

Aston Abbotts Pop up Pub

**MEET
and
GREET**

Friday 1st July 7.30pm. Village Hall

An informal get together for new and old villagers to get to know each other and what goes on in our beautiful village.

Enjoy good background music, good company and make some new friends

Just £2 each for expenses and future funds

Due to licence issues, this is a bring your own drinks event.

Nibbles will be around the hall

Jubilee preparations (*More on back pages*)



BINGO
14TH JULY
In Aid of Cancer Research UK
Aston Abbots Village Hall
Doors open 7.00pm, bingo starts 7.30pm

From The Editor

Meet & Greet Evening

As you would have seen from the front page, the next Pop Up Pub event is an informal get together on Friday 1st July from 7.30pm. An evening to make new friends and although we emphasise 'informal'. it does give a chance for village clubs and maybe businesses to network with a few drinks and good music.

The July Quiz Night has been cancelled. So we hope to see you for the August 6th Quiz Night with some new categories and a 'Higher or lower game'. June's Quiz was a blast. Thanks to all who came along.

Last month I reported again on the HGVs coming through the village.

Just for your info', I wrote to the boss of Doherty Tippers, one of the problem companies. No reply. However, for the first week following my complaint, no lorries came through as far as I'm aware. Now they are back, but driving slower.

enquiries@dohertytippers.co.uk

I have written back with a further complaint. Please feel free to join me with these companies.



NB Overland: Sturton Road Farm North Leverton, North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe, Retford DN22 0AB Phone: 07855 489452



R R McMemmory Haulage Bailey House Ellisons Road, Norwood Industrial Estate, Killamarsh, Sheffield, S21 2JF

The next Chronicle is the September edition. Until then, take care. Pete Lucas. Editor.

Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting

An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 30th June at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome.

Kind regards Liz van Hullen Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. Aston Abbots Parish Council. 01494 758800

POP UP PUB



Quiz night

Village Hall Saturday 6th August

1st Saturday in every month

7.30pm with new categories,

Cash Prize plus Higher or lower prize

Bring your own drinks

Crisps & Nuts on tables

Tickets £3 per person in advance from

Pete Lucas 07544227991

Strictly a Maximum of 6 to a team

Councils given new powers to fine motorists for 'moving traffic offences'



Councils are now able to apply for new powers to fine motorists for offences like stopping on a yellow box junction, but many drivers fear it could become a money-making scheme. Moving traffic offences - which also include driving in a bus lane, making an illegal U-turn and going the wrong way down a one-way street - can only be enforced by the police in most areas of England and Wales.

The only current exceptions are London and Cardiff. But from Tuesday, May 31, all local authorities in England and Wales are able to apply for the power to fine motorists, from £20 for lower level fines paid promptly, up to £105 for late payment of more serious transgressions, such as parking on a cycle path.

Big Brother-style automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras will be used to regulate moving traffic offences.

Unlike funds raised from speed camera fines - which are transferred to central government - councils can keep surplus funds from moving traffic enforcement to fund highway improvements, environmental projects, or to pay for public transport.

The government says it expects councils to issue warning notices for first-time offences, before slapping motorists with fines. Ministers believe the law change may help “improve air quality through reduced traffic congestion”, and “encourage behavioural shift towards sustainable travel choices” by improving bus reliability and making cycling easier. ***What a load of hogwash. Ed!***

However, a Freedom of Information request submitted by the RAC revealed that councils in London generated £55.7m in revenue from moving parking violations in 2018-19 alone, while Cardiff Council received £2.4m in fines.

From a Cublington Resident

Might be nothing but this vehicle has just come down to ours in Cublington. We are at the bottom of a lane. When we went out they said they'd taken a wrong turn but

instead of turning round by our house where there is ample room they drove across our grass to turn round where our outbuilding is!! Claimed they were looking for wing cottages and then said a Chinese and fish & chip shop. I told them they were in the wrong village and gave directions to Wing. I've checked the registration

on dvla and the vehicle is not taxed but is MOT'd.



Your Emails, texts and posts

Jubilee

What a wonderful afternoon!
Well done Emma, Richard and your team of helpers. It was all fabulous: relaxed, well organised and a lovely friendly vibe. Great music by Martin! Thank you to all involved.

Deirdre and John Whyte

What a wonderful afternoon. Even the rain held off. Thank you Emma and Richard and all your helpers for organising such a special village event.

Sally Clarke. PS it made my birthday really special too!

Richard and Emma Thank you so much for such a wonderful afternoon. So lovely to see the whole village together celebrating

the Platinum Jubilee. A memory for all.

Val & Les

Good job Emma and Richard. Nice to spend time again with villagers

Jeff

See the Jubilee pic's on page 2 & back pages. Ed!

Well done Pete for hosting the quiz night. Great night.

Being able to heckle the quizmaster is part of the fun and you take it very well. Looking forward to more such evenings.

