

ItchenValleyNews

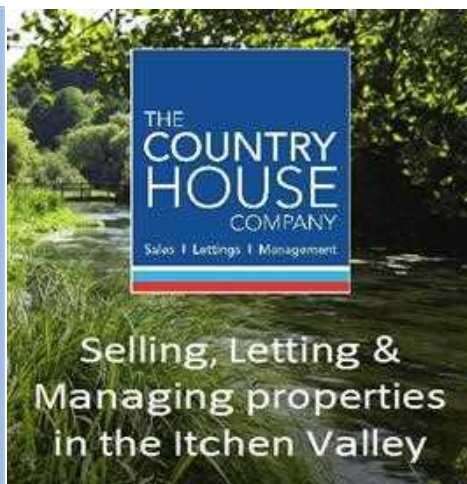
Abbots Worthy, Avington, Easton,
Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy

Issue 127 | September 2024



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WELCOME to the Itchen Valley News

Here we are at the beginning of September already - how the seasons fly by. It seems to have been a really colourful end to the summer months this year, both from the wonderful flowers and plants which surround us and from the talented artists who live amongst us and give so much enjoyment through their work ('Hampshire Open Studios' is on until Monday 26 August). One of those artists is Jules Hoffman who creates art from nature. Read about her life passions on page 16. The Valley Gardeners visited the Jurassic coast in mid August and there was so much rich and glorious colour all around us you would have thought it was mid summer! I have been photographing dahlias madly recently and the diversity of form and colours is just extraordinary. I have put a few of my best shots and those of other contributors on Page 21. Many are from local gardens. None from my own plants though. All those have all succumbed to the slugs and snails which have decided my garden is the best place to eat all their meals! We hear from our newly elected M.P. Danny Chambers in his first IVN column where he sets out his ideas for improving life here in the Valley. But we start this issue with the results of the 2021 Census, which perhaps you had forgotten all about? But some interesting facts and figures emerged from the data which Michael Smith has collated for us. We have an insight into the world of an orthopaedic vet from Avington who has founded a new practice for dogs and cats in Valley Entrepreneur on Page 6.

There is a very important film being shown at the end of September. 'Six inches of Soil' is a story of British farmers who are transforming the way they produce food to heal the soil; surely a must see film in these times of climate change and the need for environmental sustainability? Details are on Page 30.

Do please keep sending in your ideas, reviews, recipes, anything you think would be interesting to your fellow Valley residents. We also have a job vacancy in our advertising team. Next month's Editors are Charlotte Appleby and Brigid McManus.

Catherine Hahn

Itchen Valley News

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What's On

Winchester Heritage Open Days

6 - 15 September

Events include:

Winchester College Tours, The Grange, St. John the Evangelist Church, Northington, St Mark Church - Windows into the Past, Hampshire Histbites, Connecting with Nature, Botley Watermill, Watercross Engineering Weekend, Rebuilding Bere Mill, Odiham Historic Centre Sights, Hursley House, Three Abbeys and a Castle, Talks at the ARC.

For details visit:

www.winchesterheritageopendays.org

National Gardens Scheme

Sunday 8 September

1-3.30pm

Bramdean House
Bramdean, Alresford.
SO24 0JU

Admission: £6.50
children free. Cashless
Payments available.
Home-made teas.

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/3145/bramdean-house>

Beautiful 5 acre garden best known for its mirror image herbaceous borders and its one acre walled garden. There is a large and unusual collection of plants and shrubs giving year-round interest including a large collection of old fashioned sweet peas and an expansive collection of nerines.



'Bedroom Farce' by Alan Ayckbourn.

The Southwood Players present an outdoor production of this comedy at Wincroft, Easton on 13,14 and 15 September. Full details on Page 23.

Itchen Valley Parish Harvest Tea

21 September 3.30 - 5.30pm

St. John's Church, Itchen Abbas. Tea, cake and good company. See poster on Page 19 for details.

Easton Car Boot sale

22 September 1-4 pm. Pitches available now. See poster on Page 21

New Leaf Alresford and The Barn Avington both present 'Six Inches of Soil'.

23 and 27 September.

A film about how some British farmers are trying to heal the soil. Shown in two venues locally in late September. See more details on both screenings on Page 30.

Alresford Art Society

26 September.

A demonstration of Dogs in Acrylic by Dave White. 7.30pm in Bishop's Sutton Village Hall, Alresford Road (B3047), Bishops Sutton SO24 0AH. Non-members welcome – admission £3.

For further information: 01962 732043 or visit www.artsociety.alresford.org.



Advertising Manager for the Itchen Valley News

After many years as the IVN Advertising Manager Jenny Sloan is stepping down in order to spend more time with her family.

The position involves dealing with the annual advertisements which bring in revenue to cover most of the printing costs of the IVN.

Particular responsibilities include:

- Renewing current advertising (Oct/Nov) and responding to potential new advertisers.
- Ability to communicate with

advertisers and to “nudge” gently when necessary.

- To keep information safely and up to date.
- To communicate regularly with the Editor and Treasurer.
- To report regularly to the editorial team.

For more information, contact Jenny Sloan on jenny@sloan-home.co.uk or 07815 770810 or apply to the Chief Editor of the IVN, Mary Hogg on mary.c.hogg@hotmail.co.uk or 07850 524795. Thank you.

