

ItchenValleyNews

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

Issue 135 | June 2025



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A vertical advertisement for The Country House Company. The top half features a photograph of a lush green landscape with a path leading through trees. Overlaid on this image is the company's logo, which consists of a blue square with white text. Below the logo, the text 'Selling, Letting & Managing properties in the Itchen Valley' is written in a white, serif font. The bottom half of the advertisement is a solid blue background with white text providing contact information.

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WELCOME to the Itchen Valley News

Perhaps the glorious weather will be over by the time you read this, but, putting the worries of the lack of rain to one side, it has been a spring to celebrate. Every year it seems a miracle that the migrating birds move on – some leaving to go north and some arriving from the south; there is a focus on martins and swifts on page 24.



What do you think of the view on proposed changes to the planning law from the Wildlife Trusts on page 27? The Broadleys encapsulate the dilemma with their experience of the orchids they had been enjoying on the Winnall roundabout until the infrastructure work started (page 20).

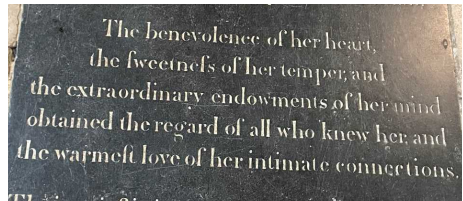
Ideally just enough arrives in the IVN inbox to fill the pages, but this month it has been a struggle to find room for all the articles and photographs. Thank you as ever to everyone who contributed. I couldn't find room for a report but well done to The Cricketers for organising a Meet Our MP, sadly not better attended. The Easton flower festival took place just as the IVN was going to press (see front cover) - I am sure

there will be more about it in the July edition, and perhaps some of the other articles that had to be held over.

Jane Austen's reputation has only



increased over time, and the Cathedral must be very pleased to have a modern pilgrimage site in the north aisle. Charlotte has gathered together news of some of the events happening in celebration of her 250th anniversary year (page 35). Jane's tombstone has an excellent inscription - that's one to aspire to!



Next month's editor will be
Catherine Hahn. Verity Coleman

Itchen Valley News

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Copy date for articles and one off advertisements for the **July 2025 edition is Sunday 15 June 2025.** All material is published in good faith and the Itchen Valley News cannot be held responsible for any information given or views expressed; neither can it be liable for any loss arising from the use of any information or advertisements contained herein. The Editorial Team reserves the right to refuse or amend articles or advertisements submitted for publication.

Printed by Greenhouse Graphics of Basingstoke.
Cover photo by ??? and other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Audition: Panto 2025 Community Ensemble

Sunday 22 June 10am-2pm

Application Closing Date: Sunday 15 June at The Paul Chamberlain Building, University of Winchester

Join the cast of Puss in Boots in this year's pantomime at Theatre Royal Winchester!



Panto Community Ensemble auditions are open to local performers aged 16+ who love to sing, dance and act. If you want to perform on the Theatre Royal Winchester stage alongside a professional cast, this is your chance to shine!

<https://www.playtothecrowd.co.uk/news/2025-panto-community-ensemble-auditions>

Barn Dance and Hog Roast Saturday 28 June, from 7pm

in aid of Home-Start Winchester with the Craigievar Ceilidh Band

The Meon Hall, Pound Lane, Meonstoke SO32 3NP

Tickets £35 include hog roast, home-made salads and puds

www.ticketsource.co.uk/home-start-winchester-districts

Event kindly sponsored by Bill Rawles Classic Cars

Sue Gentry

07802 354444

Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall AGM

Saturday 28 June, 7pm

If you use the Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall, or if you're just interested to know more about it, then please join us at our 2025 Annual General Meeting. We will review the past year, set out our plans for the future, and elect committee members to represent the local community. The meeting is open to all residents of the two villages and will be held at the Hall.

For copies of the Agenda and Annual Report please contact secretary@iaavillagehall.co.uk.
Ken Gordon, Honorary Secretary, IAAVH.

Garden & Green Fair

Sunday 29 June 10am-3pm

in Broad Street, Alresford

The inaugural Winchester Garden Festival, running from 21-29 June, will encompass 64 events across the District. The festival embraces art,



music, poetry, gardens, and nature. Alresford's contribution comes in the form of a Garden & Green Fair in Broad Street on Sunday 29 June 10am - 3pm. This event is a collaboration between New Alresford Town Trust and New Leaf Alresford, and will be a celebration of local growers, producers, craftspeople, and community groups.

Join the Fair to discover local growers, makers, and repairers. Find out more about an Alresford Community Growing project, learn what you can do to help nature at home, and purchase more plants for the garden at the same time! Take the opportunity to restock your kitchen cupboards with locally produced honey, bread, and gin.

You are invited to donate or swap plant pots at the Plant Pot Amnesty, and younger visitors will have an opportunity to exchange their preloved toys for something 'new' at the Toy Swap. Children are also encouraged to bring along their bicycles for FREE repairs (adult bikes will incur a cost), and they can get involved with a fun Pollinator Trail, tracking down ten pollinators hiding in our Alresford shops for the duration of Winchester Garden Festival week. Collect trail guides and completion stickers from participating shops or the New Leaf stall at the Fair.

newleafalresford.org/garden-green-fair
www.garden-festival.co.uk

National Garden Scheme: Crawley Gardens

Crawley Winchester SO21 2PR

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 July. 2-5.30pm

Combined entry admission £10.00,



Children free.

