

# ***Aston Abbotts Chronicle***

*June 21 Issue 416*

***News From in and around the village***

## **Royal Oak to remain closed**



**As the Chronicle goes to print, I'm sorry to report that the Royal Oak is to remain closed and its future decided in due course. Teri and Gary Moulton (Owners) are**

**trying to sort options for its future. Teri told me, "This may include leasing it out to the village but as for now, we are assessing our options". Ed.**

## Wingrave Scarecrow Festival



Wingrave Scarecrow Festival's Annie Lennox display even gets an Instagram thumbs up from Dave Stewart of Eurythmics fame

A three-day 1980s-themed May bank holiday scarecrow festival in Wingrave raised over £1,350 for Wingrave CE School PTFA. There were 38 scarecrows for people to enjoy and admire including a Smurf, Super Ted, ET, Annie Lennox, Madonna, Jedi Knights, Ghostbusters and many more. Maps were £2 and could be picked up from the village shop. By purchasing a map scarecrow hunters could vote for their favourite and be in with a chance of winning a £20 Amazon voucher. Over 500 maps were sold. Accolades went to: 1st, Nice Day For A White Wedding (Cathy Neary and the residents of Nan Aires); 2nd, ET hanging off the trees with a spectacular view (Lisa Harley); 3rd, Annie Lennox (Steve and Kim Gaylor) which was liked on Instagram by Eurythmics band member Dave Stewart; 1st in under 10s, Fun House (Albert and Charlie Roberts, age 6 & 8). The event, which will be back in

2022 (April 30- May 2) with a Disney theme, is organised by Wingrave School PTFA.

### Nice day for a white wedding



### Back to the Future



### Annie Lennox/Eurythmics



## ***Village activities to take place following lockdown easing.***

**25th June-Friday Bus Trip 09.08 bus to Leighton Buzzard.**

**27th-Village Footpath Walk meeting on The Green at 14.00.**

**1st July-Whist Drive Village Hall 19.30.**

**Congratulations to Jane Baylis and Jane Plested** for being selected for Chair and Vice Chair (respectively) of the Parish Council.

## ***Election Results for Aston Abbotts within the Ward of Wing***

### Election results for Wing

Buckinghamshire Council Election - Thursday, 6th May, 2021

- Status: Published
- [Buckinghamshire Council Election - results by party](#)

Wing - results				
Election Candidate	Party	Votes	%	
Ashley Graham Bond	Conservative	1637	17%	<b>Elected</b>
Diana Blamires	Conservative	1465	15%	<b>Elected</b>
Peter Aiden Cooper	Liberal Democrat	1445	15%	<b>Elected</b>
Justin Farrington-Smith	Conservative	1274	13%	Not elected
Sanchia Davidson	Liberal Democrat	1170	12%	Not elected
Poonam Kant Gupta	Liberal Democrat	1115	11%	Not elected
Janel Mary Pentony	Green Party	622	6%	Not elected
Alexandria Jane Rakowska	Labour	433	4%	Not elected
Ian Andrew Wells	Labour	378	4%	Not elected
Louise Mary Howitt	Bucks Residents Association	273	3%	Not elected
Georgina Lesley Heyburn	Freedom Alliance	90	1%	Not elected

Voting Summary	
Details	Number
Seats	3
Total votes	9902
Electorate	9177
Number of ballot papers issued	3654
Number of ballot papers rejected	7
Turnout	40%

**The Electric fence in the Abbey field** seems to have caused more controversy than electricity to keep the cows in check. A lady, I believe, was shaken up when the cows decided to join her jogging. See email from David Gray in 'Your Emails' and further advice on dealing with cows further in this month's Chronicle.

## ***Elderly man scammed £400 for handful of cleaning products***

An elderly man paid £400 for a handful of kitchen cleaning items and a pair of gardening gloves after being duped by a door salesman.

Luckily, the victim from the Aylesbury Vale area, paid by cheque so it was able to be cancelled and he didn't lose any money.

Thames Valley Police have warned that the best way to avoid getting scammed by a 'Nottingham Knocker' is to not answer the door to anyone you don't know.

A 'Nottingham Knocker' is a term for a doorstep caller who will be selling a selection of household products and there is often a vast mark-up. The scam is believed to have originated in Nottingham, hence the name.

Thames Valley Police said that all door-to-door sellers should have a peddler's certificate and the force has "NO COLD CALLING" stickers if members of the public would like one.

## From the Editor

*A right gobby lot this month I'm afraid.*

**So many new people have joined our** lovely village and we welcome you to our great community. We look forward to meeting you, especially when 'house arrest' is fully over.

**Royal Oak.** Following so many new people arriving in Aston Abbots during the last 18 months, and commenting how they look forward to the pub reopening, it's so disappointing that the pub remains closed. I feel for Teri who worked tirelessly to keep this village treasure going. Let's hope for a solution.

**After receiving and repeating** comments over the years regarding village fete traditions of always having a brass band and morris dancers each year, it has been suggested that I get on board and help run the fete. I shudder at the thought personally after having some past experience in Ivinghoe many years ago. It's of course hard work and full of frustrating pitfalls of H&S regulations etc when wanting to try something new. Patience is a requirement for any fete organiser and that's not a strength of mine. David Gray and team do a great job and of course if it wasn't for the wonderful people who produce the Fete, this magazine would certainly struggle to survive. As Editor I thank you so much.

I found this piece the other week.

**'Aston Abbots once punched above its weight'.**

This is the flier advertising the village fete of 1981. Even today, how many village fetes can boast a HOT AIR BALLOON?



But this raises a few questions: what exactly was "Tip the Lady out of the Bed"; What happened to the Balloon rides and Clay pigeon shoots I'm told used to be a feature? When did the Morris dancers and brass band start a tradition?

David Gray provided me with the following:

*The Fete was held in The Abbey grounds up until 1971. In 1972 it moved to the Old Vicarage garden and then in 1973 moved to its present location on the Green.*

*I can remember the Hot Air Balloon which was tethered in the field beyond Ross Road and took people*

*up to get an aerial view of the village before the advent of drones!*

*We always invite the Fire Brigade and we had a Fire Engine as an attraction before, but not for a few years. I understand that the number of requests they receive and lack of resources means that a small village like ours does not get a look in.*

*Rob Hunter has organised Clay Pigeon shooting in The Grove in the past but this proved incompatible with the Dog Show.*

So I ask, why not hold the Dog show and Clay shoot alternate years?. If the Abbey owners allow it, Rob Hunter would be happy to run a clay pigeon shoot.

Robin Dunbavand suggested another shooting idea. Air Rifle Range. Also a mountain Bike Circuit on the Abbey field. Is anyone willing to bring a quad bike for rides? Drone flights for aerial photo' sales?

David Gray coordinates the Fete but is always looking for help.

**Forgive me for including something totally random and not village stuff.**

For someone who has wrecked their body and soul over the last five years, dare I step into a plastic surgery controversy? YES. Watching a youtube piece in May made me gasp when people had some cosmetic procedures, especially the famous.

I would have thought that before they go under with the anaesthetist present, they would say, 'I want people to know who I am when I come out'. That seems to be

forgotten. Sometimes It's like going in as a beauty and coming out like the back of a baboon.

Donatella Versace would scare the life out of anyone walking down a dark alley. Let's face it!!

I'm certain Cher, without makeup, has developed a beard; Gordon Ramsey can't close his eyes anymore and when Priscilla Presley crosses her legs, her mouth snaps open!

Who are these people employing?

***Have a great release from lockdown. Pete. Ed!***



**Sally Clarke - 5th**

**Teri Moulton - 16th**

**Emily DeLooze - 17th**

**Pete Lucas - 20th**

**Paul Drysdale - 21st**

**Sharon Wilkinson - 26th**

**David Hewit - 28th**

**Kirsty Lewis - 28th**

# ***Your Emails***

## **Incident in The Grove**

I have talked to some of the people involved but have not been able to talk to Marisha, the lady who was alarmed by the grazing cattle in the Grove this morning.

This is probably because she does not live in the Aston Abbots and does not have access to the village Post Box.

We have access to the countryside via our network of public footpaths and bridleways but along with this privilege there comes a responsibility to treat the animals and plants we find there, with respect.

Anyone wishing to explore the countryside would do well to read

the excellent advice given on the National Animal Welfare Trust. A segment is printed further on.

## **David Gray**

Earlier this year I obtained permission for someone from Aston Abbots to borrow one of my 6ft x 2ft 6ins folding buffet tables for the last fete held in AA and it wasn't returned to me which was disappointing. What with COVID-19 putting a stop to occasions where I might have needed it and having not made a note of who borrowed it I am resorting to asking if anyone involved with the fete could have a think and see if they could recall where it might have been put.

