

The Chronicle

September 20. Issue 407

Top of Lines Hill towards Weedon on Tuesday evening 18/08. Thanks Amy Dell



*From the Royal Oak Tuesday evening 18/08. Thanks Daryl Pendlebury Jones. And
sunset over the Vale. Amy Dell*



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From the Editor

The Chronicle Box Raffle has sold over £225. That leaves around 100 boxes left. Limited to 350 boxes (Which relate to raffle tickets) up for grabs. **Pick your box numbers. £2 a box 3 for a fiver.** The Box board is moving around the village.

Prizes include Services such as Haircut and finish from **Sammy's Mobile Hairdressing (07800743856)**, MOT including Pick up & Drop off from **Aston Abbotts ITG Motor Mechanics (07769668672)**, to Sunday Dinner for 2 at the **Royal Oak**, DVD boxsets, Wines and spirits and more.

The Chronicle is funded by a mix of paid advertising and some proceeds from the village fete. As there is no fete this year, funds have run low. The Box Raffle is in support of funding this shortfall.

Box Raffle call will be on Saturday 19th September 7pm at the Pub.

Thank you for your support

The deadline for Chronicle contributions is 24th September for October edition. Please Send to articles to:

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Dog Poo. Again I'm getting complaints and comments from rightly angry residents regarding

this subject. I've seen it on paths on the Abbey field. My theory is that it's not any village dog owners; it's some dog walkers. Anyone who uses dog walkers, please remind them to clear their dog mess up and that we will be keeping our eyes peeled for the perpetrators.

Take a look inside. There's so much including the latest 'FOCUS ON' the notorious rapist, The Fox, that stalked the area and was imprisoned 35 years ago. Plus FOCUS ON the golf and country club in ruins, the missing pic's of past Astonbury's. News from in and around the village, Your messages and so much more.....



News in and around the Village

Police seek witnesses after a collision in Cublington that occurred on Whitchurch Road, at about 4.40pm on Friday 26 June.

It was reported that a white van, possibly a Transit, was travelling on the wrong side of the road. The driver of a grey Peugeot van took evasive action to avoid the white van. The Peugeot then collided with a grey BMW 3 Series travelling in the opposite direction.

The front seat passenger of the Peugeot sustained a broken leg, while the driver of the BMW sustained a broken wrist. They were both treated at hospital following the collision.

Investigating officer, PC Martin Woodford said: "We are trying to identify the driver of the white van who left the scene possibly not knowing a collision had occurred.

"Anyone with any information is urged to contact the force as soon as possible. You can leave information on our website or by calling 101, quoting investigation reference number 43200193263. "Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Wingrave Fire 29/07



Firefighters rushed to the midnight blaze on Leighton Road in Wingrave property at 12,01am.

The firefighters used a fan and two sets of breathing apparatus as they extinguished the fire.

The fire caused smoke damage throughout the two-storey end-of-terrace property.

Aylesbury Vale House Prices Fall

The average house price in the area was £395,751, Land Registry figures show – a 1.3% decrease from March. The opposite was seen across the South East, where the average price rose by 0.2%

The Playground We are pleased to confirm that the playground is now open. For the safety of your children and others please observe and follow the government's Covid-19 rules displayed on notices around the play area.

The Aerial Runway. Thank you for the responses about the aerial runway, which were overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the facility. The Parish Council will either repair or replace the facility after determining the route that provides the best value for money for parishioners. In the meantime the runway remains closed for safety reasons. Thank you.

The Aston Abbotts Defibrillator located outside of Aston Abbotts Village Hall is now **fully operational and available for use.** Unitary councillor Peter Cooper has always been very supportive in running training sessions on using the defibrillator. If you would like to have training on its use then send an email to clerk@astonabbottspc.org and if we can get a few people together we will ask Peter if he will run another session. **Aston Abbotts Parish Council**



The Aston Abbotts hall is now open for bookings again.

COVID risk avoidance: The hall now complies with government COVID-secure guidelines. This sounds a bit dull but it's important – we did a risk assessment, bought supplies of sanitiser, more bins, hand towel dispensers to replace the air hand dryers, and we put up notices! In short: keep your hands clean and don't get too close.

Numbers: We can't have as many people in the hall as the old maximum (that was 60! Those were the days...). Hirers do their own risk assessments and calculate how many people they can have for their activity with the right social distancing. Ask us if you need some help working this out.

Face coverings: People in the hall now have to wear face coverings unless they are there for exercise classes or eating/drinking.

Track and trace: if you go into the hall please add your name and if possible a contact number to the book by the door. (Event organisers might keep the record separately.)

Bookings: the yoga class is back, Pilates from 22 Sept and the coffee morning will run trial sessions on Thursdays 17 and 24 Sept. Not all events will work with social distancing (whist and bingo are

out for the moment) – but if you want to pencil something please call Liz Barlow or Nigel Palmer, or email the village hall address, and we'll advise.

New booking administrator

needed: If you are interested in volunteering for this please let us know, as Liz Barlow might need to hand over in the next few months. She manages the online calendar, talks to hirers and occasionally shows potential hirers around the hall. The hall management group meets four or five times a year. Thank you! Any questions, please email:
astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com

Or call:

01296 682605/07976 671701 (Liz Barlow) 01296 681152 (Nigel Palmer) 01296 681373 (Caroline Lane)

Caroline Lane – Aston Abbots Village Hall. Aston Abbots Village Hall Trustees group: Caroline Lane (Chair), Liz Hall (Secretary), Nigel Palmer (Treasurer), Liz Barlow (Bookings), Peter Shorrocks, John Whyte, Kevin Copping.

Distraction Burglaries. In recent days in surrounding villages, the TVP have had reports of 'Distraction' Burglaries. A man entered two properties and told the occupants, both women in

their 80s, that he was a plumber. Jewellery and cash were taken.

Pls ensure you ALWAYS; STOP, CHAIN, CHECK ID of any callers to your home. Report any suspicious incidents 🙄 to the Police immediately by 📞 999.

