

## 3 Earthquakes in 2 weeks



Three earthquakes were felt in Aston Abbotts within 2 weeks in September, the epicentre reported as Leighton Buzzard. The first measured from 3.3 to 3.8 on the Richter Scale on 8th September. The aftershock of 2.2 following the initial event hit Sunday 13th. With a magnitude 3.5, the further aftershock was at 08.32 on Tuesday 22nd, the British Geological Survey confirmed.

The first earthquake hit Aston Abbotts like a shockwave.

Glenn Ford, a seismologist with the BGS, commented, "While earthquakes have not occurred frequently in the area in the past, the

activity was "typical behaviour" which had been seen in different areas of the UK "on many occasions". He added: "There's obviously been some stress building up in that particular area and we've had the initial earthquake.

"It's maybe still rebalancing the stress regime in that particular area and we're getting these little aftershocks occurring as well."

He added that residents should be prepared for potential further aftershocks. "But when it could happen, we don't know."

## ***Time piece of our Church***

Aston Abbotts; a village which goes back to the Domesday Book and has a rich vein of history. The Parish Church of St. James the Great is in a perpendicular style built in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and is located to one side of the village.



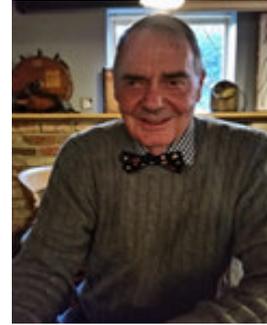
The church clock has a single face and the current mechanism was manufactured by Gillett & Co. in 1889 to replace an older device. It was the generosity of a local farmer which purchased the new clock.



**Part of the clock movement including the escapement**

The clock was originally wound by hand and villager John Ford carried this out daily with three weights in all to power the clock, chimes and strike mechanisms. The weights are now wound with three electrical motors

avoiding the need to climb the very steep winding staircase each day.



Andy Bystra currently looks after the clock, a duty he took on more by chance. Andy has lived in Aston Abbotts for around 42 years and got involved with the church, as part of village life, by repairing church artefacts. He then went on to manage the redecoration of the church interior. After the clock developed a fault, Andy was asked if he could repair it and he has been looking after the clock ever since.

Andy is a tool maker by profession and has a strong engineering background which is fortunate as the clock has required his mechanical knowledge to keep it running, regulate the movement and repair as required; on one occasion replacing the pendulum arm spring - not an easy task due to the tight work space and the weight to be lifted.



**Chime regulator mechanism**

Caroline Abel Smith is Churchwarden and she was in attendance recently along with Andy to welcome the engineer from Gillett and Johnston to work on the mechanism that has not worked since spring this year. Caroline indicated her keenness to have the clock working again along with the chimes as this is an important part of the village.



The simple and clear clock face is starting to show the effect of the elements but is still fully functional.

## ***From the Editor***

Because of the state of the Nation, It is with regret that we have decided to *cancel the quiz night planned for the 4th October* at the Royal Oak. Apologies to everyone who has booked tables.

*We will be back.*

***Thanks so much for your support for the Chronicle Raffle. Some numbers are still available from John Whyte 07988001843. The draw will be announced on postie.***

### ***From Bucks Council***

*Remember to report road or pavement problems via [Fix My](#)*

As this article is published the engineer from Gillett and Johnston has had to remove the main wind motor for repair and it is hoped that after the service the clock will once again provide accurate time keeping for the village along with the quarter hour chimes.

Other historical village details are available via [www.aston-abbotts.co.uk](http://www.aston-abbotts.co.uk)

## **Martin Clarke**

### **Church Duties**

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
3rd	David/colin	Ann
10th	Alex/Anita	Ann
17th	Ann/Caroline. L	Harvest
24th	Colin	Harvest
31st	David	TBA

*Street.* *Do always be proactive as you can't assume someone else has already let us know.*

Ha! I've been doing that for the best part of 3 years for the front of The Green and Wingrave Road and still nothing. Help me out please. Get on to these people at the council to make our pavements safe.

I hope you like the new Chronicle and the new articles it includes alongside the more traditional ones. It takes time to research and compile so please let me know if I'm getting things right. I hope there's something you enjoy. ***Pete, Editor***

**PS. Don't forget the clocks go back early hours of Sunday 25th October.**

## ***News In & around the village***

### **THURSDAY COFFEE MORNING POSTPONED**

Due to the recent headlines about COVID-19, we've decided to put off the return of the Thursday café/coffee mornings (advertised in last month's Chronicle) for the moment. Apologies to anyone who was looking forward to those biscuits! We will fix a new date when things have settled down.

### ***Just after the September Chronicle went to print, this report came in. Aylesbury: Man fined over £3k for fly-tipping pile of waste***

A man has been fined for fly-tipping a huge pile of waste as well as five fridges in [Aylesbury Vale](#).

The waste was from a cafe refurbishment near Quainton, Bucks, in January.



The man claimed that the waste was a 'temporary measure only' and that he had arranged a lawful disposal.

After investigation however, the man was fined a total of £3,416 at High Wycombe Magistrates Court on August 19.