Jenny Sloan

2021 Census: a snapshot of the Itchen Valley

What emotions does the word census arouse when you are informed you must take part? Reluctance? Indignation. Anxiety? Forbearance? But when the results are analysed, what then? Hopefully curiosity and even fascination. Censuses (this is the correct plural according to the OED) have been undertaken since 3,000BC and have always been associated with taxation – where are you, how many of you are there, and how much should we tax you to meet our budget? They have expanded over time to cover a wide range of demographics and are now invaluable for planning public services: how many homes, schools, doctors, hospitals, roads, reservoirs we will need to meet future demand. The Office for National Statistics undertakes a census every 10 years in the UK and the last one was undertaken in 2021. Many factors may affect the census findings and 2021 coincided with Covid which may have influenced key findings such

as household size, occupation, working from home and travel, measured as it is, on the night of the census.

The national data are broken down into local areas and the most appropriate one for us is Alresford and Itchen Valley. It's a shame that we can't separate the two as they are clearly different, and Alresford tends to dominate, but then it does have a considerable influence on life in the Valley. Individual numbers don't mean much without context and the two most interesting comparators are us vs national and 2021 vs 2011. There were 8,686 people listed in 2021, virtually unchanged since 2011, but the number of households, 3,863, had increased by 100. The population split was very close to 50/50 but there had been a slight decrease in males and increase in females in the last 10 years. 8% of us were born outside the UK compared with 17% nationally. The age profile in the Valley is interesting showing we have fewer young children and considerably more older people than the national average. We have twice the proportion of people over 75 than the national average. Also, in the age range 20-45 we are well below the average which perhaps suggests that young adults leave the Valley and older people move in. We have more 2 people households and fewer 3, and 4 people households. We are 97% white compared with 81% nationally. 58% identified as Christian, compared with 46% nationally. This was down by about 10% since 2011, balanced by an equivalent number who changed from Christian to No Religion and now account for 34% of the total. Only 4% listed other religions and none of these

individually exceeded 0.3%. 88% of us live in houses or bungalows (77% nationally) and 11% in flats or apartments (22% nationally) and more of us own our own homes. 46% said they worked from home. This must reflect Covid and was an enormous increase on 2011. Those not working from home, travel further to work than the national average. Hardly any of us use public transport to go to work. In terms of employment, health and disability we are much the same as the rest of the UK. The fact that only 55% of us are economically active might seem surprisingly low but school-age children, students and retired people make up the balance. Unemployment in the Valley is 1.9% compared with 3.5% nationally.
Michael Smith

The Valley Gardeners' Annual Lunch

It was a great pleasure to welcome two former residents of the Valley to the annual lunch of the Valley Gardeners, held at the Itchen Abbas & Avington village hall. *Catherine Hahn*



Tony Sheppard and (seated) Geoff Dee, both former Chairmen (and honorary Valley Gardeners) with Sally Melia, myself and Sue Humphrey.

Valley Entrepreneur: Andy Moores

Veterinary surgeon Andy Moores and his family have lived in Avington since 2016. Having grown a successful referral practice in Hursley for many years, Andy has now opened a new clinic specialising in orthopaedics. I spoke to him about his passion for helping pets regain their health.

Q: Why did you want to become a vet?

A: I have always been fascinated by medicine, and surgery in particular, even as a kid. I grew up watching the original 'All Creatures Great and Small' and being a vet seemed much more attractive than human medicine!

Q: When and why did you set up your practice?

A: We opened the new clinic in Upton Grey (towards Basingstoke) in May 2023. Prior to that I helped to grow a large referral hospital in Hursley which we sold to Pets at Home plc in 2016. In 2021 Pets at Home sold us on to Linnaeus, a subsidiary of Mars (yes that Mars -most people don't realise they make more money from pets than they do from chocolate!). Overnight the culture of the hospital changed, becoming much more 'corporate'. I realised I could not work in the corporate machine and so I left at the end of 2021 and started to plan the new clinic. The Moores Orthopaedic Clinic is proudly independent with an emphasis on fantastic care and service at a reasonable price.

Q: Why did you specialise in orthopaedics and what does that involve?

A: Orthopaedics became a passion of mine as an undergraduate at Bristol. The one book I read from cover-to-

cover as a student was an orthopaedic surgery textbook. I love working with my hands and there's enormous satisfaction in getting a patient that is in pain, or maybe can't walk, comfortable and mobile again. I initially went into GP practice and I did some additional surgical training during that time but to specialise and really progress you need to embark on a full-time training programme,

which we call a residency. I was lucky to get a residency position back at Bristol and after 3 years of postgraduate training and some exams I became a specialist in 2005. Specialist

is a protected term in veterinary medicine; lots of vets offer second-opinion/referral services but not many have completed the specialist training that allows them to call themselves a specialist.

Q: Please tell us about the expanding range of orthopaedic surgery in small animals.

A: My patients are cats and dogs and we are able to perform many of the same orthopaedic surgeries that you might see in a human hospital. Our facilities are not dissimilar either; our clinic has a brand-new human CT scanner and our operating theatres were designed to human orthopaedic theatre standards with HEPA-filtered ventilation to minimise the risk of infection. Arthroscopy ('key-hole' joint surgery), total hip replacement and complex fracture repairs are all



routinely performed. The big advances over the past year or two have been the introduction of cementless total hip replacement for our smaller orthopaedic patients and the introduction of a new canine elbow replacement system which shows huge promise. Cementless hip replacement is the 'gold standard' for hip replacement and we can now

offer this for dogs of all sizes and even cats. I regularly post interesting cases on our Instagram and Facebook...

@mooresortho.
Q: What pets do you have?

A: We have a dog, cat, two guinea pigs (allegedly my

son's, but really my wife's!) and five chickens. Going away has its challenges these days!

Q: What advice do you have for any aspiring vets in the valley?

A: Firstly, find out if this is something you really want to do. It's a demanding course and job, so you really need to have a passion for the profession. Most vets work in general (first opinion) practice so get to know the local practices and spend some time with them to see if this is for you. The vet degree is however a very versatile degree so there are plenty of career options available if you do find it's not for you (you can even become an MP!). Oh, and don't forget to work hard at school... you will need good grades!