Teas in the Village Hall (in aid of Village Hall Trust)

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/17567/crawley-gardens>

Crawley is a pretty period village nestling in chalk downland with thatched houses, 14th century

church, and village

pond. The spring and summer gardens

provide varied seasonal interest with traditional and contemporary approaches to

landscape and planting. Most of the gardens have beautiful country views and other gardens can be seen from the road.

Pat Beagley pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk

Alistair Bruce - Historical Insights

Friday 11 July, 7 for 7.30pm.

St Peter's Church, Ovington.

As the original talk had to be postponed due to Alistair's commitments, £15 tickets are still available for the new date from www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovington and the Parish Office at St. John's Church, New Alresford





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Save the Date

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www.westmeonmusic.co.uk

Sue Scholes

07881 922895/Sue@Millbarrow.com



Valley Day

14 June 2-8.30pm

Residents of the Itchen Valley are warmly invited to the Valley Day to be held on 14 June from 2 - 8.30 pm in the grounds of Avington House.

This event will be along the lines of the Jubilee Party - and registration is via www.valleyday.co.uk or the Itchen Valley Parish Council website. The Plough will have a beer tent and the Chestnut Horse a hog roast. There will be a champagne van, ice cream and West Lea will have a stall. Exciting events throughout the afternoon include an inter-village raft race, a duck race, folk music, and a Barn Dance to round off the evening. You can come the day before between 1pm and 6pm, using the

Main Gate to claim your spot and set up - bring a BBQ, gazebo or table and chairs. Help will be available if you need it!

Don't forget to register - you can't just turn up on the day!

This promises to be a fun afternoon!

Elaine Labram



JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS FOR A DAY OF SUMMER FUN
TO CELEBRATE LIVING IN ITCHEN VALLEY
ON SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025
AT
AVINGTON PARK.

Entry is free but you must register on www.valleyday.co.uk

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Easton & Martyr Worthy Safari Supper

On Saturday 10 May fifty people enjoyed a fun evening in perfect weather at the Easton & Martyr Worthy Safari Supper. Everyone visited three different venues for their starter, main and sweet courses and were treated to good food and good cheer at every house. The evening ended with a grand finale for all participants at the home of Judy Bishop. The weather was so very kind that it was possible to stroll outside until midnight to glimpse Judy's beautiful floodlit garden.

As a result of the generosity of everyone who attended we are delighted to say that St Mary's Church Restoration Fund has received a donation of £750.

Terry and Anna McGowan

150 Years of Itchen Abbas Primary School

As Itchen Abbas Primary School approaches its 150th anniversary, we would love to share some information about it of which we are so proud. Set in the heart of the

Hampshire countryside, Itchen Abbas is a school where everyone knows everyone – from Reception right up to Year 6. It's a school where children grow together in our classrooms, our woodland, our gardens and our dedicated outdoor learning space. It's a school where wellbeing is always a priority, and where our personalised, inclusive approach builds confidence, develops curiosity and provides just the right level of challenge. We're a true community school, offering the social and caring education every parent hopes for.

At Itchen Abbas Primary School we aim to develop happy, independent learners with a lifelong curiosity, enquiring minds and desire to learn. We offer an exciting, creative curriculum full of enrichment, through which we aim to develop independent thought and personal challenge. Through praise, encouragement and reassurance we strive to build the children's confidence and promote high self esteem and self respect alongside reaching their full potential.

The children are at the centre of our school and we are able to really get to know each individual in our care and meet their needs to the best of our ability. The wonderful family atmosphere is both supportive and encouraging to the children as they independently make their way in the world for the first time.

Our vision is to inspire every child to love learning and achieve personal and academic growth through a creative, knowledge-rich curriculum. We wish for every child to acquire the skills, knowledge, understanding and attitudes they require for a successful life within a safe, supportive school environment and community. We are also very proud of our location in the



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beautiful Itchen Valley countryside and of our links with the wonderful community.

Our school ethos is one of encouraging success, progress and of building learning power and aspiration within every child. Our curriculum is underpinned by the vision and aims, growth mindset and learning values of our school which play a pivotal part. Therefore, when we teach the curriculum, we weave the learning values and growth mindset into the learning activities so that as well as acquiring knowledge, the children are developing as lifelong learners.

The school has designed an ambitious and interesting curriculum. It sets out what staff intend pupils to learn and in what order. This supports pupils, including those with SEND, to



build learning well over time. Staff use the well-structured curriculum to support pupils to connect new learning to what they have learned before. Pupils take their learning seriously."

At IAPS we understand how important it is that the children develop good learning behaviours and attitudes. Evidence shows that for people to be confident, they need four traits – a growth mindset, resilience, courage (to take risks) and self-compassion. These link strongly to our school values displayed on our 'Heart Tree' and we focus on these qualities with the children. We want children to feel challenged and be able to take risks in their learning with the self-confidence and positivity to give it a go, even if they think they might

A poster for the Itchen Abbas Summer Fair. The background is a warm yellow-orange color with a faint illustration of a school building. A large sunflower is on the right side. The text is as follows:
ITCHEN ABBAS
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FAIR
BBQ
CAFE
KIDS GAMES
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MUSIC
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make mistakes. We help our children to appreciate that mistakes are important as it is only through trying new things that we can learn.

*Sharon Priest and Rachael Cowling -
Co-chairs of Governors*

Prince's Mead and King Edward VI School Merger

The Boards of Prince's Mead School in Winchester and King Edward VI School in Southampton are delighted to announce that they will be merging, following a period of careful consideration and thorough due diligence.