More Hare Coursing. TVP Rural have been out patrolling our rural areas, particularly focusing on detecting and preventing offences such as Hare Coursing.



This is what happened when a group of people came for a day out near Aston Abbots to do Hare Coursing. They got their vehicle stuck in a farmer's field and ran off from Police.



Please report suspicious vehicles and persons to us, via 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Rogue Traders

Police responded to a report of possible Rogue Traders in Wing during August. In regards to the work that has been carried out, a report to Trading Standards has been completed. Police also seized their vehicle due to it not having any insurance.

Coffee morning's back! 17 and 24 Sept, Village Hall

Kicking off with FREE coffee and biscuits on Thursday 17 September, 10 to 11.30am

It will be a bit different.

- Sorry no bacon butties at the moment. But special biscuits!
- Socially distanced... As in a café, you can only sit next to someone you live with, someone in your "bubble", or the person you came with. Anyone else will be at the other end of the table.
- Numbers limited to between 12 and 18. Please bear with us if we have to ask you to wait for a few minutes.

- Table service! Helpers will wear face coverings and keep their hands very clean.
- Bring your face covering. You don't need to wear it while you are sitting down having your coffee, but please do so when you arrive and leave.
- Please use the hand sanitiser at the door, and we'll ask you to sign the book and give us a contact number if necessary – this is in case there is a track and trace request.

Finally.... **This is an experiment.** Not all the usual volunteers are able to return – and we know some regulars won't be happy coming out to coffee morning yet. If enough people come on 17 and 24 September we'll try to keep it going on a reduced scale until the COVID risk goes away. If this doesn't work, either from lack of custom or lack of volunteers, don't worry, coffee morning will **definitely** be back in the future.

Caroline, Deirdre, Anita and Alex – please ask one of us if you have any questions, or ring me on 01296 681373

Emails to the Editor

Take care. THIEVES about. Our shed was broken into between 2&3am of 19th August. Mower and garden tools taken! Broke solid bolt. Attempted next door too. KEEP ALERT. ROBBERS ABOUT. STAY SAFE. **New Masters House**

Dear Ed, Regarding the article Pubs Matter, (July edition) Our local pubs are the lifeline of our villages. We should all try and go to them, they will appreciate it and it will hopefully mean they will survive. **Rob Hunter**

Dear Peter,



As lockdown eases in the UK, we're expecting a rise in burglaries. We've partnered with the Home Office to create a new social media campaign to help keep people safe and continue the great work your scheme is already doing. With more people looking out for unusual behaviour on your street, burglaries can be prevented. Look out for your neighbours and find out how you can prevent burglary in our area, visit <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk>

/crime-prevention/crimeprevention-toolkits/burglaries

Please ask your readers to join Neighbourhood Watch. Contact; Neighbourhood Watch Network on: enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk or 0116 402 6111. Best wishes.
Cheryl

FLYTIPPING - Councils must step up to the mark. There has been a lot of coverage locally and nationally about the increase in both fly-tipping and littering in public spaces over past months.

Local councils should acknowledge the part they've played in creating this problem. Witness the exorbitant charges, delays and tedious nitpicking at waste depots, the removal of all recycling facilities from our town centres, the tiny litter bins provided in our parks and the reduction in the domestic refuse collection service in the first months of the epidemic.

Packaging is not being meaningfully addressed by our retail chains and the campaign against single use plastic and disposable materials has been necessarily put on hold.

This problem is not going to go away anytime soon and people are not going to radically change their

habits in any great numbers when it comes to taking the easy option.

Rubbish collection and disposal is one of the most visible and sensitive core services that the public sector provides in return for our taxes.

Councils need to step up to the mark and put more effort and resources into doing their share.

Stephanie Wareham

Dear Ed, Recently in the daily paper, a Small Holder, Andrea Good, confirmed that she caught two men dump rubble and broken tiles, plastic buckets and even a toilet in her field, Gateway. So, she told them to load it back on the truck and leave, which they did. However, they may have dumped it elsewhere, which brings me to draw attention to Matthew and Amy James, who are doing a school project and they chose litter picking, and can be seen most Saturdays along Wingrave Road and Cublington Road, Moat Lane and Lines Hill. It is amazing how much they collect through thoughtless litter louts throwing it out of their cars. We thank Matthew and Amy. You are truly amazing. **Colin Higgs**

Ed, Does anyone have a 35mm slide projector with a slide cassette

they wish to sell? Contact **Richard Clarke 07774 250448**

Ed, Since lockdown we have all been lucky to exercise, tend to our gardens and take in the fresh air. We have several 'Waymarked' footpaths to use which afford scenic views across the Vale.

Recently I have received two complaints from landowners that some people are not keeping to the scheduled route and are not clearing up their dogs mess. Dog waste bins are located on The Green by the Abbey hedge, at the Recreation Ground and in Wingrave Road by the Allotments.

Colin

Thanks Colin. See Editor's notes. Having picked up dog mess by the pillar box on more than one occasion, I have thought where I would stick it if I found the person/s responsible. We need to keep our eyes peeled. Ed.

From the Rector

What odd weather we've been having and it looks to continue in this unsettled way. And what a complete contrast to our settling in here in our benefice of eight parishes; we feel right at home and I'm very much enjoying learning the routes between the "eight". When myself, Andrew (Team Vicar) and Annie (Lay Minister) toured the Group on July

19th and had a short service in each church, I said that it is our intention to work across all the villages. I also said to the good number of folk who came that if there's something you feel you'd like to see happen between church and community please let one of us know. In twenty years of ministry I've always taken the view that conversations, meeting people and generally being visible

is "A Good Thing" – I've very much enjoyed coming over to Aston Abbots and meeting you.

To reiterate though, the request remains; please get in touch if only to say hello. With every blessing,
Howard. 01296 688593.



***By popular request The Village Quiz Night
is Returning (Covid Safe)***



**Quiz
night**

Royal Oak Sunday 4th October.