Andy Moores was talking to Catherine Hahn



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The Bird Quiz Part 2

(all the answers are British birds)

1. You may find Hazel flying this one's nest! (8)
 2. Seabird with a piece in front (7)
 3. Nothing in the baby's bed (4)
 4. Children's party game on a donkey (7)
 5. Heard this hunting, shooting, fishing chap guided Tom the wrong way (9)
 6. With head in the heavens and feet in the heather (8)
 7. A giant pram will be needed to shift this one (9)
 8. Bird killing toxophilist (7)
 9. Wear this holding the heat (8)
 10. America has a plough too but ours isn't big (6)
 11. Do Messrs Freeman and Kemp live here? (5,6)
 12. First place at the Olympic is top
 13. Was shown as much, much, much less than a penny (4)
 14. You'll have to look inside her onesie (5)
 15. So that's who took Rossini's overture
 16. Like a spider's web (10)
 17. Granny is not usually considered fit for purpose (4)
 18. Knock, knock who's there? (10)
 19. A doting little bird needs help to unwind (4,6,3)
 20. Could only use three quarters of the Wi-Fi available on the street (5)
- Michael Smith*

Answers on Page 37

Memories of the Itchen Valley

We had a very interesting and poignant email land in our editorial inbox recently. It was from Jean Inglis whose father, the late John Tate, had put pen to paper to record the deep love he had for the Itchen Valley, where he came to live as a young boy. For the rest of his (almost) 104 years, he cherished his time here and, luckily for posterity, wrote down his memories, which give us a fascinating snapshot back to the last century and life in the valley at that time. Here is the first part of his memoir. The second part will appear next month. Jean, thank you so much for contributing this memoir. Editor.

I, John H Tate was born in the hamlet of North Waltham near Basingstoke, Hants in the year of our Lord 1917 on 22 January to Elsie Jane Tate nee Goodman and Sidney Herbert Tate. My Father was then following his business pursuit of running the village shop catering for the produce of bread and groceries for the local inhabitants. The bread was baked on the premises by himself with the help of one other man who was also responsible for delivering the bread in the area on a bread van drawn by a horse. In the absence of my Father, my Mother would help in the shop serving customers. The premises were of typical Hampshire village style with thatched roof and flint and brick walls situated in the centre of the village behind the pond where the ducks enhanced the general atmosphere. As a four year old boy with a rather adventurous nature, my parents informed me that I was often keeping the ducks company and getting myself covered in mud!

My Father had been exempted from

serving in the 1914-1918 war due to his health which finally forced him to sell his business and take a more active life in the open air under his doctor's advice. Unfortunately, choice of employment was very limited during the years of world depression and my parents found it very difficult to make ends meet. We moved from the village of North Waltham in 1921 to temporary accommodation over some stables in Sutton Scotney, and this is where I can recall my earliest memoirs, the most vivid being listening on the porch of the local chapel to the congregation singing hymns and the other being brought home by Mr Pragnell, the local butcher, from what he termed the local turnpike where he said if I was allowed to play there I would finally be brought home on a shutter. *(We would say a "stretcher" today. Ed)*

The stay in Sutton Scotney was of a very short duration. After which we became tenants of a brand-new council house at 5 Station Hill, Itchen Abbas



John, Ted and Bob Tate
 with Rusty the dog

where I spent a very memorable childhood by joining the local cub pack and scout troupe when I became old enough, I was with my brothers and friends singing as a choir boy until my voice broke, when I was

demoted to blow the bellows of the church organ. This was also quite a pleasant experience for they (the bellows) were situated high above the organ where the building acoustics gave one's voice a very mellow rich tone and I was commended by the local minister during choir practice

On Friday evenings I remember, in particular, two choir outings. Having been endowed with a very good singing voice I was in the church choir and the church endeavored to send us twice a year on these outings, once in the winter and once in the summer. The former was a pantomime in Southampton and the latter a seaside day on the Isle of Wight. The most memorable recollection I have of the Isle of Wight is that I had a lamb cutlet and green peas and new potatoes for dinner.

The village was endowed with everything a child could wish for: the beautiful clear trout river Itchen, a railway station, a village forge, a cricket pitch and oceans of open places to run off our spare energy. One game I can remember playing quite regularly with my brothers and mates was emulating the trains crossing at the village station and changing tablets.

Tablets are used in railway signalling systems for single line railways to guarantee that a train has exclusive right of way on a section of track. The tablets are metal or fibre discs, usually about 4.5 inches in diameter, engraved with the names of the stations between which they are valid. Without a tablet, a train cannot proceed past the section signal that protects entry to the next section. A rather naughty "game". Ed

During the summer months, on the

road to Avington there were three Bridges. One over the main river Itchen, a small hump-backed bridge over the White stream and a large hump-back bridge over the waterfall to the lake. The White stream afforded us the greatest pleasure although the water was very cold. We boys used to divide the stream into several smaller tributaries using dams and our meagre knowledge of local geography to make a relief map of the area. One of my best pals Ron Vaughan went as far as making the



estuary of the river Itchen and building a model of the Isle of Wight. All this was done by stones and chalk found in abundance on and around the stream. I must point out though at this juncture, the water of the stream was never more than about three quarter inches deep. I joined the local cub pack when eight years old when one of the older boys asked my parents if it was all right to take me to the next village of Itchen Stoke where the local cub mistress lived in a large house on the east side of the village. Her name was Miss Malcolm who worked very hard to teach us to be loyal to our parents, cub pack and country and to teach us all the mysterious ways of nature, taking us for instruction into the woods and fields along the riverside—the same river Itchen that ran through our own

village and always brought a great fascination to my friends and me. We shall always be indebted to these good people who worked so hard to bring into my life the most beautiful and choice experiences in those most formative years.