This merger brings together two highly respected schools with a long-standing relationship built on shared values, a commitment to excellence, and

providing an outstanding educational experience for pupils.

Both schools remain in a strong and stable financial position, consistently generating a surplus year on year. This proactive partnership aims to build on both schools' strengths, reinforcing financial security and opening new opportunities for pupil progression, with Prince's Mead pupils' benefiting from a KES Head's Recommendation pathway to KES senior school, providing a guaranteed place in Year 7 for pupils who achieve an appropriate academic standard and would thrive in the senior school more widely, without the uncertainty of passing the Entrance Exam.

Over the next two years, Prince's Mead and King Edward's will undertake an integration period, reviewing possibilities for collaboration while maintaining the distinct qualities of each school. Adam King, Head at Prince's Mead, said: "This merger strengthens our position for the future, allowing us to enhance everything we already do so well while staying true to our values. We are excited about the new opportunities this partnership



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will bring for our pupils, staff, and wider community."

Chris Lowe, Chair of Governors at Prince's Mead, said "Prince's Mead is a school with ambition, strength, and a deeply rooted sense of purpose. This merger is not about necessity - it's about vision. By merging with KES, we are choosing to merge with a school with cultural alignment, built on shared values and mutual respect to amplify what we already do so well and secure an even stronger future for our pupils, our fantastic staff and our community."

Families across both schools have been informed and reassured that their children's education will continue uninterrupted, with a focus on ensuring a seamless transition and clear communication throughout the process.

Lucinda Watt, Head of Marketing and Communications at Prince's Mead on 01962 888008 or lucinda.watt@princesmeadschool.org.uk.

Thursday Lates at The Grange

The Winery, Alresford Road, Itchen Stoke, Alresford, SO24 0QW.

Every Thursday from 22 May and running throughout the summer and into September, The Grange will be opening their 1983 Series III Lightweight Land Rover bar to the public to come and sup their wines under the canopy of their immense, state-of-the-art winery. The Landy will be filled with all of their award-winning wines, sparkling and still, chilled to the perfect temperature and available to buy by the glass, bottle or case.

There will also be a rotation of great food to take care of those hunger pangs. The brilliant Becka Cooper, who caters for The Grange



Festival, will be tending the BBQ, cooking game from the estate served with Worthy Earth salads, a range of delicious sauces, and also some lighter snack options. The roster also includes Forte Kitchen, Hampshire Pantry, Comanche BBQ and The Grange Hampshire's very own Baring brothers Neapolitan pizzas. Follow [@thegrangewine](https://www.instagram.com/thegrangewine) to keep up-to-date on which of these excellent, trailblazing Hampshire collaborators will be serving their own unique menus each week.

The Grange started Thursday Lates in August last year. The primary idea was to create a space to showcase their wines but it has already become a popular community spot to meet with friends and wile away a few evening hours with a delicious glass of wine and some top-notch local food. There is a rustic charm to the set up - think hay bales, firepits, pallet tables and deck chairs that juxtapose nicely to the gleaming shimmer of wine tanks and shiny machinery.

*Khalid Akhtar
Marketing Manager
07772 069113/01962 458069
www.thegrangewine.co.uk*

From the Itchen Valley Parish Church Wardens

You are probably aware that Revd Peter Walker has resigned from his position as Rector of the Itchen Valley. We are very grateful to both Peter and his wife Georgie for all they have brought to this Parish. The final services led by Peter were on Sunday 25 May and included a chance for parishioners to express their thanks to Peter and Georgie for their friendship, leadership and service.

As we enter the period of vacancy (or interregnum) in the near future, we will be seeking a new Rector to lead our Parish. As would be the case in other sectors, we will be crafting a job description for the role (with guidance and support from the Diocese) and advertising this open position in The Church Times. As part of this process we will also be producing a Parish Profile (a description of our Parish and of the nature of its ministry) and once this is complete it will be available online to view.

During this time of vacancy, our hugely varied pattern of traditional Communion services as well as informal ones (including our monthly Café Church in the Itchen Abbas Village Hall) will continue as usual. We have already been joined by some very special visiting clergy, including Bishop Philip of Winchester, Bishop David of Basingstoke and Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield (many of you will remember the latter as a previous Rector of the Parish, see page 19 in last

month's IVN). A full programme of services has been developed for the next several months and we are very pleased that Archdeacon Richard Brand will lead both our Harvest service in September and our Family Communion on Christmas Day. We are particularly blessed by the support of our Licensed Lay Minister Gerry Stacey and our wonderful Ministry Team and we look forward to welcoming you to services as usual. During the summer months we enjoy adding further informal events to our usual service pattern including garden services and pool parties, so please do keep an eye on our website www.itchenvalleychurches.org to see what is planned. You will always be very welcome at any of these events.

If you would like to keep up to date with everything that is happening in the parish at this time, please become a follower of our website, so that you can receive updates via e-mail – see the flyer below, any problems please contact our administrator Becca at admin@itchenvalleychurches.org
John Barber, Malcolm Hogg and Theo Mezger, Church Wardens



Keeping in touch with Itchen Valley Churches

If you would like to be notified of Parish news, there is a very simple method of subscribing to our website posts.

Two Simple Steps

Step 1
Visit www.itchenvalleychurches.org and add your email address to the box on the bottom right hand corner of the homepage and click follow.

Step 2
Wait for the confirmation email (check your junk folder) and click agree.



