I'm determined to dust it off this spring! I married Alex two years ago and whilst our blended family often needs a bit more space, we are very attached to this place and

can't imagine living anywhere else. We're here to stay! We have two family dogs, Olive and Arthur. They're very much part of the business, working alongside me every day and contributing to our meetings!

In 2014 I was fortunate enough to be able to channel my love of pets into the growing sector of pet insurance. I partnered with a family member and we started Lifetime Pet Cover. The idea was borne out of frustration with what was on offer at the time to cover veterinary bills. Pet insurance was not nearly as widespread in 2014 as it is now. The available cover was complex to understand, leaving pet owners confused by the policies and exclusions.

It was always our vision to offer simple but comprehensive cover, so that pet owners weren't left without cover when they really needed it. When your beloved pet gets really poorly, the last thing you need is financial stress.

We have tens of thousands of customers but we are still classed as small and we compete against some mammoth organisations, which can be tough. There is definitely a sense of pride at the progress we have made - we will be celebrating ten years this year. It's been quite a journey and the landscape has changed a lot,

particularly since the pandemic with new brands popping up to capitalise on the increase in pet ownership. We were here then



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and we're still here, going strong. We absolutely pride ourselves on our customer service. We've won multiple national awards for it, in fact we have been recognised for either Best Customer Service or Best Pet Insurer every year since 2017. And it's not unheard of that we have pipped the very biggest brands to the post - it goes to show, biggest isn't always best. Veterinary medicine continues to advance apace, which is fantastic, but it can come at a high price – an MRI can be £2,000. You can't always plan for the high cost of veterinary care and knowing you have that covered provides our customers with peace of mind.

There are exciting developments with AI and preventative healthcare that we're watching really closely. Pets are hugely important to us Brits and we continue to invest in their care and health, so there's lots of ways we can develop our business to ensure we are providing support to give pets their best life. We are very aware of the value of companionship that pet ownership can bring and we want to look at ways we can support that, be it through selected charities or sponsorships, so that's a real focus this coming year.

Louise was talking to Verity Coleman

West Lea Farm Shop

We were so excited to be nominated for a regional Countryside Alliance Award (rural Oscar) and I have just heard that we have won our category - it's really quite overwhelming. We will be so very proud to go up to the awards ceremony at the House of Lords on 25 June to see if we can be the pick of the judging panel to win a national award! All fingers crossed.



It was a public vote so a massive thank you to our loyal customers who took the time to vote for us and enable this little farm shop to really punch above its weight. I hope that we play a small but valuable part in our local community - and without our community this would not have been possible.

As you know, I am passionate about supporting local produce and we couldn't exist without our wonderful collection of small local producers. 90% of our suppliers are from Hampshire, so this award is for them as much as us.

I still can't really believe it!!

Rachel Peppiatt

westleafarmshop.co.uk 732476



Wonderful Walks

4 miles, 2 hours, easy, good paths / tracks, OS map Explorer 132, car park on A272

Cheesefoot Head and round

I come up here to “blow the cobwebs away” - it’s always breezy - and the 360 degree views are very special. (L=left; R=right; SA=straight ahead; G=gate)

Turn R from the car park at the top (579 feet), above the Matterley Bowl. (General Eisenhower addressed the troops here prior to D-Day.) After 25yds along the path, cross carefully over the road, then SA across the field. For 150 yards you are now briefly walking on the ancient South Downs Way. SA at the 4-way post and gently downhill on a wide grassy track for 1 mile. Ahead is



the Solent and Isle of Wight, below on the right Winchester. Listen to the skylarks singing!

For a further half mile the track is bounded by hedge and trees until reaching a junction and cottages. Here turn sharp L, almost backwards, then keep to the main track passing buildings on the L, and soon descending into a gully (this may be slightly muddy). The path climbs steeply, levelling out in a wooded section with views of large crop fields on both sides.

After about 1 mile, through the G, turn L onto an open stony track climbing gently towards the clump of trees at the top.