(to be continued)

Written by John Tate 1917-2021

Image: The Itchen Valley, Frederick Appleyard, (undated). Photo Paul Carter © Hampshire Cultural Trust

The Valley Gardeners on the Jurassic coast

On our last garden outing of the year, we drove west to the stunning Jurassic coast. Close to Weymouth is Holme for Gardens, a family business run by Simon and Liz Goldsack. Simon came to the Itchen Abbas & Avington village hall in January to tell us all about their 15-acre garden which has been lovingly created over the last eight years. Also on site, is a garden centre, farm shop and café which provides refreshments and light lunches. Was this a Valley Gardeners' heaven? It certainly proved to be.



We were very fortunate to have a warm but not oppressive day after the mini heatwave of the previous few days. The sun shone and a pleasant breeze wafted inland from the sea five



miles away. We were surrounded by beauty at every turn and all the gardens were alive with late summer colour and abundance. Simon found his inspiration from many sources including *The Laskett*, designed by Sir Roy Strong and William Robinson's book *The Wild Garden*. Holme has a tremendously impressive record of sustainability. It is self sufficient in water, their solar panels produce two thirds of their electricity requirements and they have a native tree nursery to help with local environmental tree planting projects. All in all, it is a very impressive place so do go and enjoy a day at Holme. I know you won't be



disappointed. There really is something for everyone there. Their motto is: "Holme is a place where people who like gardens and the outdoors choose to spend their day

off, to relax and to be inspired".

We certainly did that on our day at Holme: what a wonderful way to end a season of diverse, interesting and beautiful garden visits. For more information, please go to <https://www.holmeforgardens.co.uk/gardens>

Catherine Hahn

Fred Appleyard at the Arc

We are so fortunate to have the small but perfectly formed exhibition space at the Arc on our doorstep! The space is managed by the Hampshire Cultural Trust, and the curators have managed to organise some wonderful exhibits over the past few years, all for a small entry fee.



Chilland Ford

Fred Appleyard is the featured artist at the moment (until 18 September) and I do urge you to go and see the exhibition. He was born in the north, but his talent brought him to London and the Royal Academy Schools. He is essentially a Victorian painter, and that is perhaps a style not currently appreciated. I found some of his

classical themes admirable but not very engaging, although the exhibition includes his study of 'Spring driving away Winter', with which he won a competition in 1899. His award-winning watercolour was eventually



The Swimming Pond.

commissioned for a full-scale mural version at the Royal Academy. The original study is on display for the first time in the exhibition.

There is a selection of his flower paintings (some of them appallingly framed, in my opinion!) and some charming portrait studies, many of children. But the group that really caught my attention were the delightful paintings that he produced after he came to live in Itchen Stoke in 1918 – not only are they worth seeing in their own right, but there is the added fun of recognising familiar subjects, such as St John's Church, Itchen Abbas (featured in the June IVN) and the ford (now replaced with a bridge) at the bottom of Chilland Lane. Do go and see how many places, both public and private, you can identify!

Verity Coleman

From the Parish Council

As is customary we did not have a Full Council Meeting in August but three Councillors and one former Councillor met as the Environmental Working Group (EWG). It would be good if other like-minded residents who are interested in what we can do locally to help combat climate change joined us. Our next meeting is at the Cricketers in Easton on 5 September starting at about 6pm. As a Working Group the meetings are very informal and as much a discussion of ideas without the constraints of a formal meeting. Now two more dates for your diaries:

On Monday 23 September New Leaf in Alresford will be showing 'Six Inches of Soil'. Details are on Page 30. Closer to home, on 26 September we will be holding a 'Briefing Encounter' meeting at the Cricketers from 6 to 7.30 pm. The aim is to have several tables where you can talk about the experiences of those who have installed Solar PV, Battery Backup, Air Source and Ground Source Heat Pumps or own an Electric Car. If you are one of those who has experience of any of the above, or other environmentally related topics, and can come and share that with others please let Steve Percy, Christopher Langford, or David Wolfe know.

Other ideas from the EWG have are a film on 'Wilding' to be shown later this year or in early 2025; and this winter to make use of a thermal camera for those who wish to see how much and from where they are losing heat. In turn that can lead to

where to install improved insulation, a key factor in saving energy. With Boom Town now over it is good



to note that no major incidents have been reported to us. The one comment from a resident, received near the start of the event, was a good point and concerned traffic. Some of those coming to the Festival, as ever, had the unfortunate belief that, reading maps is an out of date concept, that road signs temporary or permanent should be ignored and the only thing to use is satnav. As satnav uses the shortest route it directed them along the B3047 where they then found that they were not permitted to reach the site via Easton or Avington and advised they had to continue through the Valley and turn right at the junction just before Alresford. It has therefore been suggested that instead of issuing just the post code for the entrance gate they are given the intermediate destinations (way points) of the Ladycroft and Percy Hobbs roundabouts and hence hopefully taking unwanted traffic away from local roads. It will be brought to the attention of the organisation's traffic experts when we attend the post event meeting later in September. For those wishing to make comment or raise any other issues please let us know.

There was a hopeful expectation that by now we might have some definite news regarding progress on the pumping station for the Avington to Easton sewage pipeline. Sadly we

have had no news from Southern Water or their contractor. Equally, so far there have not been any signs of the relevant planning application either, so waiting for news continues and may be one day this project will be completed.

Patrick Appleby
IVPC Chairman.

