

# *The Chronicle*

September 2019 <sup>398</sup>

## Aston Abbotts Wins Best Kept Village

We didn't just win, we won well



**The Gurney Cup (villages with a population of 500 and under) – Winner: Aston Abbotts. Runner-up: Fulmer**

Bill Chapple, Chairman of the Best Kept Village Competition, said: “Our popular Best Kept Village

Competition highlights the great community activity that goes on in our lovely Buckinghamshire villages and towns.

“It is a great way to recognise the contribution of many who give their time and effort to showcase

and enhance their local environment. “The Best Kept Village competition is not just for ‘pretty’ villages and towns – we want to see communities where everyone makes an effort to keep their surroundings well maintained.

“Judging is not just about the high streets but also the other areas in the village or town to emphasise all the community’s contributions.”

## ***Aston Abbotts***

**Feedback from the judges with a score of 94/100 they were very impressed!**

**The churchyard is excellent, beautifully and sensitively maintained with a lovely wildflower meadow.**

**The church noticeboard is a little scruffy. The village hall**

**noticeboard, despite not poster, was very good.**

**The village hall itself is kept in good condition with fresh paintwork.**

**The bus shelters were tidy and in good order.**

**The recreation ground was also excellent with a good children's play area. Trees had been planted and the seat and planter at the far side all showed that care is taken.**

**A real effort throughout the village had been made with floral displays of hanging baskets and planters. The verges were tidy. It is evident that the community takes a real pride in the village.**

**Overall Aston Abbotts is very deserving of its high mark and is a worthy winner.”**



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# ***Best Kept Village Ceremony***

***14<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 11.45am – 12.15pm. The Green  
HM Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher and  
an invited delegation of Buckinghamshire County Council personnel will  
be joining us on The Green to celebrate Aston Abbotts winning Bucks Best  
Kept Village***

***You're all welcome to join us as we celebrate this great achievement.  
Then afterwards.....***

**Join us for a picnic**

## **To celebrate Aston Abbotts winning Best Kept Village 2019**

**Date: Saturday, 14th September 2019**

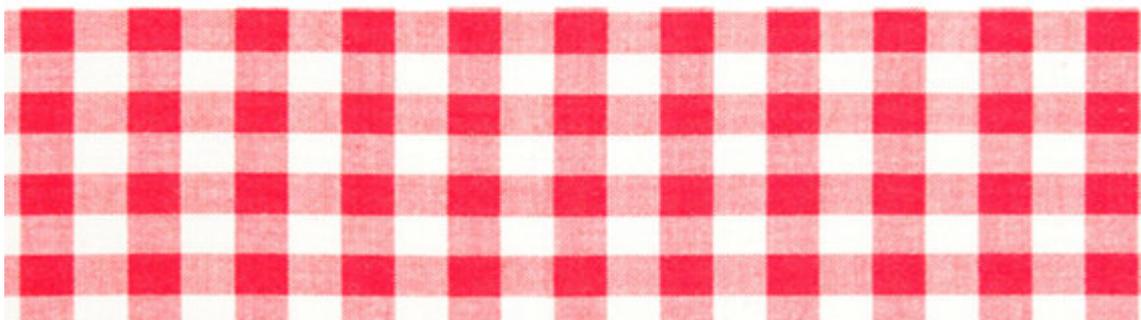
**Time: 12.15pm - 2.30pm**

**(The picnic will take place immediately after  
the award ceremony on the Green)**

**Venue: Aston Abbotts Recreation Ground.**

**Please bring your own food, drink and  
chairs/rug to celebrate our award win!**

**Everyone welcome.**



## ***From the Editor***

I apologise to anyone who couldn't get their article in this edition. Space is the issue for the September mag'.

### **Villagers number plates stolen**

A disturbing awakening for some residents on the main road of The Green, Saturday 10th August, to find their car number plates had been removed. Stolen. Police have been involved. If anyone has CCTV of this area in the early hours of Saturday morning 10th August please inform 101.

### **Best Kept Village Award**

Blinding result for Aston Abbotts winning the 2019 award and hoping as many residents can attend the ceremony on Saturday 14th September 11.45 at The Green and the picnic afterwards.

I must mention our fellow resident Andy Small who has been renovating and extending his

home on The Green. I would like to point out his excellent work standards and that of his team. They have worked with such professionalism throughout this work and have not inconvenienced anyone to my knowledge. The house looks amazing.



shared by silversurfers.com

## ***What's on in September***

<b>Rambling Club</b>	<b>Sunday 1st 14.00</b>	<b>College Lake</b>
<b>Evensong</b>	<b>Sunday 1st 18.00</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Quiz Night</b>	<b>Sunday 1st 19.30</b>	<b>Royal Oak</b>
<b>Pilates</b>	<b>Every Tues 09.30</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Yoga</b>	<b>Every Tues 17.45</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>Tuesday 3rd 19.30</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Chip Van</b>	<b>Weds from 20.15</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Morning Cafe</b>	<b>Every Thurs 10-12</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Whist Drive</b>	<b>Thurs 5th/9th 19.30</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Bingo</b>	<b>Thurs 12th 19.30</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Bus Trip</b>	<b>Friday 20th 10.00</b>	<b>10.00 bus to Aylesbury</b>
<b>Horticultural Show</b>	<b>Saturday 7th Staging 10-11.30. Judging 11.45. Open 12.30. Medals presented 15.30.</b>	<b>Village Hall. Schedule from Colin Higgs</b>
<b>Best Kept Village Award Ceremony</b>	<b>Saturday 14th. 11.45</b>	<b>The Green</b>
<b>Village Footpath Walk</b>	<b>Sunday 15th 14.00</b>	<b>The Green</b>

## ***Teenagers tried to rob a 15-year-old at knifepoint Wing Recreational Ground***

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses following a robbery in Wing. At around 6.30pm on Monday (22/07) the victim, a 15 year-old boy, was walking in Wing recreation ground when he was stopped by two men. The men asked the victim if he had anything to smoke, when he said no, one of the offenders threw the victim against a wall and told him to hand over his phone and money.

The victim saw one of the offenders had a small knife, he managed to get away from the two men and was not injured.