On reaching the large silo before the road, follow the track L steeply down, round to the R, shortly turning through a gap in the hedge and up to the 4-way sign. R here and retrace your steps across the main road.

At the signboard near the car park, stop



and enjoy the magnificent view to the north, over our own Itchen Valley and stretching away many miles further.

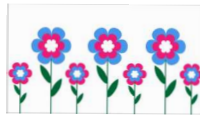
Henry Labram

From The Parish Council

Our Environmental Working Group had proposed to show a film titled ‘Six Inches of Soil’ on 24 May. However after one of the group attended a showing as a preview, it has been decided that although good it was too specific to be of general interest to the majority. This event has therefore been cancelled. However it is still intended to hold another “Green Homes” event in the autumn.

Couch Green:

Last year it was decided that as local football clubs were showing little interest in using the pitch at Couch Green money would be saved by reducing grass cutting. Since then this has led to the Parish Council to look



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into how the facilities at Couch Green and its links to the Watercress Way path can be improved. As a few people have been asking, what is happening, here in brief are some



Patrick Appleby

answers. For those who would like more detail please see the full report on our website.

We have recently commenced the start of a process by undertaking a survey of the area and have been very lucky to have secured the services of a local Landscape Architect called Deacon Design based in Wickham. Deacon Design has offered to help the Parish Council prepare some plans that people can review and comment on.

There are several different issues the Parish Council will try and address:-
Can the football pitch topography be improved to make it more attractive for potential users?

The parking arrangements are limited and when the football pitch has been used, the car park can't cope and results in ad hoc parking along the roadside.

Play equipment is inspected for safety and maintained by independent contractors but does it meet the needs of the age groups who use it? Quotations are being sort to replace or repair the picnic table. Should we consider having more than one?

Many users of Couch Green are dog walkers that park in the car park and use the playing field to exercise their dogs. Most are of course considerate but, in the past, users of the football pitch have reported dog faeces. Can walking routes be designed to wind

around the play areas that are attractive to users? Having routes designed where dogs are generally kept away from the playing areas will help segregate the two uses.



John Beresford

The open bin near the play area is a problem. It is there for the use of picnickers to save them taking waste home but being open it is not suitable for bags of dog poo. Unfortunately it is often overloaded with these bags which should have been deposited in one of the three green multipurpose bins situated close to the perimeter of the playing fields. Emptying the open bin is therefore an unpleasant task, generally carried out for free by one longstanding member of the Parish Council. It has therefore been decided to remove this bin.

The Watercress Way is a much used path. At present access from Couch Green is difficult for the infirm to negotiate. A new access route will be considered as part of the survey.

In recent years the Environmental Working Group with the help of many volunteers has installed new hedging and trees at their open spaces. There are lots of opportunities to improve the species and planting to improve biodiversity alongside the recreational uses. Using a planting plan and maintenance schedule can address some of the clashes between users and improve the attractiveness of the space.

Over the summer period technical plans will be prepared to put forward some thoughts as to what is achievable. We'll also be visiting other

Parishes to see what has worked well and what hasn't. In Autumn these plans will be shared, and Parishioners will be able to make some comments and suggestions. Alongside this process, a detailed costing exercise will be undertaken to establish what funding is available to undertake any works. This is an important part of the process because some of the works such as levelling the football pitch could be expensive and therefore we'd be clear with parishioners what works we'd be looking to undertake using Parish funds and what works would be subject to funding applications. There are lots of organisations that are keen to help schemes like this but to prepare applications for funding we need a detailed strategy plan of what the community wants, why it's required, and how much it will cost. It's likely that funding for improvements could come from several different sources and therefore having the wider plan will give funders confidence that we have a clear vision of what the community wants.

The other Play Area has not been forgotten. The Parish Council will also be looking at the Old School Field in Easton to review the facilities and identify the improvements that can be made.

In the meantime, we'll be making sure the spaces are maintained and if there are any issues please contact the Parish Council via our Clerk; Richard Doughty:
parishclerk@itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk

John Beresford, IVPC Open Spaces Portfolio Holder

Patrick Appleby, Chairman

STOP PRESS!