7pm (New time)

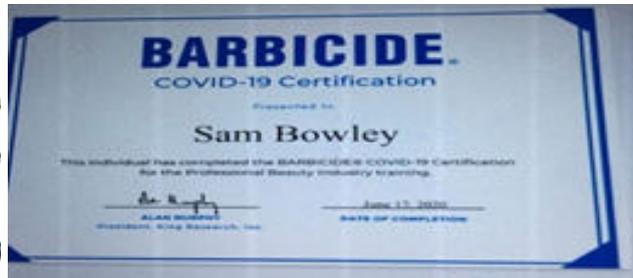
Full cash prize & Dinner for 2 prize

Covid Safety

- Pub & Restaurant regularly cleaned and sanitised. Please use hand sanitiser entering the pub. It is supplied throughout.
- Order from your table and be served at your table.
- No more than 4 to a team
- Practice common sense on distance. If you want your team to wear masks, arrange it.
- Pre-book tables. **01296 681262 or 07809395463**

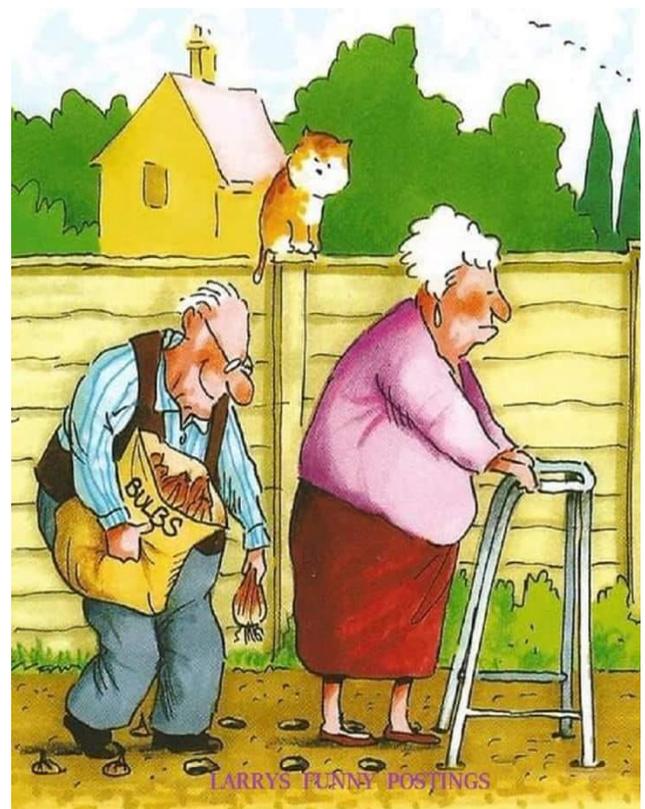
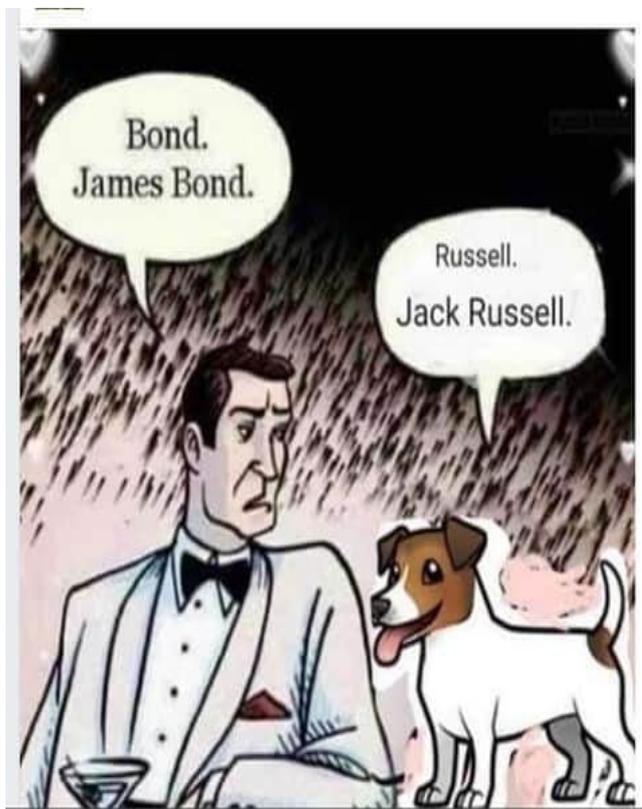
Aston Abbotts Mobile Hairdresser

COVID-19 SAFE



Hi, I'm Sam and have lived in the village for 5 years. I am a freelance hairdresser (He & She) and have been in the business for over 20 years. If you are looking for a change or can't get to a salon, please contact me on 07800743856 or email:

bowleysamanthat@gmail.com



Notes from the Parish Council – September



Parish Council meetings were held by Zoom in June and July, as it is not be possible to adhere to social distancing in the village hall in the unlikely event of attendance by a significant number of the public.

An order has been placed for a Parish Council website, needed to meet new accessibility regulations. This will be separate from the village website and it will provide easier access and better transparency to the workings of the council.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak the council resolved that in an emergency the Clerk could use delegated powers to make a decision on behalf of the council.

A plan to install a village history/information board on The Green has been deferred for the time being as it was felt we had

more important priorities for our funds. It is hoped to revisit this idea next year.

Unitary Cllr Peter Cooper has been updating the council on the formation of the new local Community Boards which will look after many local issues like environment, litter and highways.

The Parish Council agreed to make a grant of £390 to The Chronicle. This will cover three issues and it will help make up for the financial shortfall caused by the Covid crisis – i.e. no fete income, reduced advertising revenue and the impracticality of holding fund raising events..

The council will confirm a plan for repair of the corner of The Green with Transport For Bucks. Repair should incorporate a double height kerb and 'soft'. These will be visual guide and deterrent for lorry drivers.

Investigations have continued over installing white lining and signage at pinch points in Moat Lane. The next stage is to investigate funding.

Wingrave Juniors FC have indicated that they could use the shed on the recreation ground for storage when play recommences. The council will look to repair the

shed, rather than demolish it, now that a use has been found for it.

