

# Aston Abbotts Chronicle

November 2021 Issue 420

## Annoying trucker damages The Green & his truck



What goes round comes round, the saying goes. And as this trucker found out, going round, turfing up our village came round at a price for him as it does for us. As he mounted the newly repaired double curb of The Green, the truck's air line was damaged. It took much of the day to repair and get the trucker on his way. See Your Emails inside.



## ***Village Firework Display Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November***

**Aston Abbotts Recreation Ground  
Gates Open 5.30pm, Bonfire  
6.00pm, Fireworks 6.30pm.**

Hot dogs & refreshments available  
from 5.30pm.



Designated 'Sparkler' area for  
children with their own sparklers and  
accompanied by an adult.

Please present the enclosed voucher  
for entry (one voucher per  
household).

All donations welcome to support  
the future of this event. This event is  
kindly run by residents for residents.  
In order for the evening to run  
smoothly & safely we ask that you  
respect the event stewards and  
adhere to advice given.

Absolutely no personal fireworks  
allowed at this event & no items to  
be placed on the bonfire.

## ***From the Editor***

October has been a depressing month  
for losing lovely people in the village.  
We remember Mick Allum from The  
Green, Denise Dean, Wingrave Road.  
Denise leaves behind Son, Simon and  
daughter, Sally. And Sue Tett, the wife  
of Bucks Cllr, Martin Tett. We send our  
sincere condolences to their families  
and friends.

Another loss was that of Charlie, Liz  
Denton's beloved dog of 16 years.

**Pop up Pub latest.** Quite a bit of  
interest with this idea and offers of  
help. DVD projector and screen for  
Film Nights and Children's Saturday  
Morning Pictures, Karaoke machine  
for..... Well, I'll let you guess, sound  
system and music for Country Music  
Nights.

We need a DJ and Disco, Sponsorship,  
donations to get this thing off the  
ground and keep it regular. If other  
villages can do it, let's ensure the 'Best  
Kept Village' can do it.

Link to show interest, provide  
sponsorship or materials and suggest  
ideas is here  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1B\\_IL46wy9PdLALkeQRMWBy79Wx\\_CtLa1XJDaOXo0E4/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1B_IL46wy9PdLALkeQRMWBy79Wx_CtLa1XJDaOXo0E4/)

A meeting with interested parties will  
take place very soon and will be  
posted on the link above, and Postie.

Stay safe.

***Pete, Ed***

# ***News from in & around Aston Abbotts***

## **Fireworks returns to the Rec'**



After much work from the Parish Council dealing with the 'elf & safety army, insurance companies and legal requirements etc. the Fireworks and bonfire return to the Rec' Thursday 4th November from 17.00. See inside for resident entry voucher.

**CLOSURE OF THE ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB.** It is with some sadness that I write this note regarding the Ladies Club who met once a month in the Village Hall in Aston Abbotts on a Thursday afternoon.

We have, regretfully, come to the decision to close the club down. Times have changed since the club was first formed well over 80 years ago. Mothers were at home with the children all day and the club was a welcome chance to catch up with friends and neighbours. Nowadays there are clubs in both villages that meet in the evenings and, as many of the younger wives and mothers are working in the daytime, that suits them better.

There have been some amazing speakers over the years. Some have enthralled us with tales of their adventures and countries they have visited and others have been very entertaining and hilariously funny. One afternoon that stands out was when a retired Royal Butler came and told us so much about his time with the Royal Family working both at Buckingham Palace and on the Royal Yacht.

We have had outings each year to some wonderful places and our Spring Lunch was always something to look forward to. Our Christmas Carol service which was followed by a delicious afternoon tea, prepared by the ladies from each village in turn, was a highlight.

We had a small balance in the bank which, at our final get together, we agreed should be donated to Age UK. I have received a lovely thank you card from Cathy Cassidy who is the manager of The Age UK shop in Leighton Buzzard. She expressed her sadness at our Club closing but appreciated Age UK benefitting from our leftover funds.

Fortunately living in small villages we are all able to keep in touch and will no doubt be bumping into each other quite regularly.

**April Curnow. Treasurer.**

## ***War hero who crash-landed near RAF Wing is remembered in Stewkley woodland***

**By Hannah Richardson**

A remembrance plaque to a Second World War hero has been unveiled in woodland near Stewkley.

The plaque commemorates an American pilot, Immanuel 'Manny' Klette, whose aircraft crash-landed close to the RAF Wing wartime airfield.



On the evening of September 23, 1943, an American B-17 Flying Fortress bomber, was returning to its home base of Thurleigh in Bedfordshire badly damaged from a mission to bomb Nantes harbour in France with an injured pilot - Klette - when it crash-landed in treetops in Kemsall Wood, just yards short of the RAF Wing runways.

A plaque has been installed in the woodlands where the crash happened.

Helped by RAF Wing personnel, they crawled out of the wreckage and were taken to RAF Halton hospital near Wendover.

Manny Klette flew more bombing missions than any other pilot in American Air Force history, and flew the last mission of the Second World War.

Thanks to co-founder of the RAF Wing memorial Nick Ellins, and Stewkley

farmer Henry Hunt, who owns Kemsall Wood, a plaque has now been erected in the woods near the site of the historic event.



On the return trip, Manny shut down two of the aircraft's four engines to save fuel, and a third engine once over England, so the 20-ton bomber was by now flying on one engine.

As they were still losing height rapidly and it became clear they would not make their home base at Thurleigh in Bedfordshire, the RAF directed them to emergency land at RAF Wing.



**Manny Klette**

After flying over the village of Wing and the nearby hamlet of Burcott at low height with full landing lights on, Manny lost sight of the ground until the aircraft was at just 100ft. Rather than hit ground hard, Manny chose to drop the B-17 into the treetops of a wood just short of the runways, where an oak tree severed the left wing, broke the fuselage in half, crushed the cockpit

and severed the engines from the aircraft. Lack of fuel prevented more than a small fire in one engine, but fire crews from Aylesbury, Linslade and Leighton Buzzard reached the site within 12 minutes of the crash.

Manny sustained multiple leg and pelvis fractures in addition to the shin injury sustained in battle, and his navigator, Lt Madden, was badly injured with eight fractures. The rest of the crew escaped with minor injuries.

### **FINES OR JAIL FOR TRAVELLERS WHO TRESPASS**



Travellers and trespassers who leave rubbish, cause noise or generate smell from bonfires will face up to three months in prison under a government crackdown announced last week.



