

Bomb threat forces Aylesbury's Christmas lights switch-on to end early



Aylesbury Vale District Council said: “Unfortunately, the festivities came to an end sooner than planned because of a warning from Thames Valley Police of a possible bomb

threat. “AVDC took advice from TVP and based on the information available at the time, decided it had no alternative other than to end the event early. “AVDC is very grateful to our co-hosts Mix96, the traders and fairground operatives for taking prompt action when requested to clear the area, and to the public in a calm way. “TVP Officers have investigated the circumstances and have subsequently established there was no credible threat.

“AVDC apologises to those people disappointed by the early ending but reiterate that public safety must always be its first priority.” The event otherwise proved a great success with more than 9,000 people in attendance to watch as Aylesbury panto stars Su Pollard, Andy Collins and La Voix turned on the lights.

There was live music from acts including The Zefrones and Lucy Mair and a fireworks display.

From the Editor

You may have noted that the Chronicle has changed, not only in appearance but in news content, **now including main news stories from around the village as well as within.** I hope this is acceptable.

Well November has passed and with it another successful **fireworks night** again given by the Parish Council. Many thanks to the organisers.

The Chronicle Parliamentary tour including live view of an explosive Prime Minister's Questions from the Speaker's Private Gallery was a great day out and very much enjoyed by the participants. I'll look into other trips for the future.

The November Quiz Night was won by the IZIPEZI team. Another new one to grace our presence. So much banter fun. Hope to see you at the Christmas Quiz Night on **Sunday December 10** for the next session of fun and frolics and, the complete cash prize will go to the winning team.

As for this edition, we have all the serious issues and reports that concern us all including the **best and worse Drs Surgeries in our area, loads of 'your letters'**, (which some are a bit anger fuelled I feel), **a new Astonians, the December Diary** and much more.

Have a great Christmas and a very happy new year.

Pete.

Elvis, Dolly & Friends Singalong

Saturday 2nd December 7pm Village Hall

Fish and Chip Supper. Tickets £15. Order from John Whyte (01296681685) Nigel Palmer (01296681152)



Waddesdon air crash victims formally identified



The men who lost their lives are Savaan Mundaie, aged 18, Jaspal Bahra, aged 27, Thanh Nguyen, aged 32, and Michael Green, aged 74.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch is continuing its work to establish the circumstances surrounding the crash between the helicopter and the light aircraft while police and the military began work yesterday (Sunday) on removing the aircraft from the woodland in Upper Winchendon.

The post-mortem examination process in relation to the victims began on Sunday and is expected to last several days.

Captain Mike Green was involved in the mid-air collision which occurred yesterday. "Mike was conducting a flight instructor course and was with a student at the time of the incident. "Both

pilots lost their lives. "We have received many messages of support and kind words about our friend who, as a senior instructor and examiner, helped and mentored so many pilots throughout the industry during his distinguished career. "It was an honour to work with you. Captain Green, you will be greatly missed." Superintendent Rebecca Mears said: "Our thoughts remain with the families of the men who have tragically lost their lives.

"Specially-trained family liaison officers are continuing to offer their support to the families of the victims affected, three of whom we understand to be British nationals, one of whom is a Vietnamese national. "Work will focus on removing the aircraft from the scene which will be done with specialist support. "I would like to reiterate my thanks to the local community for their understanding while the investigation is ongoing in the area."

Man Jumps 30ft from Bourg Walk Bridge



A 56-year-old man is in hospital with potentially life-changing injuries after falling 30ft from the Bourg Walk Bridge in Aylesbury Tuesday 14th November.

Part of Station Way and all of the Bourg Walk footbridge were closed. An ambulance service spokesman said: "We received a number of emergency 999 calls from members of the public around 11.50am reporting that an adult male had fallen from the bridge over Station Way in Aylesbury. "We sent an ambulance, an officer in a rapid response vehicle and the Thames Valley Air Ambulance to the scene.

"The helicopter landed in the playing fields of Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School after the school had kindly agreed to this.

"The patient, a 56-year-old male, had fallen approximately 30 feet on to concrete and as a result sustained multiple serious and potentially life-changing leg injuries. "After initial treatment and stabilisation at the scene, he was then taken by road to the major trauma centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford."

Graham Betts, from Aylesbury, who saw the event said: "I saw a middle aged man, walking from the Southcourt side of the bridge carrying a small ladder.

"It seemed as though he might have been drunk. "It all happened so quickly, he mounted the railings and jumped over.

"There must have been about a dozen people who rushed to his aid - I immediately phoned for an ambulance and left my luggage where it was. "Luckily there was a registered nurse there, as his injuries looked pretty bad."

Rate of home building in the Vale must double, says report. Improvements to Aylesbury's rail service could come under new plans

RYAN WATTS

A new government deal for the “brain belt” could bring developments of up to 150,000 new homes to Buckinghamshire.

The Prosperity Report, published on Friday (November 17) by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), an advisory government department, recommends that home building is doubled, that transport infrastructure is improved and that powers are devolved to local authorities, in the “Cambridge to Milton Keynes to Oxford Arc”.

Aylesbury could benefit from a rail link between the town and Milton Keynes, via an upgrade of an existing freight line, and a better service into London with the promise of “faster journeys”.

Cllr Martin Tett, the leader of Bucks County Council and chairman of England’s Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance, said: “There is much to welcome in this report. It is critically important that growth is enabled by the provision of new infrastructure.”

“However, to be truly successful this must be more than just transport and include, for example, new utilities, high speed broadband, health services, education, parks and open space and skills.”



An extract from the report, citing the priorities of any new proposals “We also welcome the NIC’s view that the identification of areas for growth should be led by local authorities, not imposed ‘top down’.

The impact on the natural environment, however, is a cause of worry for the Campaign to Protect Rural England, who feel the report may lead to increased traffic and poorly thought-out housing developments.

Senior Infrastructure Campaigner Daniel Carey-Dawes explained: “Today’s report will be met with real concern by all those who care for the natural environment. There are elements of the study, which we welcome, including the joined up approach to housing, planning

and infrastructure, and the promotion of East-West rail links. "However, many areas give us significant cause for concern. This area is already under huge development pressure and these proposals will not help rebalance the economy.

"The rhetoric on sustainable growth is not matched by the reality of some of the recommendations. The proposed expressway will simply generate new traffic and encourage developers to build unaffordable homes in the wrong locations.

"But the area also suffers from a lack of available homes and an infrastructure network that is

feeling the strain – pricing local people out of the market, making it difficult for businesses to recruit staff, and threatening the future competitiveness of one of the most successful parts of the country.

"A ground-breaking deal between ministers and local leaders could transform the area, helping to double the rate of housebuilding and deliver the first new towns this country has seen for half a century. With this one of the most economically important parts of the UK, it could add billions of pounds a year to the national economy.



"IN WHICH CASE MY WIFE AND I WOULD LIKE A TABLE FOR TWO AND THE WINE MENU."