June Services

Sunday 1 June

10am Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
4pm Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall

Sunday 8 June

8.30am Holy Communion - St Mary's, Easton
10am Valley Worship (and Ark) - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Sunday 15 June

10am Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton

Sunday 22 June

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

Sunday 29 June

10.00am Parish Communion - St Mary's, Avington

June Activities

Little Rainbows

For parents and carers with their babies and toddlers:
9.30-11.00am on Mondays (during term-times) at St John's, Itchen Abbas

Cameo

A short lunch time service followed by a light two-course lunch:
12 noon on 3rd Tuesday of each month at St John's, Itchen Abbas

UTX

Our youth group - a time for fun with friends and fuelling faith.
5.00-7.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month;
contact Georgie for more information: 07967 838095

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

Flower of the Month: Bee Orchid

Do you want the good news or the bad news? The bad news is that the Winnall roundabout downland site where bee orchids like this lived in times gone by is now a great big hole in the chalk. You may have seen it as you drive into town. It's the first stage of the work to make a new free flowing Junction 9 for the M3 and A34. The good news is a little way off but orchids thrive nowhere better than on disturbed chalklands, and there will be plenty of that when they are done with the improvements! Also we are promised better access to this area in future with a new footpath and cycle way across to Winchester. Here's hoping that in some years' time there will be new orchids and helleborines among other things to see in what has always been a somewhat neglected area.

Simon and Dorothy Bradley



The Itchen Valley Quiz No.36

1. In dots and dashes, what is the Morse Code for SOS?
2. Why is the NC500 more accurately 516?
3. There are seven canonical hours marking the different parts of the divine day: matins, prime, tierce, sext, nones, vespers and..... What is the seventh?
4. What is almost unique about the Colorado River in southwestern United States and northern Mexico?
5. Who grew her garden with "silver bells, and cockle shells, and pretty maids all in a row"?
6. The rarest and most expensive form of caviar comes from what?.
7. Who, in 1861, published the best seller *The Book of Household Management*?
8. Internet users will be familiar with the word "Bluetooth." What is the origin of the name and who was he?
9. What is the odd one out among Lloyds, Coutts, Dogger, Wells Fargo, Shinsei and HSBC
10. The annual Wimbledon Tennis Championships is organised by what organisation?

John Lang. Answers on Page 38

Guy Green retires as Martyr Worthy Hall Chairman....

Guy Green took over from Fred Haslam as Chair of Martyr Worthy Village Hall over 22 years ago. Over those years the hall has seen many changes, all of which Guy oversaw with great efficiency and diligence. He has left the hall structurally and financially

in a very healthy state. In his time as chairman, the Brownies and the Over 60s friendship club were replaced by the more permanent hiring of Riverbank Kindergarten, which used the hall for over 20 years. Astroturf replaced the lawn to cater for the running of many tiny feet and an extra storage shed was erected in the garden to store the school's kit and toys.

Sadly lockdown saw the closing of the school and also the Thursday evening Whist Drive which had been run by Jim Chalke and previously by his father Jack since the 1960s. During that year Guy cleverly secured various generous grants available from the City Council before the hall was allowed to re-open. Now several independent enterprises use the Hall, as well as various private bookings.

As Chairman Guy also oversaw many village celebrations, including the Royal Wedding, the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the late Queen's 90th birthday and the Coronation in 2023, in all of which the village hall and its marquee played a prominent role. There were also various fundraising events, including the annual Christmas Fair, Village hall teas and open gardens.

The committee are extremely grateful for all his hard work & stewardship over the years.

Lucinda Ffennell

....so there's a vacancy for Martyr Worthy Hall Chairperson

Well of course one thing leads to another, and now Martyr Worthy Hall committee needs a new leader. Apparently it is possible to retire before having completed 22 years. Please consider volunteering.

From the Parish Council

The end of April and the beginning of May was a busy time for the Parish Council with three meetings in the space of eight days. First was our Annual Parish Meeting (APM). Thank you to all the Valley residents who attended. John Beresford gave an excellent talk on the project to improve the sports facilities and car parking at Couch Green. It was good to have many questions on the project and John was able to explain the aims, to where we had progressed and what the next stages will be.

The formal part of the meeting followed with a report from one of our City Councillors, the Parish Council Chairman's report and the Financial report. For those who missed the meeting and would like the details please see our website. Also, as requested by a resident, the draft minutes of the meeting will be put on the website but please remember these will remain draft minutes until the APM agrees them in 2026.

A week after our APM we held consecutively on the same evening our Annual Meeting of the Council (AMC), sometimes incorrectly referred to as our AGM, and also our May Full Council Meeting (FCM). One of the main objects of the AMC is to choose the various roles for members of the Parish Council. Similar but not identical to last year, the principle ones are:-

Chairman: Patrick Appleby;

Vice Chairman: Paul Moffatt;

Planning Portfolio: Christopher Langford;

Finance Portfolio: Stephen Andrews and Scot Johnston;

Open Spaces Portfolio: John

Beresford;
Webmaster: David Wolfe;
Law and Order Portfolio: David Swinstead;
Rights of Way Portfolio: Scot Johnston with Chris Jeffes running the Ride on Brush Cutter operation;
Highways and Transport: David Wolfe, Patrick Appleby and with Christopher Langford covering cycling.

Village Hall Representatives:
Itchen Abbas & Avington;
Christopher Langford;
Easton: David Wolfe;
Martyr Worthy: Paul Moffatt.
There are other roles as well, including membership of our Rights of Way and Environmental Working Groups. Details of these can be found on the Parish Council website. You do not need to be a member of the Parish Council to belong to these working groups so if these areas are of interest please come and join us.