The first offender is described as a white man aged around 16 years old. He is described as being

approximately 6ft tall and skinny build, with a freckled face and blonde curly hair. He was wearing dark clothing, gloves and a black backpack.

The second offender is described as a white man, aged around 16 years old. He is described as being approximately 5ft 8ins, of medium build with short dark hair.

Please report anything suspicious in the area around 6.30pm on Monday evening 22/07 that could be useful to this investigation.” Anyone with information regarding this incident can contact police on the 24-hour non-emergency number 101 quoting reference number ‘43190224514’ or make a report online.

Alternatively you can make a report anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## ***Your Letters***

**Ed,** It was good to read in the July/August Chronicle, Neil Shefferd's necessarily short but very fair summary of the fight against the proposal to build a third London Airport 50 years ago, which would have destroyed several villages, including a large part of Aston Abbotts.

This traumatic period in the village's history was also a catalyst for the formation of the Parish Council. The Aston Abbotts Parish Council was formed and held its first meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1969, when the first five Parish Councillors signed their declarations of acceptance of office.

It is significant that one of these was Colin Higgs, whose unbroken 50 years' service to the Parish Council deserves special recognition.

DAVID WATTS

***I have spoken to David. Ed***

**Dear Peter,**

I'm sorry to say that I feel bad by our village in that it doesn't support our local. Agreed, there is strong support from some residents like me who enjoy the atmosphere in our pub.

However I constantly notice that the majority of customers come from outside the village.

On most Sunday afternoons the restaurant is full, not by our village folk but by customers from outside.

When I spoke to you last Sunday (***August Quiz Night. Ed***) I pointed out that the vast majority of people were from outside the village; Wing, Wingrave, Weedon and Aylesbury. It was such a good night but missed by our own people.

The Royal Oak is a lovely pub. It's a shame it's not used by many of our villagers. **TP**

**Dear Pete**

We are leaving the village after nearly 22 years. It has been a great place to live and we will be returning for regular visits as my mother still lives here.

Please welcome Pete, Jodie, Esme and Mason who are moving here from Wing. Best wishes to all

**Liz & Patrick Clarke plus the crazy collies. From 2 The Acorns**

**Dear Pete,**

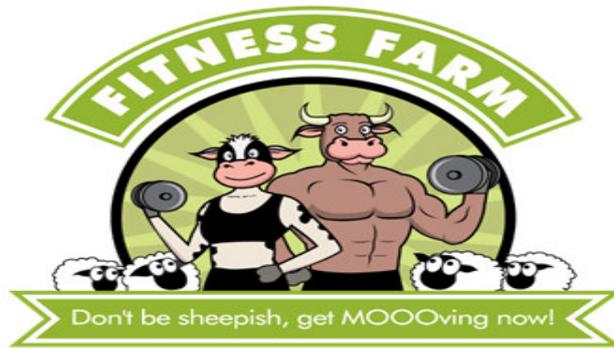
“On 19th September we have Stephen Hearn coming from the Tring Auction rooms to give a talk to the Aston Abbots and Cublington Ladies Club and he has agreed to do some valuations.

We would like to open the meeting up to anyone who is interested (Ladies and Gents), and has items they would like valued. Visitors would be most welcome to come along on the day at about 2.15pm to give us time to lay items out nicely for Stephen to value.

Tea and cakes will be served after the talk. Cost to visitors £2. Please come and join us for an interesting afternoon.  
**April Gilbert.”**



“What sort of chest pain?”



Get fitter, stronger and more flexible from our private gym in Wingrave offering:

One to One Personal Training, Spinning, Strength and HIIT Circuit Classes, Yoga, Bootcamp Classes, Pilates (coming soon) and Kids Bootcamp Classes. We also have a fully equipped gym with treadmills, rowers, resistance machines, free weights, squat racks etc.

### Class Timetable

Monday: 9.30am Circuits. 12.15pm Spin. 5pm Kids Bootcamp. 7.45pm Circuits

Tuesday: 9.30am Spin 8.25pm Spin

Wednesday: 9.30am Circuits. 5pm Kids Bootcamp 7.45pm Circuits 8.30pm Yoga

Thursday: 12.15pm Spin 8.25pm Spin

Friday: 9.30am Circuits 5pm Kids Bootcamp

Saturday: COMING SOON – 9am Bootcamp

Sunday: 9.30am Yoga

Memberships from £39 per month. Pay as you go options also available. Contact us to book a free class or PT consultation on 07841111901 or [info@fitness-farm.co.uk](mailto:info@fitness-farm.co.uk).

Address: The Fitness Farm, Chiltern Road, Wingrave, Bucks. HP22 4QQ.

# QUIZ NIGHT

Royal Oak Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 7.30pm

Full cash price & Free Dinner for 2 Draw

Food available

Come join the banter, fun & frolics

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month

*The Wingrave Players Present*  
*An Ardvaark & Graaft Pantomime*

**Robin and his  
Hood Merrie  
Wo Men**

*Wingrave Community Centre*  
*Thursday November 28th 7:00 PM*  
*Friday November 29th 7:30 PM*  
*Saturday November 30th 2:30 PM and 7:30 PM*

*Save the date!*

*Early Bird discounted tickets available 1st November from the pub, shop or online at*  
[www.tickettailor.com/events/wingravecommunityassociation](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/wingravecommunityassociation)

# ***Notes from the Parish Council – August 2019***

**Speed Signs.** At the June parish council meeting Cllr Judy Hardcastle showed some A4 size 30mph stickers designed to go on the side of wheelie bins. These are available in A4 and A5 sizes from [Stickerzilla.co.uk](http://Stickerzilla.co.uk) – go to <https://tinyurl.com/y2nfjpx5> to see the options. These are available singly but it is more economical to buy packs of 3 or more, so villagers might like to buy a pack along with their neighbours. You can also buy them from Amazon. Anything that reinforces the speed limit message in our village has got to be worthwhile.

The Local Area Forum has approved our application for match-funding of our own 30mph vehicle activated speed sign. This means the LAF will foot half the bill, with the rest coming from the precept (part of your council tax). It is hoped the sign will be obtained in the autumn and it will be used both as a deterrent and to monitor traffic volume and speeds.

Traffic in the village remains a significant concern and Cllr Kate Curry has produced a detailed analysis of the hazard points in Moat Lane. It is hoped

to use this in a push to get some improvements.