REVEALED: Here are the WORST GP Surgeries in the Aylesbury area as rated by the patients

Published: 12:00Friday 10
November 2017

We can today reveal a list of the best and worst GP surgeries in the Aylesbury Vale and surrounding areas based on ratings provided by patients on how likely they are to recommend their practice.

The information is available on the NHS Choices website, and is based on responses provided in the GP Patient Survey.

The survey is sent out twice a year to around 1.36 million adults who are registered with a GP in England.

Here is the ranking of the top ten worst of the 38 surgeries in the Aylesbury area (within 10 miles) based on the percentage of people who said they would recommend their GP surgery to others.

Surgeries, as voted by you

=1 Fairford Leys Surgery - Kingsgate, Aylesbury - 56.5%

=1 Whitehill Surgery - Oxford Road, Aylesbury - 56.5%

3. The Mandeville Practice - Hannon Road, Aylesbury - 56.6%

4. Leighton Road Surgery - 1 Leighton Road, Leighton Buzzard - 61.3%

5. Dr Dickson And Partners - Avenue Road, Winslow - 68.9%

6. Haddenham Medical Centre - Stanbridge Road, 69.5%

7. Salisbury House Surgery - Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard - 71.7%

8. The New Surgery - Church Yard, Tring - 72.7%

9. Poplar Grove Practice - Meadow Way, Aylesbury - 72.9%

10. Ashcroft Surgery - Stewkley Road, Wing - 75.4%

To see the full list, head to <http://bit.ly/2mcxlw4>



"I DON'T SEE WHAT'S WRONG - MY LAST CLIENT GOT THE HOUSE, WHILE I GOT MY APARTMENT, SPORTS CAR, AND A NEW SET OF GOLF CLUBS."

UPDATED: Audi rolls over during morning accident on A413 near Aylesbury

Published: 09:52 Wednesday 01 November 2017

The emergency services were called to attend a crash on the A413 near Aylesbury Wednesday 1st November during which an Audi A3 reportedly rolled over.

It is not known if the Audi hit any other vehicles during the incident.

One police car and two ambulances were in attendance

at the collision which happened between the Hardwick turn-off and Whitchurch.

An ambulance service spokesman said their understanding was “that the driver was out of the vehicle that rolled over and had sustained a head injury.

“We sent two ambulances to the scene and after initial assessment and treatment the patient was then taken to Milton Keynes Hospital.

“A second patient was treated at the scene for chest pains.”

This latest incident comes just two days after two cars collided during

the morning rush hour in a queue of traffic on the same stretch of road.

Tribute to Aston Abbotts Lynda Bellingham



A lasting tribute has been paid to actress and presenter. Lynda Bellingham, to ensure she'll always be remembered in Aylesbury Vale.

A road to the new Kingsbrook development in Aylesbury has been named after her – *Bellingham Way*.

Lynda spent her childhood in Aston Abbotts and went to Aylesbury High School. She rose to fame in the 1980s as the mother in the Oxo TV adverts and went onto 'All creatures great and small'. In her later life she is best known as a panellist on the show 'Loose Women'. She passed away in 2014 after a battle with cancer.

RSPCA warn Bucks dog owners after spate of parvovirus dog abandonments

The RSPCA has warned dog owners in Buckinghamshire to be vigilant and get their pets vaccinated after a number of sick puppies were dumped with symptoms of the potentially deadly parvovirus.

RSPCA chief inspector Jim Lucas said three incidents are currently being investigated which involve puppies who have either been confirmed as having parvo, or are suspected to have the disease.

One puppy with symptoms of parvo was dumped near to Newport Pagnell Sports Pavilion, on Willen Road, on Sunday and is currently being looked after by a foster carer following some initial treatment. A second very sick pup was taken to a vet by the animal's new owner later that day with the same symptoms, but was sadly put to sleep because they were so poorly.

A further six terrier type crossbreed puppies were found on Monday in a box dumped again near the Newport Pagnell Sports Pavilion. One of the puppies has been put to sleep by a

vet, while the others are still receiving veterinary treatment also for suspected parvovirus.

Chief inspector Lucas said: "We are looking into these incidents and an active investigation is now underway.

"The worry is that if these puppies have got parvo, or been in contact with other dogs that may have the disease, then there could be others out there which are sick and in need of treatment.

"We now want to alert dog owners around the area and encourage them to remain vigilant and if they suspect their pet is sick, take them straight to a vet. Parvovirus is a highly contagious viral disease with a high mortality rate among untreated dogs, so we would encourage owners to ensure their pets are vaccinated to help avoid the heartbreak of losing a much loved pet to the disease."

The cost of the veterinary treatment is being met by both the national RSPCA and the RSPCA Milton Keynes and North Bucks Branch.

Anyone with information about the dumped puppies can contact the RSPCA inspectorate appeals line on 0300 123 8018.



The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has identified a number of reports where job seekers are being targeted by fraudsters trying to obtain personal and banking details from them, or requesting money to secure accommodation.

Individuals registering with job seeking websites or searching for jobs on The Student Room website are being contacted by bogus recruitment companies/businesses asking them to complete application and interview forms which request personal details and banking details, as well as copies of identity documents.

In some instances the applicant is invited along for interview, either in person or over the phone, to make the process look as legitimate as possible. This is impacting on students and graduates looking for work both in the UK and overseas. Some job seekers, as well as divulging personal details, have paid money to the fraudsters in order to secure a bogus rental property alongside the job offer.

How to protect yourself:

- Check emails and documents from the recruiter for poor spelling and grammar – this is often a sign that fraudsters are at work.
- If visa fees are mentioned, ask the embassy representing the country where you believe you

will be working how to obtain a visa and how much it costs. Check that the answers the potential employer or recruiter gave you are the same – if they're not, it may be a sign of fraud.

- Carry out thorough research to confirm that the organisation offering you the job actually exists. If it does exist, contact the organisation directly using contact details obtained through your own research or their website to confirm the job offer is genuine.

What to do if you're a victim:

If you think your bank details have been compromised or if you believe you have been defrauded contact your bank immediately.

- Stop all communication with the 'agency' but make a note of their details and report it to Action Fraud.
- Warn the operators of the job website you used that their site is being used by fraudsters.
- If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Thanks RGC

I am not sure how long Richard has been a Parish Councillor in Aston Abbotts , but it is certainly the best part of this century! He has finally decided to call it a day, and he will be missed by us all. In particular Richard's contribution to the maintenance of the recreation ground has been huge: all the little things which needed fixing have been done; hedges cut, gates mended and signs affixed. He has liaised with the inspectors of the children's play area and always ensured any issues they picked up were promptly put right. He even planted an oak tree, which can be seen thriving on the far side of the Rec. Cheers Richard!



Colin Higgs! Mr Aston Abbotts himself!