It is the latest in a number of incidents of fly-tipping that have resulted in large fines in recent weeks, including a man who was fined over £1,300 after waste was fly-tipped on the side of a quiet Bucks road and a man who was fined after an estimated 25 loads of waste was dumped at a Bucks beauty spot.

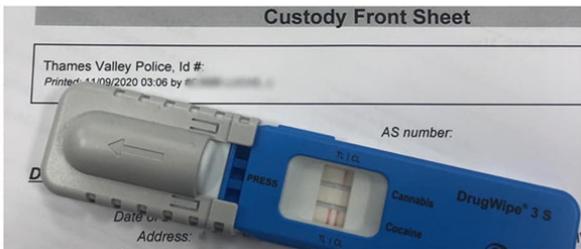
***A man and a man and yet another man, why aren't they named and shamed? Ed.***

Residents of Aston Abbots may have been woken by the sound of our helicopter on the 11th September. Thames Valley Police

we were tracking a driver of the below Mini who momentarily forgot the law applies to him too.



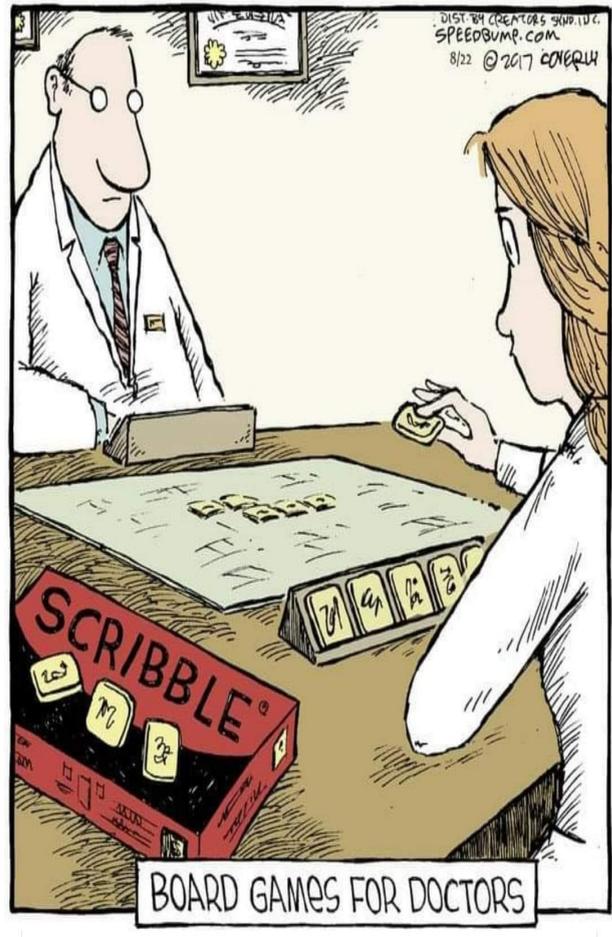
Custody Front Sheet



Unfortunately he didn't plan on sticking around and when stopped, he was soon on his toes, but with some assistance from the copper chopper and a dog unit, he was soon arrested.

After a saliva test at the roadside the reason he ran became very

clear. He tested positive for cocaine. Investigation continues.



## Your Emails

### Dear Aston Abbottsonians

It's with a heavy heart that we write to say goodbye to all our friends, neighbours and acquaintances in Aston Abbotts. We moved in at the end of January 1997, when the village had 2 pubs, a restaurant and shop. We are moving to be close to family as we

know that in a few years time we won't want to do the 360 mile + round trip as often as we do now. We have had some wonderful times, at "The Bull Monty", Astonbury, the Ball, St George's celebrations, 630 club dinners, Gnomes, the Village Fete, Harvest suppers, the Christmas Show, Sing a longs and much more and we have some fantastic memories;

not least the sunrise over the oak tree behind our house.

We will miss the wonderful camaraderie and willingness of Aston Abbots folk to help one another.

We hope that we will settle into our new village of Linton on Ouse quickly and that anyone travelling "up north" will get in touch to meet up/come to stay - we are only 9 miles from York!

We'd hoped to have a party in the village hall to say goodbye but Covid 19 has meant that we can't see more than 4 friends at a time! With the fondest of memories; do keep in touch.

**Liz & Ivan**

**Hi.** To those who have already sponsored me (on and offline) for the bike ride on 12 September. I rode around all the churches in our team parish, the weather was

---

kind, and although there was no cake I did get an unexpected custard cream at Wing! There are some photos on my Just Giving page, which is still open for contributions if anyone else is feeling kind:

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

Caroline Lane, tel. 681373  
carolinelane@btinternet.com

**Dear Chronicle,** I hope you don't mind me writing a letter to the mag', but I was amused when I got a text from a fellow resident who heard me singing a powerful Elvis song over the weekend and said, Pete you're singing that good but I can sing it better. Well Mr Phillips I look forward to a duet when next we can. Thankyou for your message. Love it! **Pete**

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***The Chronicle is running a series of 'Have your say'. To run as part of 'Your Emails' section. A series of questions will be asked that have been asked of me as Editor. The questions will be asked via the Postie system and the Chronicle but will be answered in the Chronicle. I would love to see your replies. Of course, let's keep them respectful. Please email your views to; [editor@aachronicle.co.uk](mailto:editor@aachronicle.co.uk) or post, 34 The Green.***