The changes are aimed at those who set up camp illegally on private or public land. Individuals could also be

prosecuted if they verbally abuse or intimidate local residents.

### **ORCHARD MEETING (Take 2)**



**Rescheduled 8th November**  
**Sorry to everyone for the late postponement of the Orchard Meeting in October. We now have a revised date:**  
**Monday, 8 November, 7.30 pm, Village Hall, and would love to see lots of people there to discuss the orchard.**

*Wingrave Community Centre*

**Fri 19 November**  
**1930hrs**

**WWRHA talk: An ill-fated Arctic Expedition in the 1840s**

*Info'. Richard Keighley*  
*([thekeighleys51@gmail.com](mailto:thekeighleys51@gmail.com))*



***Parrott Brothers Butchers Whitchurch.***

**Local Quality Butchers**

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

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

***Phone: 01296 641207***

# Your Emails Etc

## Hi, Individual Fireworks

A couple of residents have asked us if we can do anything about restricting fireworks going off at random over the bonfire night period. We cant, but wondered if you could include a short piece on general etiquette around this time, for example **give neighbours advance warning if you are having a private display in your garden, be considerate to pets and livestock, avoid letting them off late into the evening, perhaps opt for the 'quiet' fireworks when making your purchase.**

As one resident explained – the organised firework displays are manageable from a pet/noise perspective because everyone knows when they are going to happen. It is the ad hoc bangers going off days either side of 5<sup>th</sup> that are perhaps more intrusive. Kind regards.

**Liz van Hullen**

Aston Abbots Parish Council  
01494 758800

## Good Morning Peter,

I would just like to say a big thank you to Debra who is so kind and helpful to not only myself but other bus users who struggle with mobility issues and have to use a mobility aid. Despite Debra having mobility issues of her own she is always helping the rest of us get on and off the buses. I for one really appreciate her kindness.

As I have very poor mobility at the moment and I am unable to walk without the use of my walker I have come to realise the state of footpaths in this area. The footpath on the side of the green where the bus shelter is is all broken and dangerous. Many times my walker has got stuck on a broken part of the footpath. It's not only our village but in Aylesbury I had to go and get a prescription and decided to take my dog for a walk around the local area not only were footpaths all broken but most of the roads had no drop kerbs at all and I was having to lift my walking aid up the kerbs. Surely this is something that Buckinghamshire County Council needs to address. **Thank You. Lyn**

## Disrespect of our village by haulage companies.



## Dear General Manager

At 06.45 on 01/10/2021 a Stan Robinson truck came through Aston Abbots HP224LX Near Aylesbury and mounted a newly repaired

double curb causing further damage, witnessed by a resident. Would you please investigate this matter and stop your trucks entering this village? Signs clearly state, 'Not suitable for HGVs'.

A suitable answer is expected to satisfy residents.

**Pete Lucas, Chronicle Editor**

**Good morning Mr Lucas,**

One of our vehicles had a delivery of cattle feed to make to Norduck Farm just on the outskirts of the village. He approached from Weedon direction and left heading north along Wingrave lane so would have come through the village. He was not aware that he had caused any damage in the process.

Unfortunately some of the places we have to deliver to are not always easily accessible but nevertheless we have to access in order to complete customers deliveries.

You mention that the road is not suitable for HGVs, is there actually a weight limit sign on the road or just a warning about suitability?

Best regards. **Steve Carson** General Manager Stan Robinson Stafford Ltd, Ladfordfields, Seighford, Stafford, ST18 9QE

**Hi.** The pothole that caused my fall has now been filled in as well as another dangerous one a few yards away. Thanks to everyone for their concern. Thanks too to Councillor

Jane who provided me with the direct email of the person at Bucks Council to contact and to my very persistent husband Richard who ensured the work was carried out straight away! **Sally Clarke.**

**Hi Ed,** I hope I have done this correctly? I'm not that good at this sort of thing! I hope this will be of interest to people who read the Chronicle.

**Queens Silver Jubilee 1977**

This is a Canvas which is a copy of the original photo that was hung in the Church Room up until it became the Village Hall

The original small photo was given by my family in 1977 to the then named Church Room. It hung on the back wall in the room for many years.

On the day of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, it was decided that a group of us would host a street party for the children of the village to celebrate the day. The celebration party was held on the Village Green and after the food was consumed the children were gathered for an historical group photo! I decided to get a canvas done of the photo and put names to faces. Can you spot yourself?

Many parents of the now grown up children still live in the village. Enjoy the memories!

**Bridget Brandon**

## Aston Abbotts During The Queens Silver Jubilee in 1977



### Queens Silver Jubilee 1977

(Front row, left to right) Lindy Jones, Andrew Parker, Peter Barraclough, Andrew Barraclough, Karen Brandon, Marc Brandon

(Second row, left to right) Amanda Fox, Joanne Hinds, Russell Jones, Pauline Dixon, Jason McCullough, Adrian Dixon, James Dixon

(Third row, left to right) Donna Wiggett, Dianne Nobel, Michelle Hinds, Julie Nobel, Jillian Roff,  
Susanna McCullough, Amanda Wise, Alison Ford, Steve Judd, Will Ellis, Chris Fox

(Back row, left to right) Unknown, Angela Judd, Helen Brock, Dean Wiggett, Diana Kent,  
Tina Loader, Paula Kirby, Diana Fox, Catherine Brock

# Aston Abbotts Diary November VH=Village Hall

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2 VH 19:30 VH AA PC	3 VH 16:30 Yoga  VH 18:00 Yoga	4 VH Cafe 10:00  VH 19:30 Whist  18.00 Fireworks The Rec'	5	6 13:00 VH Private meeting
7 Rambling Club Wing	8	9 VH 19:30 AA PC	10 VH 16:30 Yoga  VH 18:00 Yoga	11 VH Cafe 10:00  VH 19:30 Bingo	12	13 Church Leaf sweep 10.00
14  Remembrance Day	15	16 VH 19:30 PCC	17 VH 16:30 Yoga  VH 18:00 Yoga	18 VH Cafe 10:00  VH 19:30 Whist	19	20
21 09:30 Breakfast Service	22	23	24 VH 16:30 Yoga  VH 18:00 Yoga	25 VH Cafe 10:00	26	27
28	29	30				

# ***Aston Abbotts Parish Council October***

The Parish Council meets again on 2nd November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Since the last PC meeting (22nd September 2021) we have a few things to note:

HGV's Councillors have campaigned hard over recent years to increase the level of signage and white lining targeted at significantly reducing the level of HGV's trying to travel through the village, and the general speed of many vehicles for that matter. Bucks agreed to support a joint project with Cublington and we have been chasing progress on this. Most recently we have submitted dates and supporting photographs of incidents where HGV's have either been stuck or in some way caused damage or delay. We will now keep the pressure on to get this project underway.