The Valley Quiz No. 28

1. Four parts of a chicken are sold to be eaten. Wing; drum stick and breast, but what is the fourth?
2. What was the Kon Tiki?
3. Who, or what, is POTUS and FLOTUS?
4. What forms the eastern border of The West Bank?
5. What flies in both Switzerland and the Vatican City and is common, and unique, to them both?
6. What is the nearest railway station to anyone living in Lerwick, Shetland Islands?
7. What, and where, is London's oldest standing monument?
8. In which poem does this quotation appear, and who wrote it. "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, and treat those two impostors just the same"
9. The USA has 50 States but only one is "The First State." Which one?
10. What is the longest of all London Transport's Underground lines and by what colour is it known?

John Lang

Answers on P.37

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Easton Artist: Jules Hoffman

Jules was interested in painting flowers from a very early age, influenced greatly by a teacher of hers called Mother Teresa. For her GCE exams, she chose plant drawing and calligraphy. These skills have been put to great use throughout her life and her work as a botanical artist is truly remarkable.

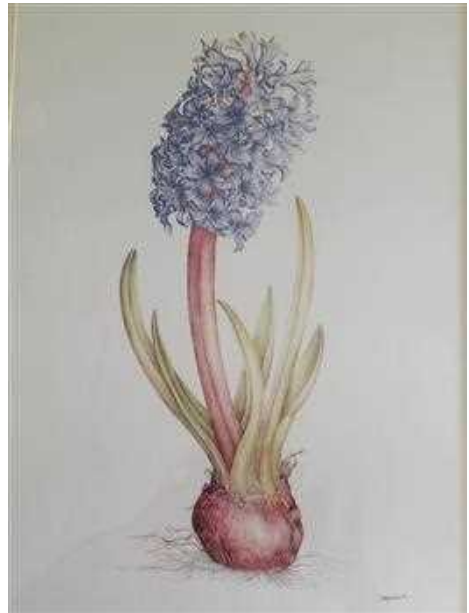
She has a studio at her home in Easton and I was lucky enough to see many of her paintings. Jules also studied jewellery design at St. Martins School of Art and was a student of eminent artist Ann Farrer at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. But at 60 years of age, Jules decided to take a two year Botanical degree course at the Chelsea Physic Garden which she passed with Distinction. Her exhibitions have been many and widespread: at home in London but also Oxford and Portugal. The Hunt Institute at the Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh asked Jules to submit her work and she has joined the Hampton Court Florilegium to work on their archival records.

But art is not Jules's only passion. Her love of horses is lifelong and she and Winterman, pictured here with Jules onboard, qualified for Wembley's The Horse of the Year Show and were placed in the 'Dressage Young Horse of the Year' competition in about 1984. At the same time, Jules became a dressage judge - judging to medium standard at shows which included The Croft International Horse Trials and The Royal Windsor Horse show.

Jules moved to Easton from

Hertfordshire about five years ago to be nearer one of her daughters and is enjoying village life.

Catherine Hahn



Hyacinth by Jules Hoffman



Jules on Winterman



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From the Rectory

Love your Creation

I do hope you have had a good summer and been able to take advantage of some of the glorious days we've had. For those of us gathered in the Plough, however, who were there to keep ourselves out of the torrential rain in the late afternoon of Thursday 1 August, it appeared that King George II's observation that an English summer seems to consist of "three fine days followed by a thunderstorm" had been proved all too true! That rainstorm, which apparently was quite localised and not experienced 20 miles away, hung over the Valley for two hours and surely dropped more rain in that short time than in the entire month of July.

Ten days later there was a spectacle in the sky of a different kind. On Sunday 11 August southern England enjoyed the clearest night-sky of the summer so far; so it was possible to enjoy some great views of the annual Perseid meteor shower. Here in the Valley, however, this experience was augmented by seeing the laser beams from Boom Town going backwards and forwards across the sky. The combination of laser beams and meteors at one and the same time was quite a sight!

These two different experiences in recent weeks helped me once again to ponder what it means to live in this beautiful, but complex world. Yes, we are aware of the scientific reasons for these various natural phenomena, but in Christian understanding there is a living and loving God who lies behind and above the science. Science may describe the

ways things work in our world and in the universe, but it does not fully explain it. You cannot analyse important things like meaning or purpose in a test-tube. And the 'scientific' description (that I once heard in a lecture by Richard Dawkins) of a kiss as a 'mutual exchange of microbes', surely misses the most important point!

The natural world and the night sky could therefore become instead for us opportunities to discover the God who lies behind the science. The biblical writers, when they looked up into the night sky, were amazed at God's 'greatness' (Psalm 8); and, instead of feeling that as human beings they were therefore of no value or that life was meaningless, they became grateful that this great God had yet put his love into their hearts. Behind the science they sensed a God of love, a God who had created things with a purpose, and, as a result, their own lives began to be filled with love and purpose too.

The Harvest season is all about thanksgiving and gratitude - seeing the wonders of the natural world and the beauty of the Valley we are so privileged to live in, and then being moved to say "Thank you".

So, please join us at one of our Harvest Thanksgiving services as listed on Page 20 or to just enjoy some friendly conversation accompanied by sandwiches and cakes, then why not come along to our Harvest Tea (more details on Page 19) in Itchen Abbas on Saturday 21 September. Once again, our Harvest donations will be going to local Winchester charities.