The village defibrillator has been temporarily out of order whilst spares are obtained and a damaged lock on the cabinet is replaced. It should be available again by the time you read this.

The annual ROSPA safety inspection of the playground equipment threw up some issues which are being addressed. The playground was re-opened after Covid warning signage had been installed and a risk assessment had been carried out. The aerial runway remains out of action until either spares or a replacement can be obtained.

The council are very grateful for the wonderful restoration of the bench on The Green carried out by Emma and Richard.

Due to uncertainty around the Covid situation and social distancing the council have declined to allow the recreation ground to be used for the traditional fireworks event this year.

The next Parish Council meeting is 1st September and will again be held via Zoom.

This is an informal note of some matters discussed by Aston Abbotts Parish Council. To read the official meeting minutes please go to <http://www.aston-abbotts.co.uk/pdocuments.htm>. You can contact the Parish Council by emailing clerk@astonabbottspc.org.



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COVID-19 Special Notice

Cases of COVID-19 are rising again across the country and we need your help to prevent an outbreak or local lockdown happening in Bucks. We have prepared the following briefing about the importance of getting tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms.

Book a test if you have any coronavirus symptoms. We want to stop the spread of the virus so that we can continue to live our lives and enjoy our freedom. Follow our simple guidance: If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are very mild symptoms, book a test immediately and stay at home.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are a high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change in your sense of taste or smell. Stay at home if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 that started in the last 10 days, unless you have had a negative test result. Stay at home if you have been advised to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. Stay at home if someone in your household has had any symptoms of coronavirus and has not had a negative test result. If they have not

done so, they should get a test. There are testing centres locally, or you can order a home test. The test involves taking a swab of the inside of your nose and the back of your throat, using a cotton bud. You can do the swab yourself, or someone can do it for you.

We must protect our community from this deadly virus. Help control the virus and protect yourself and others Wash hands – keep washing your hands regularly Cover face – wear a face covering over your nose and mouth to protect yourself and others Make space – stay two metres apart from other people not in your household wherever possible Please, if you have any of the symptoms; a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change in your sense of smell or taste, please book a test now. Call 119 or go online

www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

***Support the Chronicle by
purchasing some raffle boxes
from Pete Lucas 07544227991***

FOCUS ON....

The 'FOX'. 35 years on: The violent burglar who terrorised Tring to Leighton Buzzard

Malcolm Fairley, known as 'The Fox' was jailed for six life sentences 35 years ago this year.

An armed, masked intruder who carried out violent burglaries, sexual assaults and rapes that terrorised people in 1984.

'The fear was very real, you could feel the tension; it was immense.'

Dubbed "The Fox," as he built lairs in the homes of his victims and evaded capture by making his escape across rural countryside, Fairley's brazen offending in the summer of 1984 is etched in the memories of those living within the 'offending triangle' of Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable and Tring.

A reign of terror

The armed, masked, intruder whose warped actions targeted both men and women, old and young. Fairley set out on a string of serious offending from March to September 1984.

His reign of terror was finally brought to an end when he was arrested just days after his last attack – following a development in the case which took Bedfordshire Police officers to an address in London.

Handed six life sentences by a judge after his confession to a violent series of burglaries, rapes and serious sexual assaults, which spanned over 80 crimes, today Fairley is still behind bars.

People were petrified and didn't feel safe in their own homes. Residents queued in the high street to buy additional locks and some even had code words for their family before they opened their front door. It was a hot summer yet everyone's windows were locked shut.

"Being visible in their streets was vital for reassurance. It was a very terrifying time, the community breathed a huge sigh of relief when the arrest was made."

The rare and complex case was often likened to that of the Yorkshire Ripper, and was on a scale that has not to be seen by the force since.

Tracking down the Fox

Officers, often in their hundreds, paraded on the manhunt on a daily basis from a custom incident room setup at Dunstable Police Station, and included officers from neighbouring forces, as well as dog units, firearms officers and, at times, the deployment of the army helicopter.

Investigators worked with a senior scientist from the Home Office who was dedicated to the case.

As Fairley continued his catalogue of offending and his behaviour became increasingly more audacious the case was developing rapidly. Officers were harvesting more and more forensic

evidence and quickly learning about the offender.

By September 1984 the search had narrowed to tracing an owner of a car that was harvest yellow in colour, of which there were less than 1,500 in the UK.



When officers arrived at an address of interest in London, they were greeted by a man who stood alongside a harvest yellow Austin Allegro, he spoke in a north east accent, and wore his wristwatch on his right-hand - these were three of the key elements to the picture detectives had worked painstakingly to fit together.

Criminal Timeline of evil

11th April 1984, The Fox gained entrance to a house in Linslade, then assaulted a 73 year old woman in her own bed.

10th May 1984, Fairley stole a 12 bore double-barrelled shotgun together with ammunition from a house in Cheddington. Then, on the same night he sexually assaulted a 35 year old man.

6th June 1984, Fairley broke into a house in Grove Park, Tring. There, he stole a 12 bore single -barrelled shotgun, more ammunition and other tools.

9th June 1984, the criminal broke into an empty house in Heath and Reach. Then on the same night he got into a house in The Heath, Leighton. Furthermore, here he took a shot at the occupier. As a result, the householder lost a finger.

6th July 1984, Fairley broke into a home in Bideford Green. He made his way to the bedroom where a young couple lay in bed, then he tied them up. On this occasion, the woman screamed, so Fairley fled the scene.

10th July 1984, he gained entrance to a home near Bluebell Woods, Linslade. This is where his evil crimes deteriorated even further. He woke up a couple who were in bed, tied them up and raped the woman before he took off.

12th July 1984, The Fox was prowling outside a kitchen window at Edlesborough but fled when the homeowner chased him. However, he continued to look for more opportunities that night.

13th July 1984, the evil Fox raped another woman. This was when he broke into another house in the village of Edlesborough and he had a shotgun with him. He tied up two siblings, a brother (17) and sister (18) together with the girl's 21 year old boyfriend. He then raped the girl. But, as if that wasn't enough, he went for a drink and came back to rape the girl yet again. He even sexually assaulted the two young men too.

