

2nd serious crash into the same tree outside Aston Abbotts

9th January around 3.30 am on Cublington Road, the driver of this Fiat lost control and crashed into the same tree where a 21 year old was killed in a similar crash in 2016. In that crash, the driver, it was said, was under the influence of drugs.

This crash was filmed on CCTV positioned at the entrance to the farm next to the scene.

The Chronicle was told that within minutes 2 people emerged from the wreckage and started running away. They were met by 2 others in another car. It was later reported that the car was Sorn'd, (Statutory Off Road Notification) but was stolen and had no MOT, insurance or Road Tax.



From The Editor

Great response to the request for a new Coordinator for the village fete. This was placed on the village postbox

Are you the new Dynamic Coordinator for the Village Fete?



It is a fact and a shame that David Gray, our Fete Coordinator has stepped down from the role after many years of dedicated service to our village. He's been brilliant and we send him so much appreciation.

This leaves the village with a problem. The Fete finances good causes within the village including help printing the Chronicle. It also brings the community together to celebrate the summer festival.

We need a new Fete Coordinator to bring together the many attractions that make up this annual attraction.

With David's years of experience, this is an opportunity for him to hand over the controls, with expert advice, to a new Coordinator to introduce new ideas for this year's event.

With many new people in the village, the ground is laid to expand the Fete further, to make it known throughout the Vale as one of the best. Hopefully the existing contributors are there with their excellent support as always and there are others wishing to get involved.

We need a dynamic, far sighted, organiser to bring them altogether.

If we don't have a coordinator, the fete will not take place. The Fete is a village institution and needs to survive, grow and thrive.

Please come forward by getting in contact with David Gray on 681952 for details.

Pete Lucas

STOP PRESS.

Hi Pete. Hello everyone. I've been approached about helping to coordinate the village fete. I do not want to do this alone and think a group of about 6 people could support each other and share the responsibility. Currently there are 3 of us and we definitely need another 3.

It appears there are a number of people willing to do tasks on the day which is great. David Gray, the retiring coordinator, has detailed notes of tasks and contacts which makes things easier to manage in the future.

As I'm new in the village (moved in last August), I wonder if there are any other new people who would like to get involved – I hope so.

The fete is probably the only village event where everyone gets together to celebrate village life and raise money for charity, so it would be very sad if it does not

continue – and we need extra coordination if it is to continue.

If we can get a viable group together then a community action group could be created to coordinate other activities in the village. The group would really benefit from younger people (i.e. under 60!), to bring new ideas and energy.

There is a real opportunity to become more dynamic, proactive and strategic with regard to community activities in the village, to benefit everyone, so please don't let this opportunity fade away....

Please contact me if you would be willing to be part of a planning team.

Please text me on 07929 242739.

Fingers crossed.

I am pleased to report that we now have a team of 7 people to coordinate the Fete in July.

Many thanks to everyone who has contacted me to say they are willing to help on the day. We will be in touch with you in due course.

If anyone helped last year and is unable to help this year, could you please let me know and I will take your name off the list.

If anyone has any new ideas or suggestions for this year's Fete then please let me know.

Initially the planning group will endeavour to deliver the Fete. If that goes well then hopefully the group will either deliver, or help to deliver, other community activities in Aston Abbots in the future.

Best wishes. **Janet Walker**

News

Village Crashes

During the night of January 14 a major crash closed the A418 at Rowsham. It was reported that two women had to be cut out of separate cars. No fatalities reported. Later in the evening another accident occurred at the Wingrave Crossroads again closing the road. These accidents caused major disruption between Leighton Buzzard, Wing and Aylesbury for many hours. The Police informed HGV drivers that short cuts through Aston Abbots and other villages were ill advised due to the unsuitability of the road surfaces. The road was reopened at 12.08 am. No other details are known.

Thames Valley Police warn farmers not to go out patrolling the streets after spike in crime

Rural Aylesbury Vale has seen a rise in crime, police say.



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Farmers are being urged not to go out conducting their own patrols after a spike in rural crime in Buckinghamshire.

[Thames Valley Police](#) says there has been an increase in trailer, tool, and caravan thefts across rural Aylesbury Vale in recent weeks.

But those affected are being warned not to go out patrolling the streets due to safety concerns.

Instead police say they have stepped-up patrols in the problem areas and will be targeting key times of the day.

Further police operations to tackle the issues are being planned.

But families are being asked to take steps to make it more difficult for thieves. These include:

Locking everything away securely. Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain.

Removing keys from vehicles, including machinery, when unattended.

Making sure all gates, as well as windows and doors, are secured.

Getting an alarm for any shed, garage or outhouse.

Parking or placing something in front of trailers when not in use so it cannot be moved.

Property marking your items is advisable and some tools can be painted with your name or postcode. Forensic marking is also an option.

Inspector James Davies, of Thames Valley Police, said: "We have seen an increase in rural crime offences across [Aylesbury Vale](#).

"In response to this, we have increased patrols at key times both through the Joint Operations Unit and our own local Neighbourhood Policing team and we have further operations planned, with assistance from our rural crime officers.

"We are asking our local communities to work with us by protecting their property. For their own safety, we would ask people not to conduct their own patrols.

"If you see anything suspicious or wish to report a crime, you can do so by calling 101 or by making a report

online. If a crime is in progress, call 999.”

Are we recycling correctly?