The PC have formally taken over responsibility for the **village defibrillator** attached to the Village Hall railings. The batteries will be checked as it has been in place for some time. Peter Cooper offered free training for parishioners on using the village defibrillator.

Following Aston Abbotts' success in the **Best Kept Village** competition Chris Phillips, the driver behind our effort, attended the July meeting. He was thanked and applauded for his success in motivating us. There is to be a presentation of the Gurney Cup on September the 14<sup>th</sup> and it was unanimously agreed that this should be accepted by Chris along with PC chair Jane Baylis.

**At the July meeting** County Councillor Netta Glover confirmed she had got us £250 funding for planters around the village and she also discussed changes to school transport arrangements. District Councillor Peter Cooper gave us an update on Bucks unitary council plans and said there would be a degree of localism for areas like transport and housing.

**The planning sub-committee** met to consider applications from Hill Rise House, Burston Hill Farm and Abbots View Farm. Minutes for the meeting can be viewed via the web-link at the bottom of this article.

Kevin Copping has kindly agreed to run the **village fireworks** again. The parish clerk will check to ensure the insurance is in place.

The council is considering what activities to plan for **next year's VE Day celebrations**.

The annual ROSPA safety report on the children's playground has now been received. There were no significant areas of concern.

Parish councillors now have official email addresses. This is in keeping with best practice guidance. Individual councillors can be emailed by using <firstname>.<lastname>@astonabbotts

pc.org and the clerk can be emailed at clerk@astonabbottspc.org.

**Have you ever considered becoming more involved in the village by becoming a Parish Councillor?** There are usually just 8-10 meetings per year and it offers the opportunity to make a contribution to our community. Elections to the Council will be held next spring, but if you would like to know a little more about it just approach any parish councillor or email the clerk. You can make a casual enquiry without any fear of being press-ganged!

**The next Parish Council meetings are on Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday October 29th.**

*This is an informal note of some matters discussed by Aston Abbots Parish Council. To read the official meeting minutes please go to <http://www.aston-abbotts.co.uk/pcdocuments.htm>*

## ***Joggers go Plogging to save the environment***



On the back of winning the 'Best Kept Village' award comes the popular concept of 'Plogging', (Litter picking whilst jogging)

Plogging is a new way to jog while cleaning up the planet. It's a craze that began in Sweden in 2016, with the term plogging being a combination of the Swedish word for pick up "plocka upp" and "jogga" (jogging).

The motivation behind plogging includes reducing the load of

plastic litter in our environment, as well as keeping fit in a way that stretches the body through bending and stooping while running. It's also a social exercise, as plogging is usually performed as part of a group run (but don't let that hold you back—solo is okay too).



If you love outdoor exercise, enjoy exercising with others, and care about removing litter from our environment, then this might just be the sport for you.

# ***The Royal Oak Aston Abbotts***



## ***New Specials Menu***

***Proper Traditional Sunday Roasts***

***Real Ale Variety***

***Gin Menu***

***Great Company***

***We have it all at the Royal Oak.***

***01296 681262***

## ***Safety reminder after eight kitchen fires in nine days across Bucks***



Bucks Fire and Rescue Service are urging people to take extra care in the kitchen after attending eight fires involving cookers, hobs and chip pans throughout the county in nine days.

The incidents happened in Chesham, Steeple Claydon, Winslow, Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Whelpley Hill plus the Bradwell, Great Holm,

Tattenhoe, Fishermead and Fenny Stratford areas of Milton Keynes.

Karen Lock from Bucks Fire and Rescue Service's community safety team said: "It only takes a moment's distraction, such as a phone call or a knock at the door, for a fire to start in your kitchen.

"We are urging people to put safety first when they are cooking.

"If a fire does break out, it's also very important to know what to do so that you can keep yourself safe.

"The key advice is to get out, stay out and call 999.

"Turn off the heat if it is safe to do so, and close doors behind you as you leave."

# ***Aston Abbotts Horticultural Society AUTUMN SHOW***

***Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Village Hall, Aston Abbotts***

***Staging of exhibits between 10.00 and 11.30 am***

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

### **SECTION 1 – Classes 1 – 9**

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Beans, Runner – 4 pods.        | 2. Beetroot – 3, with 5 cm tops |
| 3. Carrots – 4 with 5 cm stalks   | 4. Tomatoes – 4 with stalks     |
| 5. Potatoes – 4 any variety       | 6. Onions – 3 any variety       |
| 7. Longest Marrow                 | 8. A plate of 10 soft fruits    |
| 9. Apples – 3 any dessert variety |                                 |

### **SECTION 2 – DOMESTIC CLASSES**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 10. Signature Challenge - 4 Fruit scones (made according to the recipe overleaf) | 11. Technical Challenge – Coffee & Walnut Cake    |
| 12. A Victoria Sandwich Cake - own recipe – Men Only!                            |   |
| 13. Something new made out of something old.                                     | 14. A Pot Plant                                   |
| 15. A Jar of Marmalade (labelled with fruit used).                               | 16. A Jar of Jam/Jelly (labelled with fruit used) |
| 17. A Jar of Chutney   |   |
| 18. A Photograph - "Around Aston Abbotts"  | 19. A bottle of home-made wine                    |

### **SECTION 3 – JUNIOR CLASSES up to age 14**

(Age up to 8 for classes 20 & 21 must be given on entry form)

- |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 20. An animal made out of vegetables. | 21. A collection of herbs |
| 22. 3 Jam tarts.                      | 21. Best dressed bottle   |

### **AWARDS**

Aston Abbotts Coupe de Légumes – Most points in Vegetable Section – Classes 1-9

Rosettes for Winners and Runners-up in each section

### **REGULATIONS FOR SHOWING**

1. All classes are open to all persons. 2. All exhibits, unless provided in the additional regulations, must have been grown or made by the exhibitor.

3. Only one entry per person per class.

4. There will be an entry fee charge for sections 1 & 2 of £1 per class. 5. Entries must be staged between 10.00 and 11.30 am on the day of the Show. 6.

Exhibitors should collect Show Cards from the Show Secretary. Cards to be placed face downwards in front of the exhibit. It is helpful if varieties are labelled.