With best wishes,

Revd Peter



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Sunday 1 September

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

Sunday 8 September

8.30am - Holy Communion (said) – St John's, Itchen Abbas
10am - All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 15 September

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

Sunday 22 September

8.30am Holy Communion (1662) – St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
10am Harvest Praise - St Mary's, Easton
6pm Harvest Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Sunday 29 September

10am Parish Communion – St John's, Itchen Abbas
6pm - Harvest Songs of Praise - St Mary's, Avington

**Please check our website in case of any
unexpected changes to our services:
www.itchenvalleychurches.org**

Rector - Revd Peter Walker

revd.peter@itchenvalleychurches.org 01962 588313

LLM - Mr Gerry Stacey

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St Mary's Church, Easton – repairs update

With the works planned last year nearing completion I am delighted to say that we will very shortly be watertight in respect of the St Mary's Church roof. As is the way with listed buildings it seems there is always a surprise or two to be found along the way. A slow start caused by nesting birds was resolved in the first week when the young decided to fledge as the scaffolding contractor arrived and indeed all the repairs to the West Tower walls were completed relatively swiftly when the stone mason was able to extract himself from a neighbouring church which had "problems".

Our problems were soon manifest as the roofers arrived and began to strip the tiles adjacent to the chancel wall. It seems that although the roof was last repaired in the 1960s money was tight and so we discovered that the ends of the first original Norman roof truss were wet through and completely rotten. It was also apparent that much of the damage occurred prior to the 1960s and was simply not addressed by our predecessors 60 years ago who, for whatever reason, (probably financial) decided to simply put a newly refurbished roof in place over the top of the truss and move swiftly on. Other than this the only other surprise was to discover that a substantial section of the chancel wall above the nave roof was disintegrating, and the chancel roof access had no lead soakers to divert water into the guttering which were duly added to the works. We did



investigate adding the required structural repair to these works but because we didn't have the repair approved under the church planning application this was never going to be possible because of the structural work required. The good news then is that the current works will complete during week commencing 19 August leaving St Mary's watertight, and apart from the scaffolding removal there will be no further disruption to Church Lane residents this year. The less good news is that we will have to reopen the bottom metre section of the newly repaired roof (it will be put back with this in mind) to remove and replace the rot with new Oak, and insert a steel plate/bracket to restore full strength to the structure, rest fully on the wall plate, and to allow the internal steel bar prevent the truss from spreading outwards. Church planning system to be given leave to carry out this repair and so it will have to be done next year probably in conjunction with replastering of the



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chancel wall which had to be stabilised earlier this year. The real tale of woe is that all the coping stones around the chancel parapet are no longer secured by mortar and are now prone to falling onto the graveyard below. Current advice is that whole parapet needs to be rebuilt around its periphery with full width stone, rather than the half width blocks, to prevent water seeping between and washing the mortar away. This is why there is currently a permanent barrier around this part of the church preventing injury to persons below and a shelter being constructed to prevent damage to our smallest room. So despite having spent considerable funds on repairs trying to make an impression on the building that we all know and love the DCC will be turning its mind to how to raise some more funds to complete the additional repairs next year and plan for the parapet works in the future. With this in mind please put Saturday 9 November in your diaries when we shall be having a Gospel Choir Evening with the Alresford Choir led by Tim Uffindell for an informal evening of contemporary church music at St Mary's. The date is set so please watch out for further details as we put together a fun evening of music.
Chris Ellis

Boules on tour

On a beautiful balmy Tuesday evening (13 August) Martyr Worthy Boules teams crossed the village border and enjoyed some fabulous hospitality, courtesy of Itchen Abbas Boules for a "friendly" fixture. Over 40 people attended this event,

on the excellently prepared piste at Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall; the food was magnificent, wine and soft drinks flowed freely, and the welcome was warm. There were old friends and a number of new faces who all contributed to a very convivial atmosphere. Even the recent rain storms managed to stay away as we played in a beautiful warm evening sun.



The matches were both good-humoured and very competitive. All were closely contested with Martyr Worthy emerging the victors overall (once they had got the hang of the piste). As dusk fell, we returned home having had an extremely enjoyable and sociable evening.

Thank you to John Prince (MW) and Bob Banham (IA) for organising the evening and the Itchen Abbas team for looking after us so well. We look forward to many more "friendly" matches and re-matches with Itchen Abbas in the future.

Scot and Sally Johnston

Easton W.I.

The weather was perfect for our visit to Houghton Lodge Gardens in July. The house is a beautiful example of a Cottage Orn e, built in the 1790s as a fishing cottage with gardens sweeping

down to the river Test. The large walled kitchen garden has heritage fruit trees and espalier pears growing along a huge wall. The orchid house was full of different species. Topiary also features with riverside walks to enjoy. The perfect setting for wedding ceremonies both inside the house and in the gardens. We ended the afternoon enjoying cream teas in the glass house tea rooms which overlook the gardens. The gardens are open until the end of October, and well worth a visit. Our next meeting is 7.15pm on Thursday 12 September at Easton Village Hall with John Pitman talking about Village Life.

Sallie Peake

From our M.P.



I'm delighted to be writing my first piece for the Itchen Valley News. I'd like to thank everyone who put their faith in me on General Election polling day, but please know that I will be doing my best to help everyone in the Winchester Constituency, no matter how they voted. My dedicated volunteers have already responded to hundreds of emails, letters and phone calls addressing a wide range of concerns and queries from local residents. The recent floods have

once again caused significant disruption across the District. I visited Alresford, where homeowners faced the worst flooding they'd seen in over 20 years.

Aside from canvassing, I also had the pleasure of meeting residents from the Itchen Valley at a brilliant event held at Easton's Cricketers pub during the General Election campaign. Landlord Andrew arranged a Q & A session for me with residents and, despite some searching questions, I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. I'm really pleased to hear that Andrew has been awarded a grant by Winchester City Council to help with renovations at the pub.

Since being elected, healthcare remains my top priority and I asked my first question in the House of Commons about the importance of investing in GPs, dental care, mental health care and public health in order to keep people healthy in the community rather than treating them in hospital when they get sick. Investing in primary care results in better outcomes for patients and for taxpayers. I recently met with the Integrated Care Board where we discussed health services throughout Hampshire. I raised the urgent concerns raised by residents and local healthcare professionals regarding the proposed reduction of services at Winchester's hospital, including our A&E and consultant-led maternity services. I am ensuring the voices of our residents are being heard. Access to acute care is not merely a matter of convenience, it is a matter of life and death.' As always, I am available to discuss any concerns.