Having completed these appointments we moved onto our May Full Council Meeting. Apart from the usual routine items there were three others that need to be noted. A report had been received that the steps had partially collapsed at the west end of the footpath between Itchen Abbas and Chilland Lane (footpath 31). Following the meeting Chris Jeffes obtained new boards and pegs from the County Council Access Team and with the aid of Scot Johnston and one other, two new steps have been installed. The second item is the poor state of repair of the bus shelter opposite the war memorial in Martyr Worthy. There is no doubt that it either needs extensive repairs or replacing. It also appears to have been subjected to



misuse. The question therefore has arisen as to whether a bus shelter is needed at this location and if not are there other bus stops where a shelter would be more appreciated. Please let us know.

A third item to note is that, once again, BT wants to remove some of the telephone boxes in the Valley. There are notices to this effect in the one in Easton and the one at Couch Green. The Parish Council has made a request via Winchester City Council that both these boxes should be retained with operable phones. The main reason is that mobile phone signals in the Valley are at best variable and in places nonexistent. Therefore there is a need for public phones which can be relied upon in emergency situations. The box in Avington is listed so cannot be moved but could still lose its phone. We have been advised that it is unlikely to get any of the other

phone boxes listed. We have also requested that if the phones are removed that the Parish Council can buy the boxes to keep them as part of the Valley's heritage.

As previously reported there are concerns with potentially hazardous and inappropriate diversions being imposed due to construction work for the M3 Junction 9 improvement scheme. After raising the issue some time ago a response has now been received from National Highways. Three Parish Councillors will be meeting on site to discuss these issues with National Highways managers involved with this project. We will let you know the outcome in the July edition of Itchen Valley News.
Patrick Appleby

Valley Volunteer: Rob Harris

Saving lives in Hampshire – an update

Long-term Valley News readers may recall that back in 2021 I wrote about two local charities that I volunteer for: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA) and SERV Wessex (blood bikers). The editors have kindly asked me to provide an update.

First a reminder of the core work of the charities. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance brings hospital emergency medicine to critically ill patients using a helicopter, currently based at Thruxton Airfield, or one of three Critical Care cars. The skill level of the emergency consultant doctors and specialist paramedics on board enables the helicopter and the cars to carry sophisticated medical equipment, A&E

drugs and blood, providing immediate and life-saving trauma treatment beyond that possible with a road ambulance.

SERV Wessex is a blood bike charity that provides a free out of hours transport service to the NHS in Hampshire, East Dorset and South Wiltshire. SERV Wessex operates evenings and overnight and at weekends, moving urgent supplies including blood, platelets and medical samples. During the day volunteers also collect and deliver human milk from donor mums to the Milk Bank in Southampton. Every day SERV delivers fresh blood to the HIOWAA at Thruxton and returns unused blood to Southampton General Hospital.

There have been several important developments in HIOWAA's operations since my original article. In 2022 we introduced a Critical Care Paramedic car to our fleet. Crewed by one specialist paramedic, it attends incidents that are serious but do not justify a doctor-paramedic response. And in 2023 we launched an Aftercare service to



provide ongoing support to our patients to assist with their recovery, and sadly sometimes to discuss what happened with the relatives of patients that did not survive.

The number of incidents attended has increased significantly, with over 2500 missions last year. We now typically respond to seven missions a day, compared with three or four in 2021.

Most importantly we are currently fundraising to move our airbase to Southampton. The main reason for this is that around 70% of our calls are to locations south of Winchester. By reducing our average flying to almost every mission we attend, we will save many more lives and improve patient recoveries. For more information please go to www.hiowaa.org/appeal SERV Wessex has continued to provide the service described above, with increased activity to and from the Isle of Wight. The image shows one of the HIOWAA medical crew talking to a SERV volunteer during a liaison visit to the airbase. For more information on SERV please see servwessex.org.uk.

If you see me in the Valley in a SERV car or in my (blood red!) BMW adorned with BLOOD signs then please give me a wave!

Rob Harris

Incoming – our summer visitors are here!

Both swifts and house martins migrate over 3,000 miles each way from Africa to breed in the UK every year. Swift numbers are down by 66% and house martins by 44% from 1995-2022.

House martins can be identified by their plump bodies, short forked tails, broad wings and distinctive white rump. They have a glossy blue-black



upper, with white underparts and rump, a short, forked tail and broad pointed wings. They have 2-3 broods per year, each with 4-5 eggs. The young from an early brood help to feed young of a later brood.

Swifts are known for their high-speed aerial acrobatics as they hunt on the wing, reaching up to 70 mph. They spend almost their entire lives in flight - eating, sleeping, and even mating on the wing. Their distinctive piercing screeches can be heard during the breeding season whilst they race between buildings usually



in urban areas. They are dark sooty brown in colour, with a short forked tail, and long scythe shaped wings. They have one brood per year with 2-3 eggs. Young swifts do press ups to strengthen their wings before their first flight.

With thanks to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust www.hiwwt.org.uk

Photos Jon Hawkins and Stefan Johansson



The Secret Garden

BOUTIQUE SKIN AND WEIGHT CLINIC

W I N C H E S T E R



The Secret Garden: Proud winner of the Client Care category at Winchester's Maven Awards!



The Secret Garden Clinic was shortlisted in two categories at the 2025 Maven Winchester Awards: Small Business of the Year and Client Care – the latter of which was awarded to Sharron and Mica for the amazing, life-changing care they give their clients.