Teri Moulton



This man works tirelessly for the love of his village! A parish councillor in the village that he loves so much! Today (a very cold afternoon) he was out weeding the pavements of our village! I called him in to the [Royal Oak Inn](#) for a hot drink he tells me he weeds everyday till he fills a bucket with the weeds he digs up! How amazing is this man? He deserves to be recognised for all he does. Thankyou Colin for all you do for our beautiful village be it litter picking or village tours on Halloween! Or weeding the pavements everything he does there's too much to mention!!

Parish Council November Meeting Notable Items.

- Cllr Glover provided an update at the meeting.
- In particular Cllr Glover highlighted the changes in Children Services, Food Waste, Fly Tipping, BCC budget consultation and the Mobile Library consultation to stop the service.
- Cllr Curry highlighted the issues regarding the impact on the most vulnerable if the Mobile Library service was halted – within the Parish there were 5 users.
- Cllr Clarke's resignation and replacement: The resignation was noted and Cllr Curry extended the thanks of the Council for Mr Clarke's participation since joining. It was noted that arrangements are in hand to publicise the Notice for the vacancy which has arisen.

Highways/Transport

- It was noted by Cllr Higgs that the light at Bricstock is broken and needs repair.
- It was noted that clarification is required regarding the shared MVAS with Cheddington and

when it will be operational for Aston Abbotts.

- It was noted that only 1 property is outstanding with overgrown hedge issues, which needs to be addressed.
- Cllr Curry also indicated the BCC/TfB have agreed for gates to be erected at the 30mph signs on Wingrave Road, Lines Hill and possibly Cublington Road.
- It was AGREED to object to Planning Application 17/03957/APP on the basis that the proposed dwelling would be located on agricultural land and not within the Parish housing envelope.

MATT



'My wife knitted it while she was waiting for a train'

The Astonians. The Vicar is in Benidorm—*No affiliation to anyone.* astonpete

Talking to the church warden the other day I learned that Aston's Vicar The rather hip Rev' Mike Straker decided to go on holiday to Benidorm with his colleague from the Diocese. They were supposed to be going to a conference in Wales on Women's future role in the Church.

They were determined to make this a real holiday by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy. As soon as the plane landed they headed for a shop and bought some really outrageous shorts, shirts, sandals, sunglasses, etc.

The next morning they went to the beach dressed in their "tourist" stuff.

They were sitting on beach chairs enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a "drop dead gorgeous" blonde in a topless bikini came walking straight towards them. They couldn't help but stare. As the blonde passed them she smiled and said, "Good morning, Vicar good morning, Vicar," addressing each of them individually, then she wiggled her bum and passed on by. They were

both stunned. How in the world did she know they were clergy?

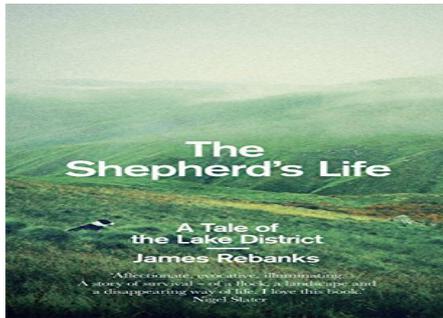
So the next day they went back to the shop and bought even more outrageous outfits. These were so loud you could hear them before you even saw them! Once again, in their new attire, they settled down in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine.

While relaxing the same gorgeous girl wearing a different coloured topless bikini came walking toward them. Again she nodded at each of them and said, "Good morning, Vicar, good morning Vicar," and started to walk away.

The Rev' Straker couldn't stand it any longer and said, "Just a minute, young lady." "Yes Vicar?" "We are Vicars but I have to know, how in the world do you know we are clergy, dressed as we are?"

She replied, "Vicar, it's me, carol The Bishop's PA!"

Book Club. In November we read and discussed *The Shepherd's Life – a Tale of the Lake District*, by James Rebanks.



This book is a memoir of the joys and demands of farming in the Lake District. Despite leaving the family farm as a teenager, James is inexorably drawn back to the family tradition and to his beloved Herdwick sheep. As he states: “This is my life. I want no other.”

It is a story told in seasons, generations and centuries rather than years. It speaks of tradition and timelessness, describing lives and the Lake District landscape in terms of patterns rather than events.

Surprisingly, despite the intrusion of tourism there appear to be few threats other than the questionable will and self-belief of the next generation and the need for them to be willing to work hard and diversify. James’ life is testimony to this diversity, from having to practice cursive writing for his A levels to taking his Oxford degree, from his love of reading to being a publishing sensation, and from his love of farming to his position as a Unesco consultant, not to mention a having Twitter account with nearly 90,000 followers!

This book was not to everyone’s taste, but those who enjoyed it loved it, and it certainly generated an interesting discussion about The Lake District as farming community and tourist destination.

Kate

One for the men!

Men Are Just Happier People --

Your last name stays put.

The garage is all yours.

Wedding plans take care of themselves.

Chocolate is just another snack...

You can never be pregnant.

You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park.

You can wear NO shirt to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you the truth.

You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt.

Wrinkles add character.

Wedding dress £3000. Tux rental-£100.

People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.

New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet.

One mood all the time.

Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.

A five-day holiday requires only one suitcase.

You can open all your own jars.

If someone forgets to invite you,

He or she can still be your friend.

Your underwear is £5.95 for a three-pack.

Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.

Everything on your face stays its original colour.

You only have to shave your face and neck.

You can play with toys all your life.

One wallet and one pair of shoes -- one colour for all seasons.

You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look.

You can 'do' your nails with a pocket knife.

You have freedom of choice concerning growing a moustache.

You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives

On December 24 in 25 minutes.

Christmas Lunch

Thanks to April, negotiating a good deal, there will be a Christmas Lunch this year for the Morning Café folk at the Unicorn in Cublington on 21st December at 12 noon.

If you wish to attend and we wish you will, then a £5 contribution will confirm. Please give this to Caroline

Abel-Smith or post through The Old Vicarage letterbox, with your name on the envelope by 30th November latest. You will receive the menu with three alternative choices for both the main course and pudding

A great start to Christmas.

EATING OUT

When the bill arrives, Mike, Dave and John will each throw in £20, even though it's only for £32.50. None of them will have anything smaller and none will actually admit they want change back.

When the girls get their bill, out come the pocket calculators...YEP!!!

ARGUMENTS

A woman has the last word in any argument.

Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

FUTURE

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

MARRIAGE

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.

A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

NATURAL

Men wake up as good-looking as they went to bed.

Women somehow deteriorate during the night.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing!

Phishing

Here's what you need to know...

Fraudsters create authentic looking emails purporting to be from genuine companies, or even someone you know, in order to defraud you. The emails are designed to infect your devices with malicious software (malware), or to steal sensitive information such as your financial details or passwords.



ATTACHMENTS

Don't open the attachments in any unsolicited emails you receive. Email is the #1 delivery vehicle for ransomware, as well as other forms of malware.