17th August 1984, The Fox struck again but this time in

There's fruit on the Orchard trees



Further to last months Plum News from the village orchard there is now some new fruit worth looking at and trying out. As I suspect a number of people feel as uncertain about the different names and colours as I do I have added some notes below.

There are still some Victoria Plums ripe and ripening at D6 and D10. Along row L the first fairly astonishing sight is L3, Marjories Seedling. This has a huge amount of green fruit. As it ripens the fruit will turn the familiar dark blue 'plum' colour. The fruit is not yet ripe, and as the tree is sometimes described as 'late-season' it may have a little way to go, although the first signs of red are appearing. L4 is the Victoria Plum mentioned last week and there is more fruit ripe and ripening on this tree.

L10 is an Old Greengage. As we have had a number of problems in the orchard with gages we are particularly pleased to see this one flourishing. Gages are 'cultivars' or sub-groups of the plum; they are plums that confusingly do not go plum-coloured. Ripe fruits are a pale yellow-green. Many people regard this (the Old Greengage) as the best-flavoured plum there is. At present, by no means all fruit on this tree is ripe, but this is changing rapidly.

L12 This was bought and planted by us as an Early Rivers plum (also known as Rivers Early, sometimes Early Rivers Prolific or Rivers Early Prolific, owing to its reputation for heavy cropping). However, all the catalogue descriptions of the Early Rivers plum say that when ripe it is purple, with golden flesh. Some of the fruit on our tree is clearly ripe (and very tasty) but is still a yellow colour. I believe therefore this is a different variety, probably Early Transparent Gage, also known as Rivers Early Transparent. Given the similarity in names, and the fact that both plums were introduced by members of the same family, I wonder if the nursery kept the two next to each other, and unintentionally gave us the yellow variety. Again some but by no means all of the fruit is ripe.

For those wondering how to be sure that a plum is ripe, I suspect that the answer in the end is 'practice'. However, most advice suggests squeezing the 'blossom end', that is opposite the stem. If this is hard the plum is not ripe. A hard plum may ripen if you put it in a paper bag for a day or two, in the sense that it will go softer; it is unlikely that its flavour will develop however. There are probably raging arguments among plum connoisseurs about most statements in this post. Visit your local plums! Become a connoisseur yourself!

Gordon Smith

gordon.smith53@btinternet.com

RSPCA urging dog walkers to keep their dogs on a lead around livestock.



She said: "It is heartbreaking to hear that so many sheep have died as a result of dog attacks, which could have easily been prevented had the owners kept their dog on a lead and not let them run loose near livestock.

"Whilst the vast majority of people take care as a matter of course, sadly accidents can happen and even the most docile and obedient dogs can get distracted and excited by grazing animals.

"You may think that if your dog momentarily chases a flock of sheep and comes back relatively quickly that there would be no harm done, but even if there are no visible injuries, actually it could be causing the animals a lot of worry and anxiety, which can be really harmful to their health. Ewes have been known to abort unborn lambs whilst under stress which is particularly tragic."

In more extreme cases, severe attacks can happen which have a devastating effect on the livestock, resulting in severe injury and death. Dog owners should also remember that it is lawful for farmers to shoot a dog to protect their livestock - which no one wants to happen. Owners could also be prosecuted by police if their dog is caught worrying livestock.

There is a very simple way to stop any of this happening though - keep your dog on a lead around livestock.

The RSPCA is also urging dog owners to spread the word about being responsible around livestock. If anyone sees a dog attacking a flock of sheep they are urged to call the police immediately.

Hedgehogs IMPORTANT FEEDING ADVICE



There has recently been a lot of misinformation about what to feed wild hedgehogs, we would like to set the record straight to ensure the best for prickly pals based upon current scientific research! The key thing is NO MEAL WORMS- these cause metabolic disease.

We LOVE that people want to help hedgehogs that visit their garden so here are the key do's and don'ts...

- No mealworms
- No sunflower hearts
- No peanuts
- No bread or milk
- Cat or Puppy biscuits
- Cat or dog tinned food
- A shallow dish of water
- Hedgehog foods such as [Brambles Pet and Wildlife](#), [Spike's Hedgehog Foods](#) or [Ark Wildlife](#)

[Limited](#) Original. For more detailed information visit our website: www.pricklesandpaws.org/blog/2019/2/1/feeding-advice

The official Allotment



The warm wet weather we are having at the time when I am writing this has been very much enjoyed by my (and I am sure everyone else's) vegetables. It has been the best year ever for our sweetcorn (it's a pity I never eat it: but it's one of Adam's favourite vegetables) and carrots, and the potatoes and onions have done well. We have courgettes and French beans coming out of our ears: my friends and neighbours are not yet hiding behind their curtains when they see me coming up the front path with another offering, but it can only be a question of time.

I agreed to grow a couple of courgette plants for a friend, and discovered when the fruit started arriving, that they were cucumber plants, and not courgettes! This was a great relief, and to my surprise – since I have never grown cucumbers outdoors before - I am getting the best crop of cucumbers I have ever had, which I am passing on to her. I shall grow them outdoors in the future.

In previous years the sweet-corn crop has been much attacked by pests; but this year very little of it has suffered in this way. Adam's theory is that some local bird – probably a crow or magpie – worked out how to split the top of the cobs with its beak; and once the opening had been made, other birds and animals joined in the feast. He thinks that this bird has now died, without passing on the secret to his/her progeny, and as a result our sweetcorn is largely remaining inviolate.

I have also been much employed in making jam, and fruit crumbles for the freezer: first strawberry jam, and then gooseberry and plum jam and crumbles. I am even branching out into more exotic puddings, but crumbles remain my favourite because they are so easy.

The only fly in the ointment is that the current weather is also being

greatly enjoyed by weeds: especially by the bane of my life, the weed which has been called “gallant soldier”. Like stinging nettles, it particularly likes disturbed ground, and within a couple of weeks of digging up ones first and second early potatoes, the earth is covered with a carpet of gallant soldiers. Provide that the rain holds off in the next few days I must get down to the allotment to pull up this new crop of weeds. Fortunately they pull up very easily.