**Questions:** *What events / exhibitions should be part of the Aston Abbots Fete? Explain why and how this would be achievable.*

**Answers so far are in part.***Hi, best cake competition or bake off competition. Egg and spoon race, three legged race with masks on.*

*Wild flower arrangement competition. Michele*

**Hi Pete,** Please can we ditch the brass band for a normal middle of the road band. We may be able to get a band or a music amp & speakers for a snip of the price of the brass band. **Cliff Cheddington**

**Hi Pete,** I would like to reply to your email by stating that in all the years I have been involved with the Fete there has never been a shortage of bright ideas only a shortage of volunteers to actually implement them!!! Best wishes  
**Pam Hewitt.**

**That sounds like a call for volunteers to bring some changes to the fete for next year. Email Pam. [ukpamhewitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ukpamhewitt@yahoo.co.uk)**

## ***Focus On! The History of Aylesbury Crown Court***



From petty criminals to cold blooded killers, Aylesbury Crown Court has seen its fair share of gruesome and notorious cases over the years. However, the pounding of the judge's gavel



hammering down in judgement on those stood in the dock is a sound that is no longer heard as the court closed its doors for the last time in 2018.

The ceremonial closing of the court took place on Friday 2 March 2018 in the presence of invited dignitaries and guests. The Grade 2 listed building in Market Square has been home to judicial proceedings for the county of Buckinghamshire for close to 300 years.

The building was constructed on the site of a privately owned house which was rented out for use as a County Gaol. Construction of the new County Hall, as it was to be known, which was to house a new gaol and courtrooms began in 1722 but was not completed until 1740 due to lack of funds.

Built in a Palladian style with some baroque features the building featured three entrances. The left door led to the gaol but this was later bricked up and replaced by a window when the gaol was eventually moved to its current site in Bierton (now the Young Offenders Prison). The central door led to the Magistrates Chamber and the door to the right was and remained until the recent closure, the entrance to the main court.

A balcony once wrapped around a central window on the first floor which was used for public hangings. Crowds would gather in their thousands to witness the macabre spectacle. The last public hanging to take place in Aylesbury was in March 1845 when John Tawell, convicted of murdering Sarah Hart, was executed before a crowd of some several thousand people.

The doors through which defendants exited the courtroom following the verdict still bear the insignia of a neutral, happy face and frowning unhappy face. Defendants who were convicted and sentenced to death were led out through the door bearing the wooden carving of the unhappy face in a foreboding of the fate that awaited them in punishment for their crime. The doors were locked for the final time on the abolition of the death penalty in 1965 and remain locked to this day.

Not all those who were tried at the court faced such exacting punishments but children as young as nine would find themselves in the dock for crimes such as stealing fowl for which they often faced a punishment of up to three months hard labour. Other common crimes included body-snatching (grave-robbing), highway robbery and horse stealing. Many of those in the gaol were often female debtors forced behind bars for family debts as it was easier for their husbands to earn the money to gain their freedom.

One problem facing prison officials was that for those sentenced to a term of hard labour, there was no obvious work for the prisoners to

do. To solve this issue a 20 foot diameter treadmill was installed to grind corn and pump water. Prisoners worked in gangs on alternate shifts of 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off.

Other famous cases to take place in the court include the sentencing of the Great Train Robbers in 1964 and the trial of Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards who was charged with drug offences.

The building has also found fame on both the big and small screen. It was the setting of the TV series Judge John Deed starring Martin Shaw and has also been used for a number of feature films including The Medusa Touch starring the late Richard Burton.

Speaking at the closing ceremony County Council Chairman Patricia Birchley said: "There is no doubt, the Crown Court/County Hall building holds a wealth of history within its walls. Its time as a house of law may now be over but we can rest assured that its future as a historic landmark of Aylesbury Town Centre will long continue. Any proposed development of the site must take into account the building's listed status and will need to be sympathetic to the original character and purpose of the building."

All Crown Court proceedings now take place in the new premises next to the Magistrates Court in Walton Street.



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***Aston Abbots as it was? The Abbey***



***The Green and the Royal Oak 1960***



# ***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:**

**[bowleysamantthat@gmail.com](mailto:bowleysamantthat@gmail.com)**

## ***The Astonians***

Molly and the traffic camera



Molly Proctor, bless her, was driving past a traffic camera not far from the village when she saw the flash of the camera. She assumed that her picture had been taken for exceeding the speed limit, even though she knew that she was not speeding.

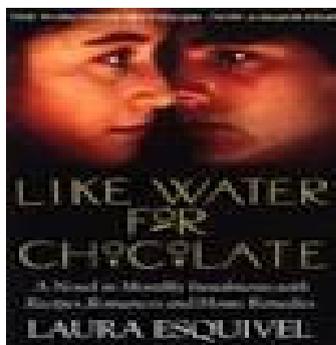
Just to be sure, she went around the block and passed the same

spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. Now she began to think that this was quite funny, so she drove even slower as she passed the area again, but the traffic camera still flashed. She tried a fourth time with the same result. She did it a fifth time and was now laughing when the camera flashed as she rolled past at a snail's pace.