Sharron, Founder and Owner of The Secret Garden, said: "We are thrilled (and more than a little humbled) to have been shortlisted for two awards. It made us especially proud to win the Client Care Maven – an award that recognises women who go above and beyond when it comes to customer service. That one felt particularly close to our hearts."

See how Sharron & Mica got red-carpet ready here:

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There's no growth on a dead planet...

...yet Part 3 of the Government's new Planning and Infrastructure Bill threatens to tear up decades of environmental protection under the illusion of fuelling economic growth, despite warning from the Office of Environmental Protection of undermining existing environmental safeguards, constituting a dangerous regression in law.

The Bill proposes a radical shift. It wants to replace the existing system of nature protections with a series of Environmental Delivery Plans (EDPs). These would be funded by a Nature Restoration Levy ...paid by developers to offset their impact on nature. On the surface, this sounds like a win-win – money for nature and faster planning decisions. But in reality, it's a reckless gamble that could devastate our natural world. Paying a simple levy to fund nature restoration sounds efficient but by allowing developers to simply 'pay to pollute,' the Bill dismantles three core pillars of effective environmental governance: the precautionary principle, the mitigation hierarchy (where harm should be avoided first before resorting to offsetting) and the polluter pays rule. It risks undermining essential protections for irreplaceable habitats and species, it creates loopholes, relying on vague 'improvement tests' and it shifts decision making towards political discretion instead of being science-based.

Drawn up by Natural England, EDPs are proposed as the mechanism for streamlining and delivering

strategic nature recovery. However, these plans lack legal requirements to be based on up-to-date scientific evidence, provide no clarity on what constitutes success, and no guarantee they will deliver genuine improvements for nature. The consequences could be catastrophic.

The irony is painful. At a time when UK nature is so desperately depleted, and with just five years to meet critical national targets to halt biodiversity decline, the Government risks making things worse. Natural England have been starved of resources for decades - piling such critical new duties on them creates a system doomed to underdeliver.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust doesn't oppose development, and we agree there are ways of streamlining delivery. We have proven that smart, efficient environmental mitigation systems can work: from the Solent Waders and Brent Geese Strategy to our Nutrient Neutrality programme. But these work within strong environmental frameworks, not by tearing them down.

Nature isn't a barrier to growth – it's the foundation of it. Thriving, biodiverse landscapes are critical to our food security, health, economy, and climate resilience. Ignoring this is dangerously short-sighted.

We are calling on MPs to pause and rethink Part 3 of this Bill. Government must recognise that a healthy economy cannot exist without a healthy planet. There's no quick fix, and there's certainly no growth on a dead planet.

Debbie Tann MBE, Chief Executive, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Itchen Entrepreneur: Kelly Southern-Reason at Eden Equine

Eden Equine is the vision of founder and Hampshire born entrepreneur Kerry Southern-Reason, whose own life was transformed through horse riding. As a neurodiverse individual who went undiagnosed for most of her life, Kerry often felt she didn't belong. It wasn't until her mother Penny booked her riding lessons that she truly felt her life begin. Riding not only gave her purpose but also a sense of belonging, making school and social interactions easier.

Kerry discovered her passion for showjumping under the guidance of the renowned Sheila Baigent and even earned a place to try out for the GB Young Riders team. Today, as a successful business woman, Kerry attributes much of her confidence and determination to the life lessons learned from horses and competition. "At Eden Equine, I want to share that sense of belonging with others who may be struggling. We've created a relaxed, welcoming space where horses help people overcome challenges – whether it's living with PTSD, managing anxiety, or simply finding peace in the company of these incredible animals. Horses gave me the courage to pursue my dreams, and I want other people to experience that too."

Kerry is also committed to helping neuro diverse children who may feel anxious or uncertain about starting to ride. She offers to meet any child who is nervous before their first lesson, free of charge, to help ease their fears and introduce them to the calming

presence of horses.

The riding academy is also reaching out to local care homes to use the on-site café,

perfect for spectating and soaking up the atmosphere of the calming environment. "For many, the presence of animals brings comfort and joy, and we're committed to making our facility a community space where everyone feels welcome.

"Horses gave me enormous confidence, and now I want Eden Equine to be a place where others can find that same sense of belonging, purpose and self. Whether you're an experienced rider, just starting out, or looking for the therapeutic benefits of spending time with horses, we'd love to welcome you.

Eden Equine aims to be a relaxed, welcoming space, open to both experienced riders and those new to the world of horses. The facility is designed to support a wide range of equestrian activities, from beginner lessons to more advanced riding and equine therapy. Eden Equine really is a place where everyone feels they belong.

Kerry Southern-Reason

*Eden Equine Hampshire Ltd,
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Upper Itchen Valley Society

Having moved away from Easton, I am no longer eligible to be Chair of The Upper Itchen Valley Society.

However, I am delighted that Philip Wolfe (Wolfie) from Easton is taking over from me. I am sure I am leaving the UIVS in very capable hands. It is an important time for the Valley as the redevelopment of Junction 9 starts. If you are new to the Valley and have not yet joined the Society, please do consider doing so. We are an apolitical organisation formed to protect all that is valuable in the Valley.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past five years.

Elaine Labram

From our MP

I'm changing the law to stop animal abuse and illegal pet smuggling

As a vet, I've seen the heartbreaking consequences of ear cropping and tail docking up close. Dogs left in pain, scarred for life, both physically and emotionally. These brutal procedures are carried out by unscrupulous breeders chasing a particular "look" - making dogs appear more aggressive.