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE taxpayers had to shell out hundreds of thousands of pounds to deal with waste wrongly placed in recycling bins last year.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs data shows 4,722 tonnes of waste collected by Bucks Council were rejected at the point of sorting in the year to March. It means rejected waste cost taxpayers in Bucks an estimated £439,146 in 2020-21 alone.

You can recycle all household plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays in the recycling bin at home.

These often fall into 1,2 & 5 codes on plastic items.

However, we suggest using this list instead of the codes:

Pots (e.g. yoghurt, soup, etc.)

Tubs (e.g. margarine, ice cream, etc.)

Trays / punnets (e.g. raw meat or ham trays; take-away trays; fruit /veg trays) -

Remove any film lids and absorbent pads in the bottom of trays, and put these in your general rubbish

Day-to-day cleaning product bottles (e.g. bathroom cleaners, washing up liquid, bleach)

Cosmetics bottles (e.g. shampoo, shower gel).

Ready to use plant food and pesticide bottles (check the label)

Drinks bottles (e.g. juice, squash, milk)

Chocolate and biscuit tubs and trays

Ivinghoe Freight Strategy

Could I suggest that it would be a good idea for all villagers to respond to this consultation requesting that the HGV excluded zone be expanded to form a protective belt outside the perimeter of the proposed route. I.e. to include Aston Abbotts and Weedon. It seems very odd that there is no buffer around the outside of the planned route yet every village inside the ring is protected. I would fear an increase in traffic through the village with HGVs trying to get from the a418 to the bypass to access the Bicester road and avoid going via the Aylesbury main routes. Or equally traffic en route towards the a505 trying to get to the a505 bypass without going through wing and detouring through Aston Abbotts and cublington.

I'm sure the villages to the south of the route will have similar potential rat runs.

Easily addressed by expanding the shaded “no go area” so that it covers a protective belt around the perimeter of the proposed route and discourages hgv's to divert to take short cuts to the bypasses. Please check next page. James, Abbotts view farm.

Ivinghoe Freight Strategy will be going to the 2nd public consultation this week. The required advertisement has been scheduled for inclusion in the local press with the consultation being accessed online. The consultation will run for 3 weeks ending 16th February 2022. The dedicated online web content, which will appear at [Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#) when live, will incorporate a simple survey inviting public feedback which will inform future plans for managing HGV use of the defined zone as shown on the attached map.

As previously advised as a result of feedback received from the public, representative bodies and neighbouring local authorities in the initial statutory consultation we have expanded the proposed zone to incorporate the B440 between the junction with the A505 and the Travellers Rest roundabout with the B489.

I would ask that you encourage your communities to visit the consultation site and complete the survey giving the opportunity for feedback.

'Satanic ritual abuse' protesters gather at Waddesdon Manor



Activists apparently protesting against "satanic ritual abuse" descended upon Waddesdon Manor

With megaphones and banners saying they were here to "protect your children", a "few dozen" people marched on the National Trust stately home on Sunday 23rd January - reportedly to "confront the Rothschilds" about bizarre claims of satanism.

Leader and organiser of the protest, Jeanette Archer, was reportedly not in attendance, said she had visited Waddesdon the day before for a "recce" ahead of today's event. She claimed it was "time to fight for our children" and "time to expose The Rothschilds", adding: "Let's take it to their door".

There was a heavy police presence at the protest, with Thames Valley Police Aylesbury saying they were "working to support the public's right to peaceful protest freedom of expression".



The Buckinghamshire Disability Service (BuDS) slammed the protest as "anti-semitic", saying: "We utterly condemn these vile anti-semitic protests in Buckinghamshire. TVP Aylesbury, you are supposed to stop racial hate crimes, not monitor them."

A commenter, Sharon Eames said, satanic ritual abuse, apparently the whole of the vale is the centre of pagan worship

What's on in Aston Abbotts for February

What	Where	When
Thursday Morning Cafe	Village Hall	Every Thursday 10-11.30
Village Hall Quiz Night	Village Hall	Friday 4th 7pm (Sold Out)
Whist Drive	Village Hall	Thursday 3rd & 17th 19.30
Bingo	Village Hall	Thursday 10th 7pm
Yoga	Village Hall	Every Wednesday 16.30 -18.00
Rambling Club	Dobbies MK	Saturday 6th 19.30
AV Transport meeting Queries to Colin Higgs (BEM)	Buckingham	Tuesday 8th 11.00
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	Tuesday 15th 19.30

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

Modern venue for private parties, meetings and other events.



Your Emails

Dear Editor

Photo Supplied last month by
Colin Higgs(BEM)

Top photo



My sisters in law Sheila and Janet Brandon and I had great fun putting names to faces on this photo.

Both Sheila and Janet are in the photo, in the front row, Sheila wearing a white Turban.

My darling mother-in-law, Ivy Brandon (Sheila and Janet's mum) is in the second row, in between. Pat Steven's and Mrs Coleman. The other people we recognise are:

Bill and John Ford. Who lived next door to my in-laws at the top of

Ross Road. Mrs Kellaher. Who lived at the bottom Ross Road

Pat Steven's, who lived next door to Mrs Kellaher. Bernard Osborne, who lived in the Shop.

Colin and Natalie Higgs. Hazel and Rita Finch Who lived next door to Colin In Wingrave Rd. Freda Jennings, who lived in New Zealand cottages Wingrave Rd. Dear Mrs Kent, who lived at 21 The Green.

Thanks for the photo Colin we loved reminiscing!

Bridget Brandon

Hello Pete

Wool Needed

May I ask if in the next Aston Abbots chronicle you would be so kind as to ask if anyone has any spare wool that I could have. I am busy knitting

Blankets for homeless animals and would be grateful for any wool that people don't want.

I hope you don't mind me asking this.

Thank you. Lyn. 8 Bricstock.

Dear Pete, Some ideas for the villagers to think about for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Street party & Children games.

Exhibition of events/Happenings during the last 70 years.

Colin Higgs



Parish Council
Meeting

The Parish Council meets again on 15th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

A very happy new year to everyone and a sincere thank you to all the residents who have attended a Parish Council meeting over the past year. Whether you come along to raise a new issue or offer support, or otherwise, for an ongoing matter, we are always delighted to have input from you.

Recent matters of note

Traffic calming & HGV's after a very long campaign we are hopefully in the final straits of completion for some much needed traffic calming and HGV restricted access signage through the village. Over a year ago Bucks agreed to jointly fund a project, shared with Cublington, and we have been chasing progress on this ever since. Transport for Bucks made contact last week and have implied this could be complete by the end of March

Street Lighting At the end of last year our streetlight contractor retired. We have spoken with 3 alternative suppliers, mindful of

costs and response times, and will have a firm on board by the time the council meets again. For the interim period we have instructed a local firm to repair the lights currently not working. Streetlights are a priority to us and we are fully aware that it would have been far more practical to change contractors during the summer months. However this was out of our control and we are doing our absolute best to speed things up. If you have a specific query regarding the streetlights please contact the Clerk in the first instance clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

Lockharts Recycling A recent planning application to increase the level of commercial activity at this site caused some concern at the end of last year, resulting in a meeting between Cublington, Wing, Aston Abbots and Unitary Council member Diana Blamires. Our shared objections were pooled and Cllr Blamires fully represented the villages at the Planning Committee hearing. We are awaiting the outcome

Village Information/Activity Board We have secured funding to support the production of a board to complement the History Board that was set on The Green last summer. Our thanks to the Local Community Board for their support.

Other matters arising The Parish Council continues to lobby for road and pavement repairs; we monitor the condition of footpaths, gates and

styles; we plan to reposition the village MVAS very soon; we are in the process of ordering a new storage cabinet for the village defibrillator; and we continue to maintain The Green and the Recreation Ground.

Neighbourhood Plan The next stage of the process will be to apply for funding to help with this project and carry out a survey of all households.

We anticipate that the survey will be circulated within the next month.

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



Funds Raised in 2021

September - £50 for Versus Arthritis

October - £50 for Multiple Sclerosis Society

November - £30 for Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



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The Sad Decline of Mentmore Towers

Waddesdon Manor today is what Mentmore Towers also was – and, sadly, could so easily have been but for the blinkered lack of vision of a former government.

Mentmore was the first of the great Rothschild palaces in Buckinghamshire, built between 1852-1854, and was designed by Joseph Paxton and his son-in-law, G.H. Stokes, for Baron Mayer Amschel de Rothschild. It was remarkable for not only its size but also the detail and thought that went into it, setting a benchmark for the family and a clear demonstration of their wealth. It was also a statement to the rest of the Rothschild family about the success of the UK branch – so much so that when his Paris-based cousin, Baron James de Rothschild, saw it he engaged Paxton himself with the instruction “*Build me a Mentmore, but twice the size*”.



The result was the Château de Ferrières, just outside Paris, which

caused Wilhelm I, the Emperor of Germany, on seeing it to exclaim that “*No Kings could afford this! It could only belong to a Rothschild*”.



Mentmore Towers, Buckinghamshire

Architecturally, the house is distinctive for being one of the few to successfully imitate the scale and style of Wollaton Hall, Robert Smythson’s masterpiece built in Nottinghamshire in the 1580s. Deliberately drawing inspiration from a classic of Elizabethan architecture, this was a political message about ‘fitting in’. However, the scale and exceptional quality of the work also made this a large and conspicuous statement of their financial standing. Mentmore is even built of the same Ancaster stone as Wollaton and copies the arrangement of the square corner towers and ornate stonework. However, it is missing the grand central tower of Wollaton; though there is a top-lit central hall around which the rooms are organised. One other amusing criticism raised was that it might have been somewhat imprudent to have cited the housemaids’ room just at the foot of the mens’

stairs...



Great Hall, Mentmore Towers

The tragedy of Mentmore is that it could have become one of the treasure houses of Europe. It had survived virtually unchanged, including with its spectacular collections, which were said to be the best in private hands outside of royalty, up until the death of the 6th Earl of Rosebery (he inherited it from his father, who had married Baron Mayer's only child, his daughter Hannah). Offered to the nation in lieu of £2m in inheritance taxes, the government of James Callaghan rejected the offer, demanding cash. After three years of discussions, and a campaign by individuals and organisations, the collections were sold, raising over £6m, with various national institutions spending around £2m in total to secure just a few choice items.

The house was then sold to the Marharishi Foundation, who, it's generally accepted, kept it well-maintained. It was then sold in 1999 to property developer Simon Halabi who had grand and

unsympathetic plans for a luxury hotel. The financial crisis thankfully saw the end of those, however, the house is now regarded as 'at risk' without an immediate restoration in sight – though with the possibility that it might be for sale.

Outcome: collection sold, future of house unclear, 'at risk'



Waddesdon Manor and Mentmore Towers both represent the high-point of the architectural and artistic endeavours of the Rothschilds, easily matching in scale and grandeur the houses their relations were also creating across Europe. Mentmore is a spectacular house in itself, even if it's denied its collection, but Waddesdon encapsulates not only the personal enjoyment the family gained from creating these palaces, but also the philanthropic aspect which means that we can all now marvel at the 'Goût Rothschild' experience.

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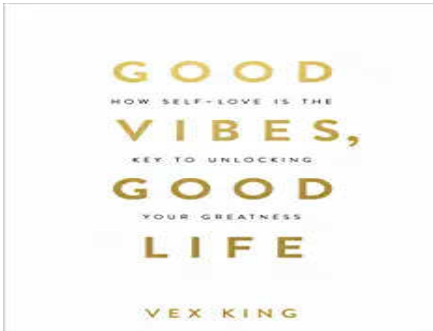
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BOOK CLUB REVIEW

January 19th 2022

The book which was discussed at Book Club was 'Good Vibes, Good Life' by Vex King.



My reasons for choice of book. I did not have much spare time in which to choose and read my selection. I therefore thought I would 'play safe' by choosing a book which was available in paperback and also one which was very popular. Consequently, I looked at the 'Bestsellers' in the Sunday Times Culture and my reasons for choosing this particular book are provided below.

This particular book came out 'top' in terms of popularity in 'General Paperbacks' and has continued to rise both in terms of sales and popularity. To provide up-to-date statistics - as of January 16th *Good Vibes, Good Life* had been in the 'Top 10' for 98 weeks and has now jumped to second position in the best seller list from third the previous week. No other paperback has come anywhere close to this in terms of sales or popularity. There are also many good reviews online for this book.

The author. Vex King came to fame on Instagram. He is a mind coach and very much in demand both as a writer and speaker. He places emphasis on transforming negative emotions into positive ones and speaks from experience having overcome much adversity in his early life.

Our reactions to this book. There was a general consensus within Book Club that we did not like or enjoy this book (apologies to you all!) and, having read the book whilst on holiday, I include myself in the comments that were made. Suggesting that our lives would be transformed by emitting 'good vibes' or that every problem can be solved by 'positive thinking' was not believable and Book Club members have notched up many years of experience! Admittedly Covid has caused much upset and disruption in many people's lives and it is recognised that young people in particular have found themselves at this time quite isolated from many of their friends, work contacts, etc. This may possibly account for some of the popularity of this book amongst many of those younger people who have found themselves in this isolated position and have therefore found Vex King's teachings very helpful and informative at this time of disruption in their lives.

I should perhaps also include that we also had a very brief discussion as to the way in which statistics on book sales are collected. Can particular books be 'hyped' by the publishers or is the chart list really based on true sales? **Pam Hewitt**

Learn about helping local wildlife in Bucks at upcoming online sessions

Pay what you can afford to join the Zoom talks with Buckinghamshire's wildlife trust and ask questions of the experts.

By Hannah Richardson

Nature lovers in Bucks can learn how to help their local wildlife, at a series of online events this month.

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) is inviting wildlife enthusiasts, gardeners and community groups to join its Zoom sessions for expert advice on subjects including Wilding Yourself and Your Neighbourhood, Nature and Wellbeing, and Wildlife Activities on Your Doorstep.

And people can pay whatever they like to take part.



Verge seeding with volunteers in Weedon

The webinars are part of the trust's new Team Wilder, which is aiming to

bring nature back and create a wilder future for Berks, Bucks and Oxon.

Community Wildlife Officer Ed Turpin said: "These webinars are for absolutely anyone in our three counties who loves nature, who loves wildlife, and wants to do their bit to help restore nature in our area. "They're aimed at complete beginners, so you don't need any expertise, and we'll be sharing really simple, easy ways that you can learn more about wildlife, engage with nature to help yourself, and help nature in return. "We'll be talking about things as simple as planting flowers for pollinators, good places to go for a wild walk and interesting insects that you can look out for on your travels."

Launched by BBOWT at the end of last year, Team Wilder aims to bring together all the work happening for nature and climate in the three counties under one umbrella for the first time.

The philosophy at the heart of Team Wilder is that by taking just one action for nature, no matter how small, everyone can make a real, meaningful impact and invite more wildlife back into our lives.

Research shows that if just one in four people demonstrates a given behaviour, it can influence the behaviour of an entire group - such as a whole society.

To find out more about Team Wilder and how to get yourself or your

community involved, go to bbowt.org.uk/team-wilder

All the Team Wilder webinars will be held on Zoom, and they will feature illustrated talks and question-and-answer sessions.

Attendees can pay whatever they like to join each event, but the trust has suggested a donation of £5.

Thursday, February 17 - Wilding Yourself and Your Neighbourhood (7.30pm - 8.30pm).

Thursday, February 24 - Nature and Wellbeing (7.30pm - 8.30pm).

Thursday, March 3 - Wildlife Activities on Your Doorstep (7.30pm - 8.30pm).

Thursday, March 10 - Love Your Local Wildlife (7.30pm - 8.30pm).

For more information about all of BBOWT's upcoming events visit bbowt.org.uk/events

The Future of Farming



The US farm equipment maker John Deere has unveiled a fully

autonomous tractor that the farmer does not even need to sit in while it ploughs. It can be controlled on a smartphone from the comfort of the farm home.



Tractors that steer themselves are not new, but normally a worker has to be sitting in the vehicle cab. The John Deere model only needs to be transported to a field before farmers can let the machine completely take over.

Every secret bunker under Buckinghamshire mapped

Have you ever wondered how many secret nuclear bunkers and shelters are sitting beneath our very feet in Buckinghamshire? Well, there's probably more than you might think.

Back in the 20th century, the threat of all-out nuclear war was a source of constant worry and kept many awake at night.

As a result, a number of nuclear shelters were designed across the UK in order to withstand the blast of a nuclear bomb.

Buckinghamshire is home to a number of these shelters, and you might be surprised to find out just how many there are - a staggering 19 bunkers and underground sites!

Subterranea Britannica explore underground sites in the UK and released a map of the numerous nuclear bunkers they visited.

We used this to create a roundup of some of the most interesting sites, along with a full list of bunkers that exist in the county.



While some have been demolished, others remain largely intact. One is at Aylesbury Buckinghamshire County Emergency Centre

Subterranea Britannica visited this site in 2000 which is situated in a

corner of one of the County Hall buildings in Aylesbury.

Beyond the gas/blast door in the bunker, the group found a plant room with a fuel tank and generator.

The shelter also has a main corridor "lined with galvanised steel freshwater tanks."

There is also a cleaning store and Subterranea Britannica found "many" cold war items remaining, including "mushroom cloud cut-outs."

It is believed they would have been drawn around on a wall chart to indicate bomb detonation.

They also described the facility as "fully equipped with road maps, charts and OS maps of the County" and said at the time the shelter was sometimes used for emergencies such as flooding or storm damage.

Cheddington ROC Post



This bunker was opened in 1960 and is located in a "small compound" on top of Westend Hill. The site closed in 1991 but in 1998, Subterranea

Britannica wrote that all of the shelter's surface features "remain intact."

They added that there was some smoke damage, but "no evidence of fire." However, they said the post was vandalised and there was "a lot" of rubbish on the floor.

In 2012, they said the "larger than usual" hatch had been "completely" removed.

You can read the full list of bunkers and underground sites in Buckinghamshire below:

**Aylesbury Buckinghamshire County
Emergency Centre**

**Beaconsfield Buckinghamshire County
Standby Emergency Centre**

Beaconsfield ROC Post

Bletchley ROC Post

Buckingham ROC Post

Cheddington ROC Post

**Chiltern District Council Emergency
Centre**

Finmere Airfield Battle HQ

Great Missenden ROC Post

Hellfire Caves

Hughenden Manor Ice House

Little Horwood Airfield Battle HQ

Marlow ROC Post

Olney ROC Post

RAF Daws Hill

Weston Turville ROC Post

Whitchurch (Bucks) ROC Post

**Wilton Park Eastern Command War
Headquarters & Armed Forces HQ 5**

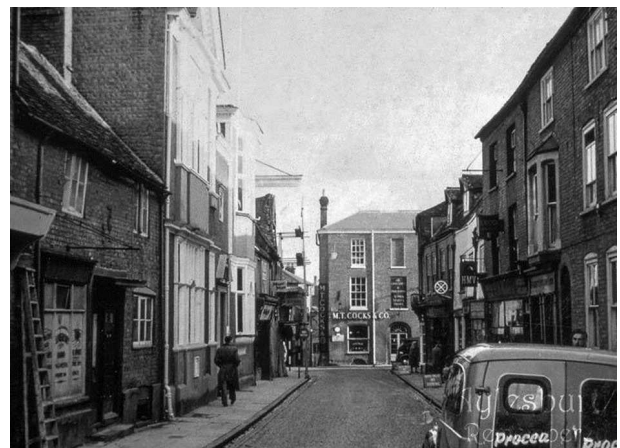
More from Aylesbury Town as it was

Life in Aylesbury's Market Square at the turn of the 20th century. There is an interesting cross-section of people shown here.



A view of Kingsbury in Aylesbury, sometime after 1921. It was not before then because Lloyds Bank in the distance was extended in that year.

Temple Street, Aylesbury in the mid-1950s looking towards Silver Street. The large building facing is M. T. Cocks & Co - a shop that sold wines, spirits and grocery goods. It was demolished in 1964 to make way for Friars Square shopping centre.



What is good about this photograph is that the Oddfellows Arms pub is clearly seen on the right. This helps to tie in exactly where these old buildings stood. The pub closed about 30 years ago and it was taken over by Domino's Pizza who are still there.



This view of Market Square in Aylesbury shows the celebration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee on June 21st 1887, marking her 50th year on the throne. It was an opportunity for everyone to dress up in their best clothes and decorate their buildings with bunting.



Aylesbury Market Square in the late 1930s. Here we see a contrast

of architectural styles. On the left is Montague Burton's gents tailors. This building had just replaced the old George Hotel that stood on the site before. Burton's was built in the Art Deco style, using some white facing stone which looked clean and crisp then.



On Sunday 20th April 1952 around 400 Scouts, Guides, Wolf Cubs and Brownies from Aylesbury and the surrounding villages paraded in Market Square, Aylesbury for their annual St George's Day celebration.



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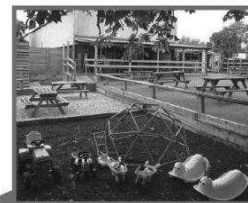
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Church Matters



Hello From Annie Cooper

Some of you might know me well, but lots may never have come across me before. I'm Annie Cooper and I am a lay minister working with Howard and Andrew in the Cottesloe Team - which includes your village.

We're in that very grey time of year. It's still cold, it's still dark, if we spent too much on Christmas or are worried about how big our fuel bills might be, we are probably not spending much on having fun at the moment. February and March can be quite difficult for lots of people.

I'm one of those people who get SAD, who are affected by the lack of daylight. From November to March I spend more time under a blanket than is good for me.

What keeps me going, very often, is keeping my eyes open. I get out of bed in the morning and go to the window and look at the birds. Most mornings, as well as the jackdaws and pigeons I can see sparrows, blue tits, great tits, robins and blackbirds. Sometimes I catch a glimpse of a

wren, delightful little creatures. Elegant red kites fly overhead quite regularly now.

And one of the special moments for me is when I notice that the snowdrops are appearing above the surface of the soil, promising the return of their delicate flowers before too long.

The reassurance that the birds know what they are doing and the flowers are getting ready to burst into life gives me hope.

And hope is also what faith can give us. We don't know what this year of 2022 will bring, but we can be sure that the God who made us and continues to care for his creation, will be with us, to guide and to comfort us through whatever may come.

Just so you know: the benefice Ash Wednesday services will be at 10am at Wingrave and 8pm at Cheddington.

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
4th	David/Colin	Donated
11th	Alex/Anita	
18th	Carolyn L/Ann	
25th	Colin/Gay	

100 Club Draw January

1st prize, £50 Andrew Ford

2nd prize, £10 Nigel Brown

St James Aston Abbotts Church Services

6 th February	6.00pm	Evensong
13 th February	10.30	Parish Communion
20 th February	09.30	All age service starting with breakfast in the village hall
27 th February	10.30	Parish Communion

From the PCC Aston Abbotts

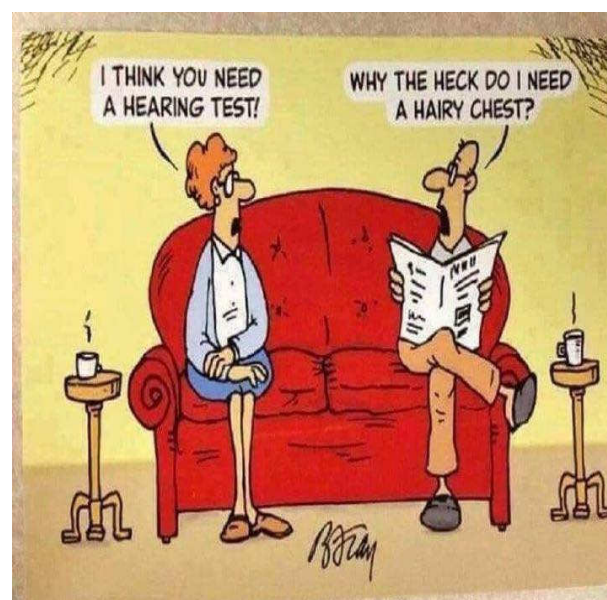
The collection of £93.06 from the Nativity and Carol service on the 19th December was donated to The Children's Society as usual.

The Church clock management system is now working to specification and chiming during the day (from 6am till 10pm). Apologies to the neighbours who were disturbed when initially the clock chimed throughout the day! The bellringers now have to remember to disengage the chiming mechanism when they use the bells.

As I write the diary the weather is cold but bright and the snowdrops are flowering and the daffodils

emerging with a promise of Spring and Summer to come. We have weddings in May and September to look forward to.

David Gray



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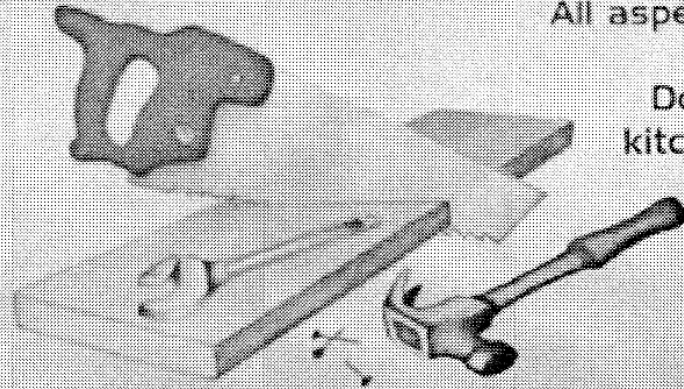
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ALLOTMENT DIARY



Do you always cry when you are peeling or chopping onions? If so, then I help is at hand. After 3 decades of farming research and development in Nevada and Washington in the USA, the Americans have developed an onion which does not make your eyes water; and it is now on sale in Waitrose stores. They have called it the Sunion. At the moment it is not yet available for gardeners to buy, but it can only be a matter of time. Sunions are currently more expensive than ordinary onions, but no doubt the price will gradually come down.

The reason why cutting normal onions produces a teary reaction is that when the skin of the onion is cut, it produces a gas which I have discovered is called propanethial-S-oxide: and the reason why onions do this is that it is a defence mechanism to prevent soil-living pests biting into them while they are growing.

The sunion is not the only new vegetable variety to reach supermarkets recently. Tesco has

started selling a small striped potato which they have called “Nemo”, after the fish in the cartoon film “Finding Nemo”, which it claims can be roasted in a quarter of the usual time. Tenderstem broccoli, which is a cross between broccoli and kale, is proving more popular in the UK than traditional broccoli; and Marks & Spencer are selling a new tomato variety called “Sweet Rosso”, which is said to be sweeter than strawberries!