Hedges Could we remind all residents that it is the responsibility of the landowner to manage hedge cutting. This is particularly key where hedges run along pavements and roadsides. The hedge must be cut back to ensure good visibility for road users and safety for pedestrians. We would like to thank you all in advance for your cooperation with this.

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 2nd November and you are welcome to join us.**

## ***The Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Meeting held 21st September***

Present: Cllrs Baylis (Chair), Plestead, Lakin, Hall, Langdon, Palmer & Abel Smith. Ms S Chapman – Consultant. The Clerk. Fifteen members of the public.

Introduction: Cllr Baylis gave a brief overview of how the Parish Council had come to initiate the meeting and introduced Sally Chapman; a Planning Consultant, local to Aston Abbotts, who has worked alongside many other local parishes on production of their Neighbourhood Plans.

Presentation: Sally Chapman explained the following –

- A Neighbourhood Plan can enable a local community to have some say over future local development
- It can go beyond what is expected from local housing policy eg detailing materials specified, development design, protection of open spaces
- Residents of the village must be fully consulted and very much involved in the production of the plan.

- Instigation and qualification sits with the Parish Council
- The Plan should relate to historical importance of village assets & features
- The Plan should be based on local surveys, research into demographics, local population, types of housing needs, local and supporting infrastructure.
- The cost is approx. £10k, Government grants are available
- The entire process can take between 18 & 24 months
- An overview of the process from initiation to completion, and the different parties and bodies involved



## Q & A

Q: it would appear that Local Authorities can overrule a Neighbourhood Plan after 5 years.

A: This is the case, but the existence of an NP means that the Local Authority would need to take it into account during their Local Plan review and potentially the village could decide the location of any imposed development

Q: Should the village wait for a Local Plan or definite housing allocation for the immediate area before developing an NP.

A: The Plan should be developed in any event. It could not be used to totally block a Local Authority Local Plan Process.

Q: How would the existence of a Plan help decide which land is used for development

A: All land potentially available should be researched and fully assessed prior to allocation with the NP.

A: The NP can be reviewed and amended via a Formal Process if a housing allocation is required by the new Local Plan.

Q: If the NP is contravened and a development is approved even though it did not feature within the Plan, can the local community appeal.

A: No, but it may be in a stronger position to negotiate details of the development

Q: Does an NP protect green space areas bequeathed / donated to the Parish.

A: Yes

Q: Can the Plan include a focus on footpaths, rights of way, cycle routes, improved BB, renewable energy.

A: Yes

Q: Does the NP have to include some development

A: The Plan does not have to include any development

Q: Can the NP manage the affordability of affordable housing and allocate land solely for this use.

A: Yes

Next Steps: Apply for the Grant. Form a Committee. Survey the residents.

The Parish Council will follow up on this meeting at the PC.

## Aston Abbotts Village Hall news – November



Six months after re-opening the hall is getting good use again – yoga, whist, bingo, the ever-popular Thursday morning café/coffee morning (everyone welcome to this, do come along if you have half an hour to spare). And lots more.

One-off “pop-up” events are welcome. Here’s the situation with music and alcohol:

Music: All events where recorded or live music is played in public need a music licence. The good news is that we

are getting an annual music licence for the village hall, which costs £110 and should cover most events people want to hold.

Alcohol: we can’t accept bookings where alcohol is sold to the public. People can bring their own but not buy it there.

Please ask if you are thinking about holding an event and aren’t sure about the rules for community buildings.

Booking: email:  
astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com

Or call: 01296 681152 (Nigel and Sally Palmer) Mobile: 07918-928897 (Sally) Mobile: 07547-604072 (Nigel)

**Aston Abbotts Village Hall**  
Trustees/management: **Caroline Lane (Chair), Liz Hall (Secretary), Nigel Palmer (Treasurer/Bookings), Sally Palmer (Bookings), Peter Shorrocks, John Whyte.**

**ART AT WINGRAVE**  
**NOVEMBER**  
**19-21st**  
**10.00-4.00**  
An exciting collection  
of works from local artists

JUST IN  
TIME FOR  
CHRISTMAS

Including delicious cakes and drinks  
Supporting Alzheimer's Society

Field View & Home Farm, Castle St.,  
Wingrave, HP224PT

# WE BUY RECORDS!!!



**ALL GENRES, ALL ERAS,  
NO COLLECTION IS  
TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL.**

**WE ARE BASED IN WING AND HAVE  
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE OF  
VINYL AND MUSIC MEMORABILIA.  
WE PAY THE BEST PRICES.**

**CALL ANGELA ON 07976 204249  
OR EMAIL [TURNTABLE.RECORDS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:TURNTABLE.RECORDS@HOTMAIL.COM)**

## ***We Buy Records***

Whether it be the Friars Club or Marillion, across the years Aylesbury Vale has been synonymous with music. So when Angela Collings relocated to the area, it made perfect sense for her business, Turntable Records, to set up selling vinyl and music memorabilia in the shadow of David Bowie's statue on Aylesbury Market.

But whilst vinyl has seen a resurgence and enticed a whole new generation, Angela is no novice.

For two decades, she ran Entertainment Exchange, the Midlands' biggest second hand record and memorabilia store. The shop was a music lover's Mecca and her knowledge was renowned. If there was that special something you were after or

you wanted to sell your collection, then there was only one place to go. Customers flocked from near and far to revel in this Aladdin's cave and her expert status was finally cemented with her own music review show on the local BBC Radio station. Fast forward to 2017 and Angela had relocated and by 2018, Turntable Records was the stall to shop at across the county. From Chesham to Banbury and her local, Aylesbury markets, Angela has wowed her customers with her super stalls full of vinyl gold. Turntable Records continues to go from strength to strength.

If you are looking to sell your record or memorabilia collection then get in touch. When dealing with Angela you can rest assured that she will pay you the best prices.

# ***The toll house murders***

## ***Aston Clinton***

**And the killers caught as they stopped for lunch**



**Aston Clinton playing fields - but the village hides a dark past**

During the 18th century, the maintenance of Buckinghamshire's roads was funded by tolls levied on horse-drawn traffic. These were collected at toll houses, small buildings at the roadside which were usually isolated and often full of cash.