7. No exhibitor is permitted to move another exhibitor's entry. A show steward must be contacted. 8. Exhibitors should consult members of the Committee present at the staging of exhibits on any queries as to the correct class for particular exhibits.

9. Property is displayed at the exhibitor's risk. 10. Judging will take place between 11.45 am and 12.30pm. 11. Points will be awarded: 1st – 3 points, 2nd – 2 points, 3rd – 1 point.

12. There will be monetary prizes for Junior Entries only: 1st - 50p, 2nd -40p, 3rd -30p. Prize money may be collected from the Show Secretary from 3.00pm onwards.

13. Any disputes will be settled by Colin – you have been warned.

19. Members of the public will be admitted from 12.30pm. Entry will be free. Donations accepted towards costs. 20. Trophies, medals & certificates – presented at 3.30pm.

21. Exhibits must not be removed until 4.00pm.

### **ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS**

1. Exhibits in Junior Class 20 need not have been grown by the exhibitor.

2. Class 13 – Exhibits to depict the title.

### **RECIPE - Coffee & Walnut Cake**

#### **For the cake:**

1. 250g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing.
2. 100 ml strong black coffee (made with 2 tbsp coffee granules) cooled
3. 250g golden caster sugar.
4. 4 medium free-range eggs.
5. 280g self-raising flour.
6. ½ tsp baking powder.
7. 90g walnut 2 tbsp roughly chopped the rest finely chopped.

#### **For the filling:**

1. 100g icing sugar, sifted, plus a little extra for dusting
2. 150ml double cream
3. 100g mascarpone, at room temperature

You'll also need:

2 x 20cm round cake tins.

#### **Method**

1. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
2. Butter cake tins and line with baking parchment. Set aside 1 tbsp of the coffee for the filling

3. Beat the butter, flour, sugar, baking powder, eggs, vanilla and half the remaining coffee

in a large bowl with an electric whisk until lump-free.

4. Fold in the finely chopped walnuts, then divide between the tins and roughly spread.

Scatter the roughly chopped walnuts over one of the cakes.

5. Bake for between 25 & 30 minutes until golden and risen.

6. Drizzle the plain cake with the remaining coffee.

7. Leave to cool

8. Meanwhile, make the filling: beat together the icing sugar, cream and mascarpone

9. Fold in the reserved 2 tbsp coffee

10. Spread over the plain cake, then cover with the walnut-topped cake

and dust with a little icing sugar



**June. I won the best parsnips**

### August 2019

**1<sup>st</sup> prize, £50 Mervyn Higgs**

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize, £10 Pam Dixon**

### 100 Club Draw July 2019

**1<sup>st</sup> prize, £50 Caroline Abel Smith**

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize, £10 Ian Smith**

## ***Wine and Walnuts in Georgia***

### **Part 1 - Sally Palmer**

When I said I was visiting Georgia in the Caucasus people seemed a little surprised as it is not a well-known destination so I thought some might find our experiences of interest.

Georgia is a small country of 3 million people bounded by the High Caucasus Mountains and Russia to the north and Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan to the South. It has been invaded over the centuries by the Romans, Turks, Mongols and Persians and finally by the Russians from 1800 only gaining independence in 1992.

Many traders passed through on their journey along the famous silk road. It has therefore come under the influence of many cultures that is reflected in its varied architecture. It was one of the first countries to convert to Christianity which is still an important part of life and St George being an important saint several images of which are to be found in most churches. However it has somewhat developed its own unique culture and has four Unesco Intangible Cultural assets which are: the unique way of making wine in terracotta pots Kveveri (more about that later),

Polyphonic singing in 3 parts (sent into space with Bach's music on the Voyager Space mission), Georgian wrestling and Georgian Script with an alphabet of 33 letters. Perhaps its most famous historical figure is Joseph Stalin born in the Georgian town of Gori to a shoe maker. He became involved in the Bolshevik revolution and succeeded Lenin as leader of the USSR.



The climate and landscape (from the Black Sea coast to the mountains) are very varied such that it grows a huge variety of produce on its fertile soil. It has extensive vineyards that produce good quality wines and more alcoholic cha cha (grappa). It grows citrus fruit especially water melon and peaches as well as a huge quantity of walnuts and hazelnuts. You will find a tasty snack made from nuts coated in a grape juice paste hanging on market stalls all over Georgia. There are also many cheeses that I have never eaten before though they tend to be too salty for my taste.

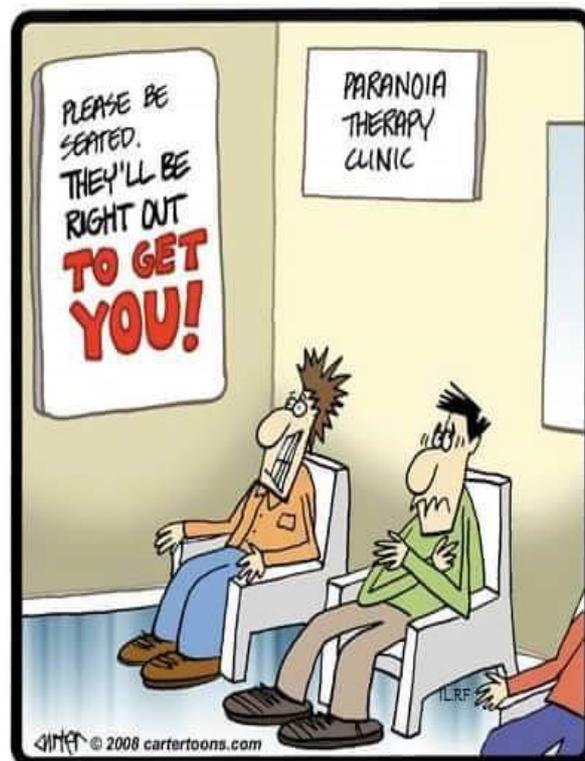
Much honey is also produced here. You will not go hungry in Georgia.

