

Aston Abbots Chronicle

March 2022 Issue 424

The Chronicle Archive Covering 38 Years September 1983 to December 2021



www.aston-abbotts.co.uk

The Chronicle Archive

A remarkable record of life in Aston Abbotts over the last 38 years
September 1983 to December 2021

(421 Issues! 12,940 pages!)

Due to the diligence and foresight of a former editor of the Chronicle (one Phil Spooner no less), all the early copies of the Chronicle had been kept safe. Phil put a shout out to the village back in June last year via the AA Postbox in which he sought a new home for the “official archive” (well, more a case of wanting to get rid of them or, in his words, “I need the space”). If nobody volunteered, then they were destined for the recycling.

I spoke with Phil and it was clear that we both felt they should be preserved and, if possible, made into a complete online archive. Phil did not have the means to easily scan them but, since I have a scanner with an automatic document feeder, I foolishly volunteered to scan them all and create copies in a suitable electronic format. Phil would then pick up the task of creating the online pages and uploading the Archive to the Aston Abbotts website.

Well, the scanning was reasonably straightforward – except for the copies that jammed in the scanner; the odd copy that showed signs of water damage (better check your loft Phil!); and the copies where the automatic settings of the scanner thought some of the black & white pages were colour (I know... you’re probably asking “why does it matter?” - just believe me, it really does and it was a pain!).

So, you can probably guess that it was not quite as plain sailing as I had anticipated but most of the time the scanner did its job without too much intervention.



Putting the scanner idiosyncrasies to one side, the thing I totally underestimated was the time it would take to check that every one of the 12,940 pages had scanned correctly! In theory, this should just involve “clicking” through each scanned Chronicle and taking a quick glance at each page. If I did this at about one page a second it should only take a mere 3 hrs, 35 mins, and 40 secs which didn’t seem too unreasonable.

Well, one page every second was the theory... But that theory soon proved impossible to be put into practice - it completely overlooked the way the brain works. It only takes what looks like a fascinating picture or an intriguing title for the brain to suddenly say “Whoa! That looks interesting”. The result being the unavoidable desire to stop and read the offending article. And there were a lot of offending articles – sorry... I

mean “a lot of interesting articles” (although there were some offending ones!).

That said, the whole exercise was interesting and enjoyable so I’m not complaining. I created a list of over a hundred Chronicles which I thought had fascinating articles, eye-catching covers, or were covering memorable events – Phil has put a link to this list on the website and I hope you find some of them as interesting as I did. To whet your appetite, the table at the end of this article gives you a few examples from the list.

There’s also a “bonus” publication that’s been added to the website called “The Evolution of The Back Page”. Over the period from November 1996 to November 2016, there were 210 adverts posted on the back page by Dave Lewis for Flackwell Electronics which were hijacked by the editor with jokes based cryptically around some event or minor misdemeanour in Dave's life. For some of this time, Dave’s back page adverts became the home of “The Aston Abbots Watchtower ” which appeared from January 2014 to June 2015. “The Evolution of The Back Page” contains copies of all these 210 Back Pages.

There is one small postscript to this whole exercise that is worth a small mention (just in passing). I had borrowed some of the more recent paper copies from Pete, the current editor. These also needed to be scanned since the electronic copies of the originals had not been retained (or so it was thought...). Shortly after scanning all these copies to finally complete the Archive, Pete informed

me (in a slightly apologetic tone) that he had just discovered that the chap doing the printing had informally kept electronic copies of some of the more recent issues. And it turned out that most of the original electronic copies dating back to late-2016 had been squirrelled away!

Now that was only a fraction of the total I had already scanned and, since I had got the scanning bit well sorted by then, I did not feel too aggrieved about the wasted effort (although it did take a glass or three of good Somerset cider to not feel too aggrieved!). To be honest, I was quite pleased since the quality of the originals is far superior to the scanned versions and results in a much better Archive. So, after a few mouse clicks, the last few years of the scanned copies were deleted and replaced with the newly discovered originals. This means the majority of the Chronicles from October 2016 onwards contain much clearer pictures and are in full colour throughout.

Phil has weaved his magic on the website and you can easily navigate through the years and click on the cover of the issue you want to read.

Phil and I hope you enjoy the Archive. It has every issue of The Chronicle that has ever been published since its creation in September 1983 (including the four-page pre-launch edition from July 1983). It is planned to maintain the Archive with the intention to update it every year with the previous year’s issues. The Chronicle Archive can be found at:

www.aston-abbotts.co.uk

And, if you're in contact with any former residents, please let them know that the Archive is online. They may wish to reminisce! Trevor.



The Chronicle Archive
38 Years
421 Issues! 12,940 pages!



A few notable issues from The Chronicle Archive

Aug 84	Best Kept Village Award
Mar 86	First Sketch by Andy Bystra on the cover
Sep 88	The Battles of Biker Bootsie (see also True Blue Tory Bikers in Oct 1988)
Dec 90	Village power struggle over Church Room (see also Oct and Nov 1990)
May 92	A418(M) Trunk Road (and see cover on Oct 1993)
Jan 2000	Publication of "Aston Abbots 1000-2000, A Village History"
Mar 2000	Start of a 10-part series "The Village Interview"

Jul 2000	First "Astonbury" (aka Midsummer Madness) - (see report in Sep 2000)
Apr 03	Bull and Butcher Closes and Villagers' Memories
May 03	Carol Vorderman's Bottom
Feb 04	The Gnomes and THAT picture
Dec 04	The Story of Wingrave Crossroads Bus Shelter
Apr 05	Village Shop to Close (see May 2005 for photographs)
Nov 08	Remembering the Fallen of World War 1
Feb 2010	It's good, but the Gnomes were expecting the Full Monty (see Feb 2004)
Sep 17	The 630 Club Story
Jul 2019	London's Third Airport - 50 years on
Mar 20	Astonbury Revisited

The Chronicle Archive can be found by going to www.aston-abbotts.co.uk and clicking on the "ASTON ABBOTTS CHRONICLE" link on the right-hand edge of the page. This will take you to an "About The Chronicle" page which contains links to "THE CHRONICLE ARCHIVE" pages, the "NOTABLES ARTICLES LIST" and "THE CHRONICLE'S BACK PAGE" (where you'll find the link to "The Evolution of the Back Page").