Best wishes.

Esther (part of team PHEIRE - pronounced fairy)

What's on in Aston Abbotts for July

What	Where	When
Villagers Getogether	Village Hall	Friday 1st From 19.30
July is judging for 'Best kept Village'. Must keep gardens fresh, hanging baskets out Village areas clean and tidy	Whole Village	July
Yoga	Village Hall	Every Wednesday 18.00
Morning Cafe	Village Hall	Every Thursday 10.00 - 11.30
Rambling Club	L/Buzzard Tesco	Sunday 3rd. 14.00
Whist Drive	Whist Drive	Thursday 7th/21st 19.30
Bingo	Village Hall	Thursday 14th 19.30
Fete & Festival Weekend	The Green/Village Hall / Church	Sat/Sun 23rd 13.00 to 16.00
Bus Trip	!0.00 bus to Aylesbury	Friday 29th 10.00
Village Footpath Walk	The Green	Sunday 31st 14.00

No Whist or Bingo in August but

Quiz Night is Saturday 6th August & 3rd September 19.30

August Bus Trip Friday 19th August 0900 bus to L/B

Aston Abbotts Fete, 23rd July 2022.
Please donate a cake for the cake stall.
Either let me know, or just bring one
along on the day. The cake stall is
always popular & depends on your

kind donations. Janet Walker
(Coordinator) Email: janet@sewart.net.

Mobile: 07929 242739



Janet Walker (Coordinator) Email: janet@sewart.net: 07929 242739



Free Defibrillator training

Free session in The Village Hall on Saturday 10th September at 10am-12 to learn about what to do if someone has a cardiac arrest. It will cover CPR and how to use a defibrillator. This is being sponsored by the Parish Council.

If interested please book your place by contacting Sally

Tel 681152 or sally.palmer@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

A different walk to try. Aston Abbots to Rowsham and beyond

Sally Palmer

For those new to the village and all you new dog owners I am reminding you of a little walked route that you might like to try.

I am pleased to report that there have been quite a few improvements to this route with the installation of new gates and is far more accessible than it has been for some years.

The route starts at the far side of the recreation ground through the gate into a path presently overgrown with nettles – so trousers required.

Head towards the wooded area in front of you and walk through that keeping to the right. At the end of the wood enter a presently uncultivated field and go straight ahead keeping to the right-hand side. At the end of the field turn left and the right into the farm field through a gate. This field may have a horse or 2. Cross the field to a stile that may be tricky for some dogs and straight on to a second stile (there is also a field gate here. Head straight on keeping to the left side passing the farm buildings. At the top pass through the newly installed gate into a field that may have cows. Go straight on keeping to the left, go through another gate and carry on to

the end of this field where you will have wonderful views of the surrounding countryside and will see Rowsham below you. The last 2 fields have been uncultivated for many years and used mainly for grazing so you will see a very biodiverse area with lots of clover and other wild plants.

At this point you can retrace your route or go through the next gate and head down towards a house on the left side. There are often cows here so you may not want to do this. In the back corner of the garden go through the new gate and follow the path to the A418.



From here you can turn right towards The Wild Raven and follow the footpath back towards Weedon to Aston Abbots Road and then back up into the village. This should take about 2 hours in total. It is pretty well waymarked and most of the fields are for crops. Alternatively, cross the A418 and follow the footpaths to Wingrave. It would be sensible to have a map for these options

Beaches near Aston Abbotts: One of the UK's best hidden gem beaches under 3 hours from Aston Abbotts

The sandy beach has grassy picnic areas and even a kitesurfing club. West Wittering is always a popular beach destination in the UK

With UK staycations offering more flexibility to those hoping to seize the good weather when it comes, savvy people from Bucks are closer to the beach than you'd think. So, if you're not able to fit in a trip abroad this year, we've found a stunning hidden gem of a beach on the south coast that is sure to bring a smile to your face and help you unwind.

This secluded sandy beach has some rave reviews. West Wittering beach in Sussex is located halfway between Portsmouth and Bognor Regis, and in the past has been named as one of the 'best hidden beaches in the UK.

The gorgeous beach - which takes just over two and a half hours to get to from **Aston Abbotts** makes it the perfect spot for a long day out. While the majority of TripAdvisor reviews rate this sandy spot as excellent, with specific

comments on its 'beautiful white sandy beaches', there are some mixed reviews regarding dogs - so you may want to double check the most up to date reviews online if your not a fan of four legged friends.

The sand dunes and huge over-sea skyscapes are supposedly perfect for a 'lovely family day out', but what does it really have to offer and why is it so special?

The beach itself



East Head, a sand and shingle spit at West Wittering beach. The beach comprises a very wonderful long sandy beach, making it great for families with children who can swim in the designated swimming areas marked by blue flags. Behind the beach you will find an impressive 20 acres of expansive grassland, wetlands, and reedbeds, with a mixture of interesting wildlife including birds and rare butterflies.