Avington now reopened!

Here's one I made earlier

I am not an artist and certainly not an accomplished painter. However, earlier today I created the work of art shown here. Nobody helped me and it wasn't done with a Painting by Numbers set.

Aren't I clever?

No. I used a Chatbot linked to a very powerful computer somewhere on the internet. I was inspired to do this by attending a Zoom talk on Chatbots. (Yes, I didn't know what they were either until today!) I learnt that I could ask the Chatbot to do all sorts of things, like drawing a sketch of a red owl on a blue mushroom surrounded by flowers.



I also found out that the Chatbot could write me a poem. I had recently entered a national competition for a poem on the theme of "What If". Alas, the almost instantaneous Chatbot creation on the same subject was leagues better than any of my drafts. Last year I had, unsuccessfully, entered a short story competition, this time on the theme of "Decisions". Within seconds of asking the Chatbot for help, I had five hundred words of prose in

front of me that contained all the elements of a very good entry. Personally I didn't like it but, nevertheless, I did have a story with a beginning, a middle and an end that was about making decisions. But the worrying thing about all of this was that it wasn't obvious that both the poem and the story had been written by a computer without human interference. Maybe I should use a Chatbot for any future competitions; but then, I guess, maybe everyone else is thinking the same thing. I understand that the Itchen Valley News wants more editors to help produce the magazine. Maybe they should hire a Chatbot.

Vernon Tottle (a real person)

Itchen Abbas School News

Last term we hosted our final football match of the league against Cherbourg Primary School. Our team have played brilliantly all season, showing great sportsmanship and determination. They have been a real credit to our school. The final score was 5-3 to Itchen Abbas, meaning we have **WON THE LEAGUE!** Itchen Abbas are the champions!

We had an exciting day on Friday 8 March. As it was International



Women's Day we thought that it would be a lovely way to celebrate this through the power of football! This year's #letgirlsplay Biggest Ever Football Session was the best ever - 425,000 girls took part across the country! Mr Robbins, our PE Lead, hosted a girl's football event at school, which they all really enjoyed. The girls who took part were lucky enough to be given tickets to go and see the Saints Women's team take on Reading FC at St. Mary's. Our recent football success in Itchen Abbas must have transferred to the team, as they won 5-0! Thank you to Mr Robbins for organising this!

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began after half term in the wild weather, so our dens, slip knot practice and spy games were needed! In the last few sessions these games became more elaborate and funny - a mix of boys and girls planning and deciding the rules! Fishing rods made with peelers; bug hunting, mud painting all being enjoyed in our woodland. I

The week before Easter Mrs Smith and I took a group of children down to CAMEO (service and lunch for the over 65s) at St John's church. They absolutely loved this experience (not just because they got a mini easter egg each!) but because they got to perform two of our Easter songs and chat to a large number of people about their lives and the school. The feedback from the CAMEO group was amazing - they love seeing the children and the children really enjoy visiting.

Rob Brogan

Head Teacher, Itchen Abbas School

The Valley Quiz No.24

1. In which city did Shylock encounter Portia?
2. What is the name of the remote

UK island that contains the UK's most isolated, permanently inhabited, community. (To get there, fly to FOA!!)

3. How is a contrail formed?
4. What country joined NATO in March and how many countries are now members?
5. What is the name of, and in what territory is, the UK's and the world's, most southerly post office?
6. One of the 20th century's best-known novels begins with the words "He sat, in defiance of municipal orders, astride the gun ZamZammah...." Who was he (and the name of the book), and who was the author?
7. What happened at 3.06 am on 20 March 2024?
8. Chişinău is the capital city of which European country?
9. What is/was a flat iron collier and where could you have seen one?
10. Very cold winds in North America in 1848 led to it drying up for 30 hours?