But behind that image is a sentient creature who has suffered needlessly. These aren't medical treatments, they're mutilations. In a compassionate society, there is no justification for inflicting this cruelty. While these practices are already illegal to perform in the UK, it is still legal to import dogs who have already had these procedures. This incentivises the abuse to be carried out abroad and allows abusers here in Britain to get away with performing the illegal procedures and claiming the dogs were imported, making it difficult for law enforcement to crack down on the abuse.

When I became an MP, one of my goals was to use my veterinary expertise to do everything I could to stop animal abuse. With the backing of organisations like the RSPCA, Dogs Trust, and the British Veterinary Association, my Animal Welfare Bill has successfully sailed through its first and second votes, enjoying wide support from my Liberal Democrat colleagues, as well as from many members of other parties. It has now been scrutinised by a committee of MPs from all the major parties to ensure the new law is as effective as possible and will proceed to a final vote soon.

Animals have been suffering at the hands of criminal abusers for far too long. This law will have a bigger impact on animal welfare than I could ever have hoped to achieve had I remained in veterinary practice treating individual animals. That we're finally on the cusp of cracking down on this once and for all shows what a difference we can make when we fight for change.

Dr Danny Chambers MP

The Valley Gardeners at Schroner Wood....

By very kind invitation of John Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe, about 35 Valley Gardeners had the rare opportunity to wander through his glorious arboretum at Schroner Wood in mid-April. This Spring's weather has been so favourable to all flowering trees and shrubs that John suggested we might like to share the beauty of this seven-acre woodland. The history of Shroner Wood is interesting. In 1871, Edwin Hillier, grandfather of Sir Harold, bought the property. Edward Hillier's son, Edwin Lawrence, created Shroner Wood into a Pinetum in the late 1890s and early 20th century, which is said to have been 'the most



complete collection of its day'. In the early 1900s, members of the Hillier family used to walk to and from Winchester each day to work in the arboretum, before the one near Romsey was established. In the 1980s, John developed the estate and planted most of the collection of rare, mature conifers and beautiful flowering shrubs set in a bluebell wood. We had a wonderful afternoon enjoying the magnificent

trees and the vivid colours and fragrances of the azaleas and rhododendrons.

...and near Bath

Revelling in the stunning Spring weather, the Valley Gardeners set off for a day's excursion to Bath, to visit two very different gardens. The first surrounds the American Museum, which is set on a hillside, overlooking one of the most spectacular views I have ever seen. The American Museum was created by an Anglo-American partnership, Dr. Dallas Pratt and John Judkyn, and opened to the public in 1961 with the ambition to showcase American decorative arts and dispel stereotypes of American culture. The building was bought in 1958 for the sum of £10,000. It is now an independent charity. The garden which surrounds the house has been planted in an American style, with prairie type borders. As the Head Gardener, Annie Talbot, says "in the naturalistic planting designs at the American Museum & Gardens, the team works with an understanding of the interactions between plants, insects, soil, water and the wider environment to create a thriving



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I look forward to meeting you, until then,

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Dr Eve*

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ecosystem for the benefit of humans and nature alike.” They also grow vegetables here and always include the three mainstay crops the early settlers grew in America and called The Three Sisters: squash, maize and beans.

After a good lunch at an hotel on the other side of the valley, we drove the few miles to Iford Manor. For many people, Iford Manor is an iconic garden which is renowned for its gorgeous setting and romantic Italianate architecture. Iford Manor is a Grade II* listed house, set on the steep, south-facing slope of the Frome valley. The structural design seen today was largely created by Harold Peto, who lived at Iford from 1899-1933. A man of exquisite taste, with a talent for placing objects sympathetically to their surroundings, he designed gardens for royalty and aristocracy around the world. Trained as an architect, working in partnership with Sir Ernest George, Harold Peto ‘discovered’ a real passion for plants when undertaking work at Gravetye Manor, then home to ‘the father of gardening’ William Robinson.

Once in the garden, we were enveloped by the clouds of mauve wisteria, vivid purple iris and exquisite climbing roses which enhance the warm Cotswold stone



structures. Seats are placed strategically to stop and enjoy the jaw-dropping views across the valley. The gentle splashing of the Frome river below adds to the magical atmosphere of this garden. It is almost as if time has stopped still and one never wants to leave this perfect place.

Avoiding the heavy rain which occurred during the afternoon in other places, we arrived home to find our gardens had been watered, which saved many of us a job that evening and we could enjoy looking back on a wonderful day.

Catherine Hahn

Jane Austen’s 250th anniversary in 2025

Hampshire is celebrating the 250th birthday of its famous author, Jane Austen, and special events are taking place across the county throughout the year.

Jane Austen was born and grew up in Steventon (near Basingstoke) before moving to Bath. She later returned to her home county, living first in Southampton, and then in the cottage now known as Jane Austen’s House in the village of Chawton, where she lived for the last eight years of her life. Jane died in Winchester and her grave is in Winchester Cathedral.

You can find the full list of Jane Austen 250 events, including links to booking tickets for events in Hampshire at www.visit-hampshire.co.uk/whats-on/jane-austens-250.

Steventon, where Jane lived for her first 25 years, is hosting a number of events in July (see Jane Austen 2025 – Steventon Village Hampshire). In **Chawton, Jane Austen’s House**,



where Jane wrote all six of her globally beloved novels, will mark this year with a special programme of events, and a new permanent exhibition: *Jane Austen and The Art of Writing*. **Chawton House** – the manor house that belonged to Jane’s brother, Edward – offers fascinating links with not only Jane, but the lives and works of early women’s writers from 1600 to 1830.