From the Editor

I start my editorial with sad news of the death of George Fox from Church Row. George leaves a son and 2 daughters. His funeral is to be held at Watermead on the 11th March, 12.30.

I've noticed the amount of heavy trucks are already increasing from the waste site in Cublington thundering through the main road of The Green.

Wingrave seems to have this kind of issue sorted with road parking tactics.

It's hoped the Parish Council, the County Councillor and other representatives are united in stopping this heavy vehicle increase through Aston Abbotts.

More questions than answers. Events wise, it's potentially a busy year for Aston Abbotts. I believe we have a team to take the village fete forward.

The Pop up pub project has gone quiet, due mainly to the pandemic. I should have some news soon on a simple get together to meet neighbours for drinks etc. This will be a precursor to the 'Pop up pub' events.

Has anyone got any ideas/plans for how we will mark/celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in June? We need a lead for this & volunteers. And what's happening on

the revamp of the Astonbury Music Festival returning to our village?

Answers on a postcard or preferably email to: editor@aachronicle.co.uk I will attempt to put your contribution to the people who came up with the ideas.

I hope you enjoy this edition. Until next time. Pete. Editor

Village News +

The Gate's Repaired. Following the Aston Abbotts gate being damaged back in December, three Aston Abbotts residents took on the task to put it back again. Many thanks to Peter Knight, Peter Curry and Richard Lakin. Also Kate Curry and the Parish Council who donated to the repair.



The Great Wind of 2022. Some of us suffered damage to homes, cars

and other properties during 'Storm Eunice' of February 18th, which uprooted hundreds of trees across our area.



Outside Aston Abbots on the A418 a tree blocked one lane, whilst another tree was uprooted outside Wingrave blocking the road to Long Marston.

The Pooper Snooper.

Communities are being made aware of an app designed to encourage dog owners to take responsibility for tackling dog fouling in their local area.

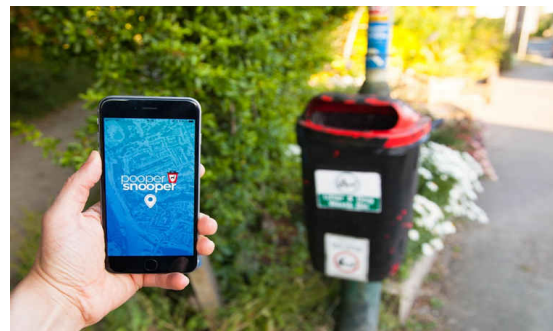
Pooper Snooper, a free smartphone application and website that aims to build public awareness of the issue and in turn increase social pressure, while also identifying "hotspots".

The mobile app allows users to quickly and accurately record the locations of dog fouling on an interactive map, providing an

overview of problem areas in neighbourhoods.

Any incidents that are cleaned up can be marked as resolved, and bin locations can be recorded within the app, with a "find nearest bin" function helping dog owners locate bins in unfamiliar areas. To help raise public awareness users can share their records along with an overview of dog fouling in the local area, on Twitter and Facebook.

Natural Aptitude, the company behind the app, CEO, Dave Kilbey, said, "We hope that Pooper Snooper can start to turn the tide on this modern-day scourge. "Ultimately, what is required is a cultural shift around dog fouling; from tacit acceptance to zero tolerance. "Dog poo is not only unpleasant, but a form of hazardous waste that can have serious repercussions for the health of both humans and livestock."



How the app displays on a phone.

The supporting website enables local authorities and other interested parties to see dog fouling incidents on an interactive map. For more information, go to

<https://poopersnooper.app/>

Bucks Council issuing fixed penalties to residential fly tippers.

Buckinghamshire Council is combating fly-tipping and encouraging residents to dispose of their waste responsibly.

When rubbish piled behind bins was examined by the council's fly-tipping team, letters and other documents within the rubbish led them back to a local resident, who was then issued with a fixed penalty notice. Another incident took place when a resident left an old bed by their garage. They said they were told it would be taken away by a friend but it never was.



The owner of the bed was also issued with a fixed penalty notice. Dumping excess waste or large items by a bin may seem logical to some but the reality is, it's unsightly and unsafe, not to mention illegal.

Bucks Council are committed to tackling this issue.

Reminder. £150 Council tax rebate from April. Chancellor Rishi Sunak unveiled the £150 council tax rebate as part of measures to tackle the rising cost of living.

People in council tax bands A to D will receive rebates funded by

government grants. Almost 230,000 families in Buckinghamshire will benefit from a rebate on their council tax bills. These families make up 56% of all households in Buckinghamshire. Those in lower bands will get more, an average of £150 per household.

The rebate to bills will be made directly by local authorities from April and will not need to be repaid.

The sting in the tail is that Council Tax will rise by nearly 3% from April. Ed!

FILL YOUR BOOTS: DEADLINE TO REGISTER OLD RIGHTS OF WAY IS SCRAPPED

A deadline to register historic paths by 2026 has been ditched after a campaign to save lost walking routes through the countryside.

