



Ambassador visits the Abbey to Commemorate the Czech Connection

Pete Lucas, Neil Rees

During WW2, as the Nazis invaded the former Czechoslovakia, the then President, Dr Edvard Benes was exiled at the Abbey in Aston Abbotts in November of 1940 along with his Cabinet. Other Government staff were housed at the Manor House in Wingrave.

Whilst here, a deep relationship developed between the President, his staff and the residents of Aston Abbotts. Some residents alive today recall playing with the President's children at the village school.

President Benes planted a Lime tree (National tree of Czechoslovakia) in the grounds of the Abbey as a symbol of liberty. The tree stands proud today.



31 October was the anniversary of the planting of a Lime Tree in 1943. Originally it was a symbol to mark the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. To commemorate this special occasion Neil Rees and the Czech Embassy in London organised and installed a new plaque to mark the historical importance of the tree.



Czech Republic Ambassador & Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire

It was a pleasure to be invited by the present owners of the Abbey, Mr and Mrs Berjerano, to meet the Ambassador of The Czech Republic to the UK, Marie Chatardová and her family, at the unveiling of the plaque and reception on Saturday 30th October. Also in attendance were Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire Countess Howe.

The Ambassador and Countess Howe unveiled the plaque and both spoke of the importance of the house and its location to Chequers where Churchill stayed during WWII and how it allowed both he and President Benes the opportunity to meet and make important plans for the liberation of their countries.



Photos Neil Rees

Local dignitaries included Jane Baylis, Chair of the Parish Council, Colin Higgs BEM, Neil Rees, Author of 'The Czech Connection', Andy Bystra & Prudence Goodwin.

From the Editor



It's with sadness I start my editorial at the news of Margaret Hinds passing Tuesday 16th November.

I knew Margaret for little under 10 years and had the greatest respect for her. When she spoke, I kept quiet, because I felt I was about to learn something, whether it was about the village history or the adventures from many travels she and Tony took.

Margaret leaves behind her loyal husband, Tony, daughter Diana and son Steve.

Chronicle Feedback. *Thanks once again for so many kind words regarding the Chronicle magazine. It's so encouraging knowing that it's read.*

I enjoy putting it together and passing on so much research.

Please feel free to contribute an article.

*Happy Christmas and New Year Aston Abbots. **Pete. Ed!***

Village & Surrounding News

Astonbury May Return

The famous “one night only” music festival is planning to return but we need your help to make it happen! Fun and safe for the whole family, an evening of music and entertainment from local musicians put on by volunteers with all profits going back into the village.

Are you a Singer, in a band, part of a music club/ group, dancer, or other unique act - get in touch!

Perhaps you prefer backstage - we are looking for a Stage Management team, Sound and Lighting Engineers, Runners, Handymen/ women, Electricians & other general helpers.

Or maybe you want to join our organizing team. Are you good with numbers and budgeting, fancy yourself as a Talent scout, good on Social Media or Advertising, creative at design or just want to help in any way?

Finally, if you are a business and would like to talk about getting your brand out to a potentially new audience, or you just want to support a local event please reach

out. There is a lot to organize, and this event cannot happen without a great team of people!



All profits go to the village so there is no reason not to! Please reach out via email at martynjsimpson@gmail.com or Call/ Text/ WhatsApp 07538 177 977. Martyn Simpson

Tribute to Margaret Hinds

Sadly Margaret Hinds died Tuesday 16th November.



Margaret first moved to the village

in 1953 and worked at Norduck Farm with her friend Gwen Kempster.

She married her first husband Ray Kent in 1957 and had three children, Diana, Steven and Paul. Paul was tragically killed in an accident in the Lake District.

Margaret attended the local Methodist Chapel with her late husband and was a member of the Ladies Club.

Following the death of Ray, she later married Tony Hinds in 2002. Tony and Margaret enjoyed many adventurous holidays and more recently, the monthly bus trips.

Margaret's funeral will be held at Bierton Crematorium, Tuesday 7th December 4pm.

Remembrance Sunday

Around 20 residents were present at the Remembrance Sunday commemoration and service. Leading the proceedings at the War Memorial were Minister Annie Cooper, Richard Clarke, Peter Knight and Councillor Jane Prouting who laid the wreath. The service continued in the Church after.

Wing Memorial Day Nick AttheGrange

RAF Wing Memorial - A great privilege to see the Royal Air Force Air Cadets from the Herts & Bucks

Wing and 220, 1066, 1563, 2204, 2366, and 2409 Squadrons organise a parade in remembrance of those who served and flew at RAF Wing, and march past the new memorial. The Padre for the RAF Air Cadet Wing hosted the ceremony, and led prayers and readings for all those lost at RAF Wing and in all conflicts.

Wreaths were laid by the RAF Air Cadet Wing Commander, the Aircrew Remembrance Society, Overstone Combined School, the Pilots of Holmbeck Airfield and the Lets Fly Right Flying School and Nick Ellins.



The Aircrew Remembrance Society lined the memorial fence with the ensigns of the nations that flew together at our local airfield across the Second World War and, with little advance warning, set up a stand of aircraft artifacts to help inform the cadets on the history of RAF Wing.