I am in need of it shortly and would very much like it returned.

## **April Gilbert (Curnow as was)**



## **Servicing, Repairs & MOTs Free Collection & Delivery**

**(Within 10 miles of Aston Abbots) Friendly & Reliable**

**My passion is my work with 35 years experience. Very fair rates**

**Call Richard Upton**

**07769668672**

***Darling, where did you put my map?***

## ***Meeting the Naturist ramblers on The Green***

The weather forecast for the 7th May was 'cool' – which meant about 10°C. Possibly a nice day for a walk if you put on an extra layer. Which is why I was not surprised to see about twenty ramblers drive up in numerous cars and gather on the green. After a few minutes of greetings and virtual handshakes, they headed off towards the church just after midday.

Around 5:30 the hearty ramblers returned to their cars. Now, I was a wee bit curious as to what rambling group they belonged so I nipped out, peered over our garden wall, and tried to strike up a brief conversation with a chap in the process of changing out of his walking boots. I opened with "I hope you don't think I'm rude, but I'm curious as to what's the event". He seemed strangely coy and said that it was just an Eastern Region gathering and this was the first walk he's taken part in. He did not appear too keen to talk so I bade him farewell but just slipped in a final "oh... by the way, what's the name of the organisation?" He replied "British Naturism" - to which I responded "that's nice" and turned back towards the house.

To be honest, it didn't immediately sink in – as I wandered back, I pondered that he may have misspoke, or I misheard, and perhaps it was 'British Naturalists'. So, just to check, I immediately did a quick google. It did not take me long to locate the British Naturism website and, after a few minutes of browsing, I found the event details which were described as 'a 9-mile naturist walk through the Vale of Aylesbury'.

Now, my curiosity had really been stirred. I peered out of the window and noticed that the chap I had spoken with had driven off but that another couple, who had parked behind him, had just returned to their car and were also in the process of changing out of their walking boots. I couldn't resist it so I went back outside, casually walked along our garden wall, nodded a sort of hello, and opened again with "I hope you don't think I'm rude, but I'm curious as to what's the event". This couple were far more forthcoming – obviously seasoned naturists and proud of it. The lady said they organise many naturist walks around the country and explained that they wait until they're away from buildings before they disrobe and enjoy the 'full experience'. However, she was very disappointed as it had been far too cold for most to do so this time - although she did add that there were a couple of 'alpha males' who

decided they had points to prove (but, given the weather, I imagine they weren't very significant points).

Funnily enough, we had a zoom session with some friends that evening and I relayed this story. One of our friends mentioned that she once came across a similar group whilst out walking and, to avoid offence, it seemed it was the done thing to use strategically placed maps when passing other walkers. Now there's a good example where smartphones can't replace traditional paper maps!

And I've since cleared my browser history.

### Trevor Hall



**I HEAR THERE'S A FAMOUS SINKHOLE  
SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE**

## ***Walks that end up in a beer garden***

**Pilgrims' Trail Milton Keynes.** This walk takes in the fascinating history of the areas now part of **Milton Keynes** and the route is an imagined pilgrimage route through the town.

You'll start at Bradwell Abbey and walk all the way down the St Giles Church taking in Shenley Wood, Oxley Mead and Westbury Arts Centre on the way. The 6.3-mile walk also goes past the action-packed Pirate Park at Loughton which is great fun for children.

The route ends at the Prince George Pub so you can sit back and relax with a well-earned drink.

**West Wycombe.** This short mile-long walk is perfect if you want to stretch your legs but aren't keen on a full hike.

You'll take in the gorgeous areas around **West Wycombe** including the vast park, Mausoleum and St Lawrence's Church which were all built in the 1700s by Sir Francis Dashwood who founded the Hellfire Club.

You'll start the walk at St Lawrence's Church before walking around West Wycombe and then going across to the park.

At the end of the route make sure you pop into the George and Dragon pub for a drink - rumours are that it

is haunted! You can book a table by calling 01494 535340.



**Hambleton Valley.** If you're after more of a challenge then this 9.5-mile circular walk might be the one for you.

Starting in the village of Hambleton you will go across the Hamble Brook chalk stream before exploring the beautiful wooded areas to the west of the valley. You'll also discover the villages of Turville and Fingest, the former being the filming site for the long-running sitcom the Vicar of Dibley.

The Stag and Hunstman in Hambleton would be a great spot for a drink and a meal at the end of your walk.

For information on these walks, visit: <https://www.buckinghamshirelive.com/whats-on/food-drink/six-buckinghamshire-walks-end-beer>

## ***11 Bucks bizarre pub names & what they mean***

***Kirsty Bosley***

It wasn't until pubs closed that we realised how much we were taking them for granted. Cold nights in front of crackling fires with a bottle of red, summer afternoons in the sun with a lager... there are few things quite so quintessentially British.

But something else we take for granted about pubs are their names. Why are they so odd? What's the history behind them? And what can they tell us about the local area?

We've done some investigating to find out. Some are easily explained, while others (we're looking at you, Mole & Chicken) are completely beyond us.

**The Boot - High Wycombe.** In the Middle Ages, when people couldn't read (but loved the pub), each establishment would put an item or a pictorial sign outside to let people know where they were. It was just easier than getting your boozers mixed up.

Using symbolic images to differentiate locations was common across the world. Here, we used cheap and easy to access items to name our drinking establishments, like the Bell, the Copper Kettle and indeed the Boot.

**The Hundred of Ashendon - Aylesbury.** Who were the hundred? Do they mean 100 people? Traditionally, it was a ceremonial county, named likely for a group of 100 hides (a peasant family's land).



In the Domesday Book, there were 18 separate hundreds in Buckinghamshire.

The Ashendon Hundred was one such area, and it will be after this that the pub is named.

**Betsey Wynne - Swanbourne.** It sounds like it could be the name of one of Coronation Street's barmaids, but Betsey Wynne wasn't a publican.

This traditional pub, set in 1,300 acres of farmland and gardens, is named after the Swanbourne Estate's former owner.

Betsey Wynne - who became Lady Elizabeth Fremantle when she married Admiral Sir Thomas Francis Fremantle - lived at the estate in the 18th century. The family still owns it to this day. The pub is named in her honour.

**Seven Stars - Dinton.** Why seven stars and not six? Why stars at all? Well, we could be wrong, but we think it's a nod to Dinton's agricultural heritage.

You've probably heard of many pubs called The Plough, and in a roundabout way, this is another. The plough constellation? It has seven stars. So that explains it!

**Saracen's Head - Amersham.** The Saracen's Head is a common pub name, but why is it so popular?

Back in the days of Richard the Lionheart, pubs and inns were run by religious houses which looked after knights and pilgrims on their way to the Crusades. A number are named The Turk's Head, but The Saracen's Head was popular around this time too.

The Lamb and Flag was another pub name used during this time, to represent Jesus and the Crusaders.

**Marlow Donkey - Marlow.** If you're a Marlow local, you'll probably know why this pub is so named. The Marlow Donkey wasn't a famous ass, but it's named after the Marlow branch train line that runs nearby. Why the train line was dubbed the Marlow Donkey is the stuff of dispute, with some saying it was because of the donkeys and mules that would carry goods

to the riverside and others saying it was the name of the old line.

**Five Arrows - Waddesdon.** The five arrows that the pub is named after can be seen in the coat of arms of the Rothschild family. The Rothschilds were one of the most powerful banking families in the 19th century, with the five brothers setting up a multinational bank in Europe's financial capitals.

They built Waddesdon Manor and it remains in their family to this day. On the pub's sign, there is an arrow for each of the brothers. Another pub, the Rothschild Arms, was named after them too.

**The Dinton Hermit - Dinton.** The Dinton Hermit has shared lots of information on the man it refers to - John Bigg.

John was a recluse who lived in a cave in Dinton. It is said that he was involved in the execution of King Charles I on January 30, 1649, with some suggesting he beheaded the monarch himself.

It's also said that John kept three bottles around his waist, one filled with milk and two with beer.

**Pink and Lily.** You can drink, a drink, a drink, to Lily the Pink at this pub, but the name isn't based on the 1968 song by The Scaffold.

According to local legend, the 18th century boozier is named after a chambermaid, Miss Lillie and butler Mr Pink.

The two were said to be, well... consciously coupling... and their love story has transcended time, immortalised in the naming of this pub.

**The Green Man - Milton Keynes.** The Green Man is a very ancient symbol that dates back further than Christianity.

His image - a man shrouded in foliage - has been used for millennia, with some saying he represents fertility, nature and others believing he's the devil.

Regardless of what you believe, the Green Man's leafy face is one of the oldest symbols

in human history, and one regularly used in the signs over pubs all over the UK.