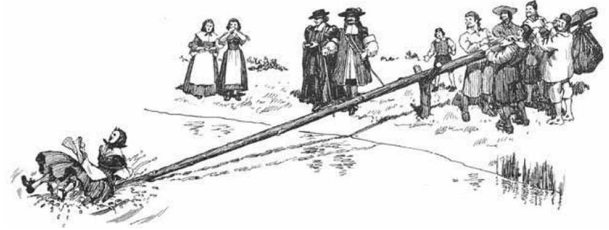
The Ramblers, the walking charity, welcomed the government's move to repeal the 2026 cut-off date for recording historic English rights of way, to allow for more time for paths to be identified and added to the public network.



The So called Witch of Long Marston. In January's edition I covered the story of Ruth Osbourne, who was dubbed a witch and was illegally executed in 1751. Following on from that article by the Long Marston Book Club, they have released the following statement:

'MEMBERS of a book group in Long Marston are fundraising to create a memorial that remembers Ruth Osborne as a woman, not as a witch.

The group wants to put a memorial site in Long Marston on April 22 to remember Ruth.



They have always been aware that the last witch to be dunked in 1751 was from their village.'

What's on in Aston Abbotts for March

What	Where	When
Thursday Morning Cafe	Village Hall	Every Thursday 10-11.30
Whist Drive. (New players welcome)	Village Hall	Thursday 3rd, 17th, 31st 19.30
Bingo	Village Hall	Thursday 10th 7pm
Yoga	Village Hall	Every Wednesday 16.30 -18.00
Rambling Club	The Green	Sunday 13th 2pm
Bus Journey	10.00 Bus to Aylesbury	Friday 25th 10.00

Please Note: Litter Blitz Saturday 9th April.

Bus Journeys Friday 24th April 09.08 bus to L/B. 27th May 10.00 bus to Aylesbury.

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

Your Emails

Editor

Obituary GEORGE FOX

It is with great sadness and a broken heart I announce the passing of our beloved dad George Fox aged 82 on 6/02/22

His funeral will be held at the crematorium at Watermead in Aylesbury on 11/03/22 at 12:30

No flowers please, kind donations to Dementia uk and White Gables care home.

Please wear casual clothes. No black suits... dad hated them x

Thank you, **Diana**

Good morning Pete,

just a little background first of all. Heather and I have lived in Cublington Road for over 8 years. We have always felt excluded from the village and have seen no parish funds ever being spent on our part of Aston Abbots.

The parish council confirmed that zero has been spent in Cublington Road when I started my campaign to get the speed reduced after the fatality on the same corner that the accident in your magazine reported on. We are fed up with living on a racetrack.

Putting that aside and feeling excluded from the parish concerns

(although there are 15 homes along Cublington road that make a contribution to the parish funds), I felt the salt was being rubbed into a wound when you stated that the accident was 'just outside Aston Abbots'. **(February Edition of The Chronicle)**.

I realise that you did not do this on purpose, but it does irritate when not only is this part of Aston Abbots ignored, but the perception is also put into print in the Parish magazine.

I believe the parish boundary gate(s) and 30mph speed restriction start/finish have been taken as being the village boundary and as a consequence we have been neglected over the years.

A prime example of this was a few years back when Bucks CC came in to mend and micro-resurface the road through the village. Ironically the section from the A418 was resurfaced and new white lines applied along with the village but the section in Cublington Road was ignored. Although this decision was probably made by Bucks CC, it just adds to my belief that we are the poor cousins of Aston Abbots.

If we could withdraw our contribution to the parish coffers we would and would encourage our neighbours in the hamlet of Longmoor to do the same.

As the magazine editor, I thought you may like to know this.

Please include us as part of the village.

If you can do anything in your fine magazine to address this imbalance, I and I'm sure my immediate neighbours would be delighted.

Best regards, **Martin Clarke**

Oak House, Cublington Road

Thanks for your email Martin. I stand corrected.

The Aston Abbotts boundary is indeed at Badgers Oak. It is my guess the council positions village boundary signs at the end of the built up areas as your issue seems to be similar in most villages.

I feel your frustration and that of the condition of the road surface near you. Pete. Ed.

Hi Pete - further to Bridget's ID of the top photo taken in the Church Room: it's cheating, but I have a list of people in both photos - Mrs Betty Bennion sent annotated photocopies to me way back and we had them out at the Diamond Jubilee exhibition. They won't reproduce well in the Chronicle, but here is a list left to right of who is in the following photo:



Mrs Brandon, Vic Scott, Hazel

Finch, Tom Becket, Mr Bennion (holding a sack), Ian Mackay (holding a prize?) Natalie Higgs looking over his shoulder, Mrs Bennion (holding the other sack), Betty Clarke (holding another prize?). Others standing behind are also named. And, just off the shot to the right, Bernard Osborn and Colin Higgs. I have these and a few others in an A4 folder and am happy to lend it for any future exhibitions.

Caroline Lane

Pete, I would be glad if anyone has photos, newspaper clippings or anything which happened in Aston Abbotts over the last 70 years, so we can hopefully hold an exhibition for the Queen's Platinum Celebrations in June.

Colin.



shared by silversurfers.com

For Walkers

The beautiful walk that ends where Henry VIII used to stay with his wives

The village of Chenies is home to a manor with a fascinating history of housing monarchs, and there's a beautiful walk that will take you right to the doorstep. But what about walking in the footsteps of Britain's most famous marrying-Monarch?

King Henry VIII has some pretty strong ties to Buckinghamshire throughout history – not only did he buy his second wife an entire row of cottages in Wendover, but he's also the reason that Aylesbury is the county town.

The monarch reportedly visited the county on a great number of occasions, whether that was to shack up in his love nest with Anne Boleyn, or stay at the beautiful Chenies Manor with both his second and fifth wives, Boleyn and Catherine Howard.

Although both marriages ended in a gruesome beheading, Chenies Manor is actually a very lovely place to visit, especially if you time your trip around their garden open days.