Danny Chambers M.P.

Boules League 2024

The third and final round of the 2024 boules league competition in the valley was held on Tuesday 30 July. Easton were hosts and they were playing against Avington. In previous rounds Martyr Worthy had played two matches accumulating five points. Avington and Easton had played one round each and had one point and three points respectively. With four games to play and four points available to be awarded, the contest was wide open.

The evening was sunny and hot. The setting was delightful. The pistes had been groomed to perfection. The hosts were welcoming and provided generous refreshments.

Play duly started at 6.30pm. On both pitches, Easton steadily began to build up a commanding lead. The target was to be the first to reach 13 points and both their teams reached this with a wide margin over their Avington opponents. Score at half-time 2-0 to Easton. After the refreshment break play recommenced. One of the Avington teams played with improved accuracy and bit by bit opened up a wide gap, maintaining a clear lead and claiming the game. In the other game the Easton team repeated their success in the first session and held off the challenge from Avington. This added one point to each village's total, and the overall result for the evening was 3-1 to Easton.

In the League Competition, over the season as a whole, both Easton and Martyr Worthy had finished with 5 points each. Accordingly both villages became joint winners and

the Dick Hewitt trophy was duly presented to John Prince for Martyr Worthy and to Simon Broadley for Easton, pictured below.

Ralph Matthews



Plant of the Month



Field Scabious is this month's plant. It is also known as Blue Buttons, Pincushion Flower, and Gypsy Rose. One of its interesting features is its ability to adapt to different environments. It is a versatile plant that can grow in a variety of soil types, from sandy to clay, and in



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different moisture levels. In the wild, it is often found growing in disturbed areas such as roadsides, hedgerows, and meadows, as well as in more natural habitats. Here by the roadside on Chapel Lane, Easton, a lot of water collects and the flowers are particularly large and abundant. The flowers are attractive to pollinators, and they are an important source of nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and other insects. The plant's long blooming season, from early summer to early autumn, means that it provides a consistent source of food for these creatures throughout the season.

Dorothy and Simon Bradley

Six Inches of Soil



Towards the end of September there will be two screenings of the film 'Six Inches of Soil', as part of Winchester Green Week, activities to celebrate and promote sustainable living – one in Alresford and one in Avington. The film tells the inspiring story of British farmers challenging the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities. 'Six Inches of Soil' follows three new farmers on the first year of their regenerative journey -

Anna Jackson, a Lincolnshire 11th generation arable and sheep farmer; Adrienne Gordon, a Cambridgeshire small-scale vegetable farmer; and Ben Thomas, who rears pasture fed beef cattle in Cornwall. As the trio strive to adopt regenerative practices and create viable businesses, they meet seasoned mentors who help them on their journey. They're joined by other experts providing wisdom and solutions from a growing movement of people who are dedicated to changing the trajectory for food, farming and the planet.

For tickets to the 23 September screening at Perins School, Alresford at 7pm book here: newleafalresford.org/six-inches-of-soil-screening/. Tickets are £5. For tickets for 27 September at The Barn at Avington at 6.30 pm please book here: winchesterdownscluster.co.uk. Tickets are £10 each but include street food by Munch.

Jackie's County Corner

As your councillor, I often hear, " it took four of them to come and fill the hole!!" In July, Councillors visited the Bishop's Waltham depot to see some of the innovations in road maintenance, and to discover why it needs four operatives and a few hours to fill a hole! The permanently repaired holes are now finished with a heat sealed strip - the missing link that many of you have commented in the past. The strip includes tiny (recycled) glass particles to ensure the slip resistance is good for bikes and motorbikes too.

Following agreement to do so, the Minerals and Waste (M & W) plan, which covers Hampshire, South

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Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), and other local authorities in the region, is now going forward for examination to the Inspectorate. There are several points to report, with more on my website :

1. A number of us appealed for carbon offsetting of oil and gas extraction if a licence is granted. The M & W plan will be changed to reflect that.
2. Micheldever Station is no longer a 'saved site' for a wharf.
3. The impact of heavy traffic on rural sites will be considered over a wider area.

Unfortunately, too late for some of our sites, but important for the future. HCC has received an 'outstanding' grading for Children Services. It was good to hear this because the staff work hard and are highly committed, but this result is no consolation for the residents who battle for funding for transport and SEND places.

There is a working party being formed to look at school transport. I'd like councillors to hear the 'parent voice' in this, so if you'd like to give input, please let me know, putting school transport in the subject line. The service also cares for children who move in and out of care as family circumstances change and at any one time over 1,500 children are living away from their parents. If you would like to consider a career in fostering please go to the www.hants.gov.uk website for details.

There is a full training programme and with the 'hub' scheme in place, foster families are linked to other families for additional support and respite.

The dramatic rainfall on Thursday 1 August brought flash flooding to some areas. Silt from fields was dragged into the highways drainage, and maybe the

sewage pipes too, so I have asked for these to be flushed out in affected areas. Even if the drains were perfectly clear, we would have needed storm drains to cope with around 75mm of rain in such a short time, and unsurprisingly, water always flows downhill through gardens and drives. It's worth asking: is your garden sealed like a bath or a leaky sieve? All this rain is making hedges and verges grow faster. If you cannot see road signage or your view at a junction is unsafe because of high vegetation please use the 'report it' tab on the front page of the www.hants.gov.uk website. Please retain the reference number for tracking purposes.