One such toll house, at Aston Clinton was kept by an elderly couple named Rachel and Edward Needle.

At about 5pm on November 19, 1822, the Needles hosted tea with their friend Fanny Norris, who later recalled that they seemed quite well.

The following morning, just before 6.15am, Joseph Davies went to fetch his master's horse from the field next to the toll house. He noticed that the door was open, but that the Needles were nowhere to be seen.

Putting his head in the door, he was greeted by a gruesome sight – Rachel Needle lay dead on the floor. Just then, Aylesbury coachman James Wyatt

arrived. Davies told Wyatt what he had seen, and Wyatt entered the house to investigate.

Rachel's body was in the sitting room while Edward's lay on their bed, covered with a sheet. A surgeon named William Hayward was summoned from Aylesbury to inspect the scene. He arrived at around 10am with his assistant, John Blissett.

Hayward noted that both victims had multiple head wounds, including cuts and fractures. Under the bed was a bludgeon, which the surgeon determined to be the likely murder weapon. Another found nearby had been used so forcefully that it was almost broken in two.

Aylesbury policeman Mr Minshull later arrived, swearing in several other men as special constables and sending them in all directions, with authority to detain any suspicious persons. Letters were also sent to local villages, putting residents on high alert.

At around 8pm, some of Minshull's men arrived at the Bridgewater Arms in Little Gadsden. Landlord Mr Bennett informed them of three people in his tap room, carrying bundles. Finding blood on their shirts and jackets, the special constables detained them.

Magistrates soon arrived in Little Gadsden to inspect the three prisoners – two men and a woman who gave their names as James Croker, Thomas Randall and Martha Barnacle. They were taken to Berkhamsted for questioning.

Besides carrying bags containing items belonging to the Needles, their pockets were full of cash. Questioned

separately, accounts of their recent movements contradicted one another. Furthermore, nails missing from their boots were matched to nails found at the crime scene.

Martha told investigators that she had known Randall for a year, but the other man for only a short time. The three had been at Berkhamsted on the night of the murder, when the men left to do a job “which would fetch a hundred pounds”.

Martha urged them not to do anything stupid, before arranging to meet them the next day. Her account ended there, as her companions had warned her to keep quiet “lest she be murdered herself”.

The next afternoon, the prisoners were taken to Aylesbury via the toll house. They were shown inside, where the Needles lay in their coffins. Randall viewed them, thanking God that he had “no hand in their deaths” – Croker would not even look.

In Aylesbury, an inquest was begun, overseen by county coroner John Chersley. A farm labourer named Charles Finch described two men he saw entering the toll house – including their physical attributes and clothing – and then leaving towards Aston Clinton.

Finch had described them as “ruffians”, telling a companion he “should not like to meet them on a dark night”. Mr Norris, a friend of the Needles, identified several items belonging to them – including a silver-plated pipe stopper – found in the suspects’ bundles.

And a cobbler named William Wood swore that the shoes the suspects wore

had belonged to his late friends the Needles. Together, it was enough for a jury of local farmers to find Croker and Randall guilty of murder.

Rachel and Edward Needle were buried at St Michael’s in Aston Clinton, their funeral expenses covered by the trustees of the toll road. Their accused killers pair stood trial in March of 1823, before a crowded courtroom of curious onlookers.

Croker admitted his part, but Randall denied any involvement. The judge warned Croker that his confession would mean no trial and a certain death sentence – but Croker was resolved to his fate.

Barnacle testified that she was a travelling lace seller who had met Randall on the road last year, and that he had promised to marry her if they ever reached London. Later on they met Croker, who Barnacle described as “bad company”.

One day, in Aylesbury, Randall declared that he knew a girl with a hundred pounds who wanted to run away with him. He said he could “relieve” her of the money and with it marry Barnacle – although she begged him not to do so.

The next day, Randall and Croker left Barnacle at a lodging house in Berkhamsted, returning the following morning with large bundles and pockets full of cash. They ate breakfast and proceeded to Little Gaddesden – where the law had caught up with them.

The jury took little time finding Randall guilty, the judge passing the death sentence for both men. Croker thanked the judge, while Randall said nothing.

The date of their deaths was set for two days hence.

### **A confession before the gallows**

The night before their execution, Rev George Scobell, vicar of Turville, heard their confessions. He learned that Croker was a baker from Somerset who had left his “wild” wife in 1818 and travelled to London.

In 1822 he had met Randall, and the two had embarked on a crime spree. Randall was a farmer from Warwickshire who went to Birmingham as a teenager, falling in with a bad crowd and feeding himself on the proceeds of pickpocketing and burglary.

The next morning, before a huge crowd outside Aylesbury Prison, the two men mounted the gallows. Croker told them, “May God bless you,” before the hoods were placed on their heads and the lever thrown.

After hanging for an hour, their bodies were cut down and sent to a London anatomy school.

Had they not stopped for lunch in Little Gaddesden, they might have got away with their cowardly crime – but they paid the ultimate price for using the toll road at Aston Clinton.

## ***Buckinghamshire people put to death for 'sheep theft' & 'uttering'***

**Richard Ault, Tom Burnett**

It has now been more than 50 years since the last convicts were executed

in Britain - but by then dozens of people had been put to death in Bucks for a variety of crimes.

It was 1965 when the Murder Act abolished the death penalty for murder in England, Scotland and Wales - but not in Northern Ireland where it survived until 1973.

Even then, a felon could theoretically be put to death for the crime of high treason, or piracy, until as recently as 1998.

Meanwhile, the last execution in Bucks took place almost a century earlier, in 1880. That was when William Dumbleton was hanged at Aylesbury after being found guilty of the murder of John Edmunds at Ludgershall. (Previously a Chronicle article).

Before his execution, Dumbleton admitted to slitting his victim’s throat, and his confession was recorded by the Bucks Herald. He said: “I hope God will forgive me for my dreadful sin. If I had not been took, I believe I should have given myself up, I was so miserable to think I had done such a terrible thing to a poor fellow I had no ill-will against whatsoever.

**'It was the beer'** “How I came to do it, I cannot tell, but it was all the beer.”

A crowd of “not more than 80” were present at Dumbleton’s execution. His death, by hanging, was “instantaneous”. But while Dumbleton was executed for the crime of murder, others were put to death for what would be considered lesser crimes today. For example,

Henry Benyon was executed for theft of a sheep in 1801, Needles Chamberlain was put to death for forgery in 1810, and James Bassett was hanged for the crime of uttering - using a forged document such as counterfeit banknotes - in 1815. There was even one 66-year-old man hanged for the crime of “bestiality” in 1834.