King Henry VIII's daughter, Elizabeth I, also visited the manor.



In fact, you may recognise Chenies Manor House from the television. The home has been used as a backdrop for a number of dramas, including *Midsomer Murders*, *Little Dorrit* and *Lewis*.

If the gorgeous gardens aren't enough to tire you out, why not twin your trip with a beautiful Chiltern walk?

The Chenies and Chess Valley walk is perfect for recreational walkers and young children, as it's fairly level. However, there's also the option to take the gradual climb to West Wood if you're feeling up to it.

The walk should take around an hour and a half, depending on your speed, and stretches just over two and a half miles.

The journey will take you along the River Chess, past Latimer, across the rambling river and through the wild woodland before you arrive at Chenies Manor House.

There are no stiles, and the route offers beautiful views across the valley of Latimer – what more The manor usually offers impeccable afternoon teas, which could be the perfect end to a pleasant walk in the great outdoors.

When setting off on your big adventure, it's best to try and find somewhere to park in the Chenies Village. The recreation ground is often recommended for people pursuing this route.

Great Train Robbery: Leatherslade Farm photos after gang's Bucks safehouse was found by police.

Probably a couple of years back I covered the Great Train Robbery and its effect on our communities. This article gets into the behaviour of the gang whilst taking refuge in the Farmhouse in Oakley. Ed.

Tom Burnett.

One of the most infamous crimes in British history took place on an unassuming railway bridge in Buckinghamshire in the early hours of August 8, 1963.

The Great Train Robbery saw a gang of 15 men target a Royal Mail train carrying £2.6 million (£56 million on today's money) after bringing it to a stop by tampering with signals near Bridego Railway Bridge, close to Ledburn and Mentmore.



After train driver Jack Mills was clobbered with a metal bar, the gang - led by Bruce Reynolds and including men such as Ronnie Biggs and Buster Edwards - grabbed the cash and

made their getaway into the Buckinghamshire night.

Their destination was Leatherslade Farm, 27 miles away and sitting near the Aylesbury Vale villages of Oakley and Brill.



While at the farmhouse the gang divided up the money between themselves - with 'drinks' (smaller sums of money) for accomplices.

Infamously the Great Train Robbers also played the board game Monopoly, supposedly with real money taken during their heist.

Realising the police were hunting for them the group fled the farm and paid someone to burn it down to destroy the evidence.

The planned arson never took place however and the farm was described as 'one big clue' after it was discovered a few days later.

Some items from inside it, including the Monopoly set, are on display at the Thames Valley Police museum.



The discovery helped police track down the robbers, with some fleeing abroad and most being sentenced at Aylesbury Crown Court.

BuckinghamshireLive has gone through the archives to find these photos of the infamous farmhouse after it was found by police in mid-August 1963.



Mr Bernard Rixon, owner of Leatherslade farm, talking to journalists ahead of the beginning of the Great Train Robbers' trial in Aylesbury in January 1964.

Littlecote: The little abandoned village near Aston Abbots that time has forgotten



All that lies there today is a farm and dispersed hamlet in Stewkley parish in the Aylesbury Vale district.

Buckinghamshire boasts hundreds of villages - but there is one that was once near Aylesbury has been forgotten and abandoned. All that lies there today is a farm and dispersed hamlet in Stewkley parish.

Littlecote, which was also known as Lidcote, sat around eight miles north of the county town.

It was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 to have ten households in the settlement - according to website AbandonedCommunities.

There was a manor held by Walter Giffard and for more than four centuries the manor went through a number of owners. In 1481 it became the property of Thomas's wife, Elizabeth Pigott.

By the early 14th century, the village is reported to have 140 acres of arable land including a manor house with a fruit garden and a chapel of St Giles - with a survey showing there were 15 free tenants.

In the late 15th century, 40 acres of land was enclosed for sheep grazing by the landowner, Thomas Pigott, to turn it into profitable use.

After enclosing 40 acres and evicting 24 inhabitants, Pigott's successor, William Sheppard, evicted eight more tenants and enclosed a further 100 acres of land. By 1507, the village was depopulated and destroyed as the enclosure had been completed.

Around 84 people were estimated to have lost their homes as a result of the enclosure of the Buckinghamshire village.



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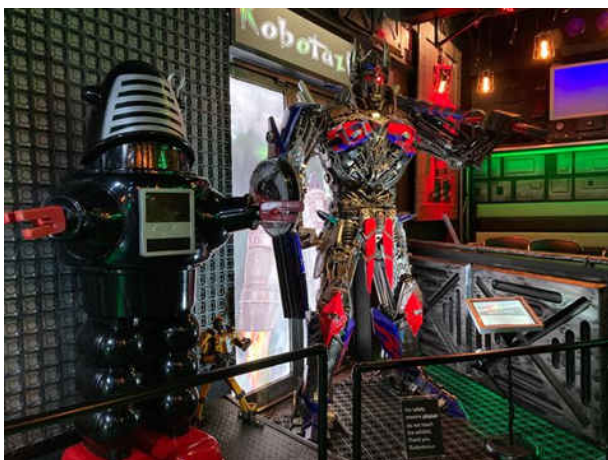
Opens 7AM Tuesday to Saturday

01296 641207

A new Restaurant for the kids and some middle aged men

Tucked away in the theatre district in Central MK is Robotazia, a robot-themed eatery.

Once you've made it to the **12th Street leisure quarter**, it's hard to miss the restaurant - two massive robots stand either side of the entrance.



Robotazia's interior gives off an industrial vibe and is all the more impressive considering much of it is made from recycled materials.

The restaurant is split into six 'sectors' and each booth or table is called a dock, just to further reinforce the science fiction theme.