In 1817, suffering with ill health, Jane moved to **8 College Street, Winchester** where she died at the age of 41 three months later. This year **Winchester College** is opening the house for the first time. She is buried in the north nave aisle of **Winchester Cathedral**. As part of the 2025 celebrations, the Cathedral is planning a special service, performances, special interest tours, and the unveiling of a Jane Austen statue. At **Winchester City Museum**, a new permanent display will mark Jane’s final days. **Southampton**, where Jane Austen lived from 1806 to 1809 will also mark her 250th birthday celebrations with special events. ***Pride and Prejudice** (*sort of)**, a retelling of Jane Austen’s most iconic love story which won the Olivier Award for Best Comedy, will be coming to the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton 10-14 June 2025.

Charlotte Appleby

The Watercress Way - as seen on Countryfile!

On 26 February, a Countryfile researcher wrote to us. He was researching watercress and wanted to know about our volunteers on The Watercress Way.

Although the 27 mile circular path runs through Kings Worthy too, the emphasis was on watercress. But we knew that Countryfile would give us the opportunity to showcase the charity, so we quickly agreed this was an opportunity not to be missed!

Our link researcher for the episode, Charlotte, was very thorough and we learned to be meticulous too! No photo could be shown without permission, even if only on screen for a few moments. We knew the likely length of the piece, and knew that for a maximum of six minutes, filming was likely to take six hours. We were allowed to take photos too, but could only show those for which we sought permission, and had to promise not to reveal the date until the day of the programme!

From there, after lots of emails, photos, permissions, and a run through a few days in advance, filming took place on the 13 March. Our lead presenter, Margherita Taylor, was very professional and they put us all



at ease on filming day.

Mike, our charity trustee, did a great job, setting up the history and purposes of the charity. Two former trustees, Chris and Jim, talked about the ecology and the history of the line and the reasons they still volunteer today. Tony and I took supporting roles!

Countryfile has a viewership of between 3 and 4 million every Sunday, so it was no surprise to see the www.thewatercressway.org.uk website views shoot up after the episode was shown on 30 March.

There's a link to the whole programme on our website, but if you want to know more, there is also a short film explaining the reason for the route and why we are working to join the 'lost miles'.

If you are interested in volunteering with the charity, there are lots of jobs that need helpers - from creating signposts and designing leaflets to leading walks, undergrowth clearance and installing seats. We have Dawn Chorus, photography and subject walks and now have a guide book too! Why not contact us at info@thewatercressway.org.uk or go to the website to sign up as a Friend of the The Watercress Way?

Jackie Porter, Chair of Trustees

Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club

The dry and sunny weather so far this Spring has created perfect cricket playing conditions and EMWCC cricketers have been taking full advantage with a busy start to the outdoor season.

All three Men's teams have recorded wins on the first Saturdays

of the season. 1st team Captain Ben Stanbrook made an impressive start in the first match against Twyford CC, scoring 108 runs off 92 balls not out - and bowling 9 overs going for 35 runs and getting 2 wickets. The match was played at Home on the David Roth cricket pitch. EMWCC won by 86 runs.

EMWCC is also through to the third round of the National Village Knock Out competition. On Sunday 11 May the second round was played at the picturesque Bramshaw CC in the New Forest. Supporters also

enjoyed the spectacle of forest ponies wandering around the boundary fence.

Standout performances were by the two Sams! 15 year old Sam Boulton scored 102 runs and bowled 8 overs going for 23 runs and getting 2 wickets; and Sam Dickety scored 58 and bowled 7 overs going for 32 runs and getting 4 wickets. EMWCC won by 7 wickets.

The Friday evening club BBQs continue to be very popular with both our Juniors and their parents. The bar is open from 5 pm with Juniors' training in progress throughout the evening. Everyone is welcome to come along to the David Roth cricket pitch and watch the Juniors train and play in front of you, while enjoying a drink and a hot dog! All fixtures and results can be viewed at www.emwcc.com and then clicking on to the link to: www.play-cricket.com on the home page.

Lynda Gray



Valley Quiz Answers

1 ... --- ...

2. NC500 is the name given to the route by road that encircles the north of Scotland and largely follows the coast. Because of its name, North Coast 500, most people think its length is 500 miles. The correct mileage is 516!

3. Compline.

4. Nearly every litre of water in the river is used for something: dams, irrigation, diversion for domestic use, flood plains, reservoirs and even watering the thirsty tamarind shrub, meaning there is virtually no water left by the time it reaches the Gulf of California and the sea. It is just a trickle.

5. Mary, Mary Quite Contrary

6. The purest form of caviar comes from the critically endangered beluga sturgeon that swims in the Caspian Sea

7. Mrs Isabella Beeton.

8. Harald Bluetooth, a 10th Century king of Denmark and Norway.

9. They are all banks but the Dogger Bank is a shallow sand, mud and stone bank in the North Sea. The rest are financial institutions that accept deposits from individuals and loan the money to others,

10. The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.



Local monthly information

Collections: Usually Tuesdays for Easton and, Avington, and Wednesdays for Abbots Worthy, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy.

Please check your calendar for actual dates.

Hampshire Market in Winchester Second and last Sundays of every month, 9am - 2pm.

Full Parish Council Meeting:

Thursday 5 June IA&A Village Hall

Thursday 2 July IA&A Village Hall

Bus information



67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

To Winchester:

Monday to Friday

Sch 8:20 NSch 8:23

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

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

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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Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall
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Village hall callbox 01962 791021



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