Two weeks later, she got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt.

## ***Aston Abbotts Book Club - chosen by Francesca.***

### ***'Like Water for Chocolate' - Laura Esquivil***



*'Like Water For Chocolate'* tells the story of the De la Garza family, at the turn of the twentieth century living on the Mexican border.

The youngest daughter in her family, the beautiful Tita is forbidden to marry her true love, Pedro. The tradition dictates that

Tita must care for her mother; Pedro marries her older sister, Rosaura though he still loves Tita.

The situation creates much tension in the family, and Tita's powerful emotions begin to surface in fantastical ways through her cooking in delicious recipes which she shares throughout the book.

As the years pass, unusual circumstances test the enduring love of Pedro and Tita.

The recipes in the book and the sentiment that when you cook with love it goes into your food.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this book with much discussion and we were so lucky with the weather to be able to sit outside.

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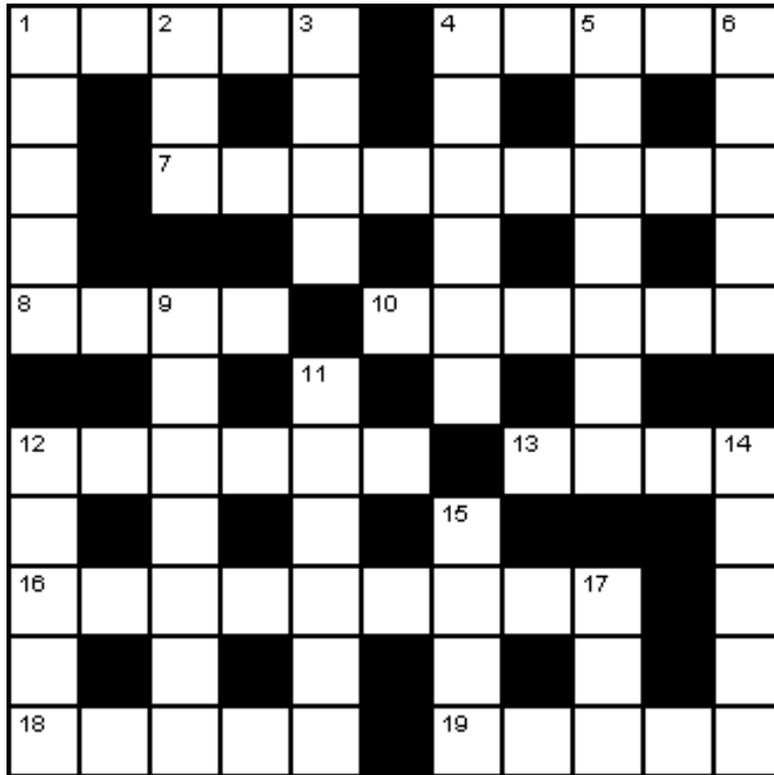


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E-Mail: [bvstra@btinternet.com](mailto:bvstra@btinternet.com)

## Chronicle Crossword



### Across

- 1. Twelve (5)
- 4. Hoard (5)
- 7. Unaware (9)
- 8. Gape (4)
- 10. Wore away (6)

- 12. Birds of prey (6)

- 13. Notion (4)

- 16. Large spider (9)

- 18. The lowest point of anything (5)

- 19. Implied (5)

### Down

- 1. Journal (5)
- 2. Menagerie (3)
- 3. World's longest river (4)
- 4. Secret or hidden (6)
- 5. Bustling (7)
- 6. Abated (5)

- 9. Placed a bet (7)

- 11. Thinner (6)

- 12. Consumed (5)

- 14. Proficient (5)

- 15. Female relative (4)

- 17. Part of a circle (3)

*Solution Further on inside*

# Notes from the Parish Council – October

The Parish Council have appointed Elizabeth van Hullen as Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer commencing 15 September 2020. The Council wish to thank Deborah O'Brien for her valuable assistance as locum Clerk during the interim period and the transition. We welcome Elizabeth to Aston Abbots Parish Council.

At the September meeting Cllr Curry was elected as vice-chair.

We still have one vacancy for a councillor. If you want to know more about the vacancy please contact the clerk.

Due to the continuing need to hold council meetings virtually the council have purchased a Zoom account. It is envisaged that this situation will continue for the foreseeable future and parishioners are reminded they can join the meeting online using phones, computers and tablets by requesting access from the clerk before the meeting starts.

Unitary Cllr Cooper raised concerns regarding the government's proposed new planning deregulation consultations which could affect the VALP and Neighbourhood Plans.

A report by Cllr Spooner on kerb repairs to The Green was adopted by the Council and has now been sent

to Transport for Bucks. We await their response.

Damage to the street signs in Moat Lane and Bricstock have been reported to the Bucks Street Nameplate department for repair.

The village defibrillator has been serviced and is now available for use again.

The high cost of repair to the 15 year old aerial runway in the recreation ground has prompted the Council to consider options for replacement even though this is a much more expensive option. At present funding options are still being explored.

The next Parish Council meeting is 20<sup>th</sup> October and will again be held via Zoom.