Cllr Jackie Porter

Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk 07973 696 085. website www.jackieporter.co.uk

Easton and Martyr Worth Cricket Club

The annual Sixes tournament, sponsored by Knight Frank, was held on a lovely Friday on 26 July this year. The colourful playing shirts ensured the eight teams could be easily identified throughout the tournament and the event was well attended by local supporters and spectators. The bar was provided jointly by The Plough, Itchen Abbas and The Cricketers Inn, Easton and Paul Moffatt's hog roast was enjoyed by all during the day.

The final was a closely fought contest; Fenwick Elliot won the toss and elected to bat. Gaz Shreuder quickly retired on 23 runs and the innings closed on 71 for 3. Dr Vegan responded well and needed a 6 off the final ball to win the game but

Fenwick Elliott managed to restrict them to a single run and to win the game. The Sixes Cup was



presented by Club Chairman, Adrian Lee, and the Fenwick Elliot team captain, Monty Randle, paid tribute to all his team mates for their performances and was thrilled to be back on the winners' podium after an absence of a few years.

At lunch players and spectators were



very pleased to be joined by the Club President, John Roth, now aged 103 and the oldest and longest standing member of the MCC. John brought along his wife, Daphne, now a mere 99 years old! They had travelled to the Sixes from London accompanied by their son, Richard Roth, and were greeted during the afternoon by many Club members and local families.

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

Lynda Gray ldaten453@aol.com

New Classes: Gentle and Restorative yoga in the Valley

Dr. Jocelyn Jones from NurtureYou Yoga, Winchester is launching two new weekly yoga classes in the Itchen Valley this month. Jocelyn is a very experienced and highly qualified local yoga teacher. One of her strengths is her commitment to welcoming students with different restrictions and/or conditions. Both of the classes are all-abilities.

From Monday 16 September, a new weekly Gentle Yoga class will be offered from 09.30 to 10.30am at Martyr Worthy Village Hall. From Tuesday 17 September, a new weekly Candlelit Restorative Yoga class, will be offered from 7 to 8pm at Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall.

Yoga Benefits

Yoga is an ancient form of exercise



that focuses on breathing, flexibility, strength and balance to boost physical and emotional well-being. It is beneficial for aches and pains (including lower back pain), high blood pressure, heart disease, depression, anxiety and stress. Over time, you will develop a different, healthier relationship with your body and mind. Yoga's holistic, whole-person approach can be truly transformative here. So why not come along and try a class this Autumn? A single ticket is £13 or just £66 for a six-session class pass.

Gentle Yoga

Jocelyn's Gentle Yoga classes combine Hatha and Yin Yoga postures with therapeutic breathwork. Hatha offers a great body-mind introduction to yoga where you will learn how to stretch, strengthen, release tension and unwind. You will also work with the breath as a preparation for relaxation and meditation. Yin Yoga targets the deep connective tissues: the fascia networks and ligaments, joints, and bones. Flexibility and joint mobility improve through fascia release. Yin also helps reduce stress and anxiety, offering a fantastic tonic for body and mind.

Restorative Yoga

Restorative Yoga is a nurturing practice in which therapeutic breathwork and deeply held postures are combined. Props are provided and used for support. Restorative Yoga helps release tension and stress: a nourishing re-set for body and mind at the end of a demanding day. During the winter months, the lovely hall at Itchen Abbas will be infused with candlelight and the smell of incense and during summer, on fine evenings, the class will move into the hall's garden to enjoy the added benefits of yoga outdoors in nature.

To find out more and to book, visit the NurtureYou Yoga website www.nurtureyouyoga.com. If you have any questions, please contact Jocelyn directly either by email at nurtureyouyoga@gmail.com or phone 07985 056572.

Jocelyn Jones

A Jersey Tiger Moth in Itchen Abbas



Photo by Vernon Tottle

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Valley Quiz Answers

1. The thigh.
2. The Kon-Tiki was a balsa wood raft that was sailed across the Pacific Ocean from South America to the Polynesian islands in 1947. The expedition was led by the Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl.
3. President of the United States. The First Lady of the United States.
4. The river Jordan.
5. Their national flags are the only two that are square. With the exception of Nepal, all others are rectangular!
6. Either Wick or Thurso in Scotland will do. Contrary to the insistence of some, they are closer than Bergen in Norway.
7. Cleopatra's Needle on the Embankment .
8. The Poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling
9. Delaware.
10. The Central Line. It is 46 miles long and runs from Epping, Essex in the northeast to Ealing Broadway and West Ruislip in the west. It appears as the red line on any London Underground Map.

Bird Quiz Answers

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Nuthatch | 13. Goldcrest |
| 2. Bittern | 14. Wren |
| 3. Coot | 15. Heron |
| 4. Pintail | 16. Magpie |
| 5. Guillemot | 17. Flycatcher |
| 6. Starling | 18. Knot |
| 7. Ptarmigan | 19. Woodpecker |
| 8. Sparrow | 20. Long tailed tit. |
| 9. Wheatear | 21. Swift |
| 10. Dipper | |
| 11. House martin | |
| 12. Goldcrest | |

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste Collections for September

Black and brown garden bins on Fridays 6 and 20

Green bins on Fridays 13 and 27

Glass boxes on Friday 13

Hampshire Farmers' Market in Winchester

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

Full Parish Council Meeting:

Thursday 12 September at 7pm at Itchen Abbas & 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

From Winchester bus station

Mon- Fri 10.20 13.20 15.00 16.55 17.50

Saturday 9.00 12.00 15.00 17.50

To Alresford:

Monday to Friday

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

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

From Alresford Perrins school

Mon- Fri 8.11/14 9.14 12.34 15.34 17.14

Saturday 8.14 11.14 14.14 17.14

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

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