LINKS

Don't click on the links within any unsolicited emails you receive. They could lead to malicious sites designed to infect your computer with malware, or steal your personal & financial details.



YOUR DETAILS

Never respond to emails that ask for your personal or financial details. Your bank won't send you emails asking for this type of information.



Do you have some spare time on your hands and want to make good use of it? Do you have skills that you would like to utilise or want to develop some new ones? Would you like to make a difference in your local community whilst making new friends?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions then Rennie Grove Hospice Care would love to hear from you.

Rennie Grove Hospice Care is a charity providing care and support for adults and children, their families and carers in Herts and Bucks who have been diagnosed with life-limiting illness.

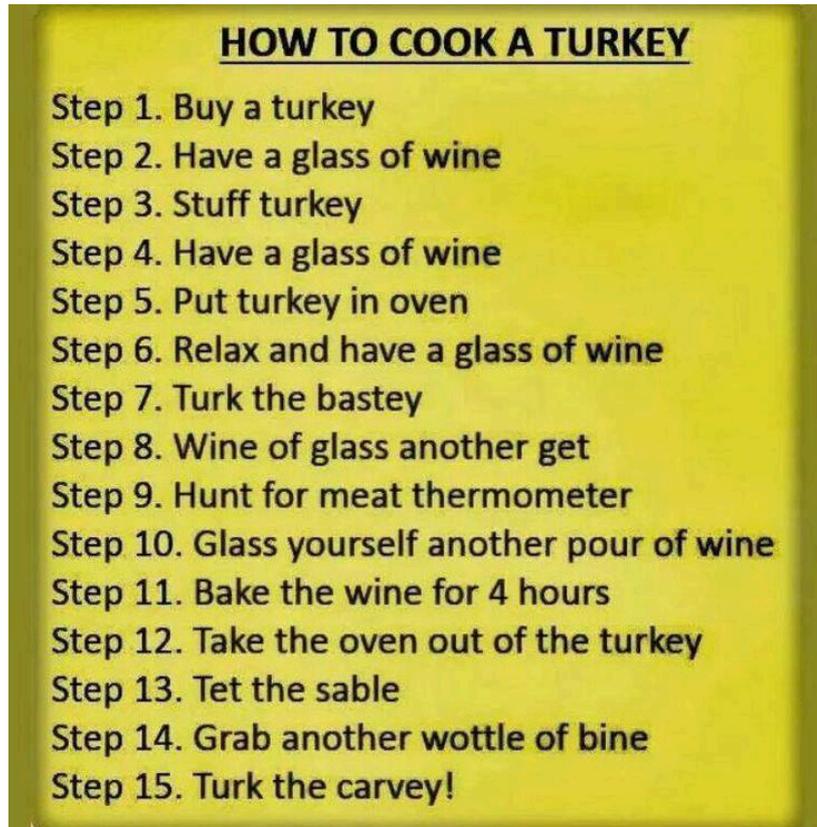
What makes our organisation unique is our award winning team of volunteers. Our volunteers make it possible for our nurses to deliver a 24/7 responsive hospice at home service and a range of day services so that our patients can choose how and where they want to be cared for towards the end of life. The support we provide for families both during the illness and after

bereavement is an integral part of our care. In particular we are looking for volunteers in these areas:

- Qualified counsellors and Complimentary therapists to support our Family Support Services team
- Receptionists at both our Tring and Chalfont St Giles office bases
- Volunteers with excellent administration skills in both clinical and non-clinical roles
- People of all ages welcome (must be over 14) to help in one of our 24 (soon to be 26) shops across the communities in which we nurse
- eBay listers and packers with our retail and trading team
- Street collectors and event volunteers to help fundraise towards our services

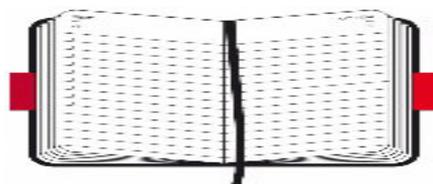
But we have a much wider range of volunteer opportunities available and there really is something to suit everyone, whether you have a small amount of time or perhaps a little longer. If you are interested in finding out more about the volunteer roles listed above please get in touch with us on 01442 890222/01727 731000 or volunteer@renniegrove.org and for more information on all our volunteer roles please visit our website www.renniegrove.org/volunteer.

Had to include the Christmas Recipe.



**• Stockdale Domestic Cleaning
Services. Minimum 2 hours Call
Jeremy 07871587126**



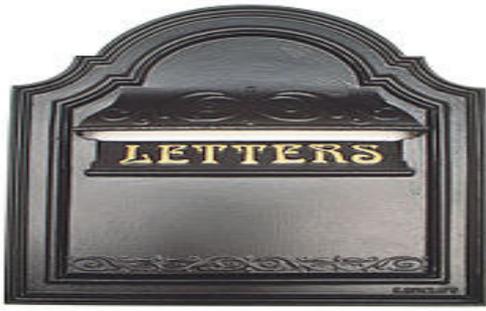


What's on in December?

Rambling Club	Sunday 3rd 2pm	Meet at Caldecote Lake MK
Special Advent Service	Sunday 3rd 6pm	St James Church
Parish Council	Wednesday 6th 7.30pm	Village Hall
Morning cafe	Thursday 7th. 10-12	Village Hall
Whist Drive Visit Wilstone	Thursday 7th 7.30pm	Wilstone Village Hall
Bingo	Thursday 7th. 7.30pm	Village Hall
Quiz Night	Sunday 10th 7.30	The Royal Oak Pub
Christmas Whist Drive NOTE CHANGE OF DATE	Wednesday 13th. 7.30pm	The Royal Oak Pub
Aylesbury Vale Transport meeting. Train/Bus Queries to Colin Higgs	Thursday 14th 2pm	Old Town Hall Aylesbury
Mobile Library	Tuesday 19th. 10.30am	The Green
Christmas Lunch	Thursday 21st 12 Midday	Unicorn
Royal Oak Pub Closed	Christmas Day	

Late Night Christmas Shopping Aylesbury every Thursday from the 7th December with free parking.

***Bin Collection over Christmas
Friday 29th instead of Thursday 28th***



Dear Editor, In reply to the 'offended villager' (Your letters November edition), with respect, it was not my fault the Planning Authority did not inform the Parish Council, a simple phone call to the PCC to ask if I had a licence would have informed you that I had and all this could have been avoided.

In response to the anonymous letter signed 'Concerned local resident', your letter is complete and utter balderdash. I have attended village fetes, purchased raffle tickets and attended firework night. If that is not supporting the village then I'm really sorry. But you are incorrect.

When a villager hides behind a bush and takes video footage of your builders, the word spy comes to mind, whether you agree or not.

I would also like to thank the villagers who have written and spoken very kind words to me. It was much appreciated. Thank you.