Stolen Campervan recovered

Officers from the Aylesbury Rural Neighbourhood Team have targeted those transporting waste illegally and uninsured vehicles. During the operation we

recovered this campervan which was stolen from our area on 23/11.



Traffic horror stories in Wing

Horror stories of houses "shaking" and residents having to put in extra structural support for their properties due to large vehicles thundering through Wing came to light at a public meeting.

Angry villagers met in the village hall at the end of October to raise their concerns about the increased traffic, which many believe is "an accident waiting to happen". "Lorries and cars speeding through the village - sometimes up to a staggering 80mph.



Residents argue that the traffic puts lives at risk, reporting that lorries are noisy, "too wide", cause the

ground to vibrate, and allege they have even damaged properties.

Cllr Blamires said: "A couple of residents talked of the horror of lorries ploughing into the walls of houses in Wing because they were going too fast. Others described lorries suddenly pulling onto narrow footpaths where mums walked prams with children. A number of residents also described being horrified because their houses have started to shake and they are having to put up structural supports." "Kids cross the road to get the bus into Aylesbury - they scoot across really fast - while I know some parents would rather drive their kids to school than risk them walking."

Residents suggested solutions to issues, including a crossing on the A418 for schoolchildren to use, average speed cameras, an extension of the 30mph limit, or other traffic calming measures.

Concerns were raised that there would be a further, significant increase in the number of lorries using the main trunk route in the near future. Indeed, David Kellner, Chairman of Wing Parish Council, said: "Really, Wing needs a bypass."

Cllr Blamires concluded: "The suggestions will be passed on to the council so that ways of addressing the issues can be considered. There were plans for a Wing bypass

previously but a plan was never agreed on."

Buckinghamshire Council has been approached for comment.

Another Cheeky Trucker takes a shortcut around The Green



This time knocking down a road closure sign and turfing up the verge.

The Five Elms in Weedon reopens with Professional Masterchef contestant in the kitchen



The 18th century Weedon village pub has reopened - with a Professional Masterchef contestant in the kitchen.

The new owners Andrew Hemsley and Tom Moody have big plans for the pub's future. It has been taken over by Andrew Hemsley, front of house, and with new chef Tom Moody - who was a semi-finalist on Professional Masterchef.

The Five Elms pub was first licensed in the 1780s and has been here ever since, although the elms on its frontage were cut down in the early 1900s. Five elm trees were planted the day before they reopened which was "a fitting tribute" to the start of a new adventure.

For Andrew and Tom this is just a starting point for them as they want to turn it into everyone's favourite local as well as creating the atmosphere for special occasions.

Andrew said: "We've made some changes already but we want to make it that little more comfortable and more homely to create that destination.

Tom and Andrew met at Minster Mill Hotel where they worked together for around five years before deciding to do their own thing together.

It was the first pub they looked at and they "just fell in love with it for the quaintness of it".

The pub will serve a mix of dishes from venison and scallops to caramelised apple - they offer whatever is in season while utilising produce from the area.

Police are on the hunt for thieves in Whitchurch November 15.

A burglary was reported on Little London at roughly 6pm, three watches were stolen. Witness reports state the thieves left the estate in a white Ford Focus which had a noisy exhaust, and displayed registration plates beginning with EK16. This is the 3rd robbery in a month in Whitchurch. 2 in 1 day.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Sarah Spain, said: "I am appealing to anyone who witnessed or knows anything about this incident to please come forward.

"To report any information you can call 101 or make a report online, quoting reference 43210517148. If you have any mobile phone footage, you can submit this to us using our dedicated online portal. "Alternatively, if you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their website."

We have also had reports of caravans that had been stored on farms being stolen.

We are increasing our patrols of the affected areas.

Please be vigilant and ensure that you have appropriate security measures in place.

THURSDAY CAFE NOTICE

The cafe is OPEN in December on 2nd, 9th and 23rd at the usual time of 10-11.30am. There will be no cafe on Thursday 16 December (day of the Christmas lunch) or Thursday 30 December.

Starts again the following week on 6 January.

Royal Oak. Unconfirmed reports tell the Chronicle that work is underway on the Royal Oak to put the bar back to its original position with new toilets at the back and half the pub becoming a residential cottage.

A lease arrangement may be on the cards.

I cannot confirm this as I have not heard from the owners.



What's on in Aston Abbotts for December

What	Where	When
Yoga	Village Hall	Wed, 1st & 8th 16:30 & 18.00
Thursday Morning Cafe	Village Hall	Thu 2nd, 9th & 23rd 10.00. See News item
Whist Drive	Village Hall	Thu 2nd & 16th 19.30
Rambling Club	County Hall Aylesbury	Sat 4th 11.00
Transport Meeting Train & Bus issues to Colin	Old Town Hall	Tue 7th 14.00
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	Tue 7th 19.30
Bingo	Village Hall	Thu 9th 19.30
Gin Competition	Village Hall	Sat 11th 12.00
Café Christmas Dinner	Unicorn Cubblington	Thu 16th 12.30
Village Footpath Walk	The Green	Mon 27th 11.00

For Village Hall Hire please call Nigel & Sally on 01296 681152.

Great venue for private parties, meetings and other events.