*This is an informal note of some matters discussed by Aston Abbots Parish Council. To read the official meeting minutes please go to [www.aston-abbotts.co.uk](http://www.aston-abbotts.co.uk). You can contact the Parish Council by emailing [clerk@astonabbottspc.org](mailto:clerk@astonabbottspc.org).*

***Seen In Leighton Buzzard***



***I love history so I hope you allow me to indulge in a piece of history which features Aston Abbots. I found this piece from Czech Radio 2005. Enjoy.***

## **An English village revisits its Czech history: The Benes years in Buckinghamshire**

05/05/2005

During the Second World War, the former Czechoslovak President Edvard Benes and his government were in exile in England. Originally, they were based in London, but in late 1940, due to the blitz, the President and his Cabinet moved to a small village called Aston Abbots, in the southern English county of Buckinghamshire. In addition to the government personnel, Czech, Slovak and Ruthenian presidential guards also stayed in the village. President Benes and his wife, along with the entire Czech community of the time left a deep impression in Aston Abbots and sixty years later, the villagers and diplomats came together to celebrate this history. Kate Barrette was in Aston Abbots for the Czechoslovak memorial festival.

"And we must all stand together in order to prepare - after victory has been achieved - a peace in Europe over which we could already today solemnly declare that all that we are passing through now, today in this war, will never happen again." -Czechoslovak President-in-exile Edvard Benes addressing a crowd in England, where

he and his Cabinet were based throughout the Second World War.

"Czechs were not really taught about what happened in Britain. People just learned that President Benes lived in London, when he didn't."

Neil Rees is a local history enthusiast who has done a great deal of research into the Czechoslovak government in exile, and in particular, their stay in the picturesque village of Aston Abbots, in the southern English county of Buckinghamshire.

"This location was chosen because the place where Benes lived for a short time in Putney, in London, was being heavily bombed by the Germans, and his main offices in London were also bombed - he had offices in Park Street, London and they were completely bombed by the Germans. His colleagues were very worried about his safety, and they thought that maybe the Germans were even targeting Putney to try and kill him - but we don't know that.



### **The Abbey**

Anyway, Jan Masaryk, who was basically President Benes' best friend, used to spend weekends in the countryside near here, and he had friends called the Rothschilds, and they lived in the next village, called Wing. He asked them if they had any friends that might rent them their houses, and Mr.

Morton, one of Mr. Rothschilds' best friends that lived here in Aston Abbotts, agreed to rent his house for 21 pounds a week, to President Benes."

The special memorial festivities in Aston Abbotts last weekend included a visit from the Czech ambassador to Britain, Stefan Fule. Fule describes the significance of this tiny village of just 350, in Czechoslovak history.

"I was obviously thinking not only about those 60 years that passed since the Second World War, but I was very much also thinking about these four years that Aston Abbotts provided the Czechoslovak exile government with shelter and a friendly environment. Many very important decisions for the future of Czechoslovakia were made, debated and agreed here in Aston Abbotts, so it's a very important and special place close to our hearts."



Stefan Fule, photo:  
[www.czechembassy.org.uk](http://www.czechembassy.org.uk)

Czech and Slovak dignitaries, as well as local villagers packed the Aston Abbotts Anglican Church for a special service to commemorate the end of the War and the time President Benes's cabinet spent here between 1940 and 1945. During the service the Czech, Slovak and English national anthems play.

Vojta Levin served in the Czech Armored Brigade during the war, and was one of the president's personal bodyguards.

"We paraded at 8.00 in the evening, in the street from eight until midnight, midnight until four, and four until eight in the morning. And when President Benes went out in the neighbourhood, there were two to four of us with him, just in case something happened. Because as always, some German parachutists might land here, and might either kill him or try to get him. It was not just him, because the Queen of Holland lives next door, and General DeGaulle also is quite near, so this whole area was in danger."

Many local people remember the Beneses fondly. They shared some of their stories with me.



**Edvard Benes**

"I knew him very well, yes, we used to meet and he used to go for a walk every Sunday morning, or after lunch on Sunday, with his wife. Initially I opened the gate for them; I didn't know who they were. The lady thanked me and asked me if I lived in the village, asked me what my name was, and what I did; I was at school then of course. And she said, oh well this is my husband, Dr. Edvard Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, and we shook hands. The president couldn't speak very much

English and I couldn't speak any Czech, so his wife acted as an interpreter both ways, she would translate the English into Czech and the Czech into English. And after that when we used to meet we used to have a chat. And I used to ask the President a lot about his country, and all that sort of thing, so I felt that I learned quite a bit about it. I certainly knew more about Czechoslovakia than Neville Chamberlain did, which wasn't difficult. But he was a marvelous man, and he was very popular."

"He was a delightful man, and we made great friends with two Czechs: Rudolf Klimek, who came from Olomouc, he was a wonderful friend to our family, and Michael - I can't remember Michael's surname. In the churchroom, there are a couple of items that he gave me, when he went back to Czechoslovakia."

"My mother used to make a lot of homemade wine, and she used to cure

hams and quite a number of the Czech soldiers used to come and have wine and some food. And one of the soldiers, Charles Palenka, married my young aunt."