Kathleen Crawford

Dear Editor. I would like to respond to the letter signed 'Concerned local resident (Your letters November edition). Just because you live in a village does not mean you have to take part in local community activities. I moved to the village for a quieter life after retiring from a high pressure job for more than 50 years. Also to be able to go on nice walks with my dog. I do not get involved in local village activities but I do excellent voluntary work in the wider community as does Mrs Crawford, helping vulnerable and less fortunate people. It's a matter of choice.

Dropping a kerb and making a driveway is in the interest of the village as it gets another car off the road.

'Why bother living in a village?' is despicable. You are not that concerned or I believe you would have put a name to your letter.

Liz Denton

(I would just like to add that letters to the Chronicle must be named or signed from now on. Also, I would like to put a stop to this tit for tat correspondence so no more letters on this subject please. Ed.

Dear Editor, I was surprised and disappointed to hear that the Thursday Breakfast Club have arranged their Xmas Lunch to be held at The Unicorn. We have a lovely pub in this village with a very welcoming landlady, and if the pub is not used we risk losing it. **Jane**

I'm also gobsmacked Jane. The Royal Oak is a gem of a pub with great generous sized food, good owners and great clientele. It makes me think of the previous village I lived in; the pub closed, the house owners were up in arms and the village near on died. Plus house prices fell. Ed.

Fireworks. Hi Pete

Could you please include a short note in the Chronicle to thank everyone involved with the Firework Display, we have had lots of positive comments!

Also for the support from the villagers on the evening with donations and purchasing food.

It is great for a small village to

Hi Re. Broadband issues. We are with BT, live in the middle of the village and our broadband speed has never been great, but just lately has been really, really bad.

put on such a display, long may it continue!

Regards

**Kevin Copping
Home Farm The Green**

Please pass on our thanks to the organisers of this year's firework display. It was spectacular for a village display and the timing was remarkable. Very well done to all involved **from all at Abbotts View Farm. Jo**

www.abbottsviewalpacas.co.uk

www.abbottsviewfarmcattery.co.uk

www.abbottsviewalpacas-cl.co.uk

Thank you to all those who helped put on a great firework display last night we enjoyed it.

Judy

April and Colin would like to wish everyone in Aston Abbotts a wonderful Christmas and a very happy and peaceful 2018.

I am making a donation to the Great Ormond Street Hospital in lieu of sending cards.

Many thanks,

April Gilbert (formerly Curnow)

I asked BT about fibre broadband, they said its in Cublington but there are currently 'no spaces' to join? Does anyone else experience really bad connection with BT, offer any advice or suggest an alternative

that is good. Have got to the point where am totally fed up with the rubbish service! Am a technophobe so just want a simple answer if there is one and basically just want to pay for a service that is good and reliable. Thanks. **Jane (Home Farm)** - jane.copping@talk21.com

Hi Pete

If possible and I would appreciate it if you could include an obituary for my father Fred Poulter in the next issue of the Chronicle. He had lived at Castellane, Wingrave Road for 35 years before moving up Baschurch, Shropshire in March 2016. He died on 10 November at the age of 96. He loved Aston Abbots and his bungalow and was constantly mentioning his friends and happy times in the village.

Thanking you in advance

Gael Norfolk
(gaelharbeech@hotmail.co.uk)

Dear Ed

Sheds on allotment broken into

Just to let you know that my shed (and others) were broken into last night.

I've had several tools stolen.

There is a chance they may come back again and break into other

sheds so may I suggest that if anyone has anything of value in their shed they should remove them for safekeeping.

Yours in anger

Simon Guy

Hi Pete. Sorry for last minute submission. Wondered if you could squeeze in our greeting as follows.

'Andy and Rita wish all friends and neighbours in Aston Abbots a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018.'

Also Pete; we hope your forthcoming hospital treatment goes well and leads to a speedy and full recovery for you.

Very best wishes

Andy and Rita

Xx (from Rita; I'll stick to buying you a pint on your return.)

Bless your hearts. Thank you. I've been given a 3 month reprieve so yet another delay but thanks again. Happy Christmas. Ed.

EARLY SEASONAL GREETINGS

Nigel and Sally wish all their friends in Aston Abbots a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Pete

Please let villagers know that the footpath crossing the recreation ground to Rowsham has now had 3 gates installed to replace the stiles and repairs have been made to other stiles. Now it's much easier for walkers.

Colin Higgs

How much land in Aylesbury Vale is built on?

The data splits land into the following four categories: farmland, natural, built on and green urban.

In the Vale the amount of farmland (89%) exceeds the national average of 57%, while the amount of natural land in the Vale (3%) is way below the national average of 35%.

Built on accounts for 5% in the Vale compared to 6% nationally while green urban is at 3% of the total both here and across the country.

The information has come courtesy of the Corine Land Cover Inventory.

Looking at the national picture the local authorities with the highest proportion of farmland are the Isles of Scilly (96%) and Mid Suffolk (95%).

The council area with the greatest quantity of "natural" landscape is Highland (91%).

The City of London has the highest amount of land that is built on

(98%) and the local authority with the greatest proportion of green urban is Richmond upon Thames (58%).



"OK - WHO'S HIDDEN THE KEY TO THE MEETING ROOM?"

Sometimes I just stop and think.....

- If I had a pound for every girl that found me unattractive, they'd eventually find me attractive.
- I find it ironic that the colours red, white, and blue stand for freedom, until they're flashing behind you.
- I changed my password to "incorrect" so whenever I forget it the computer will say, "Your password is incorrect."
- Doesn't expecting the unexpected mean that the unexpected is actually expected?
- Take my advice — I'm not using it.
- I hate it when people use big words just to make themselves sound perspicacious.
- Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home when you wish they were.
- Every time someone comes up with a foolproof solution, along comes a more-talented fool.
- When I married Ms. Right, I had no idea her first name was

Always.

- My wife got 8 out 10 on her driver's test--the other two guys managed to jump out of her way.
- There may be no excuse for laziness, but I'm still looking.
- He who laughs last thinks slowest.
- Is it wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly?
- I was going to give him a nasty look, but he already had one.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- I like long walks, especially when they're taken by people who annoy me.
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let her sleep.
- Money is the root of all wealth.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

Who's Who when you need them. Important numbers

Position	Name	Number
Chair Parish Council	Kate Curry	681137
Vice Chair Parish Council	Judy Hardcastle	688070
Councillor	Peter Shorrocks	681260
Councillor	Phil' Spooner	681544
Councillor	Simon Guy	681319
Parish Council Clerk	Frank Post	668206
County Councillor	Netta Glover	688357
Fete Co-ordinator	David Gray	681952
Vicar	Phillip Derbyshire	01525240287
Church Warden	Caroline Abel-Smith	681001
Church Secretary	Caroline Lane	681373
Church Mowing	Gordon Kemp	681763
100 Club Treasurer	David Gray	681952
Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
Book Club	Sally Palmer	681152
Chronicle Editor	Pete Lucas	681387
Chronicle Advertising Enquiries	John Whyte	
Chronicle Distribution	Sally Palmer/Jill Wenble	681152/681877
Village Hall Hire	Liz Barlow	682605
6.30 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
Gnomes	Carol Spooner	681544
Ladies Club	Jackie Whyte	681624
Rambling Club & Whist Drive	Colin Higgs	681343
Rural Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Baby & Toddler Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Royal Oak Pub & Restaurant	Teri Moulton	681262
Milkman	Alan	07791885612
Post office & shop Wingrave		682964