Your Emails

Dear Editor, I would like to send a big thank you to Kevin Copping and his helpers for a super firework display on 4th November, including the ladies serving hotdogs and soup. Also thanks to everyone who helped on the Churchyard leaf sweep. 17 people turned up and we filled 12 ballast sacks. Indeed thanks to Les and David for the use of their leaf blowers. A great effort by all.

Colin

Dear Ed

A BIG THANK YOU AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all the regular Chronicle Distributors for continuing their monthly deliveries and also to our temporary distributors for

stepping in and doing a few rounds to cover for holidays.

Sadly, Margaret Hinds recently passed away and we send our sympathies to Tony. Margaret delivered the Chronicle for many years but we are very pleased and grateful that Tony will be carrying on their round.

Sally Palmer and Jill Wenble

Dear Ed

Another excellent Chronicle. Other villages have voiced their wish that they had such a magazine in their village.

Colin

Very kind & Thank you. Sell it to them Colin. We need the funds.



Ed!

Bucks National Trust: Historic estates to visit this Christmas

National Trust properties across Bucks have a lot to offer over the next few months

With Christmas just around the corner, the National Trust has begun to deck all their properties with twinkling lights ready for this year's festivities.

National Trust properties nestled in Buckinghamshire are perfect for family days out over the coming weekends.

People can enjoy a gentle stroll through crisp frosty winter gardens, discover festive crafts and tuck into delicious treats at the local historic sites. At this time of year visitors can step back in time and see the stunning buildings decorated with Christmas trees, sparkling tinsel and twinkling baubles.

Get ready to wrap up warm, and enjoy a day out for everyone. The charity known for their promising Christmas events have thought of something for all to enjoy. Families are invited to bring their little ones and delve into a world of Percy the Park Keeper winter trail. The charity are working in association with best-selling author Nick Butterworth to produce the activity. After reading a handwritten note by Percy and donning his famous hat, families

will follow clues to help find Percy's equipment.

The adventure is filled with activities and games to complete as they go along the trail. At the end families will be able to celebrate with a photo-op with Percy and even take a prize home too.

It only costs £2 per child.

However, from Christmas markets & concerts, there are activities the adults will also enjoy.

Here are a few National Trust properties you might want to check out this Christmas.

Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury



Built between 1874 and 1885, Waddesdon Manor in Aylesbury is back again this year donning twinkling lights and the gardens are aglow in an enchanting outdoor extravaganza.

Their famous Christmas Fair has returned, where you can truly get yourself into the festive spirit and stock up on gifts from selected exhibitors in charming wooden chalets.

This is running from Saturday, November 13 to Thursday, December 23 and must be booked to attend.

If you love walking, now is a great time to enjoy a stroll under the stars beneath magically illuminated tree canopies transformed by moving light and playful installations.

The rose gardens are glowing, there are an array of giant dandelions and an interactive area with bubble tubes.

For the first time ever, the Parterre will be involved in a light show which highlights the geometric shapes of the bedding. The Manor's façade will be bathed in dancing light set to music. There are also festive delights to be tucked into at the café.

Hughenden Manor, near High Wycombe



The stunning 1860s Manor is celebrating the nature, beauty and history of the gardens this Christmas, from their creation more than 70 years ago by Mary Anne

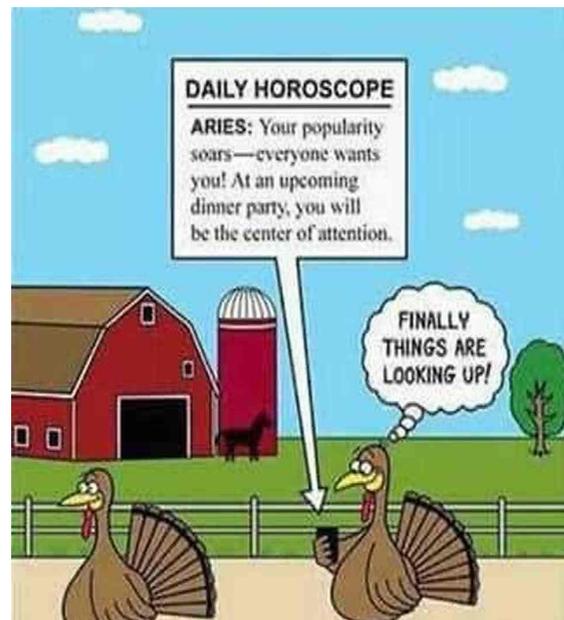
Disraeli to today's care of Hughenden's garden team.

It's garden features brilliant bold colours matching the festive winter colour scheme of vibrant reds, iridescent blue and gold.

In the spirit of Disraeli there are a few unusual interpretations and some fun, quirky elements dotted through the theme to reflect the wit and humour of its past owner for visitors to enjoy.

Inside volunteers have done a splendid job carving wooden baubles used from the estates wood.

The Manor will also be running the Percy the Park Keeper Trail. Visitors need to just pick up your trail sheet from visitor reception when they arrive. Suitable for children aged three-eight years old and runs from Saturday, December 4 to Monday, January 4.