**Moon Under Water - Milton Keynes.** Another strange yet popular pub name is the Moon Under Water.

It is based on an essay that George Orwell wrote in 1946 for the Evening Standard in which he outlined the ideal boozier - the Moon Under Water.

There were ten things he said made up his fictitious public house. Among them were a dartboard in the public bar, no loud music and friendly barmaids who knew your name and sold cigarettes, aspirins and stamps.

Laws don't allow the sale of smokes any more, but you can get a 'good lunch' - another of Orwell's requirements - at this Milton Keynes establishment - it's a Wetherspoons.

So there we have it, 11 bizarrely named pubs that hearken back to time largely immemorial.

## ***VILLAGE FETE Saturday 24th July 1pm to 4pm***



Thank you to all those that have volunteered to help with this year's Fete. To lighten the load on these individuals I would still like to hear from anyone else who could help on a stall, serve teas in the Village Hall or assist with setting up in the morning and putting away when we finish at 4pm.

We will be slightly restricted in the space available in The Grove this year but our fun Dog Show will be one of our star attractions again.

Your local co-ordinator will be in touch in early July so please put aside Bottles (for the Tombola), Cakes (please coordinate with Heather or Fran), Books and Bric-a-brac for collection in the week before the Fete. We have some great raffle prizes including a flight for three over the local countryside and an Alpaca Walk so please fill out those counterfoils and return by the 23rd July.

The Annual Village Meeting is usually called in May but will not be held this year due to COVID restrictions. One of the agenda items is the distribution of Fete takings between the Village's 'good causes'.

The Chronicle and the Church finances have had a difficult year and the Parish Council have had to find resources to cover large maintenance bills for the equipment on the Recreation Ground.

So, I propose that the first £500 of Fete takings goes to the Parish Council as a contribution to the cost of the Fireworks and Recreation Ground costs, with any remaining profit being divided equally between the Chronicle and the Church.

**David Gray.** Fete Co-ordinator  
(ukdavidgray@gmail.com, tel: 681952)

# ***The Parish Council met 11th May 2021***

## **A summary:**

### **New Councillors**

We welcome Sally Palmer, Marissa Abel Smith, Trevor Hall and Richard Lakin to the Parish Council. Joining Jane Baylis, (Chair) Jane Plested (Vice Chair) and Heather Langdon we have 7 members to take the PC forward and are absolutely thrilled to be in such a strong position.

### **Playground & Aerial Runway:**

Work is due to start on the replacement aerial runway on 28th June which we hope is exciting news to our younger residents. The annual RoSPA inspection is expected to take place towards the end of May which will highlight any other maintenance & repair issues which of course we take very seriously. The annual Play Around the Parishes event has been booked for the afternoon of Tuesday 27th July.

We would like to thank a group of local children who have taken the time to draw up some ideas of how the Playground may be enhanced over the longer term – we will look at the costs and feasibility of these ideas and do what we can to implement some of them.

### **Traffic calming**

The report received from Unitary Councillor Peter Cooper intimated that Bucks Council is looking favourably at 20mph zones. Nothing is confirmed yet, but there could be some funding available to support such changes – the

Parish Council will consider this at the next meeting. In the meantime we continue to lobby for some traffic calming measures, at the very least signage, for the stretch of road leading out of the village towards Cublington, with the tenacious support of one of our residents along that stretch. Please provide us with facts around potentially dangerous, or alarming, situations along that stretch if you have any – it will help the cause considerably.

### **Long standing issues**

Over the past few months we have had a collection of issues outstanding with our Local Area Technician. These cover pavement repairs, kerbing around The Green, further investigation into the flooding around the Green, the new 'baby' sinkhole (which is as much a matter for Anglian Water) and repair to damaged road signs. At the meeting on 11th May Cllr Peter Cooper assured us that he is doing all he can to progress these matters and is fully aware that they have been rattling around for quite some time.

Councillors also addressed other items covering street maintenance, dog bin emptying, planning and finance - For a full set of minutes from each Parish Council meeting please visit the website

<https://astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk/>

And if you would like to contact us please do so through the Clerk [clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk)

The next full parish council meeting is scheduled for 29th June and you are welcome to join us.

# *The Buckinghamshire Hauntings*

There is something incredibly fascinating about spooky and creepy tales that often surround places. History often comes into many ghostly tales especially if you have an area that suffered great losses of life or tragedy over the years.

Buckinghamshire has a very rich history which means there are many supposedly haunted areas. Even in Aston Abbotts, a herd of wild horses, not seen but have been heard, galloping down Lines Hill.



If you want to visit any of the following places you may want to take a friend to hold your hand and a torch if you head down at dark.

**The Waddesdon Manor ghost who still tries to enforce strict rules.** The bell-ringing spectre of Miss Alice is still said to wander the halls.



Waddesdon Manor has a long history of spooky sightings over the years with visitors and staff reporting hearing strange noises and experiencing ghostly goings-on along its corridors.

The country home, in Waddesdon, was originally built for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild at the end of the 19th century as a weekend residence and a place to house his vast art collection.

Stories of spooky sightings within the house's walls have not deterred people from visiting, with the most famous being Miss Alice and her bell.

The story of Miss Alice comes from a rumour amongst former and current staff at Waddesdon over the presence of Baron Ferdinand's sister, Miss Alice in the house.

However, the story of her 'bell' adds another creepy layer to her legacy, with hundreds of staff members claiming to have heard the faint ring of it when alone in the dead of night.

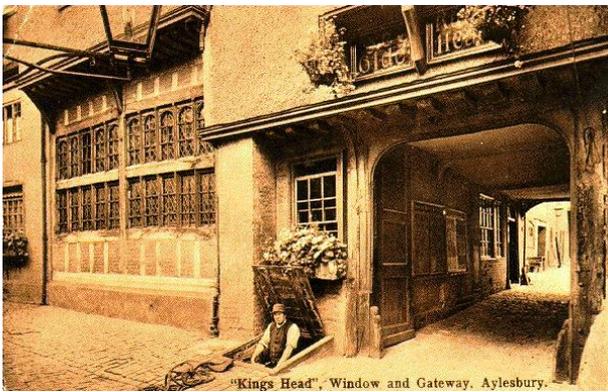
Miss Alice is also said to continue to enforce 'her rules' over lighting in the house after dark with one of her

strictest instructions surrounding dim lighting after sunset.

If certain lights have been left on in the evening, staff have claimed to see window blinds fluttering and the lights dim for unexplained reasons throughout the house.

### **The grey lady haunting Kings Head**

Aylesbury's Kings Head pub lies just off Market Street and is incredibly haunted.



The Kings Head is one of the town's oldest pubs and it is now owned by the National Trust but it dates back to around 1450.

A creepy grey lady, potentially a nun, is said to have been seen numerous times around the fireplace and a phantom 19th century maid is also said to haunt the gatehouse staircase after she fell to her death. That's not all though.

Inside the Great Hall, the clocks and people's watches also have a strange tendency to stop at the stroke of midnight.

### **Odeon Cinema Aylesbury**



From 2003, cinema staff have been convinced screen five feels different to other screens. One usher sensed someone up behind him, then the lights went out instead of dimming. On the screen a face appeared oval shaped with a mouth but no eyes. If anything can explain this - it would be the close proximity to the Crown Court, outside where hangings took place.

### **Hartwell House, Stone**



The staff of Hartwell House, the stately hotel chosen as the site for President Clinton's meeting with the then acting Labour leader, Margaret Beckett, had spent the week working to ensure the president's safety. The

only potential, unspeakable, hitch was the ghost.

In the end, it was something of a pity that John Lee, a benevolent, eccentric, astronomer who once owned the estate and was an aspiring statesman himself, chose not to greet the president. Although Lee has been dead since 1866, he is still spotted on occasion reading quietly in the hotel's library, or wandering about the grounds, forlorn, looking for his demolished observatory.

**Hellfire Caves West Wycombe.** A local legend claims that the caves are haunted by Sukie, a young maid who was accidentally killed by people playing a practical joke on her. Others claim that the ghost of Paul Whitehead, the former steward of the Hell Fire Club, has been seen in the caves. (See Hell Fire Caves article further on)

### **The Saracens Head Aylesbury**



A pub that is lost to the sands of time, there were regular reports of hauntings at the place. George is thought to have been a local man; the haunting of this pub started

shortly after his death. Tables and chairs are moved around by invisible hands at night, and unidentifiable banging has been heard.

### **Creslow Manor**



Rosamund Clifford, a feminine ghost could be heard lightly running down corridors, her silk dress rustling as she went. The silken sound was heard again later in the evening, but this time moving quite violently.