Community Services

NHS Direct 24hr Advice	111
Doctor Out of hours Surgeries	331511
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	315000
Police Non-Emergency	101
Police Station Wing	396163/4
AVDC	585858
Bucks County Council	395000
Citizens Advice	08701264056
MP John Bercow	714240
Mobile Library	01280813229
Refuse Collection	585510

Anglian Water	385995
Pre School Wingrave	681127

Theatre Goers Reviews



As I hadn't seen the film I decided to watch it the day before going to see the show. The 1st song in the film (Baltimore) was quite uplifting and enjoyable. After that I couldn't really get into it. In fact I dozed off during some of it. The show, I felt other songs left any impression on me although the dancers were very energetic and their costumes were very colourful.

To sum up, if you loved the film then you'll undoubtedly love the

was pretty much the same and I almost dozed off at one stage. The opening song was one of the highlights, just as uplifting as the film. Rebecca Mendoza as Tracy Turnblad belted it out. The other highlight was the duet sung by Tracy's mum (played by Matt Rixon) and dad, played by Norman Pace (one half of Hale and Pace). I never knew that Norman had such a good singing voice. This duet got the biggest applause. None of the show so do go and see it if you get the chance. If you thought the film was so so, maybe give it a miss.

Mel Smith with Shirley Hanlon

And now over to the Vicar

Dear each, here goes for latest edition: Dear friends, the current upheaval in Zimbabwe has brought to mind my own memories of that truly beautiful country which I lived and worked in for a few years in the '80's. Christmas and New Year in real heat can be quite a culture shock for someone brought up in a country where the festive season is characterised by cold rain or snow, mist, fog and short days. There is something slightly bizarre (and vaguely comforting!) about singing "In the bleak midwinter" in blistering heat by a swimming pool as meat is being cooked on the brai (Africaans for bar-b-q). Zimbabwe has been the 'breadbasket' of southern Africa which became the 'basket case' instead, tragically. All because one man's vanity made him and those around him believe his own publicity and turned a former liberation hero into a power mad destroyer of the very democracy he had striven to achieve.

What a contrast with the life of Jesus, born to displaced parents, living under a repressive foreign military power in collaboration with

the local religious leaders and generally ignored by those of influence till the end of His earthly life. Whether we live in an urban or rural, hot or cold environment it is good to remind ourselves of the significance of the baby born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago: as the greatest free gift to humanity. Enjoy Christmas and the beginning of 2018. God Bless, Revd. Philip.

Church Duties

Cleaning	Flowers	Date
Colin/Caroline	Advent	2nd
Ann/Gordon	No	9th
Alex/Anita	Flower	16th
Colin/Gay	Christmas rota	23rd
David	Christmas rota	30th

ST JAMES' CHURCH IN DECEMBER

There is lots going on at St James' Church this December!

On **Advent Sunday, 3rd December at 6.00pm**, instead of our usual Evensong on the first Sunday of the month, the service will take the form of a 'Journey through Advent' with readings, carols and hymns.

On **Saturday 16th December, from 11am**, we will be decorating the church and Christmas tree and all ages are invited to come and help. Last year lots of young and not so young joined in to make decorations, arrange window displays etc and we had a really fun morning, so do come again! Refreshments will be available too.

On **Sunday 17th December** we are holding our Christingle Service but **at 5pm** and by candlelight. This is always a very special service and afterwards this year there will be mince pies and refreshments in the church.

On **Christmas Day** the Revd Roger Hale will be leading our **Family Communion Service at 10.30am**. Although now living in Wendover, Roger takes a great interest in everyone at Aston Abbots and continues to take a service here for us every month. He much looks forward to being with us on Christmas Day.

We hope you will join us at any or all of these celebrations.

Caroline Abel Smith

Churchwarden

Church Matters

The diary of St. James's

Twenty Shoe Boxes were taken from Hardwick and Aston Abbots to the local collection point in Wingrave where a further 62 were added from Wingrave residents. Last year over 34,000 shoe boxes were sent from the UK to poor families and the elderly in Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Thank you to all those who contributed to this year's collection.

The Kitchen and Cloakroom in the base of the Church Tower are

taking shape.

It is going to

be touch and

go if the work

is to be finished before Christmas

as the water board are not

breaking any records in connecting the supply.

December is always busy in the

Church calendar. Christingle on

Sunday 17th is followed by a

Nativity on the 23rd and the usual

Christmas morning service on the

25th. We hope to see you there,

remembering what Christmas is all about.



Children's Nativity

Saturday 23rd December, 5pm

St James' Church, Aston Abbotts



The Children of Aston Abbotts will be putting on a simple Nativity play and you are all very welcome to join them. If your child would like to take part please can you let

Zandy Ayres know by 10th December so that she can sort out parts. You will need to provide your child's own costume!
(682419/ zandy1@live.co.uk)



**Services at
Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts
December 2017**

3rd Dec.	6.00pm	Special Service for Advent Sunday	Revd. Philip Derbyshire
10th Dec.	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Peter Binns
17th Dec.	5.00pm	Christingle Service	
23rd Dec.	5.00pm	Village Nativity	
24th Dec.		No Service	
25th Dec.	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Communion	Revd., Roger Hale
31st Dec	10.00am	Informal Morning Prayer	LLM Dr Annie Cooper

100 Club Draw November 2017

1st Prize, £50 Kate Curry

2nd prize, £10 Brigitte Gutierrez

The Chronicle Annual Advertising rates (11 issues)