I hope your gardens/allotments have been as productive as mine!

Peter Shorrock



FOCUS ON...

Mentmore Golf & Country Club left to rot



Hard to believe looking at me now, but I used to use the gym at Mentmore Golf and country club 7 days a week. I also took my kids swimming there. Then 2015, the place suddenly closed, apparently due to financial trouble, leaving some 50 staff without jobs and hundreds of members without a golf course to play. Many of these members were people who financed the original opening of the club giving them lifetime membership rights.

The club ceased trading in June 2015, after which administrator, Grant Thornton, was appointed to seek a buyer. Its reported that a bid on behalf of Mentmore's own members was submitted but the club was sold shortly after being placed into administration to a newly formed company backed by the previous owner Simon Halabi who also owns Mentmore Towers and, it is said, has a dark past.



However, the club has been left to rot and is a feature of a youtube short video entitled 'Abandoned Rothchild owned golf course'. The film shows a man, known only as Mr Airborne, gaining entry to the building and filming inside the previously beautiful complex of high range golf, gym, swimming and spar services.

It was shocking to see how the place had closed with much of the equipment being left where it stood including numerous golf buggies, gym equipment and other stock. The film even included the last receipt poking

out of the restaurant's PDQ handheld device.

Mentmore golf and country club and Mentmore Towers sit among some of the most beautiful countryside in Buckinghamshire close to Aston Abbots, but its surrounding golf courses are now in such a poor state that it will take years to bring them back to their former glory if they ever do.

FOOTNOTE: Mentmore Golf & Country Club was never owned by the Rothschild family, it was built by Invictus Leisure. Mentmore Towers, however, which is located next door to the golf club was owned by the Rothschilds but is now also owned by Halibi.



"I told him as an expert in the field I strongly recommend wearing it, but he just kept bringing up his 'rights.'"



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Village Hall Diary

< > September 2020

Sun 30	Mon 31	Tue 1	Wed 2	Thu 3	Fri 4	Sat 5
	Summer Bank Holiday (England Wales and Northern Ireland)		17:45 Yoga			
6	7	8	17:45 Yoga	10	11	12
13	14	15	17:45 Yoga	9 Coffee Morning	18	19
20	21	9:30 Pilates	17:45 Yoga	9 Coffee Morning	17:30 Yoga Nidra	26
27	28	9:30 Pilates	17:45 Yoga	1	2	3



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How to deal with squirrels, or not



The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a very creative strategy! They baptised all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

And not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since...

Message

Instead of using the supermarkets for your meat, fruit & Veg' why not buy local?

Astonbury Remembered

Earlier this year Neil Chesher gave us his indepth take on 'Astonbury', our very own music festival. Only recently I have got hold of the photos. Here's a selection on this and the back page.



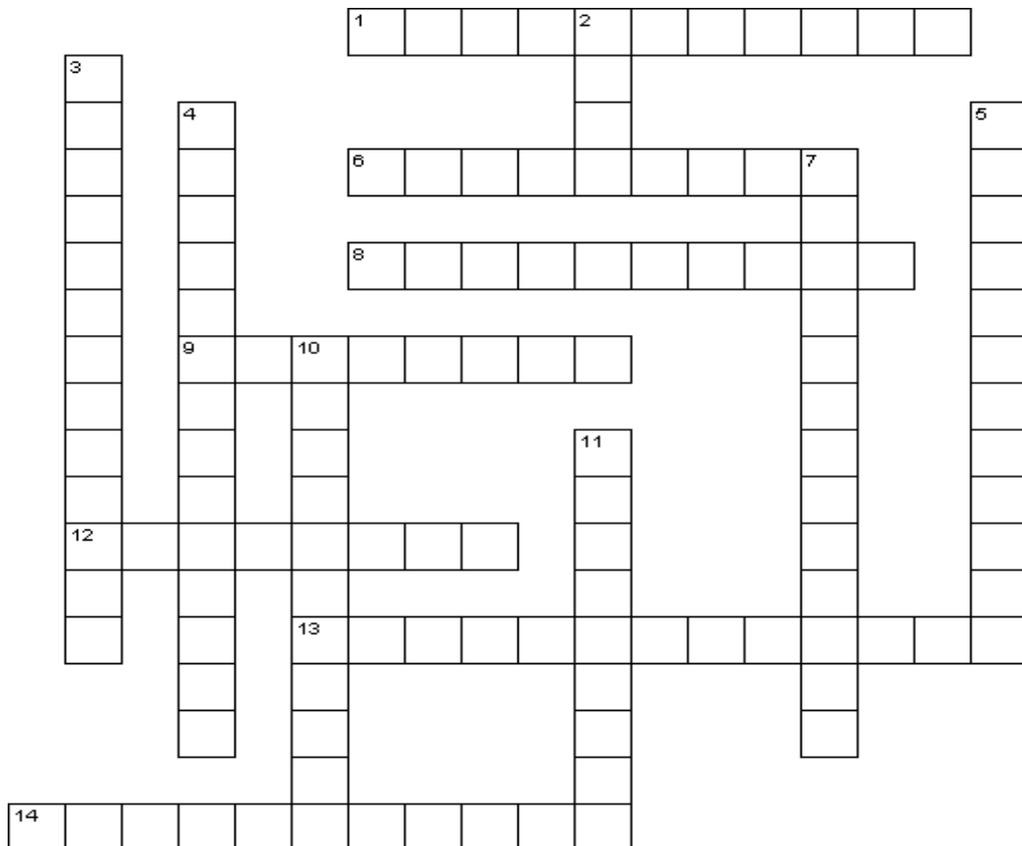
Movie Crossword

Across

1. Detective Jimmy Doyle in the 1971 movie, The French Connection (4,7)
 6. Character played by Kevin Costner in the 1987 movie, The Untouchables (5,4) 8. Audrey Hepburn played Eliza Doolittle in this 1964 film (2,4,4) 9. Professor G.H. Dorr in the 2004 movie, The Ladykillers (3,5)
 12. Rod Taylor was Mitch Brenner in this 1963 movie (3,5) 13. He was Sean Maguire in the 1997 film, Good Will Hunting (5,8) 14. Burt Reynolds was Lewis Medlock in this 1972 movie (11)