John Lang

Answers on Page 37

River Keeping thoughts

With 34" of rain having fallen in the Itchen catchment area since 1st October last year, it is no surprise that river flows have been excessive throughout the winter causing displacement of both gravel and invertebrates. However the damage to the river bed may not be of the magnitude that occurred during the memorably wet winter of 2014 when 25" of rain fell in a three month period causing parts of Winchester to flood and large bags of gravel being placed in the river under the motorway bridge to try to stem the flow.

Looking forward to the next few months, the aquatic weed is already starting to grow, thanks to the relatively mild spring, and should this growth be boosted further by a period of prolonged warm sunshine, then river levels will rise even higher than they currently are, leading to heavy weedcuts throughout the summer.

One plant species that benefits from a high water table is the Norfolk reed that thrives with its roots growing in standing water. These reed beds would have benefitted from active water meadows drowning the land for



long periods during the winter, and would have been cropped on a rotational basis to provide thatching.



Today some of those reed beds that provide ideal nesting sites for reed and sedge warblers and reed buntings have dried out and become infiltrated with other less desirable plants, particularly nettles, and some have been swallowed up by encroaching willow. It would be a sadness if they were to slowly disappear from the rich tapestry of plants that enhance the beauty of a chalkstream.

Simon Ffennell

Simon looks after the Itchen at Martyr Worthy

Grayling: The Lady of the Stream

If I asked you to name a chalk stream fish, which one would you choose? For many, the brown trout or Atlantic salmon will come to mind – the most famous fishy mascots of these rare freshwater habitats. But today we're looking at another amazing member of the salmonid family: the European grayling. Or, to use its wonderfully romantic nickname, the 'Lady of the Stream'. The grayling belongs to the genus

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Thymallus – so named because its members exude a faint scent of thyme. Although widespread across Europe and native to England, this fish was not originally



found in the Test and Itchen. Records suggest that it was introduced to these rivers in the early 19th and 20th centuries respectively, possibly by moving fish from the Hampshire Avon. Ironically, grayling would later be routinely culled in many southern chalk streams, due to fears of them out-competing brown trout. This practice declined as studies showed key differences in the diet, growth, habitat, and spawning behaviour of the two species. Today, grayling are particularly popular with anglers, as they can be pursued in the winter when fishing for brown trout is prohibited.

The grayling can be recognised by its glittering pewter scales and red-fringed dorsal fin. This ruby colour is much brighter in the males, especially during the breeding season. From March to May each year, they attempt to woo females with a vibrating dance. Fertilised eggs are nestled in the gravelly stream bed and – if all goes well – two to four weeks later, the water is filled with baby grayling!

After hatching, juveniles stick to the slower-flowing stream margins until they get large enough to swim further

out. As they grow, their diet expands to include worms, insect larvae, and small crustaceans like freshwater shrimp. Grayling can gain twice the weight that trout and salmon manage in their first year, but end up a little smaller – the largest adults weigh around two kilograms. Grayling need cool, clean, oxygen-rich water, in addition to areas of silt-free gravel for spawning. If their homes aren't healthy, then sadly they can struggle to thrive. To learn how the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme is helping grayling, brown trout, and other chalk stream species, visit hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes. Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Sophie Evingar

Photo by Paul Colley

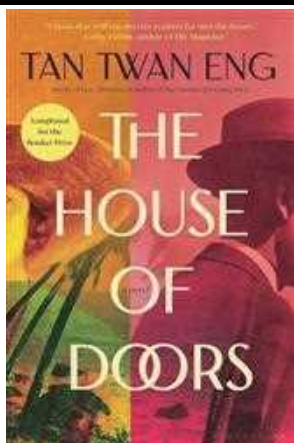
Comings and Goings

Gillian and Andrew Pizzey, son Harry, daughter Emily and Monty the dog have moved into Malthouse Close Easton from Chandlers Ford

Georgina and Femi Ladiende, with daughter Phoebe and their dog Mowgli have moved up from the bottom of Church Lane Martyr Worthy to the top of Mill Lane Abbots Worthy
Welcome to you all!