We began our tour in Tbilisi the capital staying in the old town built on the steep hillside below an impressive fort originally built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Next to our hotel the small mosque unusually allowed both Sunni and Shia muslims to worship together. Below, the river with old sulphur baths with distinctive brick domes one with a beautiful Islamic blue tiled façade. The restored old houses with beautifully ornate wooden balconies. Our tour of the city included a great evening at The Gabriadze Theatre which is a famous marionette puppet show. If you have been to such shows in Prague you will probably have seen something like Don Giovanni performed by puppets but this was different. The show was a well-crafted quirky and very funny story with clear anti-Russian bias. Russian visitors were treated to a commentary through headphones, however I wonder how accurate the translation was to the original script.

The English subtitles were entertaining in themselves as they contained many errors which I think had been left in deliberately. The story revolved around the love of 2 steam engines -Ermon, sent

off to Siberia on a special mission, leaves Ramona – a beautiful shunting engine- for 3 months. Ramona is persuaded by a circus troupe to help them stage a show in a nearby town as they have to be inspected by the Ministry of Culture (Circus Dept). To cut a long and hilarious story short Ramona is persuaded to perform on the tightrope due to an accident to the tightrope walker. Unsurprisingly tragedy follows as Ramona falls from the tightrope and is damaged beyond repair. In a touching Romeo and Juliet moment Ermon is dismantled as he dies of grief. Never thought I'd cry over a train!

## Part 2 next month





**Good Samaritans Bingo!**

**£90 raised in July for:**



**Join us on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

**Aston Abbots Village Hall 7.30pm start**

**In aid of: *British Heart Foundation***

***Services at Saint James Church - Aston Abbots September 2019***

<b>1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b>	<b>Rev. Philip Derbyshire</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Harvest Praise</b>	<b>Rev. Philip Derbyshire</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Breakfast in the Village Hall,</b>	
		<b>followed by a short service</b>	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Rev. Roger Hale</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Rev. Canon David Holloway</b>

## ***The Great Train Robbery Revisited***

46 years ago the Great Train Robbery took place not far from



Around 3.00 am of Thursday 8th August 1963 a gang of criminals stopped the Glasgow to London mail train and stole £2.6m (the equivalent today of £54m).



A 16 strong gang led by Bruce Reynolds tampered with the railway signal at Cheddington Station to bring the train to a halt.

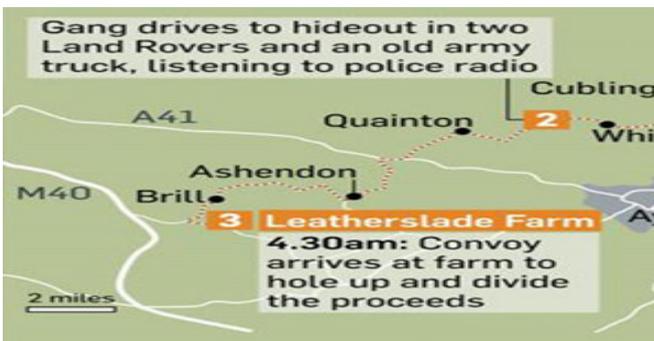
our village. I thought it would be of interest to show the story through pictures from the Aylesbury Society.



The train driver, Jack Mills, was attacked with an iron bar and suffered brain damage from blows to the head. He never fully recovered from his injuries and did not drive an express train again. He continued to suffer as a result of the assault and died in February 1970 aged 64.



## How the crime unfolded



*Of the 16 members of the gang, 11 were found guilty on various charges (2 were subsequently*

*exonerated) and received sentences of up to 30 years' imprisonment.*

# **630 Club – NOW IN IT'S 35th YEAR!**

Initially, in 1985, three of us used to meet at the Bull & Butcher early on Saturday nights for an early couple of pints.

The word 'got around', a few others joined us, and someone coined the name '6.30' Club, About this time, a development at Nash's Farm brought several like-minded lads to the village and suddenly there were a dozen of us! From the outset it was agreed formality would be minimal, but it was also strongly felt the club's general aims should be to provide a venue whereby newcomers and visitors would always be welcomed. Furthermore, members were encouraged to assist in village matters.

At it's height, members started to wear bow ties and rivalry started as to who could find the most outrageous tie. However, Major Tim joined, and had club bow ties made for all. A few 'diehards' still wear these in the forlorn hope that the custom may return; and indeed, many more still do at member's funerals. One Saturday, several 'Young Farmers' who'd been drinking in the

'back bar', decided to take the 'micky', and came in wearing huge bow ties made out of toilet paper; a joke much appreciated by all. Far more poignantly though was the Saturday after Princess Di's death when every member, completely un-prompted, attended wearing a black bow tie.

During this period, some members gave their time very freely to ensure the club would be a success and one member, Andy Stefanczyk, very generously had pint glasses made, each being inscribed with individual's names, though few if any remained after the closure of the Bull & Butcher. Also, many outings, fund raising events, parties, St Georges Nights, Christmas parties etc. were organised. Perhaps the event most remembered was the decision to stage our version of The Full Monty which we called The 'Bull' Monty. It turned out to be an evening of great fun as can be gauged by the video on you-tube. When the Bull & Butcher was closed, we were immediately made welcome at the Royal Oak where we've been happily meeting ever since..

At the present time some twenty members attend quite regularly, continuing to enjoy the comradeship and give a warm welcome to all new comers and visitors to the village. Some

of our older members are regrettably no longer able to come along, but many others have joined us; generally maintaining the 'status quo'.

**The future** looks to be pretty secure, and so long as we have a pub in the village, there's little reason to believe the 630 Club shouldn't continue for another 35 years. There will of course changes as there have always been. The most obvious one at present is the increasing number of ladies who now join us. They are of course most welcome, and this, combined with the continuing aim of providing a venue

Oh good!! Six thirty on the clock! It's Saturday, so, 'on the dot',

us thirsty lads forsake our spouses, as lemming like we leave our houses,

to wend our way to the social hub. Where else? but down to village pub.

whereby newcomers and visitors will always be welcomed, should ensure the Club continues to be an enjoyable asset to our village for many years to come,

**(Andy Bystra)**



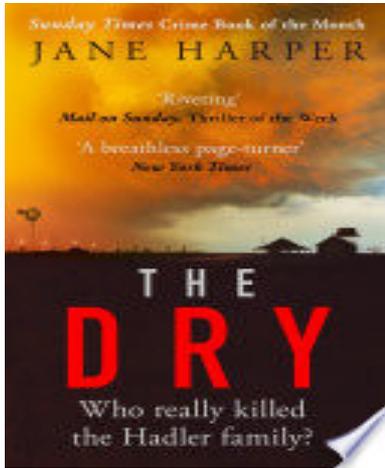
All mustered, happy, pint in hand gregarious, noisy, happy band.