Our visit came on a busy Saturday lunchtime when the restaurant was filled with families at children's birthday parties - and within minutes it became clear why. The outer edges of Robotazia are filled with famous robot faces of years gone by.

Doctor Who's nemeses the Daleks are here, alongside the

aforementioned Terminator, and Transformers' Optimus Prime. Even Iron Man makes an appearance at the gift shop.



The edges of the restaurant are adorned with replicas of famous robots (Image: Buckinghamshire Live/Louise Potter)

But the real stars of the show are the much smaller scale robot waiters and waitresses.

At Robotazia, friendly and enthusiastic staff (human staff, I might add) will see you to your seat and take your order. But the food is brought to you by welcoming robots like Josh, Amy and Sparky.

Our order came via Josh, who made his way from the kitchen onto the catwalk-like aisle between two sectors where he and his other robot friends operate. Sparky then came

out to provide some light entertainment, with a short dance and a joke while we ate.



The menu is a pretty standard easy food selection; there's plenty of burgers and pizzas and it was all pretty good.

But let's be honest; we didn't come to the restaurant primarily for the food.

The robots here are the real attraction and it's hard not to get sucked in by the excitement they spark in Robotazia's younger audience.

There's plenty to love about Robotazia, from the decor to the enthusiastic staff and their charming colleagues. It's just the perfect level of completely bonkers.



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Chronicle History Special.

Martyr Thomas Harding - murdered in Bucks for reading the bible in English. By Neil Rees

John Wycliffe

In the mid-1300s John Wycliffe, a dean at Oxford University, protested against the abuses of the Church. John Wycliffe was a priest who wanted to see the Church radically reformed, and he believed that they should use English instead of Latin. His quarrel was not with faith itself. He was a strong Christian who emphasised personal faith based upon the Bible, as opposed to the errors of man-made organised religion. In 1368, Wycliffe moved to Bucks when he became rector of Ludgershall near Aylesbury. He was there until 1374, when he became a priest at Lutterworth in Leicestershire, where he stayed until he died in 1384.

Bible Translation

Wycliffe and his followers translated the Bible from Latin into English, which was completed about 1382 and went through various revisions. This was the first complete Bible in English, and it opened up the Scriptures to ordinary people.

The Lollards



Many people supported Wycliffe's ideas which spread across England. Some people became itinerant preachers. They went in pairs to towns and villages, telling people the good news about Jesus in English. People gathered in each other's homes, where meetings were led by ordinary men or women, to pray and read the Bible in English. They were educated and peaceful people. They were called the Lollards, and they were particularly numerous in the Chilterns. Their beliefs were biblical, and by modern standards quite mainstream. However, at the time meeting without a priest, using English, and having meetings outside a church building were regarded as suspicious by the main Church authorities.

Persecution

In 1401 Henry IV enacted a cruel statute that Lollards who refused to renounce their beliefs should be executed by burning. In 1408 unauthorised translations of the English Bible were banned, so owning one of these translations, which had been translated quite legally, became a crime. In 1415, the

Council of Constance posthumously declared Wycliffe to be a heretic, although he was not considered one in his lifetime. In the Chilterns, persecutions of Lollards occurred in 1414, 1462 and 1511. In December 1511, some Lollards living in Chesham who spoke against idolatry and superstition were sentenced to be monks in monasteries, and some were sentenced to make pilgrimages.

Reformation

Meanwhile in Germany, a similar movement to the Lollards was started in 1517, by a monk called Martin Luther.



The German word for someone who protests, in this case against abuses in the Church, is Protestant, in English we might say protester. The Lollards were protesters against many of the same issues, so the Lollards associated themselves with the new Protestant movement, which they had a lot in common with.

Thomas Harding

One of the associates of the Lollards at Amersham was Thomas Harding. His story is told in Foxe's Book of Martyrs, and in local oral tradition. It was probably in 1511 that William

Smith, Bishop of Lincoln, set up an inquiry into heresy in south Bucks, from the former bishop's palace at Wooburn, near Beaconsfield. Harding, along with many other Lollards agreed to renounce their views. By 1521, Harding was found to have returned to holding Lollard beliefs, and was again called before an ecclesiastical court, set up by the new hard-line bishop John Longland. This time six Lollards, five men and one woman, were sentenced to death. Harding escaped death by recanting again. One of the conditions imposed on him was that he must not leave the parish of Amersham. However, after the executions in Amersham in 1522, Thomas Harding moved to Chesham, where he kept a smallholding, believed to be at Dungrove.

William Tyndale

Meanwhile there was a newer version of the New Testament in English, translated by William Tyndale from the original Greek. It was more accurate and easier to understand than Wycliffe's translation. It was published in Germany in 1526, and smuggled into England. Tyndale's New Testament became very popular and was adopted by the Lollards. Tyndale also wrote other theological works.

Execution

Around Easter in 1532 Thomas Harding, aged about 60, was found sitting by a stile going into the

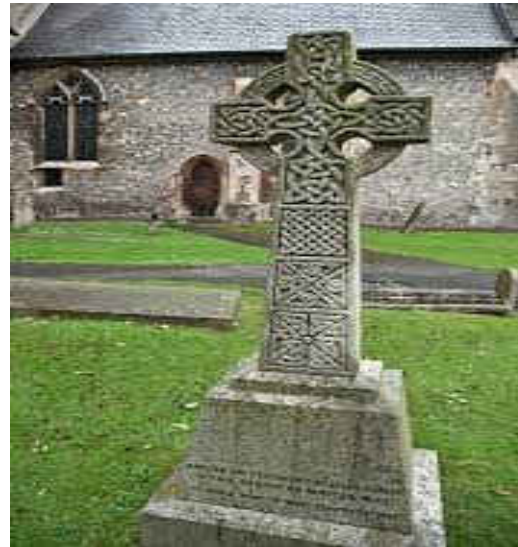
woods, where he was reading one of Tyndale's books. Harding and his wife Alice, were arrested in their house, where other illegal books, including Tyndale's New Testament were found under his floorboards. He was taken to Wooburn to be interrogated by the bishop and Rowland Messenger, the vicar of High Wycombe. The charges against him was that he was reading the Bible in English, claimed the bread and wine in the communion service were merely symbolic, rejected the worship of images, and spoke against pilgrimages for earning merit.