Full Page Back £100 / Inside £90

Half Page Inside £50 / Quarter Page Inside £35

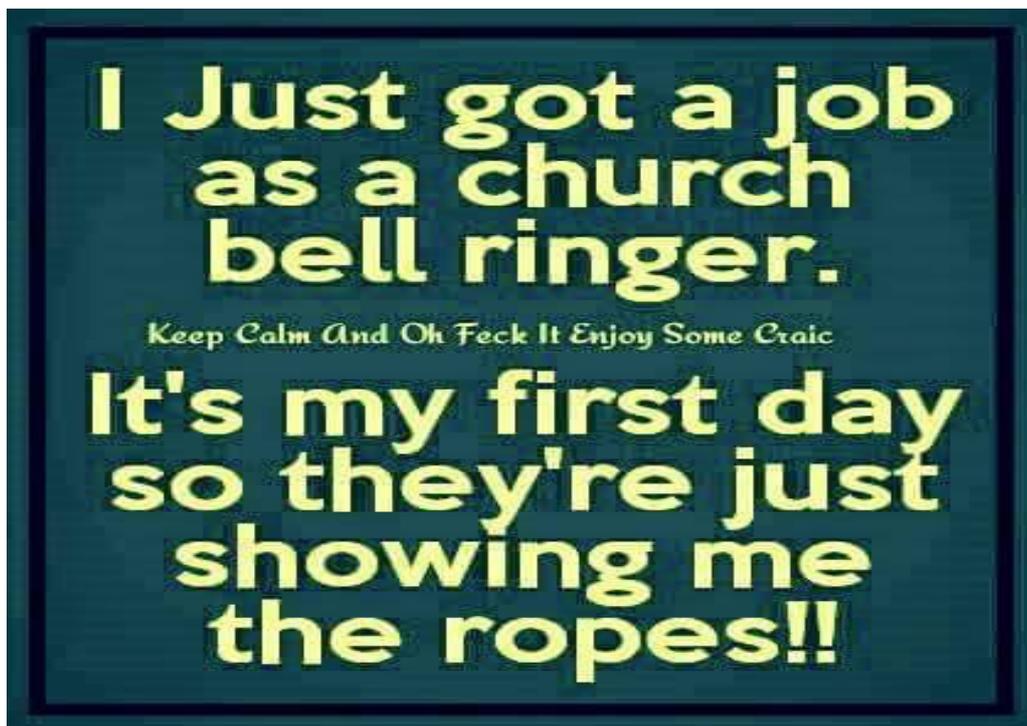
One Offs Full £20 / Half £15 / Quarter £10

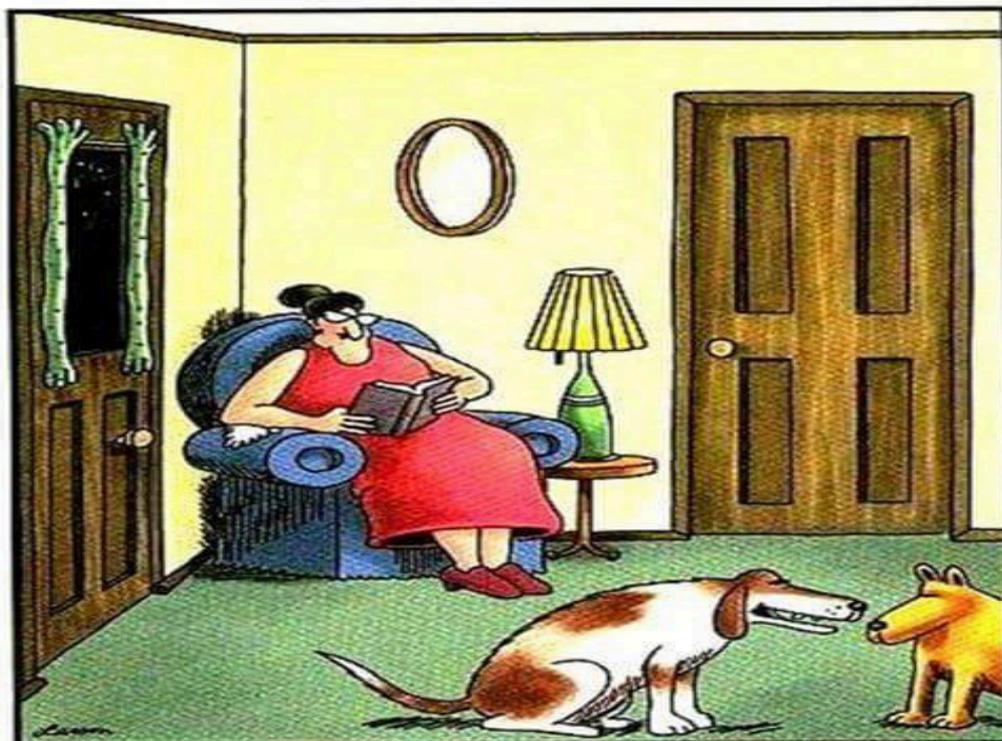
Seasonal short term ads also accepted at these rates

Send copy and cheque payable to:

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"You wanna have some fun, Fred? Watch ... I'm gonna go over and stare and growl at the closet door."



Good Samaritans Bingo!

£102 raised in November for:



Join us on Thursday 7th December

Aston Abbotts Village Hall

7.30pm start

In aid of Thames Valley Air Ambulance



Opening Times

Mon CLOSED
Tue 14:00 - 19:00
Wed 10:00 - 13:00

www.buckscommunitylibraries.org/wing/
[@wing_library](https://www.facebook.com/wing.library)

<https://facebook.com/wing.community.library>

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Thu CLOSED

Fri 14:00 - 17:00
Sat 10:00 - 13:00

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always available

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Craft sessions for children in school holidays

If you belong to any Buckinghamshire library you can borrow or return books in Wing.

Christmas Holidays: we are closed Sat 23rd, Tue 26th & Wed 27th Dec

Craft session for children on Tue 2nd Jan 2.30 – 4.30pm

★ We wish all our members and friends ★
★ a very Merry Christmas ★
★ and look forward to seeing you ★
★ in the New Year ★

The Library is run entirely by volunteers - please support us and our special events.

Registered Charity Number 1151925

Wingrave December Diary

DECEMBER 2017 Fri 1 1800

Wingrave Village Family Evening
Community Centre Sat 2 Christmas
market for Joss Searchlight Charity
Rose & Crown

Sat 2 1900 Singalong! Elvis, Dolly
and friends Aston Abbotts

Vill. Hall Sun 3 1400 Swingrave tea
dance Community Centre

Sun 3 1800 Advent Carol Service
with the Wingrave Singers Parish

Church Tue 5 1930 Parish Council
meeting Community Centre Tue 5
1930 Wingrave Art Club

Community Centre Wed 6 1930 WI:
Launton Handbell Ringers

Methodist Church Thu 8-10

Christmas tree festival Parish

Church Thu 7 Sparkies Jazz at Rose
& Crown Fri 8 Christmas Fair

Wingrave School Fri 8 1930

Photographic Interest Club meal

Simply Thai in Aylesbury Sat 9 0845

Men's Breakfast: What purpose
does the UN serve? Methodist

Church Sat 9 WCA Christmas Ball
Community Centre Sun 10 0930

Local ramble Nup End Lane Sun 10

1800 Carols on... Twelve Leys Sun

10 Wingrave Singers sing at

Aylesbury Carolfest St Mary's Ch.