Press reports of the execution described it only as “a most heinous crime”, or a “nameless crime”. In total, between 1800 and 1880, 42 people were executed in Buckinghamshire, all at Aylesbury.

But while William Dumbleton was the last person to be executed in Bucks, it is likely more felons were sent out of the county to be executed in other locations, commonly at prisons.

For more information about capital punishment in the UK, go to [www.capitalpunishmentuk.org](http://www.capitalpunishmentuk.org).

**Name // Place of execution // Crime (or name of murder victim) // Year**

Richard Ferguson // Aylesbury // Highway robbery 1800  
 John Canerall // Aylesbury // Highway robbery // 1800  
 James Perkins // Aylesbury // Highway robbery // 1800  
 Job Duncombe // Aylesbury // Highway robbery // 1801  
 John Wilson // Aylesbury // Horse theft // 1801  
 Henry Benyon // Aylesbury // Sheep theft // 1801  
 John Haynes // Aylesbury // Horse theft // 1803  
 Joseph Swift // Aylesbury // Horse theft // 1806  
 Needles Chamberlain // Aylesbury // Forgery // 1810  
 John Pearse // Aylesbury // Burglary // 1812  
 Joseph Exile // Aylesbury // Horse theft // 1812

William Freeman // Aylesbury // Arson // 1813  
 William Kipping // Aylesbury // Rape // 1814  
 James Bassett // Aylesbury // Uttering // 1815  
 Thomas Sharpe // Aylesbury // Burglary // 1816  
 Thomas Raisin // Aylesbury Murder Elizabeth York 1816  
 William Franklin // Aylesbury // Rape // 1816  
 Thomas Mitchell // Aylesbury Cutting & maiming 1819  
 Sarah Hurst // Aylesbury // Murder husband // 1819  
 John Thompkins // Aylesbury // Sheep theft // 1820  
 James Spurford // Aylesbury // Highway robbery 1822  
 Joseph Dulvey // Aylesbury // Highway robbery // 1822  
 John Milsom // Aylesbury // Horse theft // 1823  
 John Williams // Aylesbury // Horse theft // 1823  
 Henry Brown // Aylesbury // Horse theft // 1823  
 Thomas Randall // Aylesbury // Murder Mr & Mrs Needle // 1823  
 James Crocker Aylesbury Murder Mr Mrs Needle 1823  
 Robert Saunders // Aylesbury // Burglary // 1828  
 Joseph Walker // Aylesbury // Murder wife // 1828  
 Benjamin Taylor Aylesbury Murder William Eden 1830  
 Soloman Sewell /Aylesbury/ Murder William Eden 1830  
 William Smith // Aylesbury // Burglary // 1831  
 William Markham // Aylesbury // Burglary // 1831  
 George Capel // Aylesbury // Bestiality // 1834  
 Thomas Bates // Aylesbury // Col. Hammer's gamekeeper // 1837  
 John Tawell // Aylesbury // Sarah Hart // 1845  
 Moses Hatto Aylesbury Miss Mary Ann Spurgeon 1854  
 William Stephens // Aylesbury // Ann Leeson // 1864  
 William Mobbs // Aylesbury // Boy aged 9 // 1870  
 John Owen Aylesbury Emanuel Marshall + 6 in family 1870  
 Henry Evans // Aylesbury // Wife // 1873. William Dumbleton // Aylesbury // John Edmunds 1880

# **Best Sunday roasts in Buckinghamshire**

## **Reviews**

There are plenty of amazing places to enjoy a Sunday roast dinner this weekend. From filling your Yorkshire puddings to the brim with stuffing, piling your plate with roast potatoes, or drowning everything in gravy, nothing ends the week better than a good old fashioned roast.

And it tastes so much better when you do not need to cook or must tackle a mountain of dirty dishes afterwards.

So why not enjoy a roast dinner at a venue here in Bucks this Sunday?

And to help make sure you get a great Sunday roast in the county when it comes to meat and Yorkshire puddings, we have compiled a list of the best places to go, voted for by you on TripAdvisor.

### **The Cross Keys, Milton Keynes**

Nestled in the heart of Milton Keynes sits this quaint thatched pub.



With an astronomical 1,764 reviews, the pub is an ideal location to enjoy a Sunday roast in relaxed and welcoming surroundings.

They offer a menu for all ages and you can enjoy a perfect roast dinner in a stylish setting. From slow cooked shoulder of Pork, half a roast of chicken, slow cooked lamb, and a beef strip loin, there is a mouth watering selection Sunday roast dishes for people who love meat. And if you are someone who always struggles to choose which meat, then there mixed roast to share if just for you. Priced at £34.95 you can get a slice of every meat they offer. However, they cater for all as they also offer a gorgeous vegetable wellington for vegetarians to enjoy.

But, it is also the customer service people rave about at the Cross Keys.

One review read: "We had the roast dinner to share - wow wow wow so much food. Nothing was too much trouble. A special thank you to Michelle who built a great relationship and rapport with my dad who has Parkinson's.

"She was so caring and patient with him even when she was so busy. Thank you Michelle from all our family."

Prices range from £11.95 to £16.25.

**The Squirrel Pub, High Wycombe.** A firm favourite with locals, the traditional English pub situated in Booker, High Wycombe, offers a famous Sunday roast.

One review said: "Absolutely delicious roast dinner delivered today, the roast potatoes were cooked to perfection!

"The lamb melted in your mouth and the gravy was beautifully flavoured. Will definitely be ordering again #supportyourlocal".

They have an array of options including a Sirloin of Herefordshire Beef, roast lamb rump and chicken supreme.

Prices range from £10.50 to £15.95.

### **The Chandos Arms, Weston Turville**



Located in Weston Turville, the staff here are warm, welcoming and friendly. They are a pub who supports their own by using local ingredients sourced from Kings Farm Butchers in Wendover, fruit and veg supplied by Dereck Piggott In Aylesbury.

One person enjoyed their meal so much, that they flocked to TripAdvisor to review the pub. They said: "Just finished a Sunday roast and wanted to compliment everyone at the Chandos for the quality of the meal and the prompt and attentive service..

"Do not hesitate to book a meal at this pub as I am certain that you will not be disappointed... Fantastic value in a perfect setting.