He was then taken to Chesham for execution. The place was at the dell up White Hill, (believed to be where 47 and 49 White Hill are now) on the way to Botley. Harding was chained to a stake and a fire was lit beneath him. It is recorded that one of the spectators threw a firelog at his head, which hastened his demise. It was May 30, 1532 and he was the last Lollard to be executed in England, before the English Reformation. It was just 2 years after Harding's execution, that the Church of England was formed, and some of the things the Lollards had believed

and practised were no longer heretical.

Legacy



There are a number of reminders of Thomas Harding in Chesham: In February 1908 a granite cross memorial was erected to his memory, near the entrance to St Mary's church, Chesham. In 1966 Germain's School and White Hill Schools in Chesham combined under the new name of Thomas Harding School. In July 1994 a commemorative stone was erected on White Hill near to his place of execution. Harding is still a local surname, and many claim to be descended from him.

Martyrs' Play. *The trial of Thomas Harding is included in the Amersham Martyrs Community Play to be held on March 17-19 and 24-26, 2022. Find out how the authors imagine Thomas Harding was able to avoid the death penalty in 1521, only to be caught again in 1532. Tickets are from Amersham Museum*
www.amershammuseum.org

Aston Abbots Mobile Hairdresser

COVID-19 SAFE



Covid-19 SAFE

Hi, I'm Sam and have lived in the village for 5 years. I am a freelance hairdresser (He & She) and have been in the business for over 20 years.

If you are looking for a change or can't get to a salon, please contact me on 07800743856 or email:

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Two from Aylesbury then and now.

This beautiful view of Market Square dates from 1912 or soon after. This is because the statue of John Hampden was unveiled in 1912 and the railings were added a little later. We can see here that the railings are not there yet. The War Memorial was installed in 1921. Going from left to right there are

the George Hotel, Lloyd's Bank, Bradford's ironmongers who had two massive warehouses and that white building on the end. Those were later replaced by Brooke House. We then see Bryant's shoe shop on the corner of Cambridge Street and Buckingham Street and then Sainsbury's gentlemen's outfitters in the Round House. The High Street is next and then the Crown Hotel.



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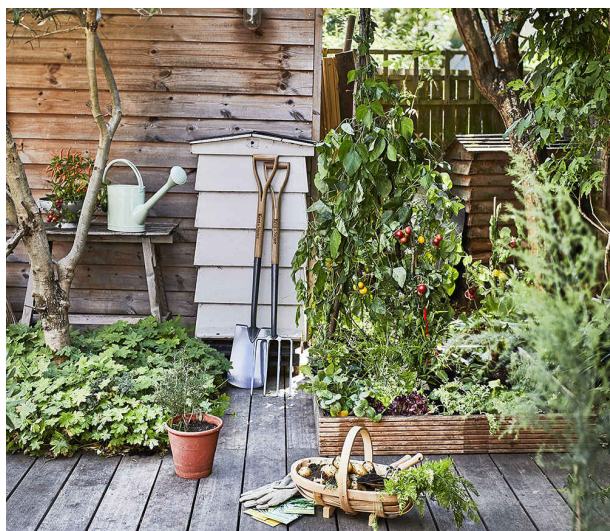
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ALLOTMENT DIARY



Stay young with these benefits

If you have ever bought blood oranges, you probably did so because they were a bit unusual, rather than in the expectation that they would be more beneficial for you than ordinary oranges. However, British scientists believe that the pigments that give blood oranges their colour, which are called anthocyanins, act as antioxidants which prevent or reduce the damage that harmful compounds called free radicals can cause to cells. Blackberries are another fruit which contains these anthocyanins.

They have therefore produced a purple tomato, through genetic modification, which will contain the same antioxidants as blood oranges, and are seeking regulatory approval for this. Two purple tomatoes would give the eater the same amount of anthocyanins as 70 g of blackberries; and the advice is that one should eat about 120 mg per day.

Waitrose are already stocking a variety of blood orange due to its health benefits; and it is thought likely that approval for the purple tomatoes will be given during the course of this year. If this happens, then the next step will be to get the UK Food Standards Agency to seek approval to sell seeds to gardeners and others who want to grow their own.

Readers may be pleased to learn that red wines can also contain beneficial levels of anthocyanins!

The Royal Horticultural Society has long advised gardeners not to use pesticides to deal with infestations of greenfly, since these can also kill the predators that feed on aphids, such as ladybirds. Scientists at a university in America are therefore experimenting with sprays which recreate the odour given off by such predators, to see if the presence of these odours will deter aphids from landing on plants; and the tests appear to be going well. As a bonus, the scientists also discovered that aphids exposed to the scent produced fewer offspring. If the testing continues to be successful we can expect to see some product on the market soon, which one can spray on vegetables and flowers to keep aphids away.

Peter Shorrocks

Allotment vacancies available. Call David Gray on 681952 for details.

Church Matters

Lent, Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Lent is upon us. Now let me be clear; I habitually eat broccoli because it's good for you, but broccoli is such an uninteresting vegetable and if I could give up broccoli for Lent, I'd be delighted. Which isn't in the spirit of Lent at all. Perhaps you have given something up for Lent; something you really enjoy. Or perhaps you are doing something extra up to Easter?