One of the most dramatic events of the War was the assassination of the Nazi "protector" of Bohemia and Moravia, Reinhard Heydrich. Carried out on the orders of President Benes, it was a turning point in the way the Allies perceived Czechoslovakia. The plans for this mission were prepared in part in Aston Abbotts. Neil Rees again:

You can find out more about the history of the Czechs in Buckinghamshire during the Second World War at: [www.internationalclub.org.uk](http://www.internationalclub.org.uk).



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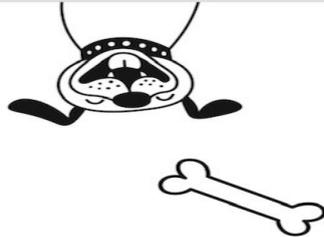
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## Crossword solution

D	O	Z	E	N		C	A	C	H	E
I		O		I		O		R		A
A		O	B	L	I	V	I	O	U	S
R				E		E		W		E
Y	A	W	N		E	R	O	D	E	D
		A		L		T		E		
E	A	G	L	E	S		I	D	E	A
A		E		A		A				D
T	A	R	A	N	T	U	L	A		E
E		E		E		N		R		P
N	A	D	I	R		T	A	C	I	T

## *Now over to the official allotment with Peter Shorrock*



Many years ago, when I first began allotment gardening, I suffered the mini-disaster which I am sure is known to all vegetable gardeners, which was that my bean canes collapsed under the weight of the bean plants. I learned from that mistake, and every year since then I have erected a sturdy stake in the ground, and then built my “tent” of bamboo canes around it, to support my climbing beans. This worked well until this year, and I confess to

feeling fairly smug about my prowess in building a structure to support climbing beans. However, this September I got my come-uppance when the tail-end of Storm Francis arrived at the allotments. When I arrived at my allotment the following day, I discovered that every one of the upright bamboo poles had snapped in half, leaving my upright stake as the only thing supporting the mayhem of what had been nine very successful climbing French bean plants. I was still able to pick some beans from the devastation, but the beans clearly had not enjoyed the experience, and the yield went right down.

I am not sure where I go from here: I think the answer must be to continue with the stake idea, but not to grow as many beans on the “tent”.

I mentioned last month that the cucumber plants I had been growing for a friend had been very productive: I reckon I must have picked around 30 cucumbers from the two plants, and as I write (mid-September) I think there will still be a few more cucumbers to come. The same is true of my courgettes: the warm weather we are currently enjoying has extended the growing season.

My apple crop from the trees in my garden has been enormous this year: I would guess about ten times as big as last year's crop (which was, admittedly, a very bad one). I have taken boxes of apples to a farm near Princes Risborough, who will convert them into pasteurised apple juice, and have already made a large number of blackberry & apple crumbles and put them in the freezer.

### **Warning to growers**

However, I must finish with a piece of bad news. Richard Clarke reported to me recently that he had seen two slugs copulating on his allotment, one of which was one of the enormous orange "Spanish" slugs, which I had read about. This is the first time I have heard of them having arrived at our allotments. Since then I have found two Spanish slugs on my allotment.

Although they are commonly called "Spanish" slugs, it is now thought

that they originated in France and not Spain. They can mate with black slugs, producing a hybrid which is better suited to our weather, although with global warming, conditions here are getting closer to the climatic conditions where they originated. Each slug can lay up to 500 eggs, which is two or three times as many as the common black slug. They can move up to 25 yards in a night – so it is no good picking them up and throwing them over your back fence. Since they are bigger than the black slug, they eat more, and are therefore even more of a pest.

Many predators, like hedgehogs, do not like Spanish slugs since they are particularly slimy and unpleasant to eat. My research on the internet suggests that beer traps have little effect on the Spanish slug, and while slug-killing tablets like Ferramol will kill them, they will also kill all other slugs and snails, which has a knock-on effect on the animals, birds and insects which feed on them. It is suggested that the only sure way to get rid of them is to catch them, put them in a polythene bag, tightly tied, and throw the bag away with the refuse. I shall make sure I take a polythene bag to the allotment each time I go down in future.

If anyone has a better idea, I shall be pleased to hear it!

## ***Message From the Rector.***

We are drawing near to harvest time and each of the Team churches will be celebrating that. Harvest is where we speak of all we have been given and for the Christian that comes from God's ordering of His Creation.

In our modern 24/7 world, many feel we have lost touch with the cycle of the seasons. Whilst that may well be true, my guess is that our forebears would see it as a small price to pay for no longer having to worry over whether the food stocks would last the winter. But that serves merely to emphasise how important it is to celebrate the harvest; celebrating harvest is the corrective to remind us of our dependency on nature and for the Christian, our dependency on God's provision. God is not somewhere above the clouds or confined to a theology of sterile control. Rather, God is in

## ***CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL AND ANNUAL MEETING***

The Parochial Church Council's annual meeting is on 12 October, 7.30pm in the church. Anyone is welcome at the meeting but only those on the church electoral roll can vote to elect council members.

the world and we are partners with Him – a practical outworking of what it means for us to be made in God's image.