The columnist and restaurant critic, Giles Coren, wrote a very amusing article in the Times recently about the sunion. And in the hope that I am not breaching copyright laws – and with apologies to those of my readers who read the Times - I would like to quote from his article, some other new varieties of vegetables he suggests we need:

Garleeq – a vegetable which gives wonderful depth and piquancy to all your recipes, without making you pong like Emmanuel Macron’s armpit.



Nicesparagus – which tastes great with hollandaise sauce, but doesn't make your wee smell evil

Nofartichoke – whose benefits are eponymous

Finally, I bring you more news about Doug, the 17lb 3oz potato that was unearthed in New Zealand last August. The Guinness Book of Records refused to accept it as the world's largest potato without evidence that it was a potato. Fortunately Doug's owners had not used it to make vodka, as they had threatened to do,

and it was still in their freezer. Accordingly, they have sent a chunk of it to the Department of Science and Advice for Agriculture in Scotland for DNA testing. It seems that they can determine the tuber's molecular footprint, and not only establish if it is a potato, but possibly even identify the variety. I hope in a future edition of the Diary to announce the result.

Peter Shorrock

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***Contact John Whyte 14 Bricstock, Aston Abbots Bucks
HP224LP. 07988001834 or editor@aachronicle.co.uk***

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

Beaches two hours or less from Aston Abbots. Perfect for a winter walk

Beaches are usually associated with the summertime as they are full of people sunbathing, swimming or even surfing.

But they can be enjoyed all year round, providing a refreshing walk and breath of fresh air.

A coastal visit in the middle of winter can be relaxing and it can be good to stretch your legs with different scenery.

Buckinghamshire is set inland but a beach visit isn't as far as you may think. We have selected some beaches that are under a two hour drive away from Aston Abbots

Indulge in a winter walk at one, or all, of the following beaches:

Rainbow Beach. Time by car:
Approx. 1 hour 58 mins



Located in Stanford-le-Hope, this beach is not your typical place to have seaside fun, but it is gorgeous and full of walks nonetheless.

There isn't much about it online because it is one of Stanford-le-Hope's best kept secrets.

Whilst there isn't a restaurant, beach hut or ice cream van in sight, the peaceful location takes you on a walk (as long as the tide is low) right out to sea.

You'll be lucky to see anyone else around in this quiet location with the seaweed, sand and stunning sights.

Concord Beach. Time by car:
Approx. 1 hour 43 mins



Concord Beach is set in Canvey Island near Southend-On-Sea in Essex.

Walk along Concord Beach to the Bay Museum and enjoy the mural on the history of Canvey Island

which is full of paintings done by various artists.

Concord Beach is full of history, and was known as Shell Beach until the 1970s/80s.

There are a few cafes nearby if you fancy a bite to eat or a hot drink to warm you up and there are plenty of benches to rest on if you're walking along the whole Canvey coast.

Upnor Beach. Time by car: Approx. 1 hour 46 mins



This public beach in Rochester is the River Medway's secret gem as you are able to walk along the shore when the tide is low.

Whilst it technically is a beach, it isn't one for making a sandcastle or sunbathing in.

Luckily in the middle of winter they aren't really things to worry about. Instead, embrace the

spectacular surrounding views while giving your legs a good stretch.

Enjoy the scenery along the 1.6km coast which will take you roughly 40 minutes to stroll to and back.



Bucks property: How much do you need to earn to buy your own home in each Bucks town?

To buy a house at the average price in the county, you need to earn at least £109,000 every year

Whether you want to buy your first home or you just fancy a change of scenery, it is worth noting the average house prices in each of Bucks' towns.

According to Rightmove, detached properties in Buckinghamshire were sold the most with an average price of

£743,800, with semi-detached properties that sold for an average price of £408,795, while terraced properties sold for £333,772.

The overall average house price in Buckinghamshire came to an impressive £488,253.

Rightmove said: "During the last year, house prices in Buckinghamshire were 7% up on the previous year and 16% up on 2019 when the average house price was £421,329."

The average annual salary for someone in the UK is roughly £25,971 for 2021, according to StandOutCV.

According to MoneySavingExpert, if you were on the average salary in the UK, you would be able to borrow between £84,400 and £117,000.

This amount of money does not even come close to the lowest average house price in Buckinghamshire, which was in Aylesbury for £311,335.

This calculation is based only on a simple income, when in fact mortgages are far more complex and change with each individual's circumstances.

As a rule-of-thumb, here are the average house prices in Buckinghamshire's towns and how much you would need to earn every year (pre-tax) to be able to buy a property there:

Buckinghamshire (county average) - £488,253 (earn at least £109,000)

Amersham - £754,311 (earn at least £168,000)

Aylesbury - £311,335 (earn at least £70,000)

Beaconsfield - £1,119,487 (earn at least £249,000)

Buckingham - £351,458 (earn at least £79,000)

Burnham - £504,088 (earn at least £113,000)

Chalfont St Giles - £984,152 (earn at least £219,000)

Chesham - £499,482 (earn at least £111,000)

Gerrards Cross - £955,141 (earn at least £213,000)

Great Missenden - £863,975 (earn at least £192,000)

High Wycombe - £381,015 (earn at least £85,000)

Iver - £549,348 (earn at least £123,000)

Marlow - £687,498 (earn at least £153,000)

Milton Keynes - £329,453 (earn at least £75,000)

Newport Pagnell - £321,046 (earn at east £72,000)

Olney - £411,482 (earn at least £92,000)

Princes Risborough - £481,434 (earn at least £107,000)

Stony Stratford - £370,865 (earn at least £83,000)