One of the big benefits of the church's year is that its regular and various celebrations give an opportunity to meet again the various aspects of Christian belief. But the downside to that is we might fall into the habit of just doing the same thing at the same time each year. Which isn't good for us, nor is it what Christian faith should be. The point of revisiting the regular celebrations throughout the year is to grow in our understanding as the years go by. After all, we do that in the rest of life.

Also, another danger of Lent is that we end up thinking more about what we've given up because we're not having it; or, idolising the "extra" we take on. And doing without something we don't really like anyway misses the point completely.

Suggestion; I like to refer to what I call "A Good Lent". Lent has no big

celebrations, no fuss, no planning required precisely so we can take stock of what we mean by truth, value (reference the 30 pieces of silver) and purpose. All of which culminates in the Easter story. Give something up/do something extra by all means, but may I wish you "A Good Lent"; a time with Christ to unpack life and living. With every blessing, **Rev'd Howard Robson.**

PS

What is a Benefice?

Someone has asked for clarification on the meaning of the term Benefice. It means a collection of parishes under one Vicar or a team of clergy. St James Aston Abbots is in the Cottesloe Team Benefice with Cublington, Cheddington, Mentmore, Soulbury, Stewkley, Wing and Wingrave with Rowsham. And myself, the Rev'd Dr Andrew Krauss and Lay Minister Annie Cooper are very pleased to be working across the eight. Any other questions, please ask.

Howard.

Church Duties March

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
4/5	David/Colin	No
11/12	Alex/Anita	Flowers
18/19	Carolyn L/Ann	During
25/26	Colin/Gay	Lent

St James Aston Abbotts Church Services

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

The Diary Of St James'



The Quiz night was a great success with a closely fought contest between the clerics and the movie buffs. The Quiz was preceded by a sausage and mash main course plus desert which put everyone in the right mood (or perhaps it was the wine).

Mark Davison gave the Churchyard its first cut this month, demolishing the molehills and avoiding the

spring bulbs. Two dozen bags of hedge cuttings and debris from the trees were disposed of down at the allotments (when the weather and wind direction allowed).

We currently have one spare Allotment Plot (on Wingrave Road, opposite New Zealand Cottages). So, if you want some exercise with the incentive of being able to bring home fresh fruit and vegetables this year then give me a call (681952) or email me ukdavidgray@gmail.com. The annual rent is just £20.

David Gray, PCC Aston Abbotts



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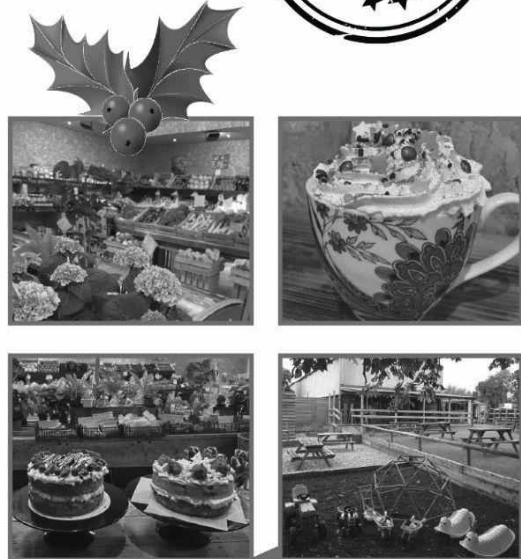
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Calls are free and confidential – Call us on 0808 801 0688

Being able to access support whilst a loved one is dying is really important for a number of reasons. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end and having a sense of 'preparedness' helps both the person dying and their family gain as much control as possible.

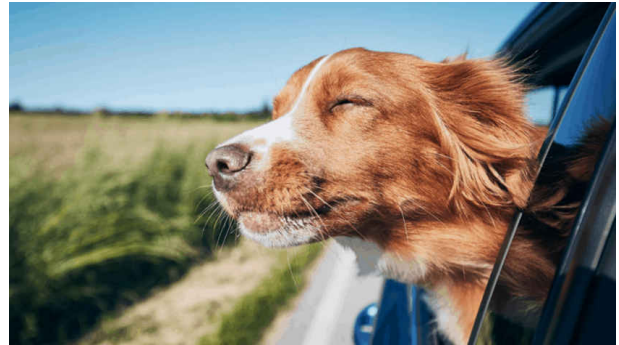
Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service to find out more.

More on the New Highway Code

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Drivers who travel with their dogs in the car face fines of up to

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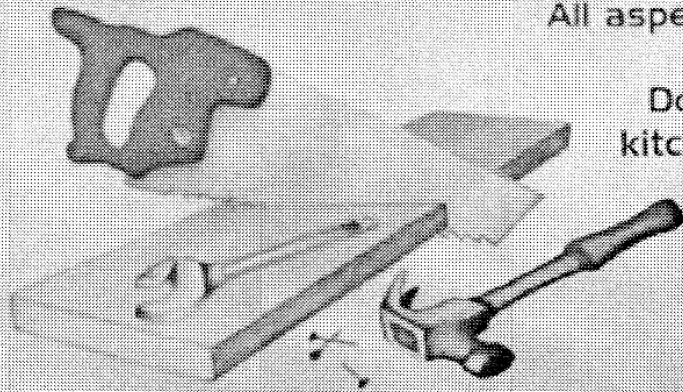
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681387**

**Chronicle Advertising John Whyte
07988001843**

**Chronicle Distribution Sally
Palmer/Jill Wenble 681152/681877**

**Parish Council Chair Jane Baylis
01296 681042**

Councillor Trevor Hall

Richard Lakin

Councillor Sally Palmer

Councillor Marissa Able Smith

**Councillor Heather Langdon 01296
688946**

**Councillor Jane Pledsted 01296
681740**

County Councillor Peter Cooper

**Vicar Revd Howard Robson 01296
688593**

**Church Warden Caroline Abel-Smith
01296 681001**

**Church Secretary Caroline Lane
01296 681373**

**Book Club Sally Palmer 01296
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**Village Hall Hire Nigel & Sally
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**Men's 630 Club Andy Bystra 01296
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Other important dates this month:

Pancake Day 1st March

World Book Day 3rd March.