The fruit of the harvest calls us to reflect on the "fruit" of our own life. In his letter to the Galatian Church, Paul calls this the fruit of the spirit. God works through his whole Creation which includes you and me and He throws out fruit. The big question is do we want to receive it?

There are many opportunities for the life of church and community to mutually inform, uphold and yes, sometimes challenge one another and thus develop and grow. I hope that this harvest time we can reflect that we are given so much and reflect also on the fruit of our own living.

With every blessing,

***Howard.***

If anyone would like to be added to the church electoral roll please contact **Caroline Lane**, PCC secretary (tel. 681373). You should be 16 or over, baptised and a member of the Church of England; and, either live in the parish or regularly attend church services here.

***Meetings & Services at  
Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts October***



<b>4<sup>th</sup>October</b>	<b>06.00pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>12th October</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>

100 Club Draw.

Suspended for 2020/1

***Parrott Brothers Butchers Whitchurch.***

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## ***Church Matters The diary of St. James's***

Shirley Ford is again organising the Shoe Box appeal this Christmas. Help us to support poor families and the elderly in Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria by filling a shoe box with fun and useful items. We will take them to Wingrave on the start of their journey to central Europe in early November so please get them to the church (or Shirley) by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November. If you would like to contribute please let me know ([ukdavidgray@gmail.com](mailto:ukdavidgray@gmail.com) or 681952) and I will get a form to you.

Reverends Peter Binns and Roger Hale have been conducting services at St. James's Church for many years but have now stood down from the regular rota. We thought it would therefore be nice to give them both a leaving present so, if you have not already done so, we invite you to contribute to their gifts. Please post envelopes, with cash or

cheques (to PCC Aston Abbotts) through my door (Church Farm House) or Caroline Abel Smith at the Old Vicarage by the end of October, with your name and indicating what your donation is for.

The idea of having a Harvest Festival Service goes back to the early Victorian era. However, the Thanksgiving holiday's history in North America is rooted in English traditions dating from the Protestant Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. There are many different customs throughout the UK but most involve bringing food into churches. Our service on 18<sup>th</sup> October (note the time of 10.00am) will be a little unusual this year but please join us in celebrating this popular event. Covid-19 rules mean that we ask you to restrict food donations to the tinned variety which we will then give to a local food bank.

Our Remembrance Service on the 8<sup>th</sup> November will also be different this year and will be held entirely in the open around the War Memorial, so lets hope this 'Indian Summer' lasts a bit longer!

**David Gray. PCC Aston Abbotts**

## ***(11 issues) Annual Advertising rates***

Full Page Inside	£100
Half Page Inside	£50
Quarter Page	£35
One Offs Full	£25
Half	£15
Quarter	£10

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

**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](mailto:editor@aachronicle.co.uk)**



***Village Hall news***



A big thank you to Liz Barlow for looking after the hall bookings so well. Good luck Liz and Ivan and we will miss you!

New booking administrator/helper needed: If you are interested in volunteering for this please let us know, as Liz has now handed over to Nigel and (although of course things are quiet at the moment) it would be good to have a second person!

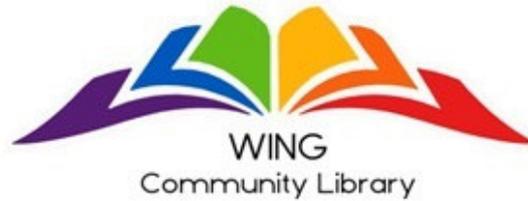
The hall complies with government COVID-secure guidelines, so we are not limited to six people overall in the hall;

some activities (e.g. yoga) can be held if groups are kept apart. Please ask if you need advice about a booking. Please email:

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

Or call: 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.



**\*\*\*All books borrowed before April should now have been returned\*\*\***

### **WE ARE OPEN**

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**FRIDAY 1400-1600**  
**SATURDAY 1000-1200**

**\*\*Book returns only? Drop off in blue box at the entrance\*\***

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Books for older children have been relocated to the centre of the library –  
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**Every other Sunday 4th & 18th October 17.00**

## **Florence Nightingale Hospice Press release – NHS Rainbow sculpture to provide lasting tribute to NHS and local community**

From: Kirsty Shanahan –  
kirstyshanahan@fnhospice.org.uk –  
01296 744713 or 07905 147 649/  
Bonnie Doe  
bonniedoe@fnhospice.org.uk

Headline: NHS Rainbow sculpture  
will provide lasting tribute to NHS  
and local community

Copy: Local businesses are  
supporting the building of a new  
sculptural installation at Stoke  
Mandeville Hospital - Nightingale's  
Rainbow - to pay tribute to the  
resilience and community spirit  
shown by the NHS and the people of  
Buckinghamshire, in responding to  
the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020.

The project also aims to raise money  
for Florence Nightingale Hospice  
Charity and the Buckinghamshire  
Healthcare NHS Trust Charitable  
Fund whose main fundraising  
activities have been severely  
impacted by the social distancing  
restrictions still in place.