Aylesbury Mon 11 0930 Weekday

Walking Group The Green Fri 15

1930 WCA Village bingo

Community Centre DECEMBER

2017 Sun 17 1200 WCA over 60s

Christmas lunch Community Centre

Sun 17 Carols by Candelight Parish

Church Tue 19 School term ends

Tue 19 1930 Wingrave Art Club

Community Centre Wed 27 1000

Local ramble Fri 29 NO WCA social
evening

Painting & Decorating

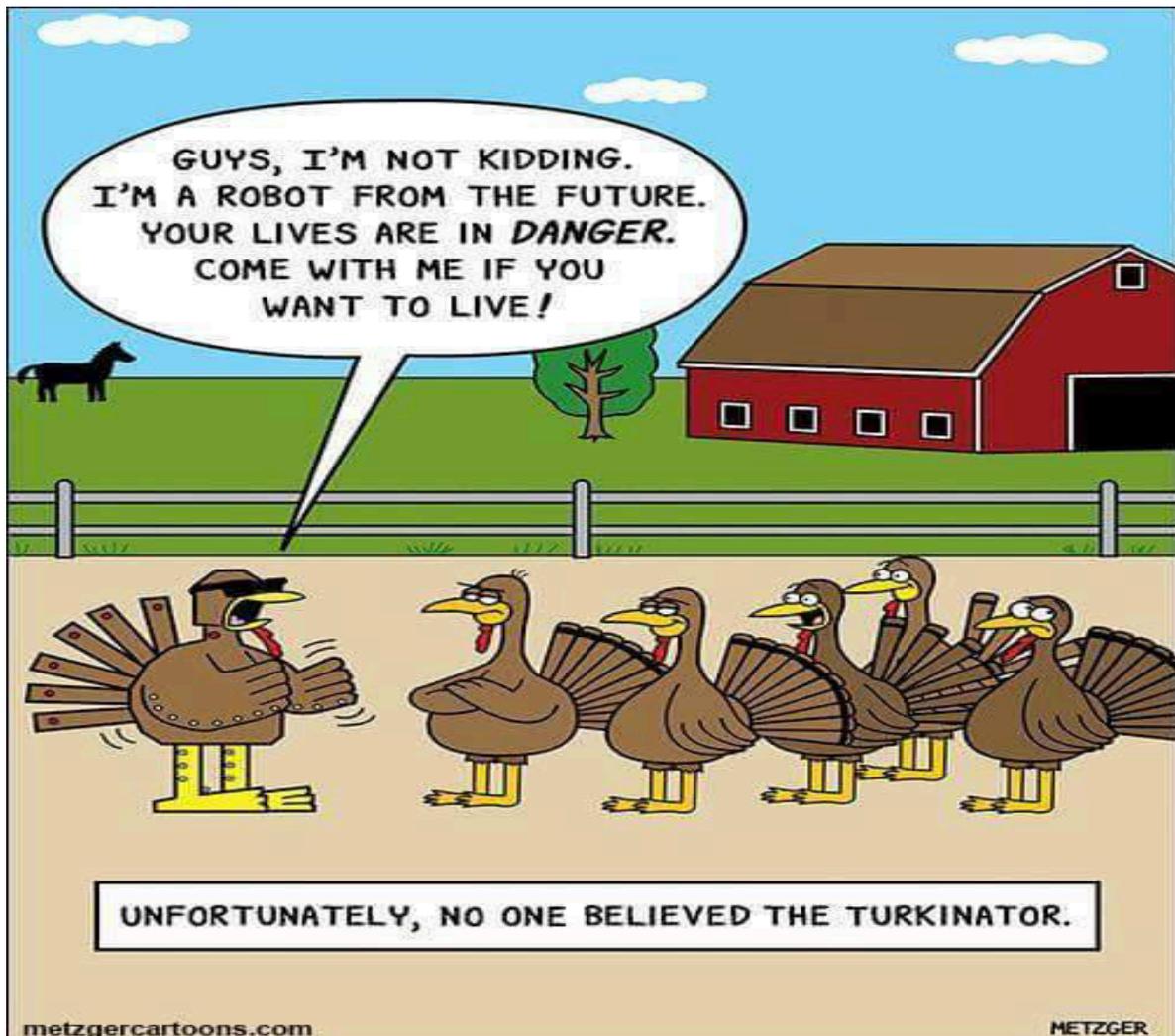
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This December at



What's On

Friday 1st - Live Music with

Mark Scobey



Friday 1st Start of Festive menu
(ends 31st December)

Saturday 2nd Breakfasts from 9.30 – 11.00am

Sunday 3rd Roast Lunch – booking advised

Mon 4th Unicorn Quiz

Thursday 7th - Steak Night

- 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

Saturday 9th Breakfasts from 9.30 – 11.00am

Sunday 10th Roast Lunch – booking advised

Mon 11th Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm

Wednesday 13th - Sloe Gin Competition

- Entries in by 7.30pm

Thursday 14th - Steak Night

- 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

Saturday 16th Breakfasts from 9.30 – 11.00am

Sunday 17th Roast Lunch – booking advised

Mon 18th Unicorn Christmas Quiz

Thursday 21st - Steak Night

- 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

Fri 22nd Live Music with

The Spokes



Saturday 23rd Breakfasts from 9.30 – 11.00am

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

Roast Lunch – booking advised

Monday 25th Christmas Day - come for drinks,
Christmas lunch (bookings only)

Tues 26th Boxing Day - come for drinks

Thursday 28th - Steak Night

- 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

Saturday 30th Breakfasts from 9.30 – 11.00am

Sunday 31st New Years Eve



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Small Talk Saves Lives

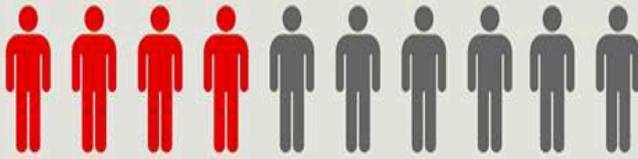
SOURCE: WWW.SAMARITANS.ORG

86%

would be supportive of a campaign to help reduce suicide on the rail networks

83%

recognise that a simple question can ease the thoughts of somebody who is feeling suicidal

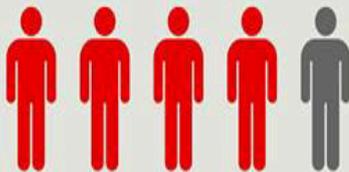


4 in 10

would approach someone in distress if they thought it would be appreciated

69%

believe they would notice if a fellow rail passenger was upset or in distress on the platform



4 in 5

would approach someone who may be suicidal if they knew the signs to look for



Stop Press

Yet another car was ditched on the Cublington Road Aston Clinton on the evening of Tuesday 22nd November. Three young men were in the car and it is expected the driver was going too fast round the

sharp bend, lost control and ended up off road in the ditch.

The driver and passengers were unhurt and got help to clear the car.



The Christmas



Sunday 10th December at 7.30pm.

Get a team together or join one and

come to the **Royal Oak for a**

Christmas fun evening.

Full Cash Prize to the winning team and

that Free Draw Dinner for 2.

Food Available

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