Jokes and plans and deals and such; remember friends still missed so much.

Then all too soon, last pint must sup, and 'weave' off home, - our hours up!!

## ***Aston Abbotts Book Club June held at 'The Old Cottage'***

### ***'The Dry'***



I was recommended this book by my son-in-law Roberto which I thoroughly enjoyed. Usually I avoid crime thrillers but was riveted by the 'Dry' especially as we had just taken a train trip from Perth to Sydney and witnessed days of the Nullarbor Plains.

The Dry - During the worst drought to ravage Australia in a century, it hasn't rained in a small country town Kiewarra for two years. Tensions in the

community become unbearable when three members of the Hadler family are brutally murdered. Everyone thinks Luke Hadler, who committed suicide after slaughtering his wife and six-year-old son, is guilty.

Policeman Aaron Falk returns to the town of his youth for the funeral of his childhood best friend, and is unwillingly drawn into the investigation. As questions arise and suspicion spreads through the town, Aron is forced to confront the community that rejected him twenty years earlier. Because Aron and Luke Hadler shared a secret, one which Luke's death threatens to unearth. And as Aron delves deeper into the killings, secrets from his past and why he left home bubble to the surface as he questions the truth of his friend's crime.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed 'The Dry' and left all in suspense until the end!

**Francesca**

## **ALLOTMENT DIARY PETER SHORROCK**



Did the leaves of your onions become weak and feeble, and begun to corkscrew, rather than growing straight; and were the onion bulbs rather pathetic as a result? If so, then like a number of gardeners on the allotments, you have acquired an unwelcome pest called the alium leaf miner (or, sometimes, the onion leaf miner). This pest affects all members of the alium family (onions, shallots, leeks & chives), and while it prefers leeks and chives, it is happy to accept onions, if there are no leeks or chives handy.

It was first recorded in Poland in 1858, and has gradually been spreading across Europe since then. In 2003 it arrived in England, and this year it has arrived in Aston Abbots. There are no chemical controls available to domestic gardeners, and the only solution at the moment is to cover the crop with fleece

or mesh during the period from March to June.

The pest is a small fly, about 3mm long, which lays eggs on the alium. When these hatch, the tiny maggots burrow through the leaves leaving small tunnels, which weaken the structural integrity of the leaves, which then flop over and twist. The bulbs of the onions or other aliums then fail to develop properly.

It is now number 7 on the RHS list of garden pests. While it is a bit late to give you this advice, the articles I have read suggest that affected plants should be uprooted and burnt, (and NOT put on the compost heap), to try to eradicate this pest. Remember this for next year if your plants become infected.

It has been a very good season for me so far. Apart from losing a few onions to the alium leaf miner, my only failure was my mange-tout: most of the seeds failed to germinate, and those that did only produced very tiny pods. However, for the first time for a number of years, I have succeeded in growing a satisfactory number of parsnips, and my crop of beetroot has been spectacular. This year I grew a variety which produces white and orangy-yellow

beetroot, as well as the normal purply-maroon variety, which was interesting.

By mistake, this year I ordered onion seeds, rather than onion sets. To be on the safe side I then bought a packet of onion sets, so that I was able to compare the two ways of growing onions. As you would expect, the onions grown from sets ripened earlier, but those grown from seed seem to be bigger. And the crop has been excellent, apart from those plants affected by the allium leaf miner

This year I have grown what may be the world's most productive courgette plant: it is producing more than double the number of courgettes produced by my other two plants put together. The reason is not any skill on my part. You will know that courgette plants normally produce masses of tendrils with leaves on them and one or two spurs upon which the fruit grows. My main plant has three spurs producing fruit! It is producing two or three courgettes every couple of days! I am taking so many courgettes to my neighbours, I think

they will soon be hiding behind the curtains when I arrive at their front door!

I will soon also be having the same problem with my tomatoes. In previous years, I have grown them in large pots in my greenhouse. This year, Adam persuaded me to plant them directly into the ground, having dug holes for the purpose, and filled them with compost. The result has been little short of incredible. I reckon I will have a crop 4 times as big as the crop I have picked in past years. I have always had 4 plants in the past: after this result, I will be cutting down to two. I also did very well with my gooseberries, and luckily have discovered a very simple recipe for gooseberry fool, which together with the jam and crumbles I have made (the latter going in the freezer), has enabled me to use up most of the crop.

I hope your vegetable growing has been equally successful, and that nothing happens during the rest of the summer to reduce the crops of those vegetables yet to mature.



Thames Valley Police have started to see a slight increase in reports of hare coursing now the fields are starting to be harvested.

Hare coursing is illegal under the Hunting Act 2004. It is the pursuit of hares with dogs, often for the purposes of betting on open, flat land.

Thames Valley Police say:

"Aside from the Hunting Act offences, it also has many criminal impacts; criminal damage to boundaries, fencing, gates and fields.

"Farmers are often faced with threatening behaviour and

intimidation. There is also money laundering offences from the proceeds of crime." TVP say if you see a live incident please dial 999, but if you've seen something happen and want to report it at a later date, please dial 101.

They also say you should always report instances of hare coursing, no matter how minor to help the police obtain an accurate reflection of the extent of the issue. TVP say you can help by obtaining as much detail as possible, if safe to do so. This includes descriptions of offenders, dogs, vehicle number plates and distinguishing features and specific locations.

**Dear friends,**

It's interesting, I think that our world is made up of millions of settlements from hamlets through to mega-cities and yet vast numbers of people are on the move at any one time. There are people moving home, some on holiday trips, refugees from war and famine, nomadic farmers, gap-year backpackers and so on. Lots of religious faith leaders spent time on the road: Jesus for three years with His friends the disciples, Buddha as he travelled round preaching and teaching and Mohammed as he journeyed through Arabia establishing Islam wherever he went.

Indeed the earliest name for the Church in New Testament times was The Way, implying movement rather than settlement was their Modus operandi: encountering new individuals and groups wherever they went.