Down

2. Al Pacino was Vincent Hanna in this 1995 movie (4) 3. He was Milton Warden in the 1953 film, From Here to Eternity (4,9) 4. He was George Taylor in the 1968 movie, Planet of the Apes (8,6) 5. He was Chance the Gardener in the 1979 film, Being There (5,7) 7. He was Detective Virgil Tibbs in the 1967 film, In the Heat of the Night (6,7) 10. Nicole Kidman was Satine in this 2001 movie (6,5) 11. He was Sean Thornton in the 1952 film, The Quiet Man (4,5)





ATTENTION

ALL KIDS RETURNING TO SCHOOL

IF YOU SEE

ANOTHER STUDENT STRUGGLING TO MAKE FRIENDS,
ANOTHER STUDENT BEING BULLIED,
ANOTHER STUDENT THAT IS SHY OR NOT WITH
THE 'IN' CROWD or
A STUDENT THAT EATS LUNCH ON THEIR OWN...

BE A LEADER!

SAY "HI"

SMILE AT THEM

ASK IF YOU CAN EAT WITH THEM

INCLUDE THEM IN ANY ACTIVITY



YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY MIGHT BE FACING
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Reminder of deadline for Chronicle contributions. Deadline is the 24th of each month for the following month unless otherwise stated. Send to articles to: editor@aachronicle.co.uk



Ride+Stride raises money for the repair and restoration of churches and chapels of any Christian denomination. Last year the Trust awarded grants totalling £46,500 to eleven churches – including our own St James's!

Saturday 12 September 2020, 10am – 6pm.

Please join in - ride a bike, a horse, or just walk around a few (or a lot!) of our local churches. Half the money you raise goes to the Trust and half comes back to St James's. Don't forget your phone or camera, as this year there is a Photo Competition with a prize of £100

Details on the website, or from me or Caroline Abel Smith

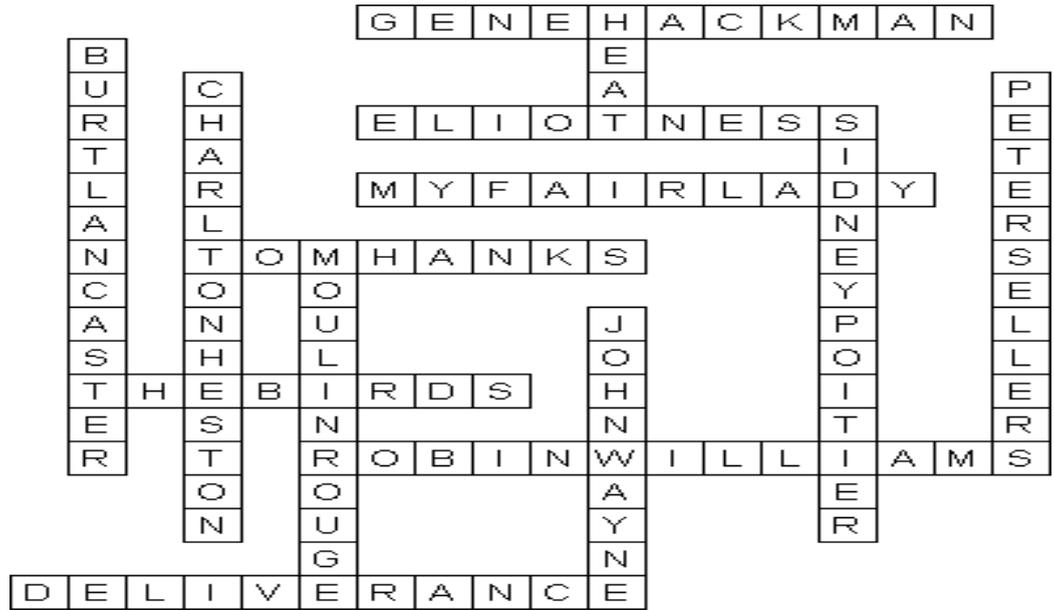
<https://bucks-historic-churches.org/ride-stride/>

I'll be cycling, and would love company, but if this isn't your cup of tea do please consider sponsoring me. Here is my JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/caroline-lane7>

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The Astonians (*Tamed*)

Not much has been going on lately but I have to tell you about what happened to me the other morning.

Walking home about 3am, I turned into Wingrave Road when a police car turned and stopped me in my tracks. "You ok sir" one of the guys said, "Yes thanks officer" I replied. "Where are you off to at such a time in the morning?"

I said "I'm on my way to a lecture on alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body as well as smoking and staying out at all hours."

The officer asked me, "Really, who holds that kind of lecture at this time of night?" I said, "My wife".

Also I bought a new fridge the other day. To get rid of his old

fridge (still working and looking good), I put it at the end of my drive and hung a sign on it saying: 'Free to a good home.'

For three days the fridge sat there without anyone looking twice.

I eventually decided that people were too mistrustful of this deal.

So I changed the sign to read: 'Fridge for sale £50.' The next day someone stole it!

Message

***We need you to
support our local
businesses***

WINGRAVE AND ROWSHAM DIARY SEPTEMBER

Thu	3		School and Wingrave Pre-school term begins
Tue	8	1930	Parish Council meeting: see web site, Postie or contact the Parish Clerk
Mon	14	0930	Weekday Walking Group walk The Green
Tue	15	2000	WCA AGM and Council meeting Community Centre
Wed	16	1200	Last of the Summer Ukuleles Rose & Crown
Fri	19	1300	Grand reopening of the Community Centre Community Centre
Sun	20	0930	Local ramble Nup End Lane
Fri	25	1930	WWRHA talk: The Rothschilds in Aylesbury Vale via ZOOM
Fri	25	2030	WCA social evening Community Centre



Church Matters

The diary of St. James's

We are learning to cope with the measures imposed to reduce the risks from Coronavirus. Social distancing, Masks and hand sanitising are now the norm but as a result the vicar has no idea as to the congregation's reaction to his sermon! We miss the hymn singing but Nigel is still able to entertain us with his organ pieces.