There is also a sand dune spit managed by the National Trust entitled East Head. The dune is accessible from the far western

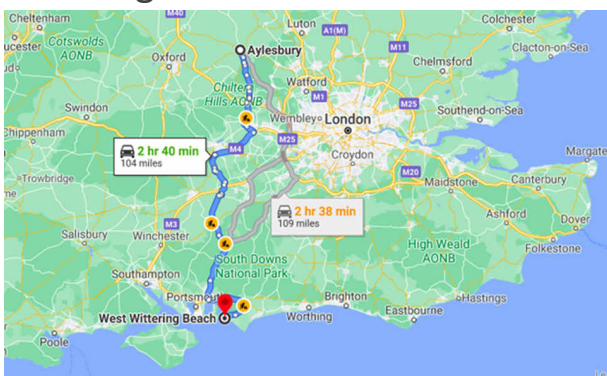
end of the West Wittering beach car park.

Being an SSSI (site of special scientific interest), it is perfect for families hoping for more than just the salty waves to keep them busy. Alongside the natural wonders this precious spot has to offer are the cool beach activities such as kite and windsurfing, perfect for thrill seekers in your group.

Depending on what time of day you are there, at low tide you might enjoy searching for the shallow pools which are often teeming with microorganisms.

If you're worried about eating your picnic in one go, fear not, the Beach Café is open from 9:00am daily and as well as this there are several taps on the road that provide drinking water too. In addition, there are three blocks of toilets at the beach, each with its own accessible toilet and two cold outdoor beach showers.

How to get there?



The journey from Aston Abbots to West Wittering beach comprises mainly A roads with a little stint on the M4. It will take around 2 hours 40 minutes to complete the whole journey.

It is worth noting that the last stretch of the journey is through rural land so the roads can be busy during peak times.

Once you've entered West Wittering Village you will need to pass the village shops and follow the brown tourist signs along a private road to the designated car park ticket barrier.

The parking company who runs the often busy car park, advises visitors to take the correct change for parking (parking costs alter through the seasons but can be as much as £9.50). *Cheeky B******

If you're planning on taking the train then the nearest station is Chichester - from here you can take a taxi or a bus. Unfortunately the only direct routes run from London Victoria, Brighton, Southampton and Portsmouth so from Aylesbury station you will need to go to London Marylebone and then head to London Victoria.

Advice with the current cost of living crisis



If you're having trouble making ends meet due to the cost of living crisis, it's vital to look at ways you might be able to ease some of the financial pressure. I've selected some useful advice. It's a lengthy piece for the Chronicle but hopefully a useful one if you are struggling. I have a more extensive piece if you want it emailed to you.
editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Here's a rundown of some of the ways you might be able to get help.

Mortgage and Rent. There may be certain ways to make your monthly payments more manageable. For example, you might be able to move your mortgage from a repayment to an interest-only basis, although you'll need to be able to demonstrate to your lender that you've got a plan in place to pay back the capital you owe at the end of your mortgage term. Alternatively, if you're not tied

into your current mortgage deal, you could think about mortgaging to a cheaper rate to reduce your monthly payments. A fee-free mortgage broker should be able to advise on the best remortgage deals which you'll be eligible for.

If you're renting, let your landlord know as soon as possible if you're not going to be able to pay your rent. They may be able to work out a way you can temporarily reduce your payments. Landlords can't start eviction proceedings against tenants until they have missed more than three months of rent payments, so even if yours is unsympathetic, they can't ask you to leave straight away. The charity Shelter has plenty of useful information and housing advice for those struggling to pay rent.

Overdrafts, Loans & Credit Cards

If you're overdrawn on your bank account, and you do not have an arranged overdraft or you have exceeded the limit on one, charges can rack up quickly. Contact your bank directly to ask how they can help you. They should try to help if you're struggling to meet everyday living costs and going into the red on your account. For example, they may offer to reduce or cancel fees, or offer a manageable repayment plan.

If you fail to get the help you need from your bank, and you're struggling with spiralling debts, it may be worth contacting a debt

charity to see if they can provide a solution.

If you're having trouble paying off a personal loan, get in touch with your provider directly and see if you can arrange a different repayment plan that suits you better.

With paying off your credit card balance, you could consider switching to a balance transfer credit card with a lengthy 0% introductory interest rate.

Energy costs. If your home is in Council Tax band A-D, you'll have received a £150 rebate on your Council tax bill to help with energy costs in April. The government has also announced a £400 energy grant to be paid to every household in the UK in October. The £400 payments replace the government's earlier plans to provide a £200 rebate for every household in October. These rebates had to be paid back, whereas the £400 payments aren't repayable.

Extra payments of £650 will also be provided to those receiving Universal Credit, Tax Credits and legacy benefits. These will be paid in two instalments over the summer.

If you were born on or before 26 September 1955, check if you're entitled to the Winter Fuel payment. This is a tax-free amount of between £100 and £300 to help pay your heating bills over winter, and the amount you receive depends on your

age and anyone else in your household. The government will also give an extra £300 to those receiving the Winter Fuel payment, with a further £150 payment to those receiving disability benefits. If you're not entitled to the Winter Fuel payment, you might be eligible for the Warm Home Discount Scheme, which gives you a one-off discount on your electricity supplier between September and March.



Water Bills



You might be able to save money on your water bills by having a water metre installed. Some companies, such as the Consumer Council for Water, provide a calculator to help

you figure out if getting a metre installed could keep your bills down.

Most water companies offer support to customers who are having problems paying their water bills.

Council Tax

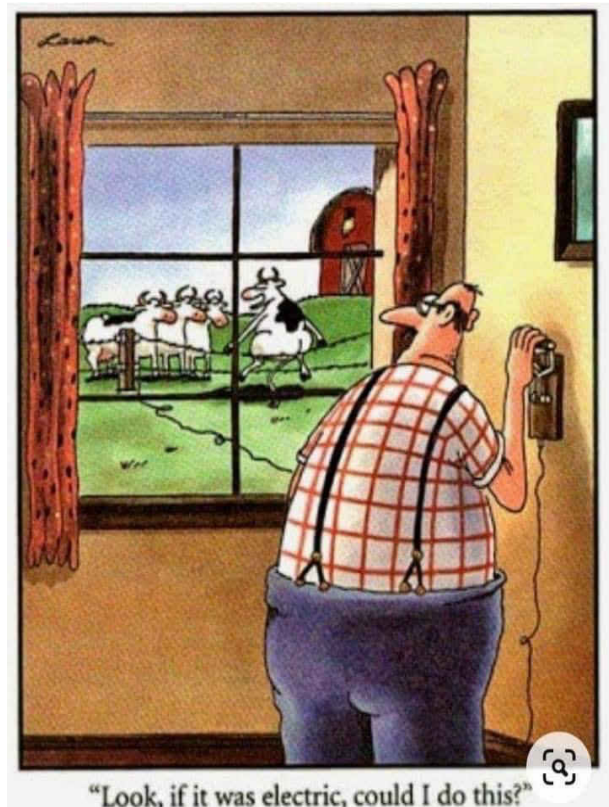
If you don't think you'll be able to afford to pay your council tax because you're now on a lower income or claiming benefits, you might be eligible for a council tax reduction which could reduce your bill by up to 100%. The amount you receive will depend on where you live, your circumstances, your household income and whether you have children or other dependents living with you. If you don't qualify for a reduction, you may still be able to ask your council whether you might be able to take a break from payments for a month or two.



If you're finding it impossible to manage your finances during this difficult time and are worried about your debts spiralling out of control, it's important to get professional help as soon as possible. Charities StepChange, National Debtline and the Debt Advice Foundation all offer free debt advice and may be able to

help you arrive at a manageable repayment plan with your creditors. The sooner you act, the better your chances of finding a workable solution so don't be ashamed about speaking to someone during these times of crisis.

Filled my car up last week, cost £110, but drove off without paying. Today I was in court, got fined £75. I'll be back with more money saving tips later.....



We have entered the Best Kept Village Competition

Please help to keep our village tidy

Judging takes place in June & July

The Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition
www.bucksbkv.co.uk



Competition Sponsors— Buckinghamshire Council : Milton Keynes Council :
RT Machinery (Winchendon) : Cloudy IT (Buckingham) : Motts Travel :
The Buckingham Designer

Such a community effort is recognised in the scoring by the judges (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 & notice boards 20

War memorial 20

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

LONGMOOR Garden Maintenance

Regular mowing & strimming
Hedge trimming
Garden tidy-ups
Pressure washing
Seasonal clearance
Green waste disposal

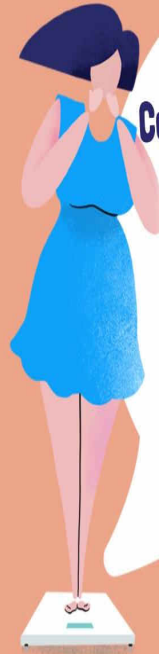
Contact Max to discuss
your requirements

07949 508584
gardens@longmoormaintenance.co.uk

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Charlene Leader
07415717067

#One2OneDietChallenge

Aston Abbots Mobile Hairdresser

COVID-19 SAFE



MOBILE HAIR DRESSER



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:

bowleysamanthat@gmail.com

Wingrave School Update



Dear School Friends and Neighbours,
There is cause for celebration at Wingrave CE School as we have reached 202 pupils! This is before our full cohort due in September meaning we should be able to sustain this number into the new school year. Whilst a healthy sign of growth for the school community, this also has positive implications for our budget as finances are assigned at a given Census point in the year. I understand that this has implications for increased foot and car traffic through the village but please be reassured that we regularly remind parents about parking considerately and walking as much as possible.