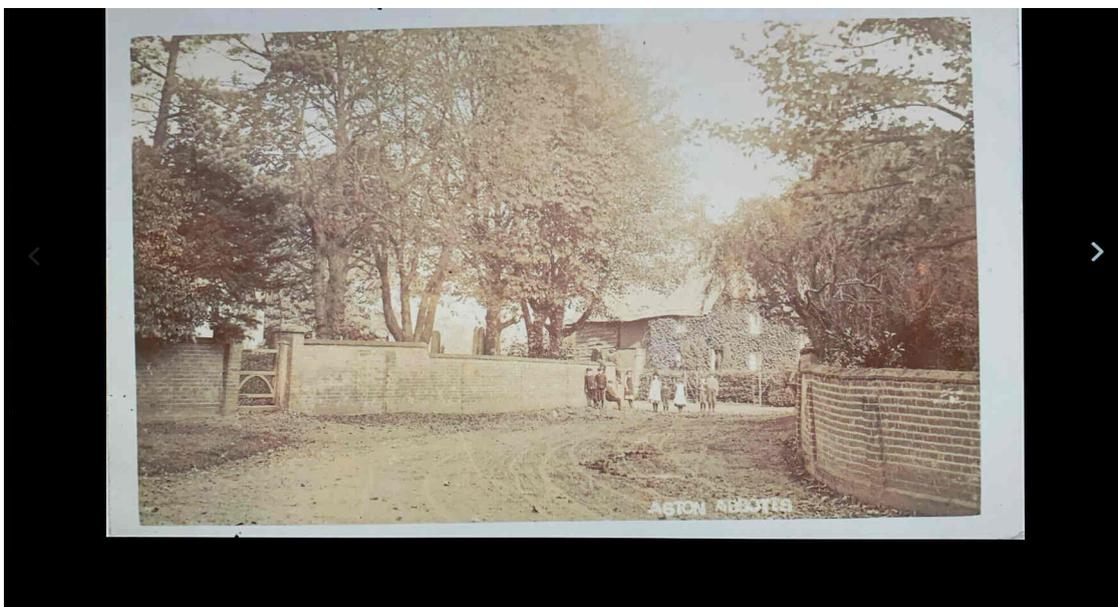
Mike Coker supplied these two treasures. Anyone know anything about them?

Colin Higgs (BEM) tells me, **“It was all before my time!”** “However the top photo shows the previous Elm tree on The Green which had a hollow trunk we used to play in. The cottages in the background burned

down one Sunday afternoon when someone knocked an oil lamp over. They have now been replaced by Rose Cottage.”



Below shows Cubblington Road from the Church gate.



Three executions on 20th March 1801 included the Landlord of the Royal Oak Aston Abbotts

I delve into a lot of research regarding our village and the surrounding county. It's sometimes surprising what you find lurking in the past.

Landlord of the Aston Abbotts Royal Oak pub was hanged for sheep theft in 1801.

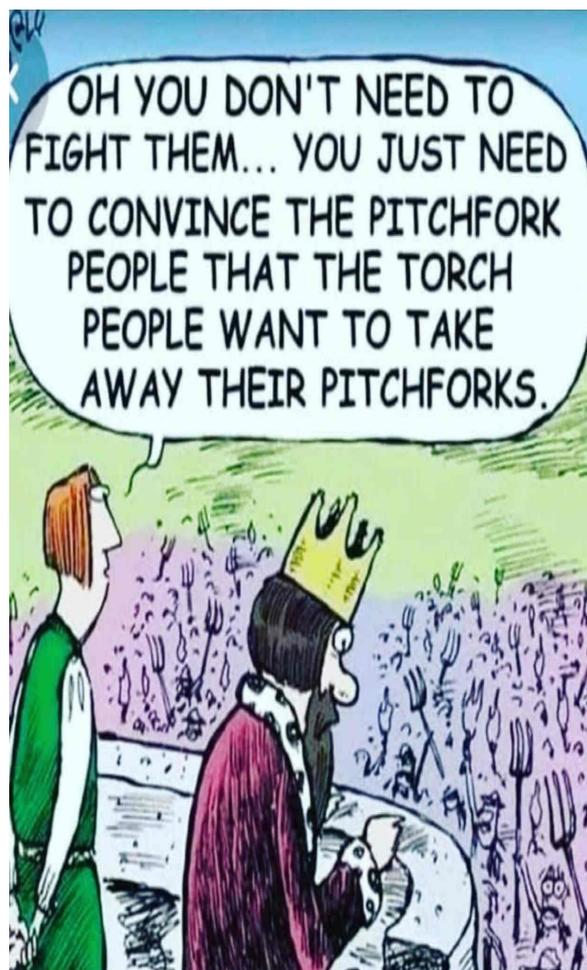
Henry Benyon, at the closing of the 18th century was Landlord of the Royal Oak in Aston Abbotts. Aged 46, Henry was found guilty of stealing 1 sheep, the property of John Phillips, in the parish of Great Brickhill. We don't know why he did this but the sentence was severe. Henry was hanged at Aylesbury prison on the 20th March 1801.

A Benyon family used to live opposite the Royal Oak

John Wilson aged 30, was found guilty of stealing a horse, the

property of Lancelot Wyatt, and a mare, the property of Richard Shapp, in the parish of Swanbourne. He was also hanged at Aylesbury for the offence on 20th March 1801.