**Three Oaks, Gerrards Cross.** First opened in July 2011, this gastro pub earned itself a Michelin Bib Gourmand three years after opening. Six people

can enjoy their gorgeous 'Oak Pods' in the garden, under twinkling lights, cushions and a heater.

With 866 reviews - 636 of people have rated the restaurant 'excellent'. So it's no wonder why you need to book the 'Oak pods'.

Served with beef fat and garlic roast potatoes, celeriac puree, honey glazed carrot, seasonal vegetables, Yorkshire pudding and Sunday Gravy, the Three Oaks have got you wishing it was a Sunday. They offer a selection of carveries including: corn fed chicken breast, slow-roasted pork belly and rump of Scottish Highland beef.

Prices range from £16.50 to £18.50.

### **The Oak, Aston Clinton**



Tucked away in the village of Aston Clinton rests The Oak. This pub strives to use locally sourced produce including meat from Groom's Farm Shop, Ivinghoe.

"The roast dinners couldn't have been better and the Yorkshire puddings were to die for. Famous hanging kebab was delicious. The service was great, staff friendly and helpful".

*Have we missed your favourite venue for a nice spot of Sunday roast? Let us know.*

# ALLOTMENT DIARY



## ALLOTMENT DIARY



### Orange is the new black!

No, I have not started writing a column about women's fashion: I regret I am not talking about the in-colour to wear this autumn. I am talking about slugs! I have never come across so many slugs as I have been finding on my allotment this year, and the vast majority of them are orange! Could our black slug be going the same way as the red squirrel? While I don't think it will be much lamented if this is the case, I am sorry to say that the intruder slugs seem to be even bigger and hungrier than the old black varieties!

The spell of warm weather during the first couple of weeks in October did wonders for my courgette plants, which continued to produce courgettes as though it was still summer. However, I am writing this article on 18<sup>th</sup> October, and the forecast is that the weather is about to change, so I do not expect them to continue doing it for much longer. My cucumber plants have already given up the ghost.

By the time you read this my allotment will be reduced to those potatoes

which I have left in the ground, to be dug up when needed, one or two parsnips, and my leeks.

Does anyone know what eats pears while they are on the tree? A couple of weeks ago, I looked at the pear trees in my garden, and having tried one of the pears, decided to leave them on the trees for another week or so to ripen. When I next looked, a week or so later, nearly all the pears had disappeared, but there was no sign of any half-eaten pears on the ground. It must therefore be some animal or bird which carries the pears away. But what? Could it be squirrels?

In the spring I decided to dig up my raspberry canes, which were very old, riddled with weeds, and failing to produce much of a crop. I dug up all except half a dozen bushes, before I ran out of time. To my astonishment, as though to reproach me, the raspberry bushes I had left have just produced some of the biggest and juiciest raspberries I have ever grown! I think they will have to be reprieved, to see if they do the same next year. (And, of course, it will be one less job to do over the winter, which is a plus!)

Finally, I am happy to say that the efforts of my allotment neighbour, Brian, and myself have been successful in virtually eradicating my *bête noire*, the gallant soldier weed, from my allotment. The secret is clearly to pull up the weeds before they flower, or while they are flowering, and NOT to let them go to seed. I will not make that mistake again.

**Peter Shorrocks**

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# *The story of the humble Poppy*

**Re-produced by Richard & Sally Clarke**

On a bright sunny day in early September 1921, a sprightly 43 year old French woman presented herself at the door of the of 26 Eccleston Square, the Legions Headquarters in Pimlico London. She had an appointment with the General Secretary Colonel Edward Heath, and the subject of the meeting was the poppy. She had been promoting the poppy as a symbol of remembrance in the US since the end of WW1 and it was her desire to spread the idea across the sea to Britain and the Empire. Her role in the story of the poppy is not well known. She was barely mentioned in the British press at the time and in subsequent history books she gets a line or two at most. Yet she is probably the single most important person in the story of the Remembrance Day poppy. Her name is Anna Guerin.



One hundred years ago, Earl Haig and Fred Lister joined forces to

transform the fortunes of ex-servicemen with the creation of the British Legion.

The Royal British Legion has always been about individuals. At the heart of this generous spirited organisation all men and women who are singularly driven to fulfil its aims and none more than the two men who helped create it 100 years ago. The first was Field Marshall Douglas Haig, or, to give him his full title, earl Haig KT, GCB, OM,GCVO, KCIE, 29<sup>th</sup> Laird of Bemersyde. The second was former Lance Bombardier of immense physical and intellectual stature Mr T F Lister. We give him his full title as well: Sir Thomas Frederick Lister CBE.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Haig was in command of 1 corps (later First Army) Of the British Expeditionary force. By the end of 1915, he was commander in chief of the British Army on the Western Front. His work on behalf of the ex-service community began during the war and his concern for the future of his men was well founded. They returned to appalling conditions in Britain and many who had been invalided out of the army and sent back as fit, such was the shortage of manpower. Haig was also exercised demobilisation programme at the end of the war that saw key workers released first in order to get industry up and running. He saw this as a gross injustice and proposed as early as 1917 that demobilisation be based on age and length of service.

He was also very concerned with the plight of the wives and children of those who had fallen. In the later years of the war, three organisations emerged to fight for the interests of the returning ex-servicemen. These were the British National Federation of discharged and demobilised sailors and soldiers; the National Association of discharged sailors and soldiers; and the comrades of the Great War. Initially, there was no love lost between them, but after the war, in 1920, they began to think about working together. A fourth organisation, founded by Haig, was the Officers Association. It was Haig's view that "the ex-service organisations had no business to be quarrelling among themselves but must come together and work for the common cause." and he threw his weight behind the unifying project. Fred Lister, who was then president of the federation, shared a conference with the other organisations in August 1920 and in agreement to found a single organisation, the British Legion, was thrashed out in the spring of 1921. Delegates from each body attended the unity conference at the Queens hall in London on 14th may 1921. The Prince of Wales was elected as patron, Haig as president and Lister as chairman. The following morning, representatives of the four organisations joined the new president and chairman to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph as a sign of their commitment to work together.

Although Haig could come across as remote, nothing was further from the truth. He would spend hours everyday going over individual cases, replying to letters by hand, always insisting on sympathy and generosity. He was supportive of the idea behind the great pilgrimage of 1928, which would see 11,000 people visit the battlefield of France and Belgium but his sudden death in January 1928 at the age of 66 robbed the pilgrims of his presence. The whole country grieved. "His loss is great", Colonel George Crosfield, then national chairman, wrote, "but his work will endure and the legion, which is his finest memorial, will continue to grow, inspired by his underlying memory."