Another cause for celebration is the news that our EYFS Teacher, Mrs Neaves, is expecting and will be leaving us later this term for her maternity leave. Mrs Neaves has led our EYFS provision for many years so this is a big change for her and the school; we are very grateful for all her hard work and look forward to her return. I am sure you will join me in wishing her and her family all the best. Preparation is well under way for our new September arrivals with Miss Weeks, our Assistant Head who oversees the Infant classes, taking up the EYFS baton. We are continuing our thorough transition programme of

visiting all pre-school settings and inviting in both parents and children to visit the school for information and social occasions in readiness for their new start.

Meanwhile at the other end of the school, Ms Lee, our Assistant Head who oversees our Junior classes, has been preparing our Year 6 class to move onto secondary school. I am sure we all remember this is a huge leap and so we coordinate opportunities for the children to meet staff from and ask questions about their new settings. As hoped, this summer period has been the least disrupted yet and we are making the most of trips and opportunities to enhance the children's learning. During this term alone, the children will be enjoying:

The Houses of Parliament, Year 6

The Globe Theatre and Tate Modern Gallery, Years 5 & 6

A Shang Dynasty Day and Workshop, Years 3 & 4

Oxford Castle, Years 1 & 2

Crocodile World, EYFS

Hopefully the children will be left with enough energy for the Year 5 & 6 production which we will be performing for parents at the end of term. Never a dull moment here at Wingrave CE School!

Matt Tomson. Headteacher

The crime and execution of Moses Hatto outside Aylesbury Prison

Miss Mary Ann Spurgeon was the very strict, very severe housekeeper at Burnham Abbey Farm, four miles from Windsor so strict and so severe that she got up the nose of the new groom, Moses Hatto. But there wasn't much he could do about Miss Spurgeon, because their boss, gentleman farmer Ralph Goodwin, valued her services much more than his.



On November 1st, 1853, Hatto finally snapped.

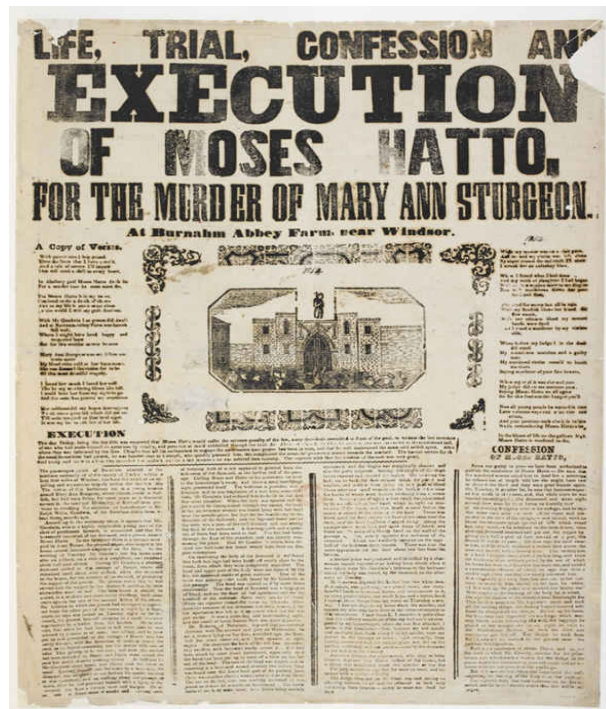
That dark evening Spurgeon and Hatto quarrelled for the very last time. Hatto was incensed by the meagre supper put out for him by the housekeeper and, in his own words, 'the devil came to him'. Hatto lashed out at Spurgeon with a large kitchen iron, knocking her out, after which he 'smashed her brains out'.

Then he lit a fire under her bed that burned most of the flesh off

her body. The alarm was raised only when Mr. Goodwin returned and burst into the burning bedroom.

Hatto was arrested and charged with the murder on circumstantial evidence, including his behaviour that night, the state of his clothes and his general demeanour. At the crime scene bloody hand marks were noted across the walls and witnesses noted how 'both legs had been burnt off nearly close to the trunk'.

This was enough to convince the jury after a three-hour deliberation, a long retirement by Victorian standards that he was the killer. He was sentenced to death and hanged on Friday, March 24th, 1854, outside Aylesbury Prison.



After the execution it emerged that Hatto was indeed the killer.

The night before he was hanged he called the prison governor to the death cell and said: I was sitting at the kitchen table and the housekeeper was in the larder with her back to me. I was suddenly overwhelmed by my hatred for her.

I got up from the table and bludgeoned her with a stick used to beat lard. Then I chased her upstairs to her room and finished her off with a poker before lighting a fire under her bed.