And then there was Job Duncombe. Aged 21. He was found guilty of the highway robbery of William Cooper in the parish of Lathbury on 7th February 1801: robbing him of a watch and **£120** in money. He was the 3rd execution at Aylesbury of that day, 20th March 1801.



Buckinghamshire's earliest serial killers or just 'Hogwash'



This is the Ostrich in Colnbrook, the former home of what might just be Buckinghamshire's first serial killers. A husband and wife team by the name of Jarman ran the inn during the 17th century. Colnbrook was on the main road to Windsor before the coming of the railways and many eminent people had stayed in the village. Their number reputedly included Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I, and Prince Rupert.

The village was a thoroughfare for wealthy travellers whose riches the Jarmans coveted. Rather than just robbing those people of means who stayed with them, the couple sought to minimise the number of witnesses by murdering them as well. Their preferred victims were people carrying money but travelling alone. Jarman would tell his wife that 'a fat pig' was to be had. She would ask him to put the traveller 'in the hogsty till the morrow'.



The unfortunate victim would be given the Blue Room, in which a trapdoor had been installed. As they slept in the middle of the night, the trapdoor would be released and the victim dropped into boiling water to their death. The Jarmans were then free to help themselves to any possessions they could find before disposing of the corpse in the nearby river.

Any travellers enquiring about the victim the next day would be told that they had saddled up early and ridden away.

The Jarmans were finally brought to justice when they were undone by carelessness. Their final victim was Thomas Cole, who met his end in the Blue Room in the usual way. However, the stable door had been left open and Cole's horse escaped. It was found wandering the highway, and enquiries revealed that its owner was last seen entering the Ostrich. Cole's body was discovered in the stream soon afterwards. The Jarmans were caught and confessed

their crimes. They met their end on the gallows.

The number of their victims is uncertain, with the Victoria County History (VCH) setting the number at 13 and the pub's website at over 60. The stream where Cole's body was found became known as 'Colebrook', which has evolved over time to today's Colnbrook.

As some of Buckinghamshire's foremost pedants and killjoys, we're unable to just let a nice story like this lie. The lack of details in key areas seemed suspicious – neither landlord nor his wife are given a first name for instance, while the dates involved are peculiarly vague. Different sources date the offences to different times, with dates of the 12th, 14th and 17th centuries being given in various places the story has appeared. In addition, the method of dispatching their victims seemed overly complex. Many other options were available to them that did not require a large fire burning for a long time to heat the water or the risk of a trapdoor either being discovered or failing to deliver the victim properly. The method would also be unlikely to result in the quick silent death that such a pair would require without waking the rest of the inhabitants of the inn. Richard Roose (boiled alive for poisoning in 1531) is recorded as having 'roared mighty loud', which might not be desirable with other guests staying at the inn. That so many men of wealth and influence should disappear after

staying at the same inn with none of their family members or business associates asking any questions also stretches credulity.

Much of this is still circumstantial, but the main cause for scepticism is that the vast majority of the details are taken from a work of fiction, with no corroboration from other sources. The names of the landlord, the method of death, the fat pig/hogsty comments, the final victim, and the way the villains are unmasked are all taken wholesale from Thomas Deloney's novel 'Thomas of Reading' published in 1632. The book tells the story of the fate of nine clothiers in the reign of Henry I (1100-1135). The titular Thomas is Thomas Cole, final victim of the Jarmans. In the novel, the crimes take place in an inn called the Crane. Cole's horse is discovered by his servant wandering the streets, and Cole's wife sends a man on horseback to find him. The Jarmans fled, Mrs Jarman being captured first and her husband being taken in Windsor Forest afterwards. They confessed to the murder of sixty persons under questioning.

The case made the King so sad he couldn't work for seven days and prompted him to order that it be burned to the ground and that 'no Man should ever build upon that cursed Ground'. The story of the naming of the village also comes from Deloney, though the VCH found evidence that it was already known

as Colebroc in the 11th century before Henry ascended the throne.

So is it totally fictional? Not quite. The 1577 return of vintners, innholders and alehouse keepers for Buckinghamshire records eight innholders in Colnbrook. Unfortunately the return doesn't give the names of the inns for which each innholder was responsible, but the section of the village in the parish of Langley includes one John Jarman.

Though the novel was published in 1632 Deloney himself had died in

1600. The actual time it was written is uncertain. We like to think that Deloney had stayed in Jarman's inn and had fallen out with him.

Without recourse to TripAdvisor, he delivered the most serious burn he was able; including Jarman in his upcoming novel as a mass murderer. We've no evidence for this, but when has that got in the way of a good story?

The 1577 return of innkeepers has John Jarman in the section for 'Colbroke in Langley'.



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Thinking of a private education for your children? Take a look at this.

Buckinghamshire private schools cost



The fees for Wycombe Abbey school, Ashfold School in Aylesbury and Gayhurst School may seem like a lot for some.

Buckinghamshire is home to some prestigious private schools that are among some of the country's best. From pre-schools to secondary schools, there is something for all ages.

Private schools are commended for being the best educational services around, but they come at a cost.

Have you wondered how much it would cost to send your child to a private school in the county, and what the benefits are other than the excellent education?

We have picked some of the best known private schools in

Buckinghamshire and their cost. Prices correct at time of publishing.

Stowe School



Based in Buckingham, Stowe School is not only a prestigious school it has also featured as a location for a number of films and has an impressive alumni, including Richard Branson and King Rainier of Monaco.

Stowe School educates children from the ages of 13 to 18 years old. The first cost is the registration fee of £200 which is non-refundable.

The fees range in different categories - if your child is boarding it will cost £12,951 for a term in the 2021-2022 students.

A day in boarding will cost you £9,311 - this means your child stays at school for extended hours including meals and doing prep in the boarding house but will not stay overnight.

The termly fee for just a standard day pupil costs £7,301, though there are sibling discounts if there are three or more children in the school at the same time.

Ashfold School



Located in Dorton near Aylesbury, Ashfold School runs a Pre-Prep School from three to seven years old, while its Prep School runs from seven to 13 years old.

School fees change depending on which year group your child is in - most school trips and extracurricular activities are included.

The fees are broken down termly for 2021 and 2022, starting at £3,450 for Nursery. Reception and Year 1 fees cost £3,635, Year 2 costs £4,075 and Years 3 and 4 fees are £5,525 per term. The highest cost of £6,075 per term includes Years 5, 6, 7 and 8. The weekly boarding cost is £7,500 for any age.

Wycombe Abbey

Wycombe Abbey is an independent girls' boarding and day school in High Wycombe, taking girls between the ages 11 and 18.

Firstly, there's the registration fee of £250, followed by the UK residents' acceptance deposit for £2,500.

If your child is a non-UK resident or requires a Child Student Visa, the

deposit is £13,500 - the acceptance deposit is refundable.

The fees will cost £10,315 for the schooling during the day per term, whereas the boarding fee per term will cost £13,750.

On its website, it says the boarding fees include "tuition, lodging, laundry, personal accident insurance, the cost of most games activities, the majority of educational materials and many curriculum trips".

Davenies School

Davenies School is a preparatory school for boys aged four to 13 in Beaconsfield.

The termly fee is different for each year group starting at £4,035 for Reception for the 2021/2022 academic year. Fees for Years 1 and 2 are £4,695 per term, while Years 3 and 4 currently cost £5,720.

Middle School Years 5 and 6 have a slight increase to £5,780 whilst Years 7 and 8 commands the highest fee of £6,085.

All of the fees include lunch and snacks, text books and most extra-curricular activities.

The registration fee of £50 is non-refundable while £500 of the acceptance deposit of £1,200 will be refunded - the remaining £700 will be credited to the first term's fee invoice.

Online Christmas Shopping Fraud

New data from Action Fraud, the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime, reveals that 28,049 shoppers were conned out of their money when shopping online over the Christmas period last year – an increase of almost two thirds (61 per cent) when compared to the same period in the previous year.

Action Fraud is warning the public to take extra care when shopping online as reports of online shopping fraud have continued to surge. Here are some simple tips to help you and your family enjoy a secure online shopping experience this festive season.

Where to shop

Buying from an online store you haven't used before? Carry out some research first or ask a friend or family member if they've used the site and about their experiences before completing the purchase.

Only create an account if necessary or to save you effort if you're going to use that site a lot in the future. Be cautious if the website asks you for details that are not required for your purchase, such as your mother's maiden name or the name of your primary school.

When it's time to pay for your items, check there's a 'closed padlock' icon in the browser's address bar. Use a credit card when shopping online if you have

one. Most major credit card providers protect online purchases.

Phishing

Some of the messages you receive about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites. If you're unsure about a link, don't use it. Go separately to the website. Report suspicious emails you receive by forwarding them to: report@phishing.gov.uk. Report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to: 7726.

Email accounts:

Make sure that your really important accounts (such as your email account or online shopping accounts) are protected by strong passwords that you don't use anywhere else.

Need help changing your email account password? You can use these links to find step by step instructions: Gmail, Yahoo! Mail, Outlook, BT, AOL Mail.

If you've lost money to an online shopping scam, tell your bank and report it as a crime to Action Fraud (for England, Wales and Northern Ireland). By doing this, you'll be helping to prevent others from becoming victims of cybercrime.

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware>

Wild Raven Farm Shop and Café

Review from Janet Walker

Shopping is not my favourite past-time, but “needs must”, and a few trips to Aylesbury B & Q have been a necessary part of moving into our new bungalow. On our first trip we passed by a sign for the Wild Raven Farm Shop and Café, so on the way back we decided to call in for a coffee. We were very pleased we did.

The shop is well stocked with an excellent variety of meat, delicatessen produce and fresh vegetables. They also have a freezer selection which includes Danish pastries and fresh fruit salad. We tried the beetroot burgers for lunch and they were excellent.



The café is equally excellent. The coffee was very good and the home-made cakes were delicious. We tried the carrot cake and on subsequent visits, the Bakewell slice. They also have a good breakfast menu up to 12 noon, and a lunch menu after that.

An added bonus is the outdoor play area for small children, plus tables outside if the weather is good enough. Some of the outdoor tables are under cover, so it is still possible to enjoy the fresh air, despite the weather. There is also seating inside. The staff are very friendly and we were made to feel very welcome.

The only downside is the limited car parking, but I believe there are plans to increase the car park. We would definitely recommend this Farm Shop and Café.



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ALLOTMENT DIARY

I don't know if it is connected to global warming, or because we are so far having a very mild autumn, but the growing season seems to have gone on longer than usual this year. I picked my last half dozen courgettes on 5th November, and then 7 days later, on 12th November, I picked just under one pound of raspberries from the raspberry bushes that were left after I uprooted most of my raspberry canes in the spring. I am sure that I have not previously had such prolific crops of either in previous years.

That is the end of my courgettes for this year. No longer will my neighbours have to hide behind their curtains when they see me walking up their front paths, hoping to persuade them to accept yet another present of some courgettes! (Well, not until next summer, anyway . . .) The only things left growing on my allotment now are my leeks and 3 parsnips: while I have left in the ground a few rows of potatoes, to be dug up when needed.

A curious thing happened when I brought the final courgettes back: I dropped the bag containing them on the ground, while I put my bicycle away, and when I emptied the bag indoors, I found that 3 of the courgettes had broken into pieces! There had been a frost a few days before I picked them, and I can only assume that the frost froze their

watery texture; and that this temporary freezing left them brittle.

Meanwhile, some gardening news from elsewhere in the world: a couple in New Zealand have dug up the world's biggest potato. Colin Craig-Brown was hoeing up weeds, when his hoe encountered something large and hard. It turned out to be a potato which weighed 17lbs (7.8kg) – the weight of a small dog.



The record was previously held by a British-grown spud, which was a mere 11lbs (5kg). The extraordinary thing is that the Craigs had not planted any potatoes, so Heaven knows how it got into their garden. The couple have christened the potato "Doug", for obvious reasons; and say that Doug will not be eaten, but will be turned into Vodka. Colin is a keen amateur distiller.

Peter Shorrock

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The story of the Albanian king who fled to Buckinghamshire during World War II

He fell out of favour at the start of WWII

The Czech President wasn't the only dignitary Bucks has protected.

[Emily Craigie Pete Lucas](#)

King Zog Parmoor House in Frieth



For a time during WWII, Parmoor House in Buckinghamshire was a safe haven for an Albanian King who had to flee with his family after their lives were at risk.

King Zog came to Buckinghamshire after fearing for his life when the Italian army invaded Albania with little resistance due to the country's ill-equipped army.

However, this was not the first time that King Zog's life was at risk, in his rise to power he had a number of near-death experiences.

Born Ahmet Muhtar Zogolli, he was the third son of a family of

landowners who had control over a region called the Mat district.

He became politically active in his teenage years and went on to fight on the side of Austria-Hungary in WWI.

While he started to climb the ladder in Albanian politics, with a number of ministerial posts, he was driven into exile in June 1924.

However, he wasn't gone for long and came back to Albania later that year backed by the Yugoslav military before quickly being elected as Prime Minister.

The following year Zog was then made President and brought in a number of dictatorial rules which saw civil liberties quashed.

He also started an alliance with Italy's Benito Mussolini, which would come back to haunt him.

In 1928 Albania transformed into a monarchy and he became Zog 1, King of the Albanians, however, his lack of ties to the other European royal families left him isolated.

Unsurprisingly, he made a number of enemies on his way to the top and it is thought that he survived more than 50 assassination attempts.

In 1938, he married Geraldine Apponyi de Nagy-Appony, and their son, Leka, was born the following year.

However, by that point, Italian influence had begun to take over the country and when Italian forces invaded Albania at the start of WWII the country was quickly on its knees.

Zog, knowing that his life was in danger, fled to England where he first lived at the lavish Ritz hotel in London.

He then had a short stay at Forest Ridge in Berkshire before moving to Parmoor House in Buckinghamshire in 1941. The former leader then lived in Egypt before settling in France where he died in 1961 at the age of 65.

His son, Leka, was pronounced as the King of Albania by the exiled Albanian community and some insisted that he should have been the ruler until his death in 2011.

Church Duties

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
3/4	David/Colin	No Flowers
10/11	Alex/Anita	In Advent
17/18	Caroline L/Ann	Christmas
Th23	Colin/Gay	Decorations

31	Colin/David	As detailed
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Message from the Rector

...And a star shone over the stable where the Christ child lay. One theme we'll be exploring in December's primary school assemblies is that of the Christmas star. We'll begin with the question "how old is star light?" because of

course, it takes years for star light to reach us so the images we have of the night sky are old; in some cases, very old. But here's the thing – for all the time it takes for the light to reach us, that light has never slowed down, never stopped, never veered off.

Light has fascinated humanity since our earliest days and for us in the darkness of a northern hemisphere winter, light has always been especially comforting. But we think of light metaphorically too; "oh, now I see!" and "a light bulb moment" meaning to understand and a contrast to being "in the dark".

Light is therefore used throughout the bible; at the start where God said let there be light to Christ, the Light of the world. At the very end of the bible, we read of Christ the bright Morning Star vanquishing darkness. Christ enables us to see.