International Women's Day 8th March

Pi Day 14th March

Global Recycling Day 18th March

Shakespeare Week 21st March

Tolkien Day 25th March

Mother's Day 27th March

Did you know that the library in Wing is run by volunteers from Aston Abbotts, Cublington, Drayton Parslow, Horton, Stewkley and Wingrave as well as Wing?

We serve all these village and beyond.

You can join the library, regardless of where you live. Items can be collected or returned at any Bucks Library.

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



In Aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

Bingo Night

Thursday 10th March

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Aston Abbotts Village Hall



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The Buckinghamshire town names that can be found around the world

Have you been to High Wycombe, Buckingham or Beaconsfield in Australia?

Buckinghamshire is a unique place full of beautiful countryside and incredible places. However, there are many things in common with the county's names of towns.

Many of Buckinghamshire's town names pop up all over the world - except for Milton Keynes. There only seems to be the one Milton Keynes in this world.

Some town names are so popular that they even pop up more than once in the same country.

Here's a list of all the places we could find that share the same name as our beloved towns.

Where can 'Aylesbury' be found around the world?

In Canada, a village called 'Aylesbury' is in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. The village was named after Buckinghamshire's Aylesbury Vale.



Another 'Aylesbury' lies in New Zealand as a settlement in the Canterbury region. It can be found between Rolleston and Kirwee towns. The Canterbury earthquake on September 4, 2010 was very close to it.

Where can 'Chesham' be found around the world?

In Iran, 'Chesham' village - which is also known as Chesham - had a population of 1,535 people in 2006.

The United States also claims to have a place called 'Chesham' in Cheshire County, New Hampshire. With the arrival of the railroad in 1880, the village began as a nucleus of agricultural development.



Front view taken from "blueberry patch."

HCClark, Keene, NH. cottage on Chesham Lake (Pond).

Where can 'High Wycombe' be found around the world?



In Australia, 'High Wycombe' is a suburb of Perth, Western Australia in the City of Kalamunda. The name refers to the Buckinghamshire town where one of the partners in a firm was born.



Futuro house High Wycombe, Perth Australia

Where can 'Buckingham' be found around the world?

There is a small town called 'Buckingham' in Nayarit, Mexico which is located 30 minutes away from Las Navajas Volcano.

A 'Buckingham' can also be found in Jalisco, Mexico.

There are a number of places called 'Buckingham' within the United States of America including in: Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia,



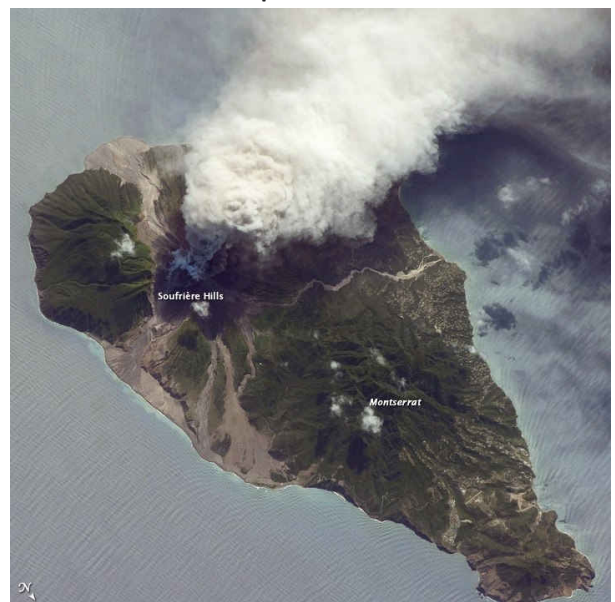
Florida, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

Jamaica also has their very own 'Buckingham' in Saint Thomas. In Australia, there are two more 'Buckingham's' in the South and Western Australia. In South Australia, 'Buckingham' is actually one of 49 counties.

Where can 'Amersham' be found around the world?

'Amersham' can be found in Tennessee, USA as it is a hamlet southwest of Huntingdon Hills.

In Montserrat, 'Amersham' is an abandoned village on the island. The small population evacuated before the volcano erupted in 1995.



Where can 'Marlow' be found around the world?

There are nine 'Marlow's' in America. They are located in different states: South Dakota, Oklahoma, Alabama, Missouri, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and New Hampshire.

Another 'Marlow' also exists in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany as a municipality.



In South Africa, 'Marlow' is situated southwest of Clarksdale and is a locality in Eastern Cape.

'Marlow' is a suburb of the Central Coast region of New South Wales, Australia. Most of the suburb is only reachable by boat. Another 'Marlow' can be found in Auckland, Maromaku, New Zealand.

Where can 'Beaconsfield' be found around the world?

There are two places called 'Beaconsfield' in the USA - one is a city in Iowa



and the other is a neighbourhood in Massachusetts.

In Canada, 'Beaconsfield' is a suburb on the Island of Montreal, Quebec. It was named in honour of Benjamin Disraeli who was the Earl of Beaconsfield and Prime Minister of the UK.

A suburb of Kimberley, South Africa is called 'Beaconsfield', formerly known as Du Toit's Pan.

'Beaconsfield' is also in the region of Limpopo in South Africa.

A town in Chittagong, Bangladesh is named 'Beaconsfield'.



Australia has three 'Beaconsfield' places - a former gold mining town in Tasmania, a small inner-city suburb of Sydney in New South Wales and a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria.