

## *In this issue:*

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- *From the Editor and more*

***Take a look***

# From the Editor

## It's coming back....

For some months now I've been asked to bring back the monthly Quiz Night. Previously held at the Royal Oak, I am happy to restart this popular evening at the Village Hall on Saturday 11th June at 19.30 and then every 1st Saturday of the month, again from 19.30 unless any change is made. A cash prize for the winning team and other prizes will be won.

As the Village Hall is presently unlicensed, it will be a bring your own booze evening. Tickets will be £3 each. Any profits will go to fund future events, so get your team together and enjoy a fun packed, cheap night out. Details on the back page.

**My apologies** for the mistake made in last month's Church Service times and the omission of other Church Services elsewhere in the Benefice. This was made worse with Easter being the most important part of the Christian diary. I can't explain what happened to the additional services information but can only say a mistake was made by me on updating the St James service times.

**If you haven't already**, please complete your Village Plan questionnaire and give it to one of the Parish Councillors.

**To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee**, a four-day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday, June 2, to Sunday, June 5, has been announced.

**Pete Lucas. Editor**



# *News From the Village plus*

## **Residential Oil Thefts**

Residents should be aware that in recent weeks there have been a number of nationwide thefts by organised gangs who have syphoned-off oil from home based oil tanks. This is no hi-tech, difficult to organise crime – a 1,000 litre tank can be drained within minutes.



Storage tanks can contain hundreds – and sometimes thousands – of pounds of oil, so they are an obvious target. Aylesbury Vale and rural areas are at greater risk as people are living a more isolated existence, plus farmers often store large amounts of oil on-site, making them particularly vulnerable.

Home insurance does not always cover theft or damage to oil tanks, so it is important that property owners seek advice from an insurance broker to check adequate cover is in place

## **Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire**

All residents should now have received a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire – if you have not received one, please contact the Parish Council Clerk [clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk) to request a copy.

Please take this Questionnaire seriously and we urge you to participate in providing your views. In all planning decisions, Bucks Council must consult the Neighbourhood Plan in planning decisions, so it is an opportunity for our community to influence future developments and protect green spaces, heritage assets, community facilities and our environment. The Questionnaire is the first step in the process of developing the Neighbourhood Plan and will help in obtaining a consensus for its content.

## **Village Bus Services maintained**

Thanks to Colin Higgs, Chairman of the Transport Committee, our bus services have been maintained. Many others were either reduced or withdrawn. Colin does ask all of us to try the bus services to our village instead of using our cars. A new timetable is in for the 165 and 150 Aylesbury to MK.

## Platinum Jubilee Keepsake

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is fast approaching and is a once in a lifetime - or possibly even several lifetimes - event. It is unlikely that even our grandchildren or great grandchildren will see another Platinum Jubilee.

The Parish Council have been looking at options for giving each child in the village a memory keepsake - something they will be able to show their grandchildren in years to come to remember this amazing achievement.

For the Parish Council to decide on whether this will be viable, we need to establish how many children there are in the village, under the age of 14.

We have put together a quick form to complete and hope that this is something everyone in the village will take part in.

Please state your name, address and the names of your children who live in the village under 14, give to a Parish Councillor or go to the email below to do it electronically.

[marisa.abelsmith@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk](mailto:marisa.abelsmith@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk)

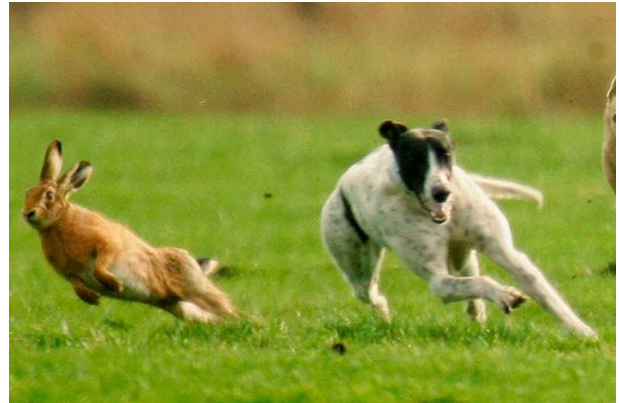
**Marisa Abel Smith**

07798 643 414

Aston Abbots Parish Council

## Hare-coursing in Bucks being live-streamed to gamblers in China - Aylesbury MP warns House of Commons

Rob Butler warned that 'heavily armed' people were going onto farmland around Aylesbury Vale



Heavily-armed criminals are live streaming illegal hare coursing for betting syndicates in China, ministers have been warned. Conservative MP Rob Butler raised concerns over people encroaching on to land owned by farmers in his constituency of Aylesbury, to catch and kill hares with dogs.

Hare coursing targets brown hares, a declining species threatened by poaching and habitat loss, and is associated with theft, criminal damage, violence and intimidation of landowners who challenge the criminals. Proposed legislation on the verge of becoming law includes increasing the possible penalties for trespassing in pursuit of game to an unlimited fine and – for the first

time – a prison sentence of up to six months.

Two new criminal offences for hare coursing will also be introduced, which will be punishable by unlimited fines and prison sentences of up to six months. The measures will apply to England.

Mr Butler told the House of Commons: “I’ve been very alarmed to hear of large-scale and dangerous hare coursing in my constituency where heavily-armed people are coming on to farmers’ land and they’re live streaming these chases to China where there is heavy betting being put on the chases. So will my right honourable friend support Thames Valley Police in their efforts to tackle this appalling offence and reassure farmers in Buckinghamshire that rural crime will always be taken seriously by this Government?”

Home Secretary Priti Patel replied: “(Mr Butler) is absolutely right, he knows the strength of feeling around this issue amongst the frontbench and colleagues on our side of the House, which is why we have the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Bill that we’re urging everyone to back. And I’d like to commend Thames Valley Police in particular for everything they’re doing on this.”

## **Controversial Care Home in Wing re-opens**

Rumours are strong that the Carey Lodge care home in Wing that closed, due in part to receiving an inadequate rating, is to re-open.

The closure was reported in a previous Chronicle.



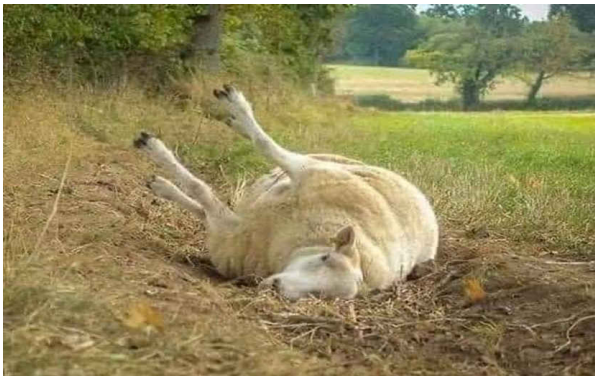
Tracy Jones from Wing wrote on the Wing page, “Just heard that Fremantle are looking to open Carey Lodge again after they closed it down due to financial difficulties. Made all the residents move out, some of which died as a result and many good carers redundant just to save their bacon. This should not be allowed to happen and as a community a stand should be made.

Ruth Dennis replied, “My mum died as a result of that home closing down and having to move her in the final stages of her life. I asked Fremantle, in front of many witnesses at the meeting they held, who was responsible for the closing of the home and they said they were.....therefore they are also to

blame for the many deaths that followed.”

She continued, “As families, we are taking our time and gathering our strength, then we will take the necessary action to ensure that those to blame are held responsible.”

**Sheep:** To all walkers / countryside users. If you happen to come across a sheep lying on its back with its legs up, it is cast. Please be so kind as to tip / roll them back over.



If left like this they can die as they cannot get up. Especially important this time of year as most will be carrying lambs!

## ***Aston Abbots Best Kept Village 2022***



Aston Abbots enters Best Kept Villages 2022.

Let's try and retain our trophy.

## **How you can help**

This is very much a community effort and one of the things that made our entry stand out in 2019 was how villagers put attractive hanging baskets and pots around the village – the judges recognised we were proud of our environment.

**Such a community effort is recognised in the scoring by the judges, which also features (total score available = 200):**

**Cemetery, graveyard (separate or attached to a place of worship) 20**

**Green, playing field, children's play area, nature conservation area 40**

**Floral Displays (hanging baskets, tubs, planters) 10**

**Village hall, community centre, church hall 20**

**General environmental features (hedges, verges, ditches, pond, stream, pump) 20**

**Areas around shops & pub 20**

**Bus stops, bus shelters and notice boards 20**

**War memorial 20**

**Overall appearance, lack of litter & evidence of community effort 30**

# ***3W Friends Surgery***

We are looking for patients from the Wing, Whitchurch and Winslow surgeries to join the 3W Friends.

You will be supporting our practices by helping with fundraising which we use to support requests for equipment, enabling us to enhance patient care, comfort, and treatment.

No qualifications needed, just a willingness to help with such things as manning stalls, selling tickets, getting prizes etc., and to be able to attend a meeting once every 3 months.

For more information please contact;  
Jan Lewis – 07835461361

[jart.lewis@btinternet.com](mailto:jart.lewis@btinternet.com)

or: Amanda Tofield – 01296 640100  
[ac.tofield@gmail.com](mailto:ac.tofield@gmail.com)

## **PLATINUM JUBILEE LUNCH CELEBRATION (SUNDAY 5/6/2022)**

### **REMINDER**

Just a reminder about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee lunch on Sunday 5/6/2022. It will be day for everyone to remember and an event which is unlikely to be repeated in our lifetimes.

It will be situated on The Green, between 1 and 4pm, and anyone/families wanting to attend/be involved, bring their own tables, chairs, gazebos food and drink. (If you would like to attend but do not have a table/chairs, we have a

limited number that we can provide for the day ~ please let us know if this is the case)

In order that we can monitor numbers expected and organise accordingly, please let us know, either by emailing [jubilee@aston-abbotts.co.uk](mailto:jubilee@aston-abbotts.co.uk), contacting us on 07944 901848, or let us know if you see us around.

Don't forget to get your bunting and decorations for your tables, to make it look as festive as we can.

Pudding Competition: Have you managed to think of anything you would like to enter yet. Go on, give it a go!

As mentioned there will also be a drawing for the children to get involved with, together with music, and further games for children (to be confirmed)

We will be having another meeting in the village hall in May, for anyone to come and help bring it together - the date for this will be confirmed on Postie shortly. Any further updates, will be on Postie/via Facebook.

As previously mentioned, if you have a neighbour or know/ are related to someone in the village who doesn't read the Chronicle/ read postie on email or is not on Facebook, can you please have a chat with them to see if they are interested in joining us all for the day.

# Your Emails

If anyone has kids that are into bmx, scooters, or skateboards they will love the new skatepark that's just opened on Pitstone green. There's a really good play park next to it too, so there's something for little ones to do as well.

Local kids are still enjoying the facility, it was a lot busier when we arrived just before 6pm. I didn't witness any antisocial behaviour, just saw loads of teenagers having fun (a few adults too) with plenty of focus on progressive skills being practised. **Miles Kirby Wing Village (Edited)**

**Dear Ed**

We would like to thank Peter Knight for repairing and replacing the gate posts to the side entrance of the allotments.

**Colin Higgs & Allotmenters**

**Hi Pete**

**Aston Abbots Fete, 23rd July 2022**

Help is still needed, particularly with regard to:-

- **Someone to manage the car park on the Recreation Ground on the day of the Fete.**
- **A qualified first-aided to be available during the Fete.**
- **People to "relieve" stall holders so that they can have a break.**

If you are able to help with any of the above then please let me know.

Many thanks

**Janet Walker.** Coordinator

Email: [janet@sewart.net](mailto:janet@sewart.net). Mobile: 07929 242739

**Hello all**

**Support the village hall - Buckinghamshire Lottery**

If you like a lottery, then could you think about supporting your village hall in the Buckinghamshire Lottery? It's been going for a few years now and the hall gets a small but regular payment from those who play the lottery every week. There is a chance you will win some cash. (OK you probably won't! we've had a few £25 prizes but are still waiting for the big one)... but the hall wins every time, and a percentage also goes to other good causes in the county.

It's online, with tickets costing £1 per week. Sometimes there is a national prize - the draw on 23 April has a B&Q voucher for £1,000 as an extra prize.

<https://www.buckinghamshirelottery.co.uk/> for details, and search for Aston Abbots Village Hall if you'd like to nominate us as your charity.

Many thanks

**Caroline Lane (chair, Aston Abbots Village Hall Trust)**

[carolinelane@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinelane@btinternet.com)



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## ***What's on in Aston Abbotts for May***

<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>
Morning Cafe	Village Hall	Every Thursday 10.00 - 11.30
Rambling Club	Dobbies	Sunday 1st. 14.00
Whist Drive.	Village Hall	Thursday 5th/19th 19.30
Bingo	Village Hall	Thursday 12th 19.30
<b><i>Village Clean UP for Best Kept Village Judging. Cleaning signs, Litter Pick, Bus Shelters etc.</i></b>	<b><i>Village Hall</i></b>	<b><i>Saturday 14th 10.00</i></b>
Yoga	Village Hall	Every Wednesday 18.00
Bus Journey		Friday 27th 10.00 bus to Ayles

### ***SONGS OF PRAISE – SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE – 6pm***

Come and celebrate our wonderful Queen's 70 years on the throne at a very special Songs of Praise led by our Rector, the Revd Howard Robson, to be held in St James the Great Church at 6 o'clock on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. A fitting conclusion to the Jubilee weekend.

Well known hymns and readings with particular favourites of the Queen - and as well as Nigel on the organ and keyboard, Annie will be giving a few drum rolls too!

It would be lovely to see a well filled church for such a unique and special occasion. Everyone welcome.

**Caroline Abel Smith (Churchwarden)**

***Aston Abbotts Quiz Night - Village Hall- Saturday 11th June 19.00 for 19.30 start. Tickets £3 from Pete Lucas 07544227991***

## ***In Bucks, the "Oldest pub in England" has appeared on Afterlife, Hot Fuzz and is loved by Ozzy Osbourne***

The Beaconsfield pub has welcomed celebrities Tom Hiddleston, Simon Pegg, and Downton Abbey star Dan Stevens

The Royal Standard is nestled in the heart of Beaconsfield.



(Image: Ian McIlgorm/ Royal Standard)

Buckinghamshire has one particular watering hole which is a truly remarkable spot which serves many weary travellers and those who live close by in the heart of Beaconsfield.

The Royal Standard of England, which hails itself as the country's oldest pub, is reputed to have even hid King Charles I in a priest hole of the roof space during the gruesome Civil War. It is even said the ale house is haunted by executed Cavaliers whose heads were raised up on pikes outside the pub door,

including that of a 12-year-old drummer boy.

An occasional sound of a drum beating in the car park is believed to beat through the pub, sounding the alarm of the young drummer boy, who was killed by the Roundheads in 1643. However at the Royal Standard, it is uttered the pub was given its name by Charles II, who rewarded the pub for supporting his father. It was previously known as 'The Ship'.

The historic pub is buzzing with life and boasts unique gnarled timbers and carved oak panels which has reportedly been serving its community for more than 900 years. Those who enter are welcomed by its mediaeval tiled floor and warming smell of wood smoke and hearty dishes, which flood out of its kitchen.



The alehouse charm has even played host to multiple award winning movies and TV series such as Afterlife 3, The Theory of Everything, Will, as well as featuring in numerous Endeavour and Midsomer Murders episodes.

Matthew O'Keeffe, owner of the pub, said, the Royal Standard has been featured in the upcoming The Essex Serpent, starring Tom Hiddleston, and the Netflix TV series Straight Shooter. It has welcomed through its ancient doors countless celebrities such as Ozzy Osbourne, Mary Berry, Downton Abbey star Dan Stevens and Ricky Gervais.

The pub offers a charming location to cosy up with a book. They also welcome people's four legged friends and wellies who are looking for respite after a walk.

## ***BUCKS PUB IS ONE OF THE BEST IN SOUTH EAST***

A BUCKS pub has been named one of the best venues in the South East - and is set to compete for the title of National Pub and Bar of the year.



The Nags Head in Great Missenden fought off stiff competition to be crowned, along with seven other venues, one of the best in the South East - and the best in Bucks.



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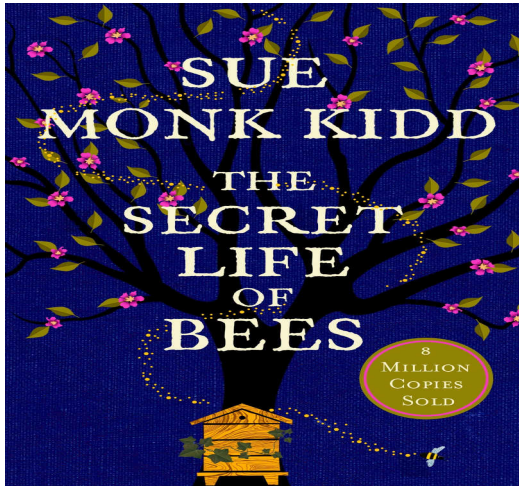
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# Book Club

## The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd



### Resume:

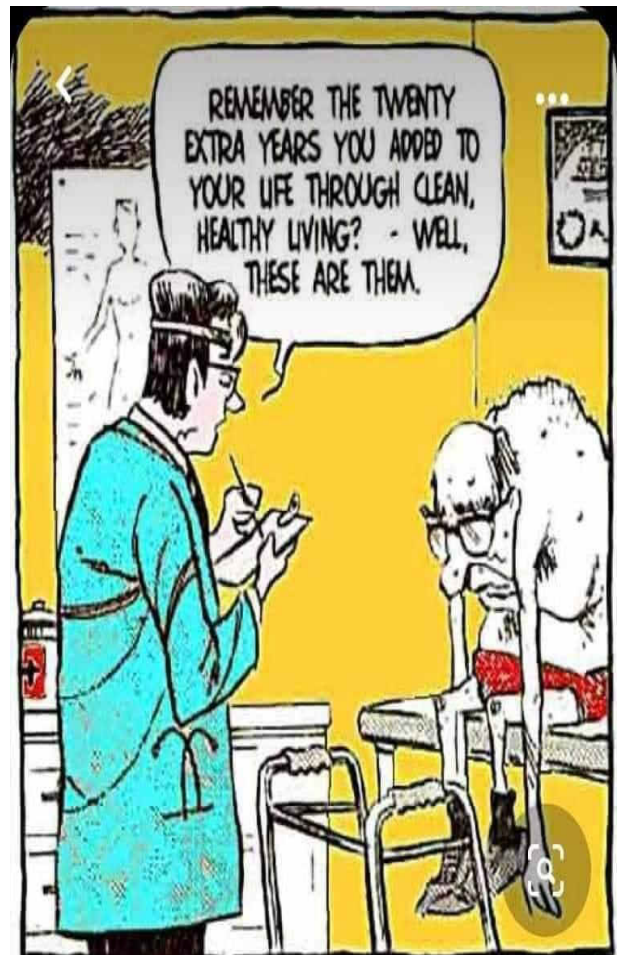
Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was four years old. Now, at fourteen, she yearns for forgiveness and a mother's love. Living on a peach farm in South Carolina with her harsh and unforgiving father, she has only one friend, Rosaleen, a black servant.

When racial tension explodes one summer afternoon, and Rosaleen is arrested and beaten, Lily chooses to flee with her.

Fugitives from justice, the pair follow a trail left by the woman who died ten years before. Finding sanctuary in the home of three beekeeping sisters, Lily starts a journey as much about her understanding of the world as about the mystery surrounding her mother.

### Book Club:

We all enjoyed this book, finding it well written and easy to read. Set in the American South in 1964, it features the inherent racism of the time while giving dignity to both black and white characters, as well as aspects of civil rights, when black people were first given the right to vote. This is the background to Lily's story, and although we found some of the characters rather stereotypical, everyone thought it was a good read and would recommend it to others.

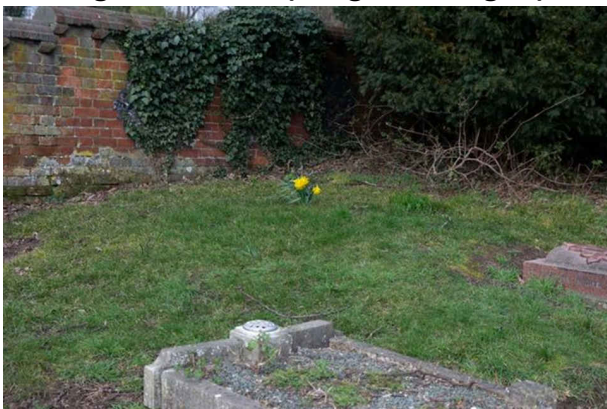


# ***The tragic life of Ruth Ellis, the last woman hanged in Britain***

## **How she became reburied in Bucks**

Ellis wrote, "I have always loved your son, and I shall die still loving him," in a final letter to Blakely's parents from her prison cell

**The grave of Ruth Ellis - the last woman to be hanged in Britain (Image: Ian Vogler)**



The British nightclub hostess and convicted murderer Ruth Ellis was the last woman to be hanged in the UK and she was buried in the county of Buckinghamshire. She led a chaotic life as she had a number of relationships with men, including her lover David Blakely - a racing car driver - who was engaged to another woman.

After shooting Blakely on Easter Sunday on April 10, 1955 outside The Magdala public house in Hampstead, she was arrested immediately by an off-duty policeman. She was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to

death where she was hanged at HMP Holloway on July 13 that same year.

She was buried within the walls of the prison with an unmarked grave but was reburied in the early 1970s as her remains were exhumed for reburial in the churchyard of St Mary's Church in Amersham. Her headstone read: "Ruth Hornby 1926–1955", but her son Andy destroyed the headstone before he committed suicide in 1982.

Ellis's life was tragic as she suffered from abusive relationships, miscarriages and sex work where she was often blackmailed by her manager to have sex with him. Her case is still debated today which begs the question, would she have even been found guilty of murder today?

There are a number of factors that might have caused a different verdict today. Blakely was consistently violent towards Ellis and she even miscarried after he punched her in the stomach. This could mean that she would have been found guilty of manslaughter rather than murder.

Blakely was not the only abusive relationship she suffered. She married a man, George Ellis, a

41-year-old divorced dentist with two sons. He was a violent alcoholic who was jealous and possessive which made the marriage soon diminish as he was convinced his new wife was cheating.

Ruth left him several times but always returned until they divorced after she had their daughter Georgina. While she was pregnant she even appeared as a beauty queen in the film *Lady Godiva Rides Again* uncredited. She and her daughter moved in with her parents and she returned to sex work to make ends meet.

Ellis had also dated a man called Desmond Cussen, a former Royal

Air Force pilot, who apparently gave her the loaded gun that killed Blakely after he drove her to the scene of the murder. Some people believe that Cussen's role in the murder should have been explored as he denied giving her the gun and emigrated to Australia.

There was even a BBC documentary on the topic in 2018 as her case had gone on for years until 2003 where it was referred to the Court of Appeal. It was rejected as "it could rule only on the conviction based on the law as it stood in 1955"

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[bowleysamanthat@gmail.com](mailto:bowleysamanthat@gmail.com)



# ***The Bletchley Park codebreaker who was persecuted by the country he helped save from Nazism***

## **He died from cyanide poisoning**

Jenna Outhwaite

The new Alan Turing £50 note - Mr Turing was known for his work at Bletchley Park.



Back in 1954, a codebreaker who worked at Bletchley Park, died from cyanide poisoning just 16 days before his 42nd birthday.

That codebreaker, mathematician, computer scientist, philosopher, cryptanalyst and theoretical biologist was none other than Alan Turing.

Turing played a vital part during World War II as he helped the British government pioneer the technology to decrypt secret communications from Nazi Germany.

He is credited for shortening the war and saving lives as he mastered the British Bombe machine at Bletchley Park.

In 1952, he was prosecuted for homosexual acts as this was not legalised until 1967. He was forced to endure chemical castration as an alternative to prison.

When he died two years later, an inquest into his death determined that it was suicide - but this is still debated as it has been noted that the evidence shows consistency with accidental poisoning.

Critics have said that murder could not be ruled out as Turing knew a lot about cryptanalysis at the time of his death.

His death also came at a time when homosexuals were seen as threats to national security as Cold War tensions with the Soviet Union.

Queen Elizabeth II granted Turing a posthumous pardon in 2013 for his conviction of gross indecency.

On June 23, 2021 he had his face featured on the new £50 banknote to celebrate his achievements and recognise the values he symbolises.

Despite being a leading mathematician and a pioneer within computer science, he was gay which led him to being treated appallingly.

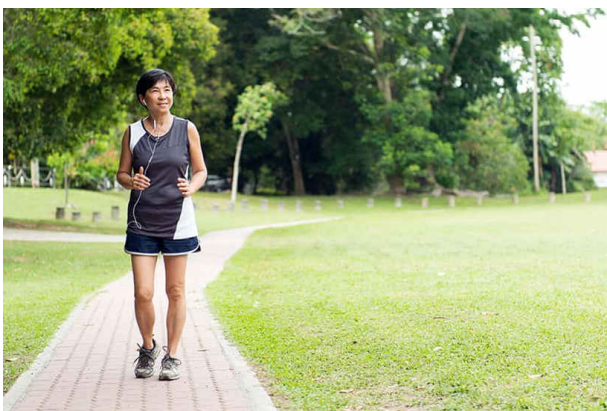
# ***Two Birds with one stone whilst walking***

We all know that walking is good for our physical and mental health. But it can be hard to find the time or motivation to walk as much as we should. And sometimes, no matter how much we try to increase our daily step count, it doesn't always seem possible – or desirable.

So why not try combining walking with another activity? Not only can this make walking seem more interesting and enjoyable, it can also be a way to tick tasks off your to-do list and get more things done.

To help make walking seem that bit more appealing, here are a few different rewarding activities you can do while walking.

## **Listen to an audiobook or some music**



If you enjoy reading but can't seem to find the time to get into a good book, then why not listen to an audiobook while going for a walk?

Heading out for a walk while listening to your book is a fun and healthy way to get some me-time.

Of course, you don't have to listen to audiobooks when you're walking. Listening to music can be restorative, invigorating, and relaxing, depending on the genre of music you're listening to – so if you don't already use Spotify, then you might want to check it out.

Spotify is a digital streaming site home to millions of songs and podcasts, and it's great for discovering new artists as well as listening to old favourites.

You could even learn a language whilst walking.

## **Practise photography**



The beauty of living in such a digital age is that you don't need to go walking with a heavy DSLR camera around your neck. These days, smartphones can take exceptional, professional-looking photos, so most of us already have a camera on hand wherever we go.

You could go walking and just see what strikes you – or you could set out with a particular theme in mind, such as trees, cars, old buildings, pedestrians, and so on.

### **Practise gratitude**

Gratitude is a form of optimism that encourages us to feel happier and more fulfilled and helps us focus on the things we do have, rather than fixating on what's missing. Gratitude can be an especially important skill to have when we face challenges in life because it can help us to maintain emotional balance.

### **Chat to family or friends on the phone**



Staying connected to friends and family is important for our mental health. For example, it can help tackle feelings of loneliness. Sometimes, however, it can still be tricky to find the right time or headspace to give loved ones a call... so why not chat to family and friends while walking?

### **Write something**

Whether you're writing a poem, working on a book, putting together a lengthy and important email, or writing a journal entry – voicing your ideas on your phone is a great way to save time. Sometimes, recording a voice note helps you get a new perspective on your thoughts and feelings.

Hearing your words spoken out loud is a great way to pick up on what works and what doesn't, so this is a great technique for editing your writing.

### **Go geocaching**



Geocaching is an enjoyable outdoor activity where you look for small, waterproof, hidden treasure boxes known as 'geocaches'.

There are thousands of geocaches hidden throughout the country, whether tucked away in tree branches, buried on beaches, or hidden on the side of a hill.

To find these geocaches, you just need a GPS-enabled device and the

free geocaching app. After that, all you have to do is follow the coordinates (or waypoints) and locate the hidden treasure.

Geocaching is an exciting and original way to do more walking and discover new places. Give it a go just once and you might find that you have an enduring new hobby. Head over to the Geocaching website to download the app and find out more.

### **Raise money for charity**

If you're looking for some seriously powerful motivation to keep walking, then why not think about walking for charity?

You can do charity walks solo or with friends and family. The first step in planning a charity walk is deciding on your charity – so first, have a think about which causes are most important to you.

For more information, you might want to check out these charity walk pages: [Mind](#), [Cancer Research UK](#), [Marie Curie](#), [Alzheimer's Society](#), and [British Heart Foundation \(BHF\)](#). There are also many local charities to consider.

### **Problem-solve**

If you have a problem that you're worrying about – or a decision

you're finding hard to make – one of the best things you can do is head outside and walk. [Multiple studies](#) show that walking helps boost creativity, generate new ideas, and provide a new perspective. Plus, because oxygen intake increases while you're walking, it can also help you feel calmer and more clear-headed.

Walking is so beneficial for problem-solving that it's formed part of the daily routines of some of the world's top thinkers.

Tchaikovsky walked every morning before working on his music, Einstein liked to stroll on the beach when he needed to think about a challenging problem, and Steve Jobs famously preferred to conduct his meetings while taking a stroll. As German philosopher Nietzsche stated more than 100 years ago, "All truly great thoughts are conceived by walking."

You don't need to walk long distances or work up a sweat to reap the benefits of walking. Simply stepping away from your situation, heading outside, and walking around the block can provide the distance you need and help you approach any issues from a new angle.

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# *Fatal Attraction*

Reviewed by Pete Lucas.



## **Manipulative, Possessiveness, Vulnerability & Control,**

*For me personally, this brilliant stage play I saw at the Waterside Theatre Aylesbury, based on the 1980s classic film, with a different twist at the end, made for uncomfortable watching, because I once experienced a similar scenario, although without the knives, bunny boiling and death.*

We all know the storyline. A weekend of freedom, drink and one or two night stand. Then the stalking, obsessive, controlling and violent behaviour of one side of the affair. The guilt, destruction and the final fatal outcome.

The play was full of the story with no boring bits. You didn't want to miss a

bit. It was raunchy and violent at times, mischievous, dark with a haunting soundtrack to add to the drama.



The leading characters Alex Forrest, the psycho, played by Susie Amy, Ian Gallagher, the husband whose brains dropped to his penis, (Oliver Farnworth, I remember from Corry') and Beth Gallagher, the portrayed wife (Louise Rednapp, *although I saw her understudy play the part*) did well to keep the audience glued to the stage throughout.

The downside for me were the loud fake New York accents, especially from Oliver Farnworth. He became annoying to the ear.

In my humble opinion, I believe as well as changing the ending, which was not expected, the Director, Loveday Ingram, should have made it an English production away from New York.

If you get the chance to see this play, go for it. You won't be disappointed.

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# ***St James Aston Abbotts Church Services May***

<b>1st</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>09.30</b>	<b>Breakfast in village hall. Then all ages, Lay led service in church.</b>
<b>22nd</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>29th</b>		<b>No service in Aston Abbotts so 09.30am Benefice Eucharist, Wingrave and 11.00 Benefice Eucharist, Wing</b>

## ***Church - not just a building - It's people***

Well, here we are in May. The big Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter are over and nothing now until harvest! Well, not exactly. May sees the celebration of Ascension Day, the day post Easter when Jesus' followers saw him return, ascend, to his Father. The days of school children going to church and then having the day off for Ascension Day are long gone and perhaps Ascensiontide has slipped off the radar, but that doesn't mean it's not important.

But surely, we are way beyond Christmas? Why mention it? The Christian faith proclaims that God came here so that we may know Him without having to follow secret rules or knowledge. And God came in His Son Jesus at Christmas so Ascensiontide completes the link.

Divinity and our humanity are bound up together.

Ascension is important because Jesus told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they had received power from on high and then, to spread out into the world beyond. The gospel did radiate out and believers see that as confirming Jesus' Ascension Day promise that power would come in his name and the church would grow. Which is after all, why we have a church in all our eight villages.

Yes, there is a church in each of our eight villages, but the Church isn't a building; the Church is people. Jesus spoke to all people and through the life of our churches it would be a pleasure to meet with you.

With every blessing, **Rev'd Howard Robson.**



## Church Matters – May 2022



The Easter service was different this year - lay led, with a lively re-enactment of the discovery of the open tomb on Easter morning. This was followed by egg-rolling and an egg hunt in the churchyard, and attended by 36 people young and old. The church flowers looked beautiful and there was a stunning model of the open tomb on display - complete with rolled-away stone, Jesus risen, angels, and shocked bystanders. Thank you to everyone. Egg-rolling champions were Rowen Clough and Janet Walker!

A huge thankyou to our outgoing treasurer David Gray, who has done so much for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the village over the last few years and is (trying) to take a bit of a rest. So, welcome to Andy Bystra, looking after the church fabric; and Annie Pettie is now the person to ask about the allotments. But...

New treasurer? Although we have covered some of what David did, we still need a new treasurer to administer the bank accounts and do the annual sums. Can you help?

You don't need to be a churchgoer or to be on the PCC. Please contact any PCC member (see below) or David himself to find out more.

Tea with the Bishop – 3pm Sunday 8 May, in Rowsham – come along for tea and cake and meet Bishop Alan (Bishop of Buckingham). A chance for people in this deanery (churchgoers or not) to get together, followed by a short open-air service. Sunneyhill Close, opposite 11 Brewhouse Lane. Details from Val Plumb 01844 239347 or Annie Cooper 07860 140041

**Caroline Lane, PCC secretary (01296 681373, [carolinelane@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinelane@btinternet.com))**

**PCC members: Caroline Abel Smith (churchwarden), Caroline Lane, Anita Parker, Lesley Clough, Ro Knight, Ann Goodman, Annie Pettie, Andy Bystra**

### Church Duties May

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
6/7	David/Colin	Wedding
13/14	Alex/Anita	Donated
20/21	Carolin L/Ann	Donated
27/28	Colin/Gay	Colin

### 100 Club Draw April

**1<sup>st</sup> prize, £50 – June Cox**

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize, £10 – Sophi White**

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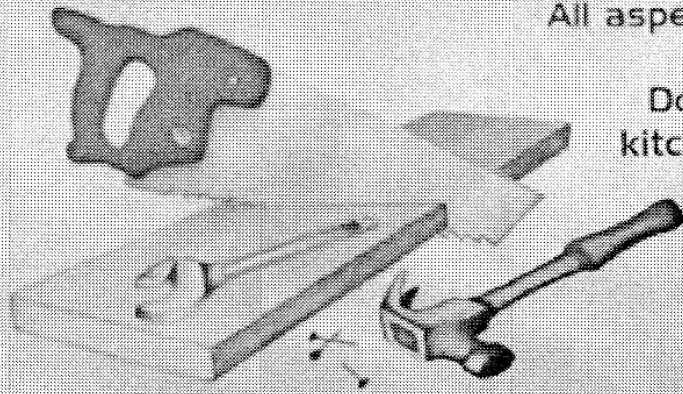
The farm shop is located on the A418 between Aylesbury and Wing. Parking is available onsite.

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## ***Jimmy Savile: Terror at Stoke Mandeville Hospital***

### **A new Netflix documentary delves into Savile's monstrous past**

A new Netflix documentary charting the rise and earth-shattering fall of a former light entertainment icon will stir painful memories for his victims in Buckinghamshire. Jimmy Savile: A British Horror Story, a miniseries comprising two 45-minute episodes, was released exclusively on the popular streaming service last month.



Its first episode charts the notorious sex offender's rise from radio DJ to TV presenter, when he ingratiated himself with powerful people including prime ministers, princes and even the Pope. The second part explores in more detail how his fame and philanthropy gave him access to the vulnerable adults and children he abused – including patients at Aylesbury's Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Savile began working voluntarily as a porter at the Aylesbury hospital in 1969. In this role he would transport patients between departments, with unrestricted access to anywhere within the grounds.

But despite ongoing rumours of sexual deviancy and predation – fuelled partly by his own bizarre comments during interviews – no checks were made by managers on his suitability for the role, due to his status as one of Britain's favourite entertainers. Several junior staff members were quick to complain about the star's constant sexual innuendo, which caused considerable “annoyance and distress”, an NHS report found in 2015.

Published four years after Savile's death, it revealed the TV presenter had been given free reign to sexually abuse 60 people at Stoke Mandeville over 20 years. This included 19 of the hospital's patients, 11 of whom were under 16.

Journalist Dominic Carman, who also appears in the Netflix film, describes how decades of schmoozing with Britain's elite put Savile in a position to commit his dreadful crimes. “Powerful friends can certainly help,” he says.

Carman explains that Savile was a member of “an invisible club” in which “you can find yourself afforded a degree of protection and sympathy which wouldn't be the same were you just an ordinary person in the street.”

When a severe snowstorm damaged parts of the hospital in 1979, Savile led a national campaign to fundraise £10 million for its reconstruction. This included several million pounds from the Government's war chest,

contributed by then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The new facilities were opened in 1983 by the Prince of Wales – who shared the spotlight on the day with the now-disgraced DJ, heaping praise upon his efforts. In the new documentary, archive footage shows hospital staff describing Savile as “the driving force” behind the rebuild and “a saint”, adding that “this place would not be in existence without Jimmy Savile”.

In 1980, Government ministers had appointed Savile chief fundraiser of the new National Spinal Injuries Centre – making the Stoke Mandeville-based unit entirely dependent on him for its resources. This was despite at least ten complaints about his behaviour between 1972 and 1985, none of which were raised with senior managers or taken seriously, the 2015 report’s authors found.

Savile exerted an “ever increasingly difficult and trouble-making influence at the hospital,” they added, which was “often detrimental to service management”. This position also gave him access to new victims in the form of young fundraisers, victims who “felt unable at the time to report Savile’s behaviour” because “they feared they would not be believed as Savile was seen as being a powerful and influential figure”.

The authors summarised the TV presenter as “an opportunistic predator who could also on occasions show a high degree of premeditation

when planning attacks on his victims”. Their 350-page inquiry detailed dozens of attacks, ranging from inappropriate touching to rape, against victims aged 8 to 40. These were possible because Savile had accommodation on site and could access any part of the hospital complex at any time of day or night.

It documented Savile’s unfettered access and influence at the hospital – including an incident during the 1990s when he told the trust’s new chairman, “you can get your f\*\*\*ing tanks off my f\*\*\*ing lawn, Sunshine – I run this place”. The report concluded that “at no stage were senior managers made aware of either his sexual offending or his unsatisfactory portering performance and poor moral behaviour”.

It also featured quotes from dozens of Savile’s victims. One told investigators: “There are so many messed up lives... it ruins everything, your relationships with another human being – the things you are supposed to have.”

A second said: “I did not know what had happened. I did not understand what had happened. I knew it felt wrong and I felt dirty and I went to clean myself and I just wanted to wash myself again and again.”

Another confessed: “I feel quite guilty. Before I didn’t feel it; I was embarrassed and I felt ashamed and all these other things but I didn’t feel responsible for other people. Somehow or other over this whole process I began to feel a little bit

responsible for what had happened to other people.”

In the new Netflix film, entertainment journalist Lynn Barber confirms that rumours Savile was a child molester were rife even by this time. “What was striking was how many people said to me, ‘You know he likes little girls?’” the former Independent on Sunday writer says, calling it “a very widespread rumour”.

But she maintains that proof of this depraved activity was hard to come by. “So you’d have the same thing from twenty people which made them sound plausible,” she explains, “but then you have to get some backup. ‘Have you any evidence for this?’ And they never did.”

Because none of the Stoke Mandeville allegations were escalated, “no intelligence about Savile’s behaviour was gathered over the years and no action was taken,” the 2015 report found – and so he would die before justice could be done.

In the aftermath of the 2015 report, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health Una O’Brien today called its revelations “shocking”. She said the revelations made clear that “inadequate or absent processes... enabled Jimmy Savile to acquire and maintain a position of authority at the hospital, which gave him access to the people who subsequently became victims of his crimes”.

The civil servant acknowledged that “there were no proper procedures for

his appointment, and that no subsequent checks and balances were put in place” until the 1990s, when the hospital gained NHS Trust status.

From this point, the 2015 report acknowledged, hospital bosses were able to tackle Savile “head on” and, over the next several years, diminish his authority at the site. The advent of national guidance on whistleblowing and complaint procedures, background checks and volunteer management began creating an environment which was less conducive to Savile’s authority or abuse.

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust now has policies in place to prevent a repeat of the Savile years – but horrendous damage had already been done to his dozens of victims there, not to mention other vulnerable people at Duncroft School for Girls, and elsewhere.

The 2015 report concluded that “all NHS services should be alert to predatory sexual offenders like Savile who can be placed in a position of trust and authority”, as “individuals like Savile operate covertly and use their influence to further their own ends in such a manner that may not be immediately obvious to those around them”.

But as documentaries like Jimmy Savile: A British Horror Story are now revealing, the monster’s abuses may well have been more obvious to more people than would like to admit it.

# 7 health benefits of doing jigsaw puzzles

## 1. Doing jigsaws can be good for your physical health

Jigsaw puzzles can help you relax, and may reduce heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing rate as a result. They can also be excellent for improving and maintaining our fine motor skills (making the manipulation of small objects easier).

## 2. Puzzling can improve and maintain intellectual and thinking skills

When completing a puzzle, you'll need to call on your problem-solving, decision-making, and strategic planning skills to achieve your goal – helping you to practise and strengthen these skills. This can help to keep your brain agile, competent, and sharp.

## 3. Doing jigsaw puzzles can improve your working memory

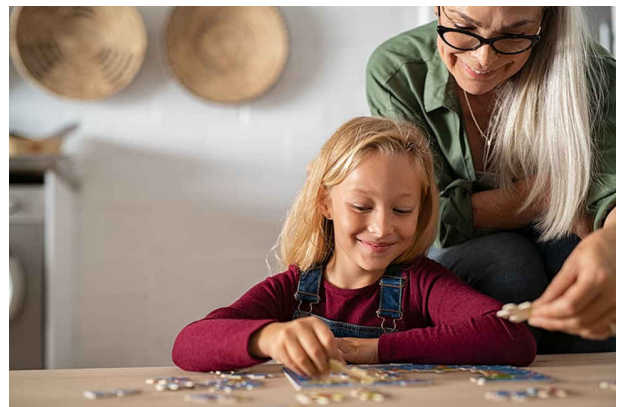
When you're sorting through the puzzle pieces looking for a piece that is a specific colour and shape, these details get retained in your working memory and help to reinforce the connections between brain cells. This can make your thought processing faster. Boosting your working memory helps with actions such as remembering where you left your

keys, or even where you parked your car.

## 4. Jigsaw puzzles can make you feel good

When a puzzle piece is correctly fitted in the puzzle, the level of dopamine (a 'feel-good' hormone) produced by our brain is thought to rise, leading to a feeling of accomplishment and fulfilment. It's also been suggested by some psychologists that spending time concentrating on something specific, like a jigsaw puzzle, can ease [stress and anxiety](#), and reduce fatigue. And when we're relaxed, our productivity, self-confidence, and overall sense of wellbeing can improve.

## 5. Jigsaws can help you connect with your family and friends.



Why not start a jigsaw puzzle on a table in your living room, dining room, or any area in your house where others can get easy access to it? You could then encourage your family to connect a few pieces of the puzzle whenever they have a moment to sit down and focus on it. For those who have teenagers or young children in their lives, doing a

jigsaw puzzle together can also be an effective way to start a conversation.

## **6. Jigsaw puzzles can benefit children too**

Those with young children – whether it be your own children or your grandchildren – will know that their minds can dart from one thing to the next and never stay in one place for very long. This can mean that they're less likely to sit still when they're at school, listen to what's said, and get on with the task at hand.

But, solving jigsaw puzzles can help to increase their concentration span. Decision making and reasoning skills

are also developed by doing puzzles and this can benefit children throughout their lives.

## **7. Puzzling can give you time to yourself**

Jigsaws are great if you need some "me" time. They allow you to take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life – and from the unrelenting stimulus of today's digital lifestyle. Solving jigsaw puzzles can help to reduce screen time

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



# Allotment Diary



Well, it's that wonderful time of the year, when, for the only time, my allotment looks immaculate. Adam has rotavated it twice, finishing up with parallel ploughed lines; and I have done my initial planting, placing labelled sticks at the beginning of each planted row; and there is not a weed in sight! It will of course go downhill from here, but it is nice to enjoy it while I can.

We have moved my carrot cage and remaining raspberry bushes next to the greenhouse, so that he had a nice, clean rectangle to rotavate – and yes, I did manage to bring down the rest of my compost to be ploughed in.

I was a little surprised to read in my paper recently that only a third of gardeners make their own compost, according to a survey carried out by the Royal Horticultural Society. I appreciate that I am in a better position to do so than most gardeners, having the benefit of grass clippings and leaves from a large garden, but would have expected more gardeners to make what compost they could, since, as the RHS says, doing so is “a free, easy and sustainable” alternative to commercial products.

Curiously, although the proportion of gardeners who did make compost increased with age, so did resistance to the practice, with a higher proportion of over-55s saying that nothing would make them start compared with younger age groups.

As well as my compost chambers at home, I also have a very large compost heap on my allotment. This has been getting larger each year, since it had become unusable due to the enormous number of nettles growing on it. However, this year I have covered it with a large piece of pond liner which was spare, and I am hoping that by next winter/spring I will be able to add compost from it to my allotment – although I'll have to make sure that I do not start transplanting the nettles, since they are brutes to kill off.

Since the weather was so fine over Easter (and I did not fancy adding to the traffic jams over the country), I have now planted all my potatoes – first and second early and maincrop – my onions and shallots, parsnips and beetroot. I have also started off my leeks, French beans, tomatoes, courgettes and cucumbers in the greenhouse. Adam and I have also planted our sweetcorn: some directly into the allotment, and some in pots of compost in the greenhouse. I feel at the moment that I am ahead of the game! But that will soon change when the weeds start appearing!

**Peter Shorrocks**

## ***Fun activities to do with kids & Grandkids***

Any quality time you spend with your children, nieces, nephews, or grandchildren is well-spent – but sometimes, you might need a little inspiration to figure out how to make the most of it.

Whether you want to get creative, go for a day out, or you need ideas for what to do when you're apart, we hope you'll find something you want to try with your loved ones.

### **Creative activities**

**Cook a meal together.** For kids who enjoy helping out in the kitchen, cooking a meal together could be a great way to spend some quality time together. Working together on a delicious meal or dish can be fun, but it's also a good opportunity for kids to learn some culinary skills.



If you have a signature dish, why not teach them how to cook it? If they already look forward to your speciality when they visit for dinner, they'll probably be just as excited to learn the recipe as you are to teach it.

**Take on a D.I.Y. craft project** There are all sorts of ways to get creative and crafty – but taking on a project that involves lots of imagination can be amusing for children and adults of any age.

Many crafts can be made with bits and bobs you'll probably already have lying around the house. There's bound to be an afternoon of creative fun for just about any child to enjoy.

**Make a time capsule.** Kids of any age will likely enjoy making a time capsule. Picking out what you want to share with the world can be exciting for both of you, and it's also a chance to get them thinking about what the future might be like.

They might want to include personal items, write letters, or even make their own crafts or drawings to leave for the citizens of the future.



**Play music together.** If you play an instrument, why not share your love of music with your loved ones? No matter their age, chances are they'll be fascinated with what you can do, and might even want to have a go themselves.

If you have a child, niece, nephew, or grandchild who plays their own instrument or enjoys singing, then it

could be lots of fun to play together, too – you could even put on a performance for your family.

**Visit a museum.** There's a wide variety of intriguing museums to visit around the UK. Whether you and your loved ones are interested in art, science, human history, or even dinosaurs, there's likely to be a day out that's right for you.

Locally, Tring museum is a great place for children and adults alike.

**See a show.** Why not take the kids to go see a show? Whether it's a concert, a pantomime, or even just a movie at the cinema, everybody loves a night of entertainment. Plus, it'll likely be something you'll be talking about for a long time after.

Locally we have a great theatre and cinema. And if you fancy catching a movie with very young children, it's worth looking out for showings specifically for kids – some Vue locations, for example, offer 'Mini Mornings', where tickets to family-friendly films cost only £2.49. For another example, Odeon cinemas offer Odeon Kids screenings every weekend, and every day during school holidays.

**Take a walk in nature.** When all else fails, the beauty of the natural world is always there for us. Whether or not your kids enjoy long walks, even taking a quick trip to go for a stroll on a picturesque track can be a

lovely, relaxing experience for the whole family.

**For Indoors. Build a blanket fort.** If you have very young children in your life, then building a blanket fort can be the perfect way to spend a day indoors. They'll love having an adventure in their own living or bedroom, and the finished product makes a great space to let their imaginations run wild.



You can build a blanket fort with just about anything you like laying around the house – and figuring out how to do it can be a big part of the fun. But, you can also buy kits to help you construct a solid frame, which can really take their fort to the next level.

**Explore the world of books.** While younger children will often enjoy a good bedtime story, reading is important for all kids (and adults). So, why not try reading your loved one a favourite book from your childhood, or one you've picked out especially for them?

**Get out the photo albums and home videos.** Kids who are a little older will especially appreciate this, but digging out old photo albums and home videos can be fun for the

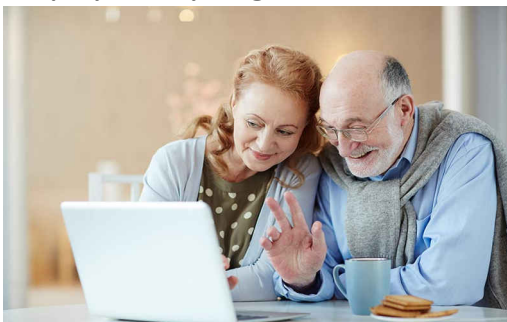
whole family.



Seeing themselves when they were younger, while learning a bit more about your own life, can be a great experience – and you'll likely end up whiling away many hours exploring your family history together. You could even try tracing your family tree together.

**Have a movie night.** While going to the cinema can be fun, it can be just as enjoyable to have a movie night at home every once in a while. You could pick out a fun family movie, grab some popcorn or other classic movie snacks, and set up on the couch with a cosy blanket.

**When you can't be with them, Play games online.** Since the start of the pandemic, casual online games have become a lot more accessible. If you're on a video call with your family, it's easy to set up and play games that don't need a board or other elements that require you to be physically together.



For example, if you want to play a game like Pictionary, all you each need is some paper and a pen, and this Pictionary word generator – and you're all set for a long-distance game night.

Alternatively, web browser games are a great way to have some fun with your family, as long as you're on a PC. One popular favourite is Gartic Phone – a game where players have to draw and guess each other's prompts, leading to hilarious results of miscommunication.

**Exchange letters and care packages.**

A more long-term activity to do with your loved ones, if you can't be together, is to exchange letters and/or care packages every now and then.



Why not start exchanging regular handwritten letters? Letter writing can be a fun creative activity for both you and the kids, and receiving them will be something you'll both look forward to.

## **Wingrave Diary MAY 2022**

**Wed 4 1000 WI meeting Methodist Church**

**Wed 4 1200 Last of the Summer Ukuleles  
Rose and Crown**

**Thu 5 1030 Coffee, Cake & Contemplation  
morning Parish Church**

**Thu 5 2000 Aldbury Morris Men Rose and  
Crown**

**Sun 8 1230 Swingrave dance Community  
Centre**

**Mon 9 0930 Weekday Walking Group  
ramble, contact Jan: 07813 085211**

**Tue 10 2000 Whitchurch Morris Men Rose  
and Crown**

**Wed 11 1200 Over 60s' Lunch Club Rose and  
Crown**

**Thu 12 1900 Quiz Night Rose & Crown**

**Fri 13 1930 Family Bingo Community Centre**

**Sat 14 0845 Men's Breakfast Talk: Methodist  
Church**

**Sat 14 1000 Gardener's Bring & Buy Parish  
Church**

**Sat 14 1500 Winstock Rose and Crown**

**Sun 15 0930 Local ramble 4-5 miles Nup End  
Lane**

**Sun 15 1200 Winstock Rose and Crown**

**Wed 18 1200 Last of the Summer Ukuleles  
Rose & Crown**

**Fri 20 1800 WCA family BBQ Community  
Centre**

**Sat 21 1900 WCA Spring "Dress to Impress"  
party Community Centre**

**Sun 29 1500 Cream teas start Parish Church**

**Mon 30-6Jn School half term holiday**

## **Who's Who**

**Chronicle Editor Pete Lucas 01296  
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**Village Hall Hire Nigel & Sally Palmer  
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**Men's 630 Club Andy Bystra 01296  
681690**

**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**

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[gordon.smith53@btinternet.com](mailto:gordon.smith53@btinternet.com)**

### ***Community Services***

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**Baby & Toddler Group Kim Gayler  
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**Stoke Mandeville Hospital 01296  
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**MP Greg Smith (Con) 01296 714240**

**Anglian Water 01296 385995**

**Pre School Wingrave 01296 681127**

**Wingrave School 01296 681436**

**Cottesloe School Wing 01296 688264**

## ***Aylesbury Remembered.***

A nice view of Kingsbury in the late 1940s. Kingsbury is an area of the town where the ancient Lords of Aylesbury had their manor house. The house itself was probably where Aylesbury Motor Company later had their premises, which is the large building on the right behind the buses.

A property called The Old Manor House was sold in the latter half of the nineteenth century and a new building was constructed on its site. Also of note is that the road surface in the foreground, stretching off to the right, is cobbled.

How smooth and level it looks. They really knew how to build properly in those days which is a far cry from today's Kingsbury where the present cobbles are in such a poor state after such a short time. It's a really bumpy ride through there - especially when cycling! There are plans to improve this area along with Market Square fairly soon.





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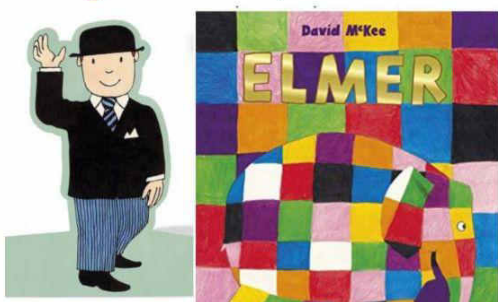


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### Author of the month

Celebrating David McGee, 1935-2022, author of the Elmer picture books and Mr Benn stories. We have a great selection of books in the library.



### Opening Times

**Tuesday 1400 - 1630**

**Wednesday 1000 - 1230**

**Friday 1400 - 1630**

**Saturday 1000 - 1230**

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

Are you entitled to concessionary rates? Ask in the library for more information.

Displays, celebrating this very special event, in the library from mid-May



**\*\*Stop Press\*\***

**New opening hours from 1<sup>st</sup> May  
Each session increased by 30 mins**

Join the library here

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







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# St George's Day March Aylesbury



# ***Aston Abbotts***



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