On Sunday 19th July our new Team Rector, Howard Robson, together with Andrew Krauss and Annie Cooper (so Howard's entire team) conducted the first service under the new restrictions. The Church was full (well as full as it could be with every other pew taped off). The team managed to conduct services at all eight Churches in the benefice that day; quite an achievement. All services will normally now be taken by a member of the Team i.e. Revd Howard Robson, Revd Andrew Krauss or Annie Cooper on a rotating basis.

Having cancelled the Beetle Drive, the Village Fete and suspended the 100 Club for 2020/1 our finances were in a poor state so we were very pleased with the response to our appeal. Our grateful thanks to all those who made generous donations or agreed to make regular standing order payments to support the Church.

After a short hiatus the mowing rota was resumed in July. Thanks to all the mowers and especially to Adam Shorrocks who also repaired a sheared axle on the pedestrian mower.

We are pleased to be able to resume something close to normal services including a family service on the third Sunday of the month. Join us for breakfast at 9.30am on 20th September in the Village Hall but please bring your own food and drink as we are unable to provide these under current restrictions. Breakfast will be followed by a short service as

usual but this will now be either in Church or outside (weather permitting). The family Service on 18th October will be our Harvest celebration this year.

hold the entire service outside by the War Memorial so that singing can be included.

PCC Aston Abbotts

Planning for the Remembrance on 8th November is currently that we

Services at Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts - September

6 th September	06.00pm	Evening Prayer
13 th September	10.30am	Parish Communion
20 th September	9.30am	Breakfast in the Village Hall (but please bring your own) followed by a short family service
27 nd September	10.30am	Parish Communion

100 Club Draw Suspended for 2020/1





THAMES VALLEY POLICE

DO YOU DOUBLE LOCK YOUR UPVC DOOR?

After a recent spate of burglaries in the local area, Thames Valley Police would like to advise residents to check their home security and correctly double lock their UPVC doors.

It is vital to remember that a UPVC door is only securely locked if you use the key. If you just pull the handle up this does not fully lock the door and prevent entry.



Locking your UPVC door involves two simple steps:

- 1. Pull up the handle to engage any additional bolts**
- 2. Use the key to securely lock the door**

Please remain extra vigilant and if you see any suspicious persons or vehicles please report this to the police via the 101 number

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE

101

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of our shelves with you. We have introduced a one way system and ask, if you are browsing, that you sign in, for the NHS Test and Trace service. Returns can still be dropped off just inside the entrance. A new central spine houses Crime, Spoken Word, Children's Fiction and Non-Fiction. If you would like children's picture books or board books, ask one of our volunteers to make up a grab bag. Photocopying service is available and one Public Computer for your use. Please observe social distancing as you enter and leave.



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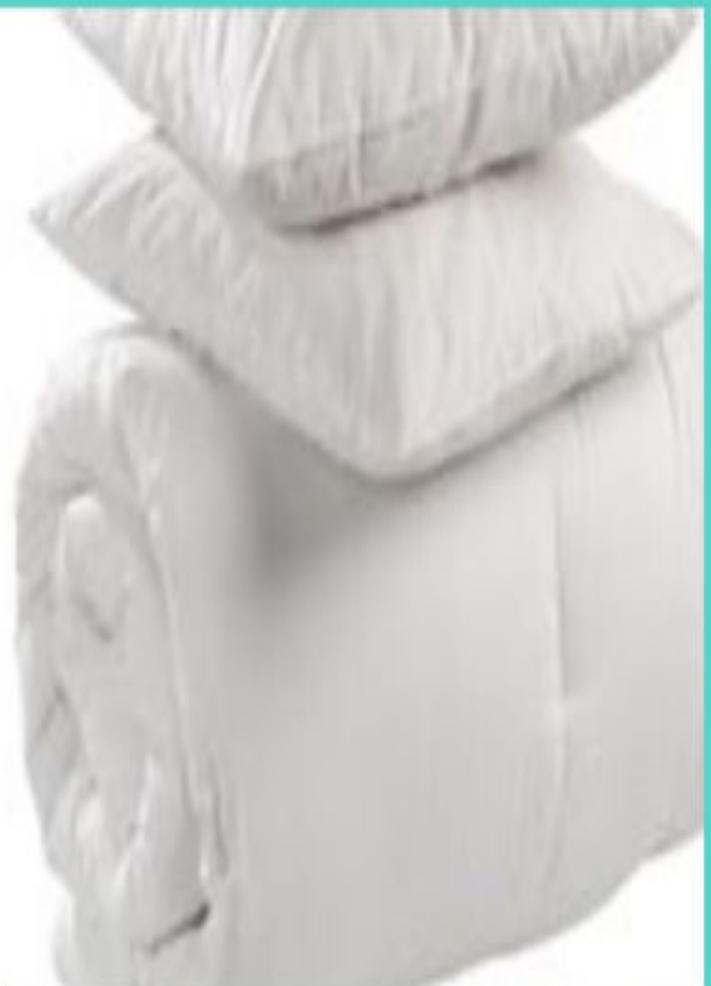
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Who's Who when you need them.

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Councillor Recreation Ground Phil' Spooner 681544
Councillor Heather Langdon 688946
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County Councillor Netta Glover 688357
Vicar Revd Howard Robson Tel: 01296 688593
Church Warden Caroline Abel-Smith 681001.
Church Secretary Caroline Lane 681373
100 Club Treasurer David Gray 681952
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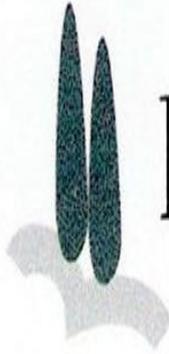
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Astonbury Pic's