WINGRAVE COMMUNITY CHOIR

Invite you to join us for

A SUMMER EVENING OF SONGS



Saturday 9th July at 7.30pm

Wingrave Church

Come and listen to some old favourites, plus songs from The Beatles,

Les Miserables, 42nd Street and many more!

TICKETS £10 adults £5 children

Available from Wingrave Village Shop

Price includes a glass of wine or soft drink

Editor's local Pub Crawl brief Reviews

Some months ago, I wrote brief reviews on some local pubs and thought it time to do some more with different locals. So, after Cublington's Fete on Saturday 18th June, it was off to a pub crawl around the local area with a couple of buddies.

Unicorn Cublington

Been here a few times but not one I've made my local. Can't say much about this pub but for people who don't know it, it has a smart modern looking interior with a decent selection of Ales and other beers. Alert staff and ready to serve but not over friendly.

Toilets are clean and smart.

Never eaten here yet but haven't heard a bad word about its food. It's a bit pricey but if you want good food, you must pay for it.

The Boot Soulbury



Lovely gem within the village. Smart modern interior with saved original beams and doors where possible.

A good selection of ales and good friendly staff very willing to talk.

I looked at the menu and fancy the fish platter for a meal for another time. I'm told it's divine. They have a Steak Night during the week when all other food is off the menu. From a marketing point of view, that's not good business to me. I was proved right when a call came in for a booking for that night in the week and was immediately cancelled when told only steaks were on the menu. However, this is a returner for me. I like the place. The facilities were modern and immaculate.

The Cock Inn Wing

Have eaten here before. A below average meal.

I thought I'd give it another visit and blimey; I should have dodged the bullet. Tatty, dirty and smelly. But if you are to do a review, give it the benefit of the doubt. We did.

The seats were heavily stained. We got woofs of bad smells in the bar area. The side bar was full of dirty glasses and clutter.

They had a couple of ales on. I asked what the most popular was. A confused look was returned from the girl serving us. Three of them in total but two looked like they were the barmaid's mates. Constantly on their phones giving an uncaring persona, it's not surprising this pub was in the state it was. Tired and uncared for.

I Didn't take a look at the facilities but was told they were acceptable.

For a country village pub, the Cock Inn is poor. We won't be returning.

The Stag Mentmore



What a contrast. In recent times the Stag has had its ups and downs as it was taken over by the villagers.

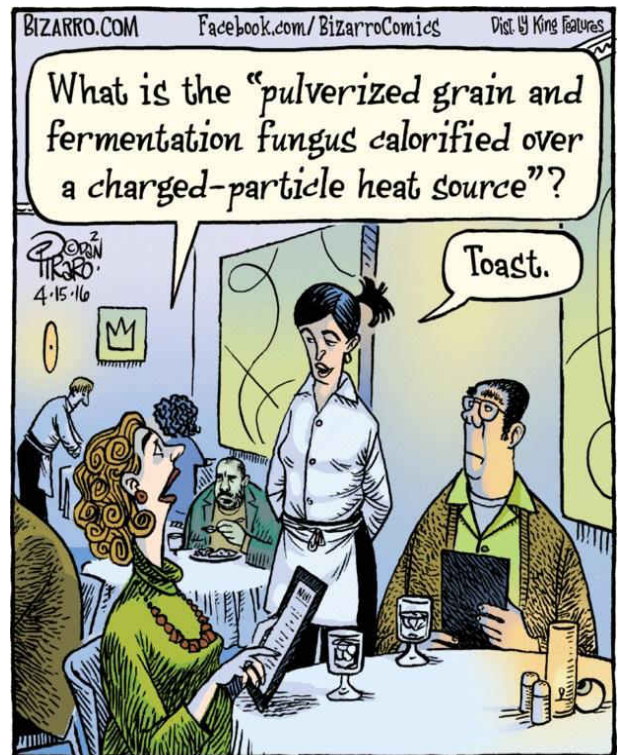
The pub / restaurant is modern, spacious and has received attention to detail in every way. The walls are decorated with paintings for sale at silly prices for what they are. Also, a multi pic' mosaic of restoration.

The Stag is a place to dress for dinner, not rock up in the

afternoon in jeans and t-shirt after a fete. However, the welcome was cordial.

The ales were from a local brewery and we were invited to try them first. Prices, very reasonable.

It was too early for dinner but we wanted to try a couple of dishes from the menu, which I must say appeared a bit pretentious in the descriptions. We decided on a couple of starter sizes.



The food is amazing from what we experienced. Not cheap but good.

Will be returning to this high classed establishment.

I'll be back soon with another selection as soon as the driver is available. Let me know your reviews.

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Fantastic National Trust sites in Buckinghamshire for all the family

These gorgeous properties and parks on the doorstep make the perfect day out

If there's one thing we Brits are up for, it's a good day out. The religious checking of the weather forecast, the sandwich pack-up, the 'have we got everything?', the dash back into the house, the 'are we there yet?' It's all part of the day.