**Claydon House.** The house is said to be haunted by the apparition of Sir Edmund Verney, who was the King's Standard Bearer at the Battle of Edgehill in 1642. When surrounded, he refused to surrender the colours stating, "My life is my own, my Standard is the King's". The Roundheads then killed him, but in death they could not prize the Standard from his clenched hand. Instead, the merciless soldiers hacked off the hand that held the Standard.

However, when the Standard was later recaptured, the severed hand of Sir Edmund was recognised by the signet ring bearing the King's portrait. The hand was sent to

Claydon for burial, but the rest of his body was never recovered. It is believed that his ghost has been sighted on the Red Stairs, seeking his lost appendage. His mournful apparition has also been reported looking out from the windows, in various rooms and in the grounds.

A Lady in Grey has also been reported, and some have suggested that this is Florence Nightingale, as her sister Penelope was the second wife of Sir Henry Verney and resided at the property. However, the description appears to be of an "indistinct" figure, therefore making identification unlikely.

**The Bell Hotel Winslow.** The former owner of the hotel, Angelina, was pushed down the stairs by her lover when he learned she was pregnant. She is still here, as are two other spirits that can't seem to cross over. The first is the spirit of a little girl looking for her family, the other is a man named Marshall, desperately searching for his lost horse. Guests have experienced sudden and unexplained pain in their shoulders and seeing figures in their peripheral vision.

**White Horse Ivinghoe Aston** to Slapton Road 1980/81. While travelling along this road during heavy rain at night, a taxi driver encountered someone riding a white horse. The driver had to stop abruptly to avoid the rider, and when the driver looked up, man and horse had vanished. When the witness

later mentioned the encounter to other people, they said it was not the first time the entity had been seen.

**Fertility Aid, Rising Sun public house Ickford:** 2000s. And for something equally spooky. A stool in this pub is credited with helping 59 women become pregnant, after the popular press gave the seat national coverage when 14 local ladies who had sat upon it became mothers-to-be.

***And not to miss out on my own local experience; Ed!*** *One evening a few years back, I was worse for wear on the side of the road hitch-hiking in the middle of the storm on my way to the Royal Oak from Wingrave. The night was rolling on and no car went by. The storm was so strong I could hardly see a few feet ahead of me. Suddenly, I saw a car slowly coming towards me and stopped. I was desperate for shelter and without thinking I got into the car and closed the door only to realise there was nobody behind the wheel and the engine wasn't running.*

*The car started moving slowly. I looked at the road ahead and saw the curve approaching. Scared stiff, I started praying. Then, just before the car hit the curve, a hand appeared out of nowhere through the window and turned the wheel. I was paralysed with terror. I watched as the hand came through the window, but it never touched or grabbed me in any way.*

*Shortly after that, I saw the lights of the pub appear up the road, so I made a jump for it, out of the car and ran to the pub. Wet and out of breath, I rushed inside and started telling everybody*

*about the experience I'd had just had. A silence enveloped the pub when everybody realised I was shaking. Then suddenly the door opened and two other people walked in from the dark night storm. They, like me, were also soaked and out of breath. It was Rob and Squeaky, the local farmers. Looking around and seeing me shaking at the bar, Squeaky said to Rob, "There's that bloody idiot that got in the car while we were pushing it!"*



## ***How to safely walk around cows***

Walking with your dog through a field of cows can be an intimidating and nerve-racking experience, so here are some tips to help keep you and your dog safe:

Never, ever walk in a field where there are cows with their calves. You will be putting yourself and your dog in serious danger.

Even if there are no calves with the cows in the field, if you can find an alternative route, do so. If there is no

alternative route, stay on the footpath and walk calmly through the field. Always keep your dog on a lead when walking near livestock.

Be aware that cows are inquisitive creatures and will most likely come towards you to investigate you and your dog. If they are approaching at a leisurely pace, they are most likely curious.

It can seem intimidating when the cows start to follow you but try to keep a steady pace and remain calm. Cows tend to match their pace to yours, so if you speed up, they will too in order to keep up with you.

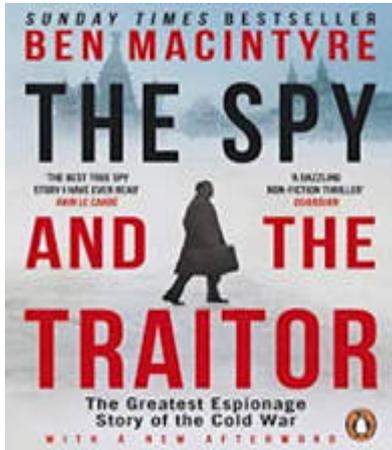
The cows may sniff and lick you and your dog, this is them taking in more scent of you both and getting a better look at your dog, because cows do not have a good depth of vision.

If you feel confident enough, you can turn and clap your hands and say something like 'hey, hey, hey' to shoo the cows away. Only do this if your behaviour is not going to upset your dog. Bear in mind the cows will move away quite skittishly, but they will most likely come back, so do not run towards the exit of the field, walk briskly but calmly.

If you reach a situation where you feel that you and your dog are in danger, you may decide to let your dog off the lead so you can both reach safety. Only do this in the most serious circumstances, and do be aware that your actions may risk you being prosecuted for livestock worrying.

## **Book Club review**

Book Club met in April on zoom to discuss Sally Clarke's choice which was *The Spy and The Traitor* by Ben MacIntyre.



This was the true account of Oleg Gordievsky, a colonel in the KGB, who was a secret British spy in the 1980s. As a young man he had witnessed the construction of the Berlin Wall and also the suppression of the Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia by the Russians in 1968. These events made him question the Soviet system.

He was posted to Copenhagen to work in the Russian Embassy and was recruited to work for MI6. He was eventually sent to work at the Russian embassy and KGB Station in London from where he was able to obtain and pass on secrets to MI6. The information he provided helped to avert nuclear war between America and Russia in the 1980s for which he would be thanked personally by President Ronald Reagan. He was also able to advise Margaret Thatcher on the best

approach to take when she met the future Soviet leader, Michael Gorbachev.

Sadly, Oleg was betrayed by a CIA agent and was recalled to Russia where he was drugged, questioned and put under surveillance.

Years previously, an escape plan had been drawn up by MI6 to get Oleg Gordievsky out of Russia should it become necessary and the last part of the book describes how this was done. Sadly, he was unable to take his young family but the escape plan worked.

He is now living in a highly protected safe house somewhere in Britain.

The book was generally well received by the book club members. Most thought that it was confusing to begin with and hard to get into especially with all the Russian names, abbreviations and code names but everyone thought that the last third of the book was very exciting. If a film had been made of this it would have been deemed too far fetched. It was also an incredible eye opener on the world of espionage in the 1980s, especially to realise how close the world had come to nuclear war.

A very interesting and informative book and a worthwhile read.

**Sally Clarke**

# ***Famous people from Bucks & how they changed the world***

The joy that comes with seeing a local celebrity on TV and being able to exclaim: "I'm from where they're from!" There are thousands of celebrities who have emerged from Buckinghamshire over the years, but how many of them have really had a seismic impact?

I've chosen 4 local famous people from the county and how they have gone on to change the world...

## ***George Gilbert Scott***

Scott was born in the village of Gawcott and would go on to become one of the most prolific architects in British history.

In total, he was involved in the building or altering of more than 800 buildings between his birth in 1811 and death in 1878, including Wakefield Cathedral, the Albert Memorial, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Midland Grand Hotel at St. Pancras station. St Pancras Station, built in 1868.



Even if you cannot picture them from their names, Google them.

He also designed Christchurch Cathedral in New Zealand, a building that was partly destroyed during the 2011 earthquake.

## ***Ludwig Guttman***

Guttman did not move to Buckinghamshire until he was in his 40s, but his lasting legacy came while working in Stoke Mandeville Hospital.



Born in Germany and of Jewish descent, the doctor escaped Nazi persecution in the 1930s, fleeing to England with his family and initially settling in Oxford.

In 1943, he was tasked by the British government with directing the country's first dedicated specialist unit for treating spinal injuries to ensure those returning from war received all the help they needed.

Five years later, he organised the first Stoke Mandeville Games for disabled

war veterans which were held on the same day as the opening ceremony of the London Olympics.

By 1952, more than 130 nations had entered the games, eventually becoming what we now know as the Paralympics.

### ***Ellen White***



Born in Aylesbury in 1989, White has become one of England's most influential footballers.

The striker has won four FA Cups, three Women's Super League Cups, and two WSL titles across spells with Arsenal and Manchester City, although it is on an international stage where her legacy will likely live on longest.

During the 2019 Women's World Cup, she became England's all-time top scorer in the tournament's history and was part of the side that won the 'She Believes Cup'.

White also scored in front of a record crowd for an England Women's (more than 77,000) game against Germany at Wembley, a moment that will live long in the memory.

In 2021, she also became the all-time top-scorer in the WSL with 55 goals. Not a bad legacy to leave as inspiration for the next generation.

### ***David Jason: Ellesborough***



The 81-year-old, who is best known for playing Derek 'Del Boy' Trotter in the critically acclaimed sitcom, 'Only Fools and Horses', has reportedly lived in the county for around two decades with his wife, Gill Hinchcliffe and their 21-year-old daughter, Sophie Mae, who was born in Stoke Mandeville Hospital in February 2001.

They live in the village of Ellesborough which is based at the foot of the Chiltern Hills.

Jason, who is also known for starring in 'A Touch of Frost' and 'Open All Hours', revealed that during the two lockdowns last year, he had kept himself busy with several DIY projects, as well as model building. He is also a licensed helicopter pilot and hopes to film two WWII documentaries this year. His book, 'David Jason A Del of Life' was released last year.

# *RAF Wing Airfield Memorial*

RAF Wing memorial & The Herts & Bucks Wing of the Air Training Corps

RAF Wing was an Operational Training Unit in World War Two, dedicated to developing young talent and giving them the skills and experience needed to defend our nation. It is therefore appropriate and an honour to now have the Herts and Bucks Wing of the Air Training Corp as our partners for remembrance of the airfield and build on a long history that exists between RAF Wing and RAF Halton.

Matt Oram, Wing Commander of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets and Officer Commanding the Herts & Bucks Wing ATC ( pictured) has said:

"It is important that we all take the time to remember our history, and those that sacrificed so much for us. I am delighted to have the Herts & Bucks Wing of the Air Training Corps involved in the remembrance of RAF Wing and commemorating the thousands of young people who served and flew from there. As we mark the 80th anniversary year of the Air Training Corps, this partnership is even more pertinent."



 **ROYAL  
AIR FORCE  
AIR CADET**  
the next generation

## ALLOTMENT DIARY



It is a truism that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't. If I told you that the RHS was advocating the planting of a vegetable that was resistant to all types of weather, from flooding to drought; would grow prolifically in almost all soil types; and would thrive no matter how you treated it, you might well be suspicious! And you would be right! The RHS has just created a new public garden at Bridgewater, near Salford. This garden has been created from the historic grounds of Worsley New Hall, which is a 154-acre estate, including a 10-acre walled kitchen garden.

In this kitchen garden the RHS are growing thousands of plants, including - quite deliberately - stinging nettles! It seems this has been done to highlight their advantages to gardeners: according to the RHS they are regarded as being edible, and can be used to lure aphids away from other plants, or used to make fertiliser. I have often read of nettle soup and nettle tea: but have never met anyone who has

actually made and tried these. So far as their alleged aphid attracting properties are concerned, I can only say that I have never noticed them doing this on my allotment: and while it may be possible to make fertiliser from nettles, in my book this is considerably outweighed by their presence as an invasive and pernicious weed.

And why the Hell you would want to introduce nettles into your garden or allotment, when they grow very successfully by themselves, without any human assistance, is totally beyond me!

The weather this year has been quite extraordinary. In April we had the drought that one frequently gets in March, and it was one of the driest and coldest Aprils on record. Then during May we have had a succession of "April showers", and temperatures more customary in April rather than May. Heaven knows what June will bring. I suspect, however, that we will be harvesting our crops rather later than in normal years. I am keeping my fingers crossed that the numerous frosts we had in April did not destroy too much of the blossom on my apple, pear and plum trees - and that, as Simon Guy has predicted, they will have killed off many of the bugs that will otherwise be plaguing our crops in years to come.

You may remember my telling you that Simon had clearly had a fox using part of his allotment to rest

overnight. He told me recently of another example of probable fox activity in the allotments. He was clearing up the site where the pile of manure is kept for allotment holders to use, when he discovered a large pheasant egg amongst the old manure! It seems unlikely that a pheasant would have chosen a manure heap as a place to lay eggs, and we think that the egg had probably been left there by a fox, to collect and eat at a later date. Sure enough the egg had disappeared the next day when he looked.

My son, Adam, is very keen on sweetcorn, and we grow a lot of it on the allotment. When we pick it in the autumn, Adam will blanch and freeze more than 90% of it, which he is then able to enjoy throughout the year. I normally start it off in my greenhouse, transferring the plants to the allotment when they are big enough, and the risk of frost has passed.

Back in April of this year I planted about 120 plants in pots of compost in the greenhouse. 12 plants were placed on the work surface there, and the remainder of the plants were placed on the ground. 10 of the 12 plants on the work surface germinated within 7-10 days, but only one of the plants on the ground. After another week I moved the 12 pots from the work surface to the ground, and moved 12 other plants on to it. However, at the time I am writing these notes only one of the plants moved to the work surface

has germinated; and only 9 of the plants on the ground! I am still keeping the pots watered, but I am beginning to think that the remaining plants are not going to germinate, which is very frustrating.

My guess is that the temperature on the work surface was a few degrees higher than that on the floor of the greenhouse, and by chance was exactly the temperature to produce germination. Having missed out on the chance to germinate at the outset, it looks as though the remainder of the seeds have given up. We will have to plant more seed directly into the allotment, and hope the plants will catch up.

**Peter Shorrock**

## WINGRAVE OPEN GARDENS AND ART EXHIBITION

12 to 6pm on  
19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June



15 GARDENS  
3 ART EXHIBITIONS  
LUNCHES AND TEAS  
OTHER ATTRACTIONS



Tickets (including a map) £6 each from  
Wingrave shop in advance  
or outside the Church  
over the weekend

*Proceeds to Maggie's Cancer Care and  
Bucks Association for the Care of Offenders*

## ***The James Henderson Column***

I remember my oldest childhood mate who died today May 6<sup>TH</sup>, aged 67, two years ago today in a tragic accident. He was brought up at the Hunt Kennels in Wing along the A418 which is now the visitor entrance to National Trust - Ascott House and gardens.

The Old Hunt kennels were converted to houses years ago. I would bicycle from the farm at about 8-10 years old, along the Leighton road, air gun over my shoulder, through those dangerous crossroads and left up Well lane, past the Dairy Unit on the right, which milked Channel Island Guernsey cows in those days. Now of course knocked down, and with it, the housing for the cowmen as well.

Had I bicycled straight on through Ledburn, I would have come up the track towards the railway line where there was another farm called Redborough Farm. Farmed by The Chorlton family many years ago, it has been demolished as well by the Ascott Estate.

I feel guilty now because my company did the work many years ago. Furthermore, if I had turned left before the hill on Well lane, and cycled another few hundred yards, I would have come to Wing Park Farm, farmed by The North family. I grew up with the 3 girls, all in pony club together at Mentmore Stable yard in those days, and that farmhouse all pulled down when bought by Ascott Estate. Eventually arriving at the kennels, we would then make our way down to the Flesh House in the woods, with our air rifles and shoot rats, lots of them, but as dusk fell, the ground would move

and a hasty retreat back to the house for tea.

I can feel you asking what is the flesh House? In those days, the Whaddon Chase hounds were housed there, and the kennel staff would drive over a large area of Bucks, Beds and Herts to pick up fallen stock from farms, probably a 25 mile radius. Albert Buckle was Huntsman there for many years, having served his time in the Tank Regiment in El Alamein fighting Rommel and then through Italy to relieve concentration camps in Germany, he was a hell of a man and like a second father to me.

This was a vital service to livestock farmers and horse liveries and stables, when their stock died of old age, disease or broken legs or when falling down badger or rabbit holes etc. The old horses were treated with the utmost respect, and I watched while my mother's old point- to- pointer, which she raced here and in Ireland, was shot due to crippling old age and I was encouraged to attend. And another of her favourites" Happy Man" that she showed and hunted. This instilled my love and respect of all animals to this present day.

Those kennelmen performed a vital service to the farming community. The flesh was stripped to the bone and boiled for the hounds to consume, the bones went off to the glue factory, nothing was wasted, not even the hides and skin.

Lastly, HMS Whaddon, Hunter Class Escort Destroyer launched at Govan shipyard in Glasgow 16th July 1940, was dispatched on North Sea convoy defence duties and sea patrols, to

shepherd vital food supplies across the North Atlantic, to keep all our fathers and grandfather's families from starving during the war, manned by heroes who put their lives in danger every day. She then was later transferred to Malta supporting Allied landings at Salerno. She was the first RN ship to bear the name of the Buckinghamshire Fox hunt.

Whatever your views on things that happened years ago, you cannot change History. The Bell from HMS Whaddon, when she was scrapped at Fastlane in 1959, was still hanging in the Hunt Kennel yards often rung by two tiresome miscreants!! **James.**



### ***Services at Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts June 2021***

<b>6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Lay led, informal service for Father's Day</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>

**Programme subject to change to meet any future COVID restrictions. Look out for further announcements on the Village POSTBOX or the Church Noticeboard at the gate.**

### **100 Club Draw will resume in July, so look out for membership forms**

It will be Father's Day on Sunday June 20th so bring Dad or Grandad along to our lay led service starting at 10.00am that day. It is good to hear the bells of St. James (all six of them) welcoming Parishioners to our Sunday Services again.

We are going to resume the 100 Club in July, so keep an eye open for the membership forms that will come

through your doors this month. I would be grateful if you could make a special effort this year to join the club to help restore our finances and if you could deliver the form and membership fee to me at Church Farm House it will help me maintain social distancing in these risk averse times. Stay Safe.

**David Gray PCC**

# Hallelujah!!

**WINGRAVE COMMUNITY CHOIR  
WILL SOON BE SINGING AGAIN**



The choir is looking forward to restarting this Autumn and to singing with our new musical director. We very much hope to welcome some new singers and invite anyone interested to come along to our first rehearsal on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Nup End Lane, Wingrave.

We are a mixed voice choir and sing a wide range of music. No special skills or auditions are involved and you don't have to be able to read music to join us so please come along and give it a try.

If you are interested and would like some more information, please contact Sally Palmer tel 681152 or [sally.palmer50@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sally.palmer50@yahoo.co.uk)

# Local Gigs Following Lockdown

Amersham, Aylesbury and Milton Keynes have exciting gigs to look forward to.



Indie legends **Razorlight** are one of the bands scheduled to appear in Bucks

With the proposed end of lockdown now very much in our sights, one thing that will be top of many lists will be to go to a gig again. There are few things better in this world than live music, but the industry has taken a massive hit during the coronavirus pandemic. There are loads of great bands coming to Bucks in the coming months, so we have put together a guide of everything you need to know about them. So why not grab a ticket and show your support?

Razorlight. July 23. Penn Fest, Penn, Amersham HP7 0PS. Adult day ticket £61, adult weekend ticket £117.70, £33 extra for camping. Children aged 3-12 £22. It's a two day festival. This means you can also catch Craig David, Ella Eyre and Peter Hook on the same day.

## The Charlatans



July 24, Penn Fest, Penn, Amersham HP7 OPS. Adult day ticket £61, adult weekend ticket £117.70, £33 extra for camping. Children aged 3-12 £22.

Who else is playing: The Sunday of Penn Fest has The Charlatans playing alongside Rag N Bone Man, the Brand New Heavies and many more.

**Jethro Tull**, September 20. Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Exchange St, Aylesbury HP20 1UG. Tickets start from £35.50

**Shame**. June 10. Crawford Arms, 59 Stratford Rd, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5LT. Tickets are currently only available to buy in groups of up to four due to social distancing rules still applying. A group ticket costs £69.

**Bad Manners**. June 26. MK 11, Keller Cl, Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes MK11 3LH. Tickets in advance cost £21.15.

**Terrorvision**. July 30. MK 11, Keller Cl, Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes MK11 3LH. £27.75

**Levellers**. August 27. Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Exchange St, Aylesbury HP20 1UG. Tickets start from £31.90

### **Fisherman's Friends**



September 24. Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Exchange St, Aylesbury HP20 1UG. £29.40

**Scouting for Girls**. October 14. Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Exchange St, Aylesbury HP20 1UG



Magical outdoor screenings at Ashridge House for you to enjoy this summer!



We are delighted to announce a series of outdoor screenings this summer commencing on 28th June 2021 and running through until 7th July 2021, set in the beautiful private gardens at Ashridge House for a truly unique cinema experience.

Tickets are non refundable 1 month before your booking date. For further information on bookings please email our events team [events@ashridge.hult.edu](mailto:events@ashridge.hult.edu)

### **Pre-cinema Dining Experience at Ashridge House**

Ashridge House Head Chef Paul Patterson and his talented team have created two delicious dining experiences for our open air cinema screening. Enjoy pre-cinema dining in a beautiful heritage room in the house with a special set two course menu for a unique dining experience

Alternatively order a gourmet picnic box for two available for you to enjoy in our beautiful gardens (this is available upon checkout for Cinema tickets only.)

# The Hellfire Caves

Another local tourist attraction in West Wycombe.

The Hellfire Caves (also known as the West Wycombe Caves) are a network of man-made chalk and flint caverns which extend 0.25 miles (400 m) underground. They are situated above the village of West Wycombe, at the southern edge of the Chiltern Hills near High Wycombe.



They were excavated between 1748 and 1752 for Francis Dashwood, 11th Baron le Despencer (2nd Baronet), founder of the Dilettanti Society and co-founder of the Hellfire Club, whose meetings were held in the caves. The caves have been operating as a tourist attraction since 1863

The caves run into the hillside above West Wycombe village and directly beneath St Lawrence's Church and Mausoleum (which were also constructed by Sir Francis Dashwood around the same time the caves were excavated). West Wycombe Park, ancestral seat of the Dashwood family and also a National Trust property, lies directly across the valley. The caves'

entrance resembled the façade of a mock gothic church.

The unusual design of the caves was much inspired by Sir Francis Dashwood's visits to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Syria and other areas of the Ottoman Empire during his Grand Tour.

A route through the underground chambers proceeds, from the Entrance Hall, to the Steward's Chamber and Whitehead's Cave, through Lord Sandwich's Circle (named after John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich), Franklin's Cave (named after Benjamin Franklin, a friend of Dashwood who visited West Wycombe), the Banqueting Hall (allegedly the largest man-made chalk cavern in the world), the Triangle, to the Miner's Cave; and finally, across a subterranean river named the Styx, lies the final cave, the Inner Temple, where the meetings of the Hellfire Club were held, and which is said to lie 300 feet (90 m) directly beneath the church on top of West Wycombe hill. In Greek mythology, the River Styx separated the mortal world from Hades, and the subterranean position of the Inner Temple directly beneath St Lawrence's Church was supposed to signify Heaven and Hell.

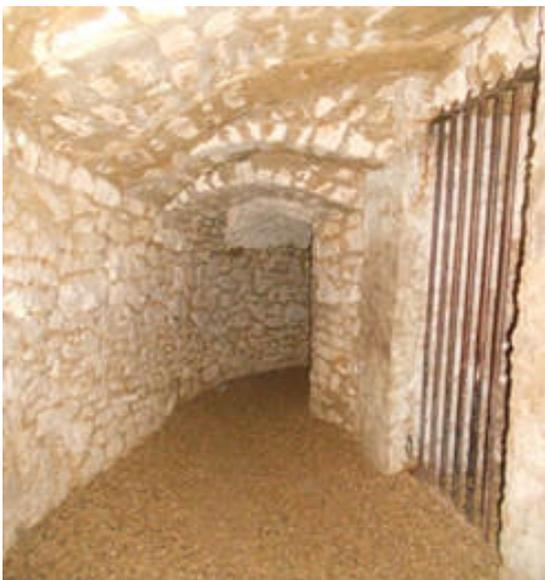
## Hellfire Club



Portrait of Sir Francis Dashwood, the founder of the Knights of St Francis of Wycombe, a private members club which later became known as the notorious Hellfire Club, c. 1750



Members of the club included various politically and socially important 18th-century figures such as William Hogarth, John Wilkes, Thomas Potter and John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich. Though not believed to have been a member, Benjamin Franklin was a close friend of Dashwood who visited the caves on more than one occasion. The caves at West Wycombe were used for meetings in the 1750s and early 1760s. The club motto was *Fais ce que tu voudras* ("Do what thou wilt"), and club activities included "numerous illicit activities including sex parties, drinking, wenching, and mock rituals" according to a summary provided by Ancient Origins.



According to Horace Walpole, the members' "practice was rigorously Pagan: Bacchus and Venus were the deities to whom they almost publicly sacrificed; and the hogsheads that were laid in against the festivals of this new church, sufficiently informed the neighbourhood of the complexion of those hermits."

Meetings occurred twice a month, with an AGM lasting a week or more in June or September. Many rumours of black magic, satanic rituals and orgies were in circulation during the life of the club.

By the early 1760s, the club was no longer very active and it was dissolved by 1766. A local legend claims that the caves are haunted by Sukie, a young maid who was accidentally killed by people playing a practical joke on her. Others claim that the ghost of Paul Whitehead, the former steward of the Hell Fire Club, has been seen in the caves.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s the caves were renovated and turned into a local visitor attraction by the late Sir Francis Dashwood (11th Baronet), who used the profit earned to refurbish the dilapidated West Wycombe Park.