The House of Doors by Tan Twan Eng

Books generally fit into a particular category, and sometimes various categories at the same time: fiction, crime, thriller etc. I have



struggled to fit this book into any usual category. *House of Doors*, a novel, is above all simply beautifully written.

Set in Penang in Malaya in the first half of the 20th century, the descriptions of the local environment are delightful: the visually rich green of the vegetation, a feeling of warmth as the sun sets, the romance of the sea beneath the stars. His writing succeeds in bringing all our human senses to life. The story is thin, but it does not matter. It is a story about marriage and relationships between grown-up couples, heterosexual and homosexual, feelings of love and duty, in the mind rather than the body.

Somerset Maugham is a famous and much respected visitor to Lesley's household in Penang. The leader of the 1926 uprising in China, an intelligent and visionary personality, stays in Penang in the same period. A British woman kills a man and is on trial for murder.

These are themes which are woven into the book, testing Lesley's trust and loyalties. She is a long term

expatriate in a colonial era, married to Robert, himself a prominent and successful lawyer.

The House of Doors is a metaphor: doors open and close, revealing and concealing what others feel. Lesley is wise, and despite the pressures and her emotions, she gets what she wants ...

Henry Labram

Plant of the month: Pear blossom

Cherry blossom is world known, and plum blossom is notable for appearing first of all in the spring. It wasn't until this year that we took a close look at pear tree blossom. It's not as blousy as the cherry but the colours and delicacy of the individual flowers are well worth a good look. By the time you read this it will be fading but there's always next year, and later this summer the fruit will start to appear.

Simon and Dorothy Bradley



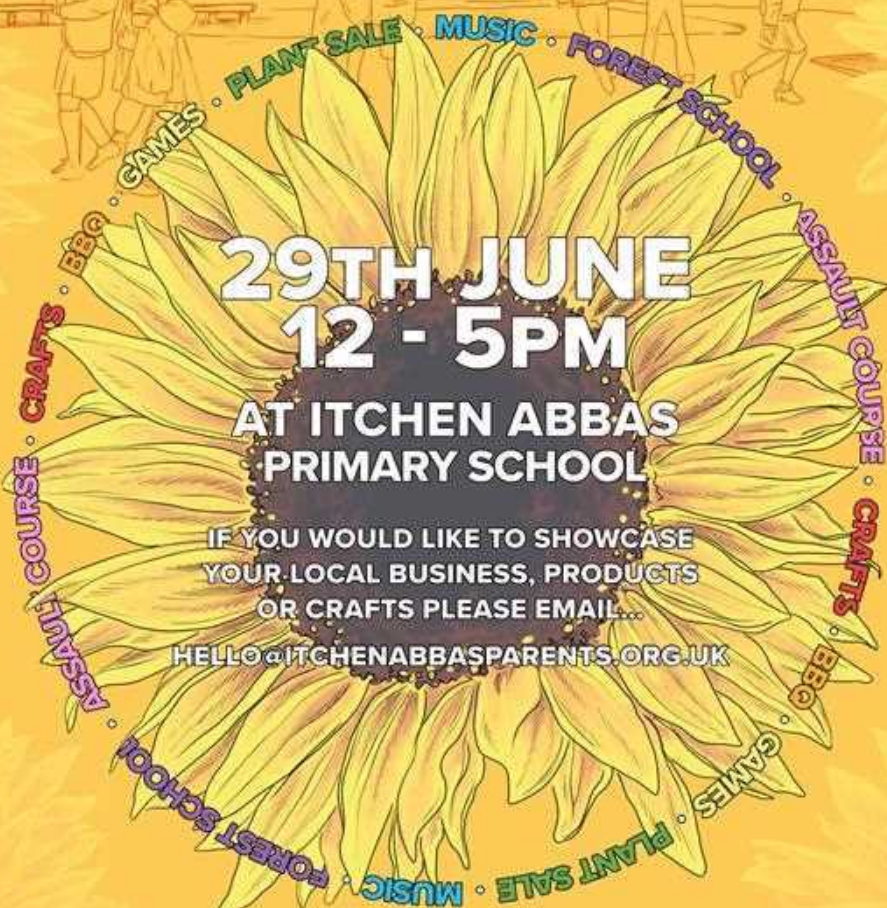
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3. Book a GP Appointment: For non-urgent concerns or ongoing issues.
4. Minor Injury Unit: Minor burns, sprains or other non-life threatening injuries.