We crave light; both to actually see and metaphorically, to overcome the darkness of injustice, wrong, hatred. In Christ we find Light; Light to see by and in His name to bring justice, right and love in so many ways. So, of course a star shone over the stable where the Christ child lay; Christ never stops, never gives up, never changes his mind.

With every blessing this Christmas,
Rev'd Howard Robson.

Church Matters

Christmas

The plate collection from the Remembrance service on 14th November, raised £117.72 which will be donated to the Royal British Legion as usual.

The pandemic forced us to hold the Nativity and Carol service outside the Church last year. The event was so popular that we have decided to do the same this year. The service this year will start at 4pm on Sunday 19th December. The final service of the year will be at 10.30am on Christmas Day but the bells will be rung to welcome in the New Year at midnight on the 31st.

We have rearranged the Quiz for Friday 4th February so contact the secretary Caroline Lane to book your tickets.

David Gray. PCC Aston Abbotts

Christmas
BEGINS WITH
Christ

100 Club Draw November

1st prize, £50 Gay Walker

2nd prize, £10 Mel Smith

Services at Saint James

Aston Abbotts

December 2021 into 2022

5 th Dec'	18.00	Evening Prayer
12th	10.55	Communion
19th	16.00	Nativity & Carols in the Churchyard
25th	10.30	Christmas Day Communion
2nd Jan'		No Service
9th	18.00	Evening Prayer





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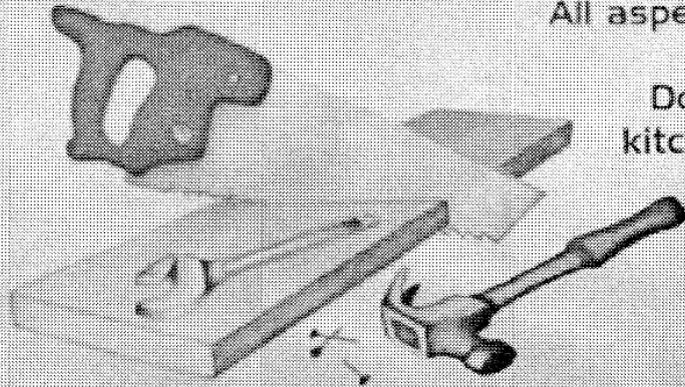
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before 27th November to place your order.

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**Deadline for Chronicle contributions is the 24th of each month.
Please send articles to: editor@aachronicle.co.uk**

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100 Club David Gray 01296 681952

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🖱️ buckinghamshire.gov.uk/PoB-awards

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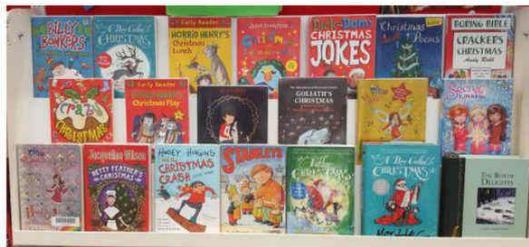


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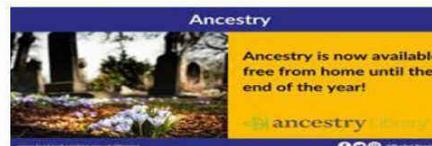
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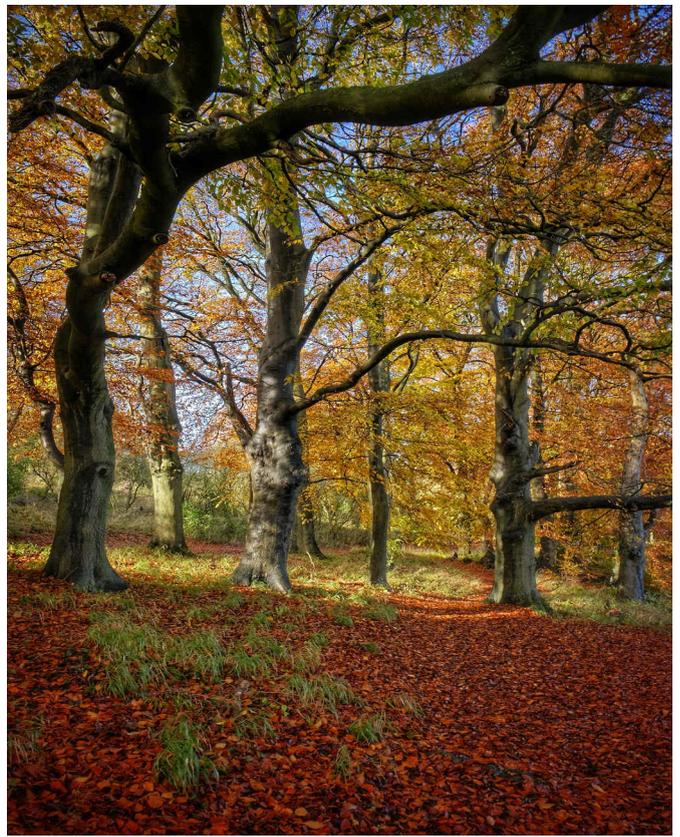
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I thought I'd share some beautiful Ivinghoe Beacon and Ashridge Autumn photos by Martin Ranz





Until next time. Ed.