Hellfire Caves have had more than 2.5 million visitors since reopening in 1951. The tours take visitors along passages which extend over 0.25 miles (400 m) underground past a series of chambers small to the Banqueting Hall and then to the so-called River Styx and the Inner Temple.

## ***Our county's fascinating royal links - including how it gave Buckingham Palace its name***

By Neil Rees

The Royal Family have been in the news a lot recently for glad, bad and sad reasons. I thought it would be of interest to explore Buckinghamshire's more local royal connections:

### **Queen Elgiva and Chesham**

Queen Elgiva, widow of the Saxon King Edwy, owned land in many parts of Buckinghamshire. Her will from about AD 970 is the first recorded mention of Chesham. Chesham's Elgiva theatre, and Elgiva Lane are named after her.

### **How Princes Risborough got its name**

Princes Risborough is named after Prince Edward, the eldest son of King Edward III. He was known as the Black Prince. He held the manor at Risborough and stayed there sometimes for hunting.

### **Tudor Bucks**

Henry VIII used to come to Bucks and would sometimes stay at Chenies Manor. His second wife Anne Boleyn, had links with Aylesbury where her father Sir Thomas Boleyn held the manor. It is claimed that Henry VIII declared Aylesbury the county town, rather than Buckingham, to gain favour with the Boleyn family. A

number of locations in Aylesbury, Stoke Mandeville and Wendover have reputed links with Anne Boleyn. Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn's daughter became Elizabeth I, and she stayed at Chenies Manor for a month in 1570.

### **Cliveden House**

Cliveden House near Burnham, was briefly a royal residence. In 1737 Frederick, Prince of Wales, son of King George II, lived there with his wife Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, and their children were born there. At Cliveden he enjoyed fishing, shooting, rowing, cricket, and he organised theatrical and musical performances. It was at Cliveden on August 1, 1740 that he hosted the first ever performance of 'Rule Britannia'. Frederick died in 1751, and his father George II, outlived him. Cliveden is now a National Trust property.

### **French Royalty in the Aylesbury Vale**

During the French Revolution in 1793 the French King and Queen were guillotined. Understandably the rest of their family fled into exile. The king's brother, known as Louis XVIII by royalists, fled first to Germany, then Russia and then to England. In 1810 he and his family came to Hartwell House near Aylesbury. He was also joined by Gustavus IV, the exiled King of Sweden, and they used to enjoy playing billiards together.

When Napoleon was defeated in 1814, an envoy came to Hartwell to

offer the throne to Louis. He left Hartwell for Paris in a great procession which went through Aylesbury, and the street he went down is called Bourbon Street in his honour. Louis XVIII died in 1820 and was succeeded by his less popular brother Charles X.

There was another revolution in 1830, which is featured in the musical *Les Miserables*, and Charles X abdicated and was replaced by his cousin who became King Louis-Philippe I of Orleans. He was overthrown by yet another revolution in 1848, and abdicated in favour of his son Louis-Philippe II. The Orleans family came to England in exile, first in Surrey, and then in 1890 the family came to live at Stowe House, near Buckingham, where Louis-Philippe II, Count of Paris, died in 1894.

## ***Wingrave June Diary***

Wed 2 WI:

Fri 4 2000 Friday Night Social Evening Community Centre

Mon 7 1800 Roll-up & try bowls Bowling Green, The Rec.

Fri 11 1800 Village barbecue and Social Community Centre

Sat 12 0900 Men's Breakfast Talk: Millennials are in a bind: expensive housing,

inadequate pensions, university debts, ageing parents to support. via Zoom

Mon 14 0930 Weekday Walking Group The Green

## **Buckingham Palace**

Our county also gave its name to Buckingham Palace. The story dates back to John Sheffield, who was known as the Duke of Buckingham. His title was created in 1703 as Duke of the County of Buckingham. The inscription on his tomb in Westminster Abbey calls him the Duke of Buckinghamshire.

In 1703 he built himself a London townhouse, which he called Buckingham House. In 1761 it was bought by George III for his family, when it became known as Buckingham Palace. Greatly enlarged over the years, it has been the official London residence of the British monarch, since Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837.

Mon 14 1800 Roll-up & try bowls Bowling Green, The Rec.

Fri 18 2000 Friday Night Social Evening Community Centre

Sat 19-20 Wingrave Open Gardens and Art Exhibition

Sun 20 0930 Local ramble Nup End Lane

Mon 21 1800 Roll-up & try bowls Bowling Green, The Rec.

Fri 25 1800 Village barbecue and Social Community Centre

Fri 25 1900 Local evening ramble Nup End Lane

Mon 28 0930 Weekday Walking Group The Green

Mon 28 1800 Roll-up & try bowls Bowling Green, The Rec.

# ***The horrific Aylesbury train crash of 1904***

**Pete Lucas**

Research on this train crash has been limited. It happened at high speed, in thick fog approaching Aylesbury Station killing 4 people with 4 injured.



The trains involved were operated by Great Central and Metropolitan & Great Western Joint Railway.

This is probably one of the worst cases of derailment that has occurred in the United Kingdom. Of the ten coaches forming the train, six were entirely demolished and one partially demolished.

The train was being driven at excessive speed for the track layout to take, in bad weather and with the driver having inadequate route knowledge.

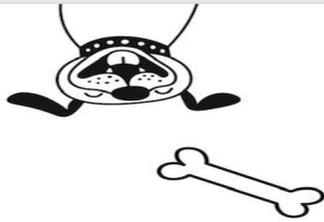


## ***Thought of the month***



*“If you want to know who controls you, look at who you are not allowed to criticize.”*

—  
VOLTAIRE



# Wingbury Paws



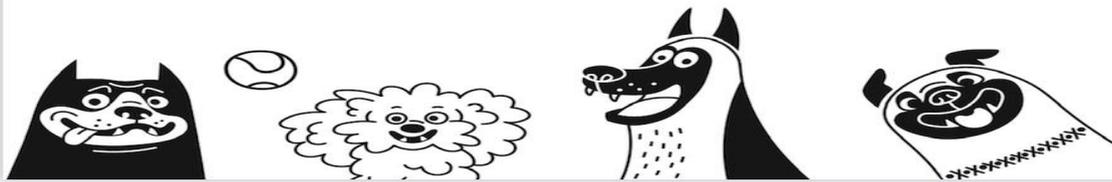
## Professional Dog Walking in Wingrave & Surrounding Villages

Wingbury Paws is committed to providing pet owners with peace of mind knowing that their beloved pets are safe, happy and taken care of.

DBS Checked  
Fully Insured  
K-9 First Aid Trained

£12 per hour walk

Call Lucy today on **07912 207 887**  
or email **lucy@wingburypaws.co.uk**



**the nail barn**  
FABULOUS FINGERS AND TOES

The Nail Barn offers manicures and pedicures in a tranquil countryside setting. Located in Aston Abbots, our professional, friendly service uses high quality products. Covid-19 compliant salon.  
By appointment only.

[www.nailbarn.co.uk](http://www.nailbarn.co.uk)  
[hello@nailbarn.co.uk](mailto:hello@nailbarn.co.uk)  
Tel : 07857 667474





## ***Parrott Brothers Butchers Whitchurch.***

### **Local Quality Butchers**

***Beechmoor Farm, Whitchurch, Aylesbury HP22 4LG***

***Opens 7AM Tuesday to Saturday***

***Phone: 01296 641207***

**A J Waring  
Carpentry Services**

All aspects of carpentry & joinery

Doors, windows, wardrobes,  
kitchens & bespoke carpentry

Local & reliable

NVO Qualified

Established for over 15 years

07468 041680

ajwcarpentry2@gmail.com

**Our revised opening times  
until further notice:**

**Tuesday 1400 - 1600**  
**Wednesday 1000 - 1200**  
**Saturday 1000 - 1200**

**STOP PRESS**

**SATURDAY 5 and 12 June**

Library will be closed in the morning and open 1400 - 1600 in the afternoon to avoid clash with vaccination sessions in Hall.