5. A&E: Life-threatening emergency
Making the right choice means getting the right care, at the right time, in the right place. Let's all [#ChooseWell](#) and keep our NHS services available for those who need them most .

www.nhs.uk/nhs-services

[ChooseWellCampaign](#)

The Alresford Surgery

Chocolate tart at CAMEO

The CAMEO lunch this month in St John's Church, Itchen Abbas celebrated the big birthday of the founder, Lavinia Owen. As part of the celebrations the guests were served this rich and delicious chocolate tart.

Chocolate tart: makes a 10" flan

For the sweet shortcrust pastry:

8 oz plain flour

5oz butter

2 egg yolks

2oz icing sugar, sifted

Water

For the filling:

14oz dark chocolate, chopped or grated

5 fl oz milk

9 fl oz cream

2 eggs, beaten

Put the flour into a mixer bowl with the cubed chilled butter and sifted icing sugar, and blitz until it looks like fine breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolks (with a very little cold water if needed) and blitz again until the mixture forms a ball. Roll out to fit a 10" flan dish.

Chill, preferably overnight.

Fill the pastry case with crumpled greaseproof paper and baking beans and cook at 160 degrees for 15 minutes. Remove the paper and beans and cook for a further 5 mins or until the base is lightly browned.

For the filling, warm the milk and cream in a saucepan until just below boiling point. Turn off the heat, add the chocolate and stir until melted. Add the beaten eggs, and pour the mixture into the cooked pastry case.

Bake in a moderate oven on the middle shelf until just set, about 25mins. It should look set but with a gentle wobble when shaken. If it needs a little more time, turn off the oven and leave the tart inside for a further 15-30 mins. Then leave to cool.

Serve at room temperature with crème fraiche or cream.

If you would like to come to CAMEO as a helper or as a guest please contact Charlotte Appleby at shrubshill@gmail.com

Charlotte Appleby

Quiz Answers:

1. Venice - both are characters in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*.
2. Foula, one of the Shetland Islands 20 miles west of Shetland with a small airstrip with the International Airport Code FOA. Population about 30.
3. Contrails form when warm moist exhaust fumes from an aircraft mixes with cold ambient air producing ice crystal clouds.
4. Sweden joined on 7 March 2024 bringing the number of member countries to 32.
5. Port Lockroy in Antarctica. Known as the Penguin Post Office and operated on behalf of the Post Office by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Customers are cruise ship passengers.
6. *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling. It was Kim who sat on the gun also known as the "fire-breathing dragon" mounted outside the museum in Lahore (Pakistan).
7. Start of 2024 astronomical spring when the sun crossed the celestial equator going north. Known as the vernal equinox - when the hours of daylight match the hours of night.
8. Moldova, one of Europe's smallest countries lying between Romania and Ukraine.
9. A Flat Iron was a coal carrying ship usually sailing from the NE coal ports such as Newcastle and Sunderland to the Thames with coal for the upriver power stations. They were low lying, had very little superstructure, and a funnel and masts that could be lowered to enable the vessel to pass beneath London's bridges at certain states of the tide.
10. The Niagara Falls. It was so cold that the falls froze and the river ran dry.

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections:

Black and brown garden bins on Fridays 3 and 17 May

Green bins on Fridays 11 and 24 May

Glass boxes on Friday 24 May

Hampshire Farmers' Market in Winchester

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

Full Parish Council Meetings:

The Annual Meeting is on 9 May at 7pm at Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

Bus information



67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

To Winchester:

Monday to Friday

Sch 8:20 NSch 8:23

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

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

To Alresford:

Monday to Friday

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

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

No Sunday or bank holiday service.

Key: Sch School days only

NSch School holidays only

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

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

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