Lister continued to work tirelessly for the legion until his death in 1966 at the age of 79. He was knighted for his work in 1961 and is remembered for almost half a century of devotion to the organisation he helped to found 100 years ago.

## ***THE ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIP TO THE SEASIDE***

**Shirley Ford.** In the mid 60s and early 70s Kathleen Ford taught Sunday School in St. James church on a Sunday afternoon. Once a year in June or July she would hire a coach (49 or 53 seater) and driver from a local company for Sunday School children and parents, any seats over went to other village families for a day at the seaside, usually somewhere on the south coast. The families boarded the coach at the Bull & Butcher or village green, at about 8.00am, I can't be sure which. Parents came on board with shopping bags full of sandwiches, cake, biscuits, crisps, sweets, flasks of tea and bottles of fizzy drink. Children had small games, pencils and colouring books to while away the time. After about an hour the inevitable question "are we nearly there yet?" They did finally arrive at the seaside and left the coach excitedly for the beach. At about 5.00pm families boarded the coach and arrived back in Aston Abbotts between 8.30 – 9.00pm. At that time most of the general public didn't have the transport or money for a week's holiday at the seaside so to have just one day at the seaside was very special.

***Does anyone have any polaroids of these trips? Ed!***

## ***Known unto God***

November is a church season in its own right, beginning with the well-known Feast of All Saints, on which we remember 'globally' that people from many different times and places can become united as

members of each other in one fellowship. The following day, the Commemoration of All Souls, is a day for remembering, more locally and more specifically, our departed loved ones, again in a spirit of mutual belonging. Remembrance Sunday then focuses on those whose lives were lost specifically through conflict between nations and communities, and is often associated with the phrase 'known unto God' reminding us that our belonging is indeed, above all else, inseparable from the manner in which we are known by God.

This is a season reminding us that even those who sadly never have much chance to be known lovingly or intimately by other people, or whose memory is tragically inseparable from painful acts of conflict, always still have a witness in God. All Saints and All Souls are likewise occasions for considering more fully what it is to be known by God and the consequences of this for how we might strive to come to know and remember each other more deeply – even those with whom our only 'contact' lies in how we choose to remember them in company with others, and hopefully in the process to discover more about them.

The end of this season also marks the end of the church's liturgical year, just before we begin afresh with the season of Advent. The final Sunday of the church year is the Feast of Christ the King, on which the focus is on how Christ was known to

God so fully and perfectly that both the true kingdom and true communion are to be found incorporated in Christ and evidenced in the remembrance of his utterly unique life – a life that thoroughly binds together that mutual belonging that this closing season commemorates.

It is easier to talk about what we know (or think we know) than it is to give any account of how we *are known*, whether by God, by each other, or even to ourselves. How we become known to or discovered by others is at the very least a complex, developing, two-way and potentially life-changing process, well worth an entire month or season of consideration.

With prayers and blessings for the season

### Andrew Krauss



## Services at Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts November

**7th Evening Prayer 6.00pm**

**14th Remembrance Service 10.55**

**21st Breakfast in Village Hall 9.30 followed by a brief Service 10am**

**28th Parish Communion 10.30**

### 100 Club Draw October

**1<sup>st</sup> prize, £50 April Gilbert**

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize, £10 Nikki Davison**

## The diary of St. James's

Sorry that we had to postpone our Quiz on 22<sup>nd</sup> October which was fully booked. It has been another rollercoaster year as the vaccination programme fought to slow the spread of the Corona virus. A year that sadly saw more funerals than weddings and baptisms at St. James but at least we managed to hold the Village Fete as planned. Let's hope a few people get together before the end of the year to organise next year's event.

The Remembrance service on 14<sup>th</sup> November, starting at the War Memorial just before 11am, will be another opportunity to recall those who lost their lives in war and also be thankful for all those in the NHS, caring and emergency services who have worked tirelessly to save lives in the pandemic.

**David Gray. PCC Aston Abbotts**

### Church Duties

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
5/6	Colin David	Colin
12/13	Alex Anita	Remembrance
19/20	Ann Caroline L	TBA
26/7	Colin Gay	TBA



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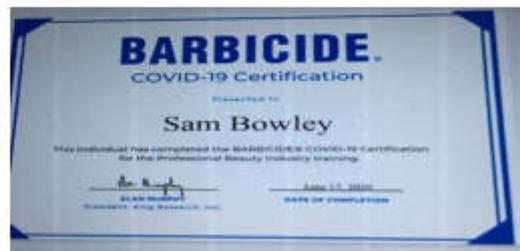


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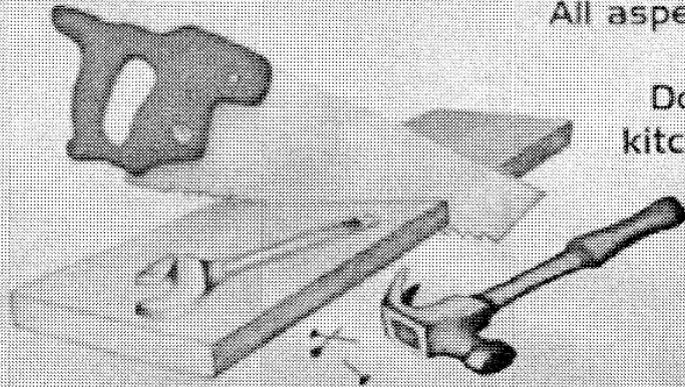
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# Fireworks

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**Wild animals** raising babies abandon their dens in fear