Come and see our 3 collections of Reading Well titles for adults, children, and young adults.



and FREE WELLBEING PACKS

**HALF TERM WEEK**

We are open **Tues 1, Wed 2**  
and **Sat 5 June**

Lots of lovely new books for  
children of all ages

**NEW COMPUTERS**

two new public computers  
arrived last month.  
They complement our superb  
**PHOTOCOPIER - SCANNER**  
**LAMINATOR - SHREDDER**

COMPREHENSIVE OFFICE SUPPORT FACILITIES

Join the library here [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/library-membership/join-library/](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/library-membership/join-library/) to access a wealth of FREE online services. Find us here: [f @wingcommunitylibrary](https://www.facebook.com/wingcommunitylibrary) [t @wing\\_library](https://twitter.com/wing_library)



# Painting & Decorating

Brighten your Home with a Professional Decorating Service

Clean & Tidy Workmanship Guaranteed



To Discuss Your Idea's & Arrange

A Free Quote Contact: Adrian



Tel: 01296 688429

Mobile: 07986 597013

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



**That's a load off your mind!**

## **Ironing and Laundry Services**



- **Ironing**
- **Laundry**
- **Dry Cleaning**
- **Duvet & Pillow Cleaning**
- **Curtains Cleaning**
- **Alterations**

**Free Collection & Delivery**

 **01296 422 500**

 **info@steam-on.co.uk**

 **www.steam-on.co.uk**



HOLY COW



## WE ARE OPENING!

Use code **CHRONICLE10%** for 10% off first online order!

Handmade, fairtrade, unique  
Gifts for him, her, them, home and me!  
Now stocking loose-leaf tea in earth-friendly  
packaging

**COVID-safe click & collect**

[www.holycowhome.co.uk](http://www.holycowhome.co.uk)

6 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1RS - T 01296 640507

# ***Advertise to our readers***

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

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

Contact John Whyte 14 Bricstock, Aston Abbotts Bucks HP224LP.

**07988001843**

**Deadline for Chronicle contributions is the 24th of each month.**

**Please send articles to: [editor@aachronicle.co.uk](mailto:editor@aachronicle.co.uk)**

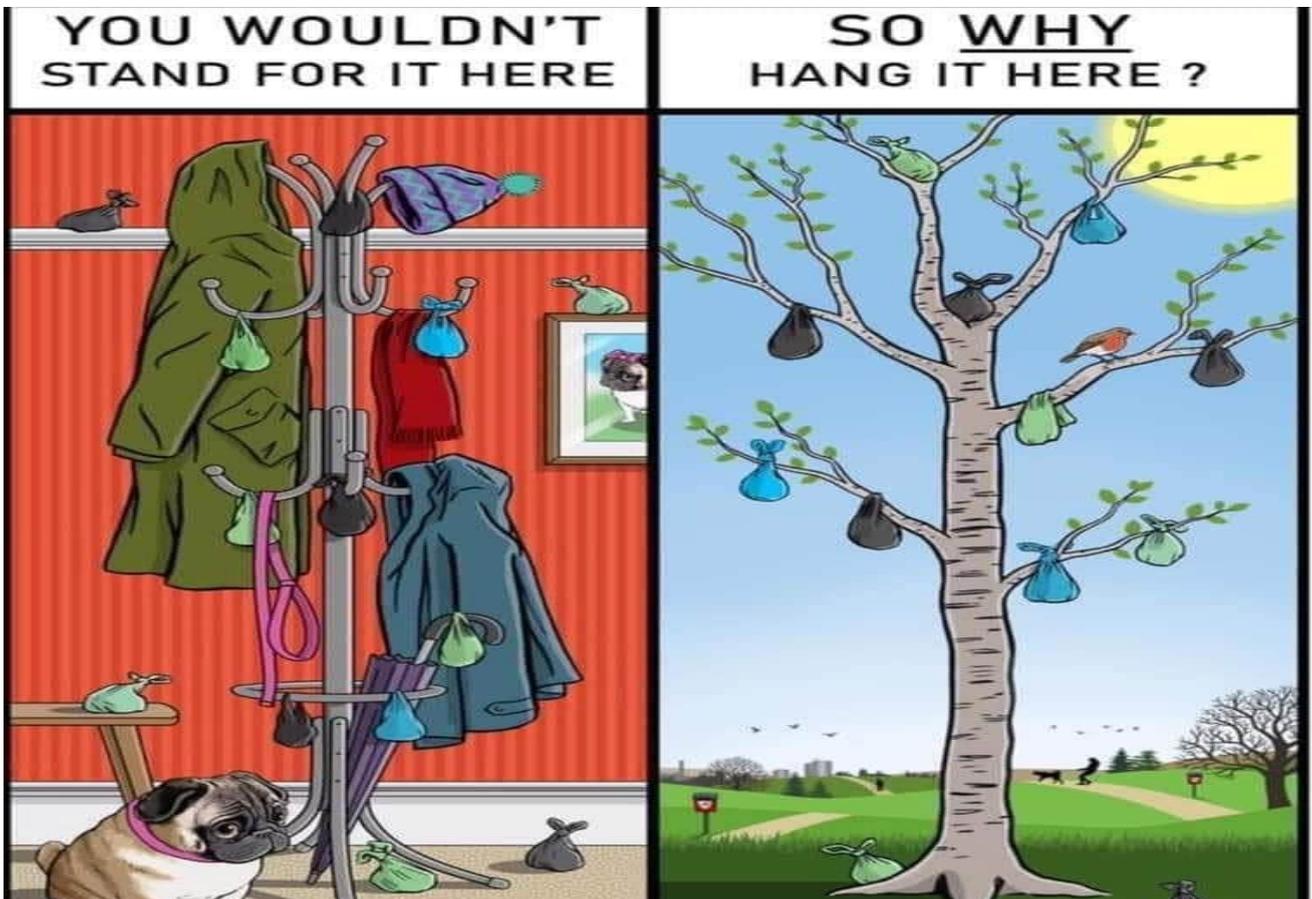


# *Services*

<b>Service</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Chronicle Editor	Pete Lucas	01296 681387
Chronicle Advertising	John Whyte	07988001843
Chronicle Distribution	Sally Palmer/Jill Wenble	681152/681877
<b>Parish Council</b>	Jane Anne Baylis Jane Susan Plested Marisa Caroline Rebecca Albel-Smith Trevor Ian Hall Richard Brian Lakin Heather Jane Langdon Sally Ann Palmer	Chair Vice Chair
County Councillor		
Vicar	Revd Howard Robson	01296 688593
Church Warden	Carolyn Abel-Smith	01296 681001
Church Secretary	Caroline Lane	01296 681373
Book Club	Sally Palmer	01296 681152
Village Hall Hire	Nigel & Sally Palmer	01296 681152
Men's 630 Club	Andy Bystra	01296 681690
Women's Gnomes Club	Carol Spooner	01296 681544
Post office & shop Wingrave	Deva	01296 682964
Baby & Toddler Group	Kim Gayler	01296 681123
Royal Oak Pub & Restaurant	Teri Moulton	07809395463
100 Club Treasurer	David Gray	01296 681952
Bingo	Pam Dixon	01296 681626
Rambling Club & Whist Drive	Colin Higgs	01296 681343

# Community Services

NHS Direct 24hr Advice	111
Doctor Out of hours Surgeries	01296 331511
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296 315000
Police Non-Emergency	101
Buckinghamshire Council	01296 395000
Citizens Advice	08701264056
MP Greg Smith (Con)	01296 714 240
Anglian Water	01296 385995
Pre School Wingrave	01296 681127
Wingrave School	01296 681436
Cottesloe School Wing	01296 688264



# Explore... Dream... Discover..



Travel Impressions are specialists in tailor-making holidays to destinations worldwide. If you are thinking of travelling to Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Southern Africa, South America, Asia, India, Sri Lanka, China, Japan or within Europe, please call or email us.

We can help you create the best itinerary, as we offer:

Personalised planning - we take the time to get to know you

Friendly, honest advice from an independent travel agency

Extensive experience to arrange every detail

Using fully bonded tour operators • No booking fees

## Travel Impressions

*A World of Experience*



**01442 890265**

[enquiries@travelimpressions.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@travelimpressions.co.uk)

[www.travelimpressions.co.uk](http://www.travelimpressions.co.uk)

Suite 4, George House, 64 High Street, Tring, Herts. HP23 4AF



# ANDERTON ELECTRICS

*Keeping you wired up.*

- ✓ Free quotations, no obligations
- ✓ Emergency Work – day or night
- ✓ Domestic or Commercial
- ✓ A name you can trust

FREE NO  
OBLIGATION  
QUOTATIONS

Contact James direct on:  
Mobile: **07771 698 151**  
Office: **01582 343 123**

Email: [james@andertonelectrics.co.uk](mailto:james@andertonelectrics.co.uk)

Proud members of  
**Checkatrade.com** See our feedback on **Check a trade**  
Where reputation matters  
[www.checkatrade.com/andertonelectrics](http://www.checkatrade.com/andertonelectrics)



City &  
Guilds



[www.andertonelectrics.co.uk](http://www.andertonelectrics.co.uk)

*My thanks to Lynn Manning for this Aston Abbotts Sunrise. Ed.*



# The Royal Oak