“We are so pleased to be involved in  
this project and would like to thank  
all the organisations who have  
helped make the construction of  
Nightingale's Rainbow possible, “  
says Jo Turner, CEO of Florence  
Nightingale Hospice Charity. “The  
impact of the coronavirus crisis has

been felt across all NHS Services,  
from clinical and support staff to  
patients and their families. All staff  
had to adapt incredibly quickly in  
difficult working conditions, and  
provide extra support for people  
who could not be with their loved  
ones while they were in hospital. The  
Hospice's Bereavement Support  
team also contacted every family  
whose loved ones died in the  
Hospital.”

Nightingale's Rainbow will be built  
on the roundabout at the A&E  
Entrance to Stoke Mandeville  
Hospital in Aylesbury and will consist  
of an arch covered with 17,000 tiles  
in rainbow colours, with planting  
around it and a patio and seating  
underneath. As each colour is  
sponsored, that part of the Rainbow  
will light up until the whole Rainbow  
is illuminated, symbolising the  
community effort involved in the  
response to the coronavirus.

Members of the public can purchase  
coloured tiles on the Rainbow for a  
donation of £20 a tile, and the  
proceeds will be split equally  
between the two charities. You can  
donate online at  
[fnhospice.org.uk/nightingales-rainbo  
w](http://fnhospice.org.uk/nightingales-rainbow)

The architect's design in the image is  
subject to planning permission, with  
a decision expected in September. If  
permission is refused, all donations  
made to date will be refunded.

# ***Chronicle Box Raffle***

***Some Chronicle Box Raffle Numbers are still available from John Whyte 07988001843.***

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Prizes range from;

***Haircut and finish***

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***Videos***

***Jim Bean***

***Prosecco and Bottles of Wine***

All proceeds will go towards financing the Chronicle printing costs until next summer when we hope the village fete returns.

Thank you for your support

## Wingrave Diary - OCTOBER

Fri	2	2030	WCA social evening	Community Centre
Sun	4	0930	Harvest Festival service	Parish Church
Tue	6	1930	Wingrave Art Club	via ZOOM
Fri	9	2030	WCA social evening	Community Centre
Mon	12	0930	Weekday Walking Group walk	The Green
Tue	13	1930	Wingrave Art Club	via ZOOM
Sun	18	0930	Local ramble	Nup End Lane
Tue	20	1930	Parish Council planning meeting	Community Centre
Tue	20	1930	Wingrave Art Club	via ZOOM
Wed	21	1200	Last of the Summer Ukuleles	Rose & Crown
Thu	22	1800	Copy date for Communiqué	
Fri	23	1930	WWRHA talk: Louis XVIII at Hartwell House	via ZOOM
Fri	23	2030	WCA social evening	Community Centre
Sun	25	0200	British summer time ends	
Mon	26-2Nov		School half term holiday	
Tue	37	1930	Wingrave Art Club	via ZOOM
Fri	30	2030	WCA social evening	Community Centre

***Apart from Wednesday evenings, I do believe the Fish & Chip Van now Visits ASTON ABBOTTS Saturday afternoons about 12.30PM***



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## ***Who's Who when you need them.***

Chair Parish Council Jane Baylis 681042  
Councillor Kate Curry 681137  
Councillor & Street Lighting Highways & Transport Colin Higgs 681343  
Councillor Recreation Ground Phil' Spooner 681544  
Councillor Heather Langdon 688946  
Councillor Jane Plested 681740  
Councillor Daryl Pendlbury Jones 07470484356  
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  
Bingo Pam Dixon 681626  
Book Club Sally Palmer 681152  
Chronicle Editor / Quiz Night Pete Lucas 681387  
Chronicle Advertising Enquiries. John Whyte johnwhyte2311@gmail.com  
Chronicle Distribution Sally Palmer/Jill Wenble 681152/681877  
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6.30 Club Andy Bystra 681690  
Gnomes Carol Spooner 681544  
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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Doctor Out of hours Surgeries 331511  
Stoke Mandeville Hospital 315000  
Police Non-Emergency 101  
Buckinghamshire Council 01296 395000  
Citizens Advice 08701264056  
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*'I'm not going to be caught out again by lockdown. I'm moving in with my hairdresser'*

# ***Aston Abbotts Got Talent***

*I was wowed by the talent in our own village and the surrounds with the, 'Cantilena Winds Concert Band'. Annie Pettie (Percussion) from The Green Aston Abbotts posted a fine video of the band performing, 'World in Union', on the online postbox; [postbox\[at\]aston-abbotts.co.uk](mailto:postbox[at]aston-abbotts.co.uk)*

*And on youtube,  
<https://youtu.be/MJUjwMyBibY>  
Watch and listen to this masterpiece*



## **CANTILENA WINDS**

Cantilena Winds Concert band is made up of some thirty musicians living in the Oxfordshire and Bucks region. Membership is by invitation only.

The band rehearses and performs on a Friday daytime only, as many

of the musicians cannot attend during evenings due to other musical and family commitments.

The band plays for charity only, normally Friday morning 'Coffee Concerts'. It does not charge, but plays for the joy and fun of making music. It has played at many outside venues, including Windsor, London (Regents Park) as well as inside concerts in Reading, Princes Risborough and other local halls,



Although Covid 19 has stopped many of it's performances, the band has made three 'Isolation Videos' to keep in touch with its audiences and friends.

***Annie Pettie***

***Take a look and enjoy. 'Til next time....Pete***