Fortunately, we also have organisations like the National Trust, who welcome us into the beautiful gardens, parks, houses, countryside and coast they look after. Days out like these are so precious for reconnecting with friends and family or just a bit of peaceful alone time in lovely surroundings.

July and August are a great time to visit. The gardens have sprang into life, with nature falling over itself to burgeon and bloom.

Here are some top picks around Buckinghamshire for a day out on your doorstep:

If you're heading for the hills in the Chilterns...



Hughenden is a must. It's the former home of Benjamin Disraeli, said to be Queen Victoria's favourite prime minister. You'll see a legacy of her visit in the manor dining room where one chair is slightly lower than the others. Allegedly, the legs were sawn to fit the Queen's so that her feet wouldn't be dangling in an undignified way at dinner.

Hughenden holds another secret. In an operation codenamed 'Hillside', the manor was requisitioned during the Second World War to create maps of Germany to help RAF pilots navigate accurately on their bombing raids.

The map-makers' work helped shape the outcome of the war, but it only came to light 60 years later in a chance encounter between a volunteer and a visitor. The whole story is told in an interactive exhibition in the manor.

Hughenden manor sits perched on top of a hill within a formal garden full of the bold colours the Disraelis loved. There's also a walled garden, orchard and miles of Chiltern woodland to wander in.

For a walk in a perfectly curated landscape...



Stowe should be your first port of call. The scale and beauty of Stowe have attracted visitors for over 300 years. You can wander winding paths and lakeside walks where picture-perfect views, temples and monuments catch your eye at every turn. Full of hidden meaning, the gardens were created as an earthly paradise and still cast their spell today.

The sheer size and space of Stowe is perfect for those who love the outdoors and enjoy walking. The landscape reflects the changing seasons.

In the spring, there are bluebells as you stroll down the historic Bellgate Drive to the garden entrance. Over the past few years

more than 300,000 bulbs have been planted in the garden, and you'll likely come across daffodils, pretty Scilla, tulips, anemones and snakeshead fritillaries on your walk.

In summer, the garden team mow meandering paths through wildflower meadows teeming with butterflies and in autumn the bright shades of red, orange and bronze trees are reflected and magnified by lake reflections.

The gardens have been under restoration for many years and each time you visit there's a new statue or monument to see.

For wow-factor style and elegance...

Waddesdon is an impressive sight by anyone's standards. The French Renaissance-style chateau was built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in 1874 to entertain the fashionable world and house his collection of fine art.

As a family, the Rothschilds were the greatest collectors of the 19th century and every room in the manor is crammed with fine furniture and historic treasures, each more splendid than the last.

The Victorian style formal gardens are studded with ornate fountains and statuary.

The Aviary is surrounded by intricate raised ribbon bedding which changes in spring and summer. There's a woodland playground for children and a plethora of informal eating options.

For a country house with a village and hill...



West Wycombe Park has been the home of the Dashwood family for over 300 years. The distinctive daffodil yellow house with its grand Palladian facade is set in 45 acres of landscaped parkland. Described as 'a paradise' by Benjamin Franklin, a wander around the small lake is enlivened with follies, temples and statues.

Inside, there are eight rooms open to the public displaying an eclectic mix of neo-classical, baroque and

rococo architectural styles. It's always worth looking up, as the hand-painted cornices and ceilings are a particular highlight.

After exploring the house and garden, you can head out and discover the historical charm of West Wycombe village, or climb West Wycombe Hill. At the top is the Dashwood Mausoleum with extensive views across the Chilterns Countryside.

For sumptuous interiors...

Claydon reopened on 6 May 2022 with the opportunity to explore grand state rooms with lavish interiors including intricate plasterwork ceilings, Georgian mouldings and beautiful carved ornamentation by Luke Lightfoot.

You can also visit Florence Nightingale's suite of rooms on the first floor. She was a regular visitor to Lady Verney, who was her sister Parthenope.

Claydon has been the seat of the Verney family since 1620. However, the present house is almost entirely 18th century and was redeveloped to rival nearby Stowe House.

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Church Matters

July/August

The all-ages service for Father's Day in June began with hot dogs in the village hall. In church we tried to identify photos of each other's fathers, followed by reflection and prayer on what God the father and our own fathers mean to us, and an acting-out of Jesus's raising Jairus's daughter from the dead (Mark chapter 5). The breakfast service resumes on September 18.

100 Club renewals –at the time of writing renewal forms are going out, ready for the first draw at the end of July. If you haven't signed up there is still time so please ask. Thank you!

Jubilee weekend The church flower displays looked lovely and were much admired by visitors. A thoroughly enjoyable day especially the picnic on the Green on Sunday and the Jubilee Songs of Praise with Nigel on the organ and Annie on the drums.