One of my favourite modern hymns and an all time favourite in schools is "One more step along the world I go". My favourite verse is the fourth one---

*" Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough.*

*Leap and sing in all I do, keep me travelling along with you".*

The chorus also speaks of travelling from the old to the new making it clear that real faith is about movement, challenge, growth and development, not about stagnation and fustiness. Our God is about yesterday, today and tomorrow. it is all too easy to overlook the latter by overconcentration on the past or being stuck in the now.

God wants us to grasp hold of the whole lot as we travel through our journey of life.

Happy journeying, God bless,

**Revd. Philip.**

## ***It all makes work for the working man to do (with apologies to Flanders & Swan)***

The Electrical Installation in the Church is inspected and re-certified by our local electrician every 5 years. The latest inspection took place on 18<sup>th</sup> June this year. Everything was OK except that his earthing impedance measurement on the incoming power cable was too high and he advised me to contact my supplier. My supplier (Scottish Power) said it was not their responsibility and I should contact UK Power Networks (UKPN).

So it was on a Monday morning (July 22) that the UKPN man came to call. He inspected and he measured and he declared that the earthing was perfectly alright. However, he said the meter was incorrectly wired and he could not switch the power back on because meters are the responsibility of my supplier. But I discovered that my supplier subcontracts meters to a company called Actavo.

So it was on a Wednesday morning (July 24) that the meter man (from Actavo) came to call. He brought along

his Health and Safety man to quality control the job and he inspected and pontificated and declared that the meter was in fact correctly wired, but it was old so he changed it for a modern one. However, he said he could not switch the power on until the local electrician had looked at the new installation.

So it was on a Friday morning (July 26) that our local electrician came to call. He declared the installation satisfactory and finally restored the power to the Church.

So it had taken four companies and nearly 6 weeks, including a week without power, to establish that there was nothing wrong with our electrics.

David Gray

### ***Shocking! Sorry. Ed***

### ***September Church Duties***

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
7th	Ann Caroline L	Harvest
14th	Alex & Anita	Festival
21st	Colin & Gay	TBA
28th	David	TBA

## ***RIDE & STRIDE for churches 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019***

### ***Sponsor Forms from Caroline Abel Smith 681001***

Join us for a leisurely walk, an energetic run, a relaxed family cycle ride, a bicycle marathon or a horseback adventure, the choice is yours! For an off-road experience you could visit Milton Keynes and cycle or walk the Redpaths to see the city from a new perspective, take a ride along the Grand Union canal, or try out some of the cycle paths that are springing up around the county.

Ride & Stride takes place on the second Saturday of September each year providing an opportunity to raise funds for Bucks Historic Churches Trust; an organisation dedicated to helping maintain the fabric of the county's fascinating churches and chapels. Over the years the Trust has given grants varying from a few hundred pounds to £50,000 to help many, many churches with their repairs. St James the Great in Aston Abbots received £10,000 a few years ago to help with masonry repairs.

Across Buckinghamshire many churches of all denominations will be open to welcome you from 10.00 to 16.00.

Refreshments will be provided and several of the churches have some facilities available so that you can plan your route.

Please ask friends, family and colleagues to sponsor your efforts. To make this easy, you can set up a 'Just Giving' page, which is safe and easy to manage. If you don't feel you can collect sponsorship, why not make a donation to Bucks Historic Churches Trust and take part anyway?

For more information visit the website: [www.bucks-historic-churches.org](http://www.bucks-historic-churches.org) or email [ridestride@bucks-historic-churches.org](mailto:ridestride@bucks-historic-churches.org) for any other help. The website has a list of the hundreds of churches that will be open across the county and also offers some suggested routes to help you plan your day. Half the money you raise will go to the church of your choice (hopefully, St James the Great, Aston Abbots!) the other half to support the work of the Trust

Choose your own route and travel at your own pace – ENJOY THE DAY.



*That's a load off your mind!*

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**ASTON ABBOTTS FETE 2019**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Proceeds</b>
Books	£150
Bottle Tombola	£371
Bric-a-Brac	£262
Cakes & Gifts	£293
Plants	£138
PIMMS	£416
BBQ	£460
Treasure Hunt	£57
Raffle	£1,635
Bouncy Castle	£50
Coconut Shy	£115
Dog Show	£71
Ice Creams	£176
Skittles	£125
Village Hall Teas	£450
	<hr/>
Total Income	£4,768
	<hr/>

## Expenditure

Aldbury Morris Men	£150
Great Horwood Silver Band	£160
Raffle Prizes	£250
Gaming Licence	£20
Drinks Licence (TEN)	£21
Public Address System	£148
Raffle Ticket Production (Quills)	£127
Charge for use of Village Hall	£60
	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	£936

## Recipients 2019

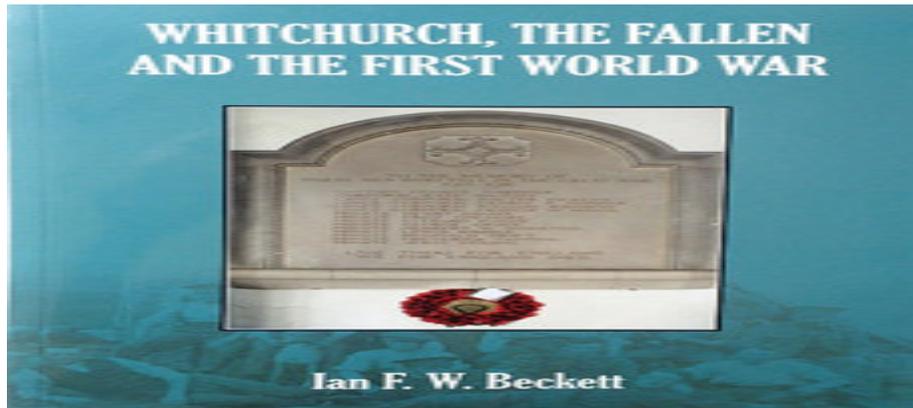
Fireworks	£200
The Chronicle	£400
St. James Church (PCC Aston Abbotts)	£3,232

## Notes

Distribution of proceeds as decided at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Public Liability Insurance Premium paid by the Parish Council

# The Royal British Legion Whitchurch & District Branch



**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019 At the Church Hall,  
Whitchurch at 7.30 p.m.**

A launch, organised by the Legion, of his book entitled by Professor Ian Beckett.