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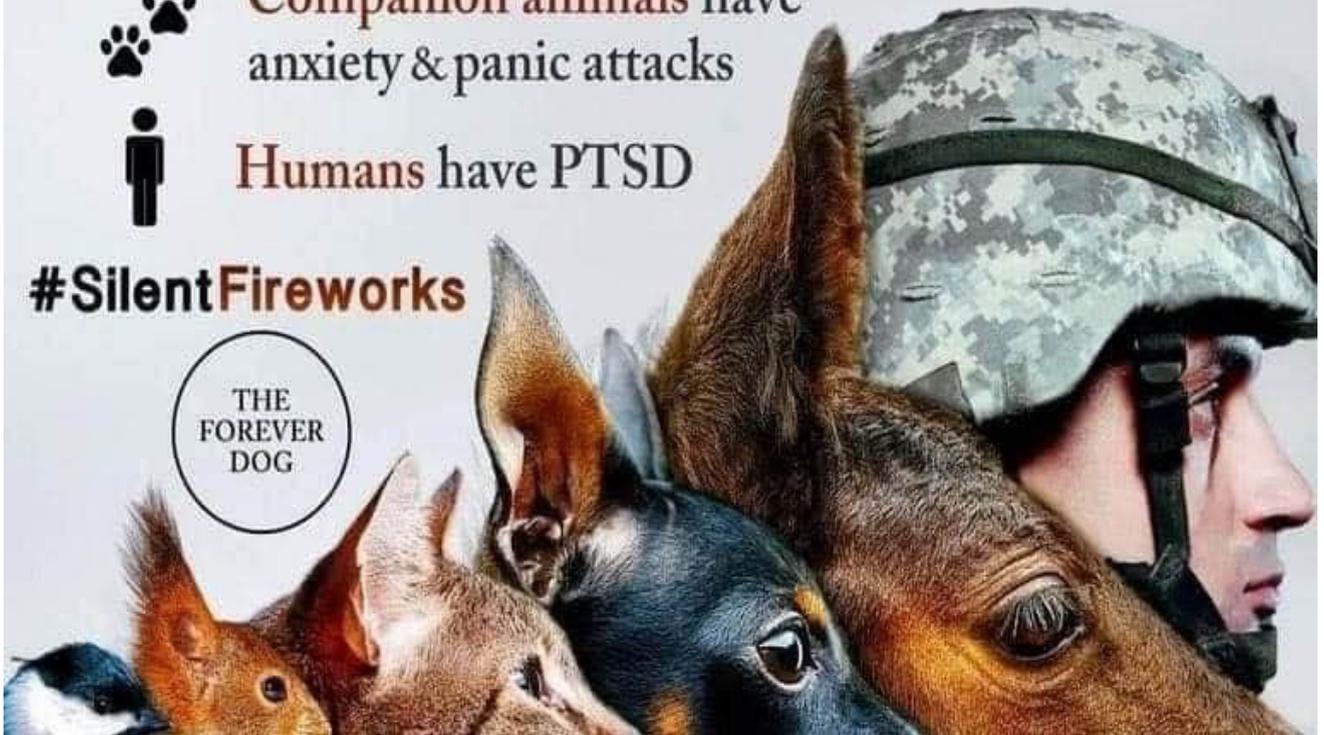
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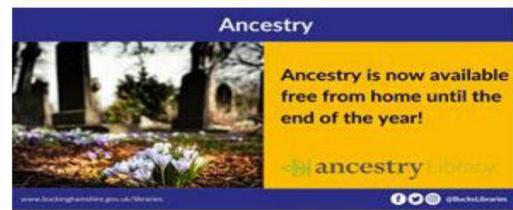
Volunteers started to help to transition the Library nine years ago to one that is managed and staffed by volunteers, in partnership with the County service.

During that time over 40 different people have volunteered – behind the counter and behind the scenes.

A key volunteer has been **Ginny Hollas**, who was with us right from the beginning.

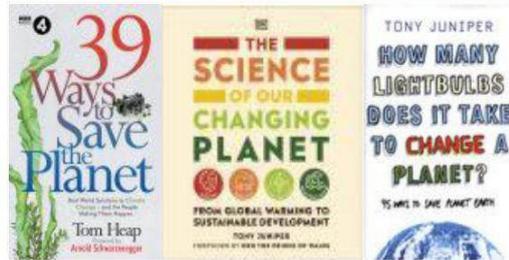
She has now retired from behind the counter but will remain in other roles. See a separate item in WOiw, about her enormous contribution.

A huge thank you from all of us.



As the nights draw in, take advantage of your Library card to escape reality via the pages of your favourite authors.

New titles arrive regularly, or you can look online and reserve the latest acquisitions. We have access to the whole collection in Buckinghamshire and beyond.



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Sally Palmer

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Councillor Jane Plested 01296 681740

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Vicar Revd Howard Robson 01296 688593

Church Warden Carolin 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

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## ***Four magical Buckinghamshire villages***

In Buckinghamshire, we are blessed with a lush landscape of beautiful countryside to visit.

The larger market towns are well known in the county, but nestled in between these population hubs are some much smaller gems.

Buckinghamshire is scattered with brilliant villages that belong in a fairytale.

All of these places would make a brilliant day trip - because what's better than a long walk through the countryside and a dinner in a classic country pub.

We've picked four of our favourite villages around the county.

### **Long Crendon**

Long Crendon is located in West Buckinghamshire, and just a few miles away from the neighbouring Oxfordshire border.



The village has a long history and dates back to the 11th century.

It was known as just Crendon in the Middle Ages, and many artefacts have been unearthed in the area from the Roman and Saxon periods, along with the Iron Age.

After the Norman conquest, the manor of Crendon was given to one of William the Conqueror's major supporters, Walter Giffard.

It is believed the Giffard family even built a castle in the village, which is thought to have been destroyed in 1233.

### **Penn**

Pen Wood is stunning! (Image: BucksLive - Grahame Larter)



Penn is a rural village between Beaconsfield and High Wycombe that is part of the Chiltern Hills.

It offers stunning views of the Buckinghamshire countryside and is home to many country pubs.

The charming spot has appeared on the big screen, featuring in Nanny McPhee and Midsomer Murders.

The village has even been home to Great British Bakeoff star Mary Berry, and TV presenter Gabby Logan.

Penn also covers the hamlet of Penn Street, where you can find the gorgeous Penn Wood nearby.

### **Burnham Beeches**



Farnham Common is located a few miles north of Slough, and sits right by the ancient woodland of Burnham Beeches.

Many of the trees are several hundred years old, and over 60 species of plants and animals in the woodland are rare or under threat nationally.

The woods have been used as a filming location over the years for a number of blockbusters, including Goldfinger, The Princess Bride and Harry Potter.

It was featured in the Order of the Phoenix, and the Deathly Hallows Part One.

Truly a brilliant place for a long woodland walk.

### **Great Missenden**



Great Missenden is a popular village amongst families and tourists. Great Missenden is another village in the Chiltern Hills which falls between Amersham and Wendover.

You won't be surprised to hear that the village has also been used as a location for... you guessed it... Midsomer Murders! The village was even home to world-famous author Roald Dahl for 36 years until his death in 1990.

The area is filled with spots that were a part of his life and books, including a house that inspired part of The BFG, and Matilda's library.

You can also find the Angling Spring Wood nearby, which is believed to have inspired Fantastic Mr Fox.



***Until next time. Ed.***