Who's Who in Aston Abbotts

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**Chronicle Distribution Sally
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**Women's Gnomes Club Carol
Spooner 01296 681544**

100 Club David Gray 01296 681952

Bingo Pam Dixon 01296 681626

**Rambling Club & Whist Drive Colin
Higgs (BEM) 01296 681343**

Community Services

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**Baby & Toddler Group Kim Gayler
01296 681123**

NHS Direct 24hr Advice 111

**Doctor Out of hours Surgeries 01296
331511**

**Stoke Mandeville Hospital 01296
315000**

Police Non-Emergency 101

**Buckinghamshire Council 01296
395000**

Citizens Advice 08701264056

MP Greg Smith (Con) 01296 714240

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RSPB big Garden Birdwatch wildlife survey

The conservation charity is appealing to the public to take to their gardens this weekend to participate in the world's largest garden wildlife survey.

They are asking people to spend just one hour recording how many birds they can spot in their garden, whether it be from a window or a balcony and just let them know what you've seen.

The survey helps to highlight the winners and the losers in the garden world - enabling the charity to see a snapshot of how our wildlife is faring.

Everyone is encouraged to take part in the event which takes place between Friday, January 28 to Sunday, January 30 and is free.

People only need to count our feathered friends who land in their gardens.

Last year more than one million people took part and counted more than 17 million birds.

You can register now to take part in the event via their website and receive a free guide that will help you to identify the most common garden birds.

There is no need to prepare for the event, but the conservation charity says people can attract more birds to their garden. So in the meantime, get ready to fill up your bird feeders to encourage as many of our feathered friends to join us this weekend.

Wingrave and Rowsham Diary FEBRUARY 2022

Wed 2 1000 WI meeting: Methodist Church

Wed 2 1200 Over 60s' Lunch Club Rose and Crown

Sat 5 Band night—Cherry Rose & Crown

Sun 6 1230 Swingrave dance Community Centre

Sat 12 0845 Men's Breakfast Talk: Methodist Church

Sat 12 Valentine's evening Rose & Crown

Wed 16 1200 Last of the Summer Ukuleles Rose & Crown

Fri 18 1930 Family Bingo Community Centre

Sat 19 Band night—Abacus Rose & Crown

Sun 20 0930 Local ramble 4-5 miles Nup End Lane

Mon 21-28 School half term holiday

Fri 25 1930 WWRHA talk: Wingrave Parish Church Community Centre

Sat 26 1000 Wingrave Singers Cathedral music workshop Parish Church

Sat 26 1930 Twinning quiz Community Centre



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Try these out during Spring

These gorgeous walks and attractions are on our doorstep and somewhere fresh to go this Spring.

And the best part about this list is that everything is completely free.

Ivinghoe Beacon. LU7 9DJ



It may not be the highest point on the Ashridge Estate but it is the best place to enjoy fantastic views of the surrounding and frankly breathtaking countryside.

On the National Trust walk you can see an outline of an Iron Age hill fort on top of the beacon and many Bronze Age burial mounds scattered throughout.

You can appreciate the amazing views stretching over several counties, and the pathways during the summer will open your eyes to some stunning Herts wildlife.

Canalside Reservoirs, Tring and Grand Union Canal

Address: Lock 39 Startops End, Marsworth, Tring, Herts, HP23 4LJ

Whether you are on your own, with family or with your dog, this is a perfect destination for a leisurely stroll.



If you don't fancy walking, you can cycle along the canal in the sunny weather and afterwards maybe have a tea or coffee and a bite to eat in the local tea rooms.

The nearby Grand Union Canal definitely boasts stunning scenery that our county is proud to have.



Ashridge Estate. Moneybury Hill,
Ringshall, Berkhamsted, Herts,
HP4 1LT

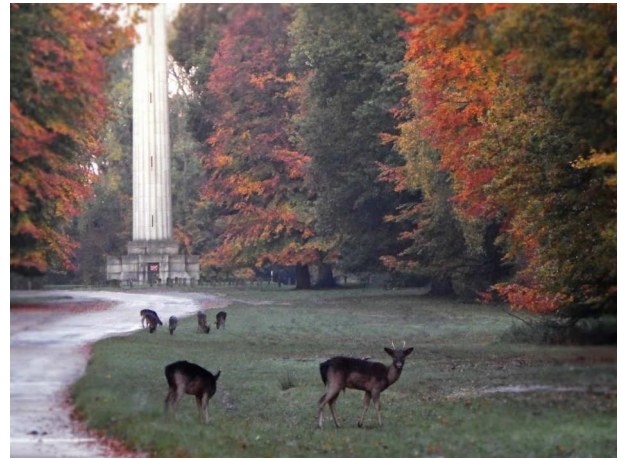


This glorious National Trust site is full of glorious meadows that are perfect for a lovely summer's day.



Spanning 5,000 acres, there's enough to keep you occupied for the day.

Monument Drive, and all car parks excluding Little Gaddesden, are open. You don't need to book but spaces are limited. If the car park is full, customers are advised to come back later and to avoid parking on the verges.



Natural History Museum at Tring.
The Walter Rothschild Building,
Akeman Street, Tring, Herts, HP23
6AP

The Natural History Museum at Tring is one of the county's most-loved attractions. It allows you to delve deep into interesting topics. Whether it's self-guided tours, roaming the galleries or exploring the nearby area, the museum has something to offer everyone.

If you want to visit soon you'll have to wait a little longer though, as it's currently fully booked until September 6, with more free tickets to be released soon.