Refreshments will be available as will signed copies. Professor Beckett was born in Whitchurch and educated at Aylesbury Grammar School and the Universities of Lancaster and London. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he retired as Professor of Military History at the University of Kent in 2015.

### ***The Chronicle Annual Advertising rates***

<b>Full Page Inside</b>	<b>£90</b>
<b>Half Page Inside</b>	<b>£50</b>
<b>Quarter Page</b>	<b>£35</b>
<b>One Offs Full</b>	<b>£20</b>
<b>Half</b>	<b>£15</b>
<b>Quarter</b>	<b>£10</b>

Send copy and cheque payable to 'The Chronicle' to John Whyte 14 Bricstock, Aston Abbots Bucks HP224LP.



**Aston Abbotts**

## Village Hall news

**Bookings** Fete day – the hall was very busy! Pilates (Tuesday mornings) Yoga (Wednesday evenings) and the Thursday coffee mornings have carried on over the summer. There's been a birthday party. The produce show is coming up in early September, and we look forward to the return of whist/bingo/breakfast services as well. There is still plenty of booking time for other events – please just ask. There is an availability calendar every month in the Chronicle, and also inside the hall. Private bookings for village residents start at £7.50 per hour, unchanged since 2017.

To book, email:  
[astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com](mailto:astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com) Or  
call: 01296 682605/07976 671701 (Liz Barlow) 01296 681152 (Nigel Palmer)

**How you can help** Can you take a turn at monthly cleaning? Four people share this at the moment and would

love company or someone to make their turn come around less often. Please contact me and I'll explain:  
Caroline, 681373,  
[carolinelane@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinelane@btinternet.com) Play the Vale Lottery online and choose us as your charity: [www.valelottery.co.uk](http://www.valelottery.co.uk)

New to the village? Buy an Aston Abbotts village history book (covers the years 1000 to 2000) – locally researched and written, reprinted by the village hall to raise funds. £10 from Caroline, as above

Just a reminder: if anyone is having difficulty in getting the tables in and out of the storeroom for regular events, please contact one of us and we'll be happy to help. In particular, John Whyte (681685), Nigel Palmer (681152) and Peter Shorrocks (681260) Aston Abbotts Village Hall Trustees group: Caroline Lane (Chair), Liz Hall (Secretary), Nigel Palmer (Treasurer), Liz Barlow, Peter Shorrocks, John Whyte, Kevin Copping.

Email:  
[astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com](mailto:astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com)

# Village Hall Availability

September 2019

Sun 1	Mon 2	Tue 3	Wed 4	Thu 5	Fri 6	Sat 7
		9:15 Pilates 19:30 Parish Council	17:45 YOGA CLASS	9:30 Coffee Morning 19:30 Whist		Horticultural Show
8	9	10 9:15 Pilates	11 17:45 YOGA CLASS	12 9:30 Coffee Morning 18:30 Bingo	13	14 10:30 Best Kept Village Award - Bad Weather/Equipment Use only 12:30 E M Farrell
15	16	17 9:15 Pilates	18 17:45 NO YOGA CLASS	19 9:30 Coffee Morning 14 Ladies Club 19:30 Whist	20 17:45 Restorative Yoga	21
22 9 Breakfast service	23	24 9:15 Pilates	25 17:45 YOGA CLASS	26 9:30 Coffee Morning	27	28
29	30	1 9:15 Pilates	2 17:45 YOGA CLASS	3 9:30 Coffee Morning 19:30 Whist	4	5 12 E M Farrell

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Councillor & Street Lighting Highways & Transport Colin Higgs 681343  
Councillor Recreation Ground Phil' Spooner 681544  
Councillor Simon Guy 681319  
Councillor Lesley Clough  
Parish Council Clerk Frank Post 668206  
County Councillor Netta Glover 688357  
Vicar Philip Derbyshire 01525240287  
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Ladies Club Jackie Whyte 681624  
Rambling Club & Whist Drive Colin Higgs 681343  
Baby & Toddler Group Kim Gayler 681123  
Royal Oak Pub & Restaurant Teri Moulton 681262  
Milkman Alan 07791885612  
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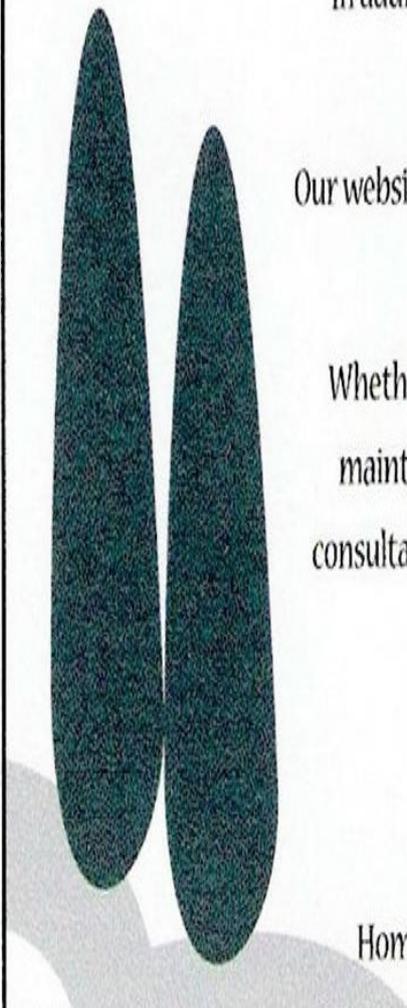
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## Opening Times

[www.buckscommunitylibraries.org/wing/](http://www.buckscommunitylibraries.org/wing/)

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Wed	10:00 - 13:00	Please like and share our posts to advertise our events
Thu	CLOSED	
Fri	14:00 - 17:00	Books: Fiction, Crime, Teen, Non-fiction, Children's,
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**The new school term starts on Wed 4 Sep, and for those of you who see this as the time to go on holiday come to the library for some relaxing reads**

**The Summer Reading Challenge has sparked a great deal of interest this year. It finishes on Sat 7 Sep.**

**Make sure that stickers, wristbands and medals have been collected**

**Lego Club - Friday 27 September 15:30 - 16:30**

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