Ride and Stride 2022 coming up on Saturday 10 September, in aid of Bucks Historic Churches Trust. Join in, get some exercise, see some interesting churches, or just sponsor me:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/caroline-lane12>

Caroline Lane, PCC secretary
(01296 681373,
carolinelane@btinternet.com)

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

100 Club Draw June

1st prize, £50 – Sally Clarke

2nd prize, £10 – Anita Parker

PCC 100 Club form: account number correction!

St James's Church 100 Club forms are being delivered around the village.

Guess what...

If you wish to get a ticket and to pay online, the correct account

number is 00299017 (there is a 7 at the end, which I'd missed off).

Apologies - that's a real rookie error from a (retired) publisher!

Caroline Lane

carolinelane@btinternet.com

Church Duties July

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
1/2	David/Colin	
8/9	Alex/Anita	
15/16	Carolin L/Ann	
22/3	Colin/Gay	Festival
29/30	David	Festival



St James Aston Abbotts Church Services July & August

3 July	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
10 July	10.30am	Parish Communion
17 July		No service*
24 July	10.30am	Parish Communion
31 July		No service (Benefice Communion 10.30am, Soulbury)
7 August	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
14 August	10.30am	Parish Communion
21 August		No service*
28 August	10.30am	Parish Communion
4 September	6.00pm	Evensong

***All Ages breakfast service starts again here on 18 September.**

Alternative services on 17 July and 21 August at Wingrave 9.15 for 10am (Breakfast church),

And Wing 8.30am (BCP Holy Communion) and 11am (People's Praise)

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

Ride+Stride raises money for the repair and restoration of churches and chapels of any Christian denomination. We have had help here for St James's in Aston Abbotts.

**Saturday 10 September 2022,
10am – 6pm**

Do join in – you can ride a bike, a horse, or just walk around some of our local churches. It is a great opportunity to see inside churches (e.g. the box pews at Dunton, or the wall paintings at Kimble), and sometimes there is cake! Half the money you raise goes to the Trust and half comes back to a church of your choice – in my case, St James's here.

Details on the website if you want to join in:

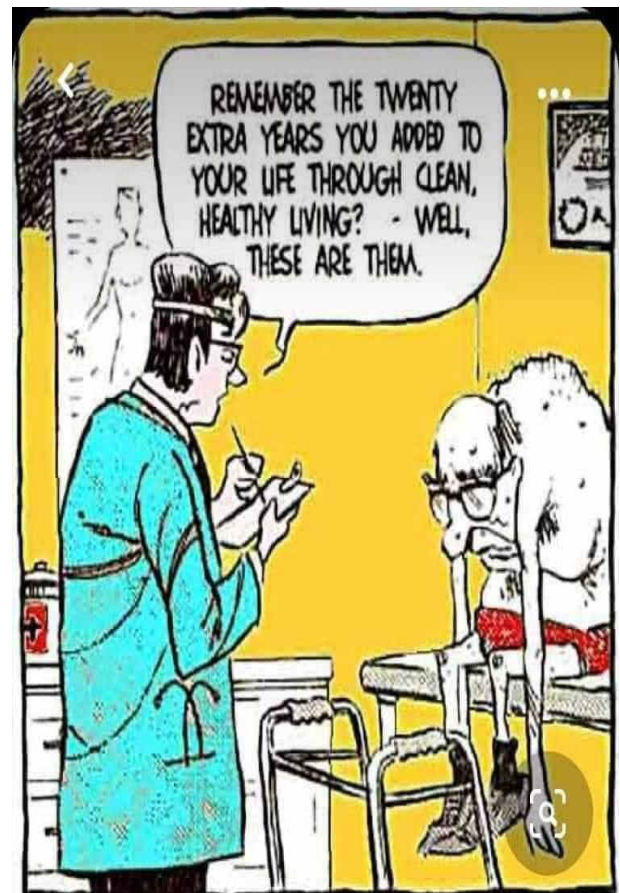
<https://bucks-historic-churches.org/ride-stride/>

I'll be cycling, and would love company, and also any sponsorship you can spare,

however small. Here is my JustGiving page (or I have a traditional paper form too):

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/caroline-lane12>

Caroline Lane, tel. 01296 681373
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Bingo Pam Dixon 01296 681626

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

Orchard Gordon Smith 01296 681373, gordon.smith53@btinternet.com

Community Services

Post office & shop Wingrave Deva 01296 682964

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Police Non-Emergency 101

Buckinghamshire Council 01296 395000

Citizens Advice 08701264056

MP Greg Smith (Con) 01296 714240

Anglian Water 01296 385995

Pre School Wingrave 01296 681127

Wingrave School 01296 681436

Cottesloe School Wing 01296 688264

ALLOTMENT DIARY



Well, for me and most of the other allotmenters to whom I have spoken, 2022 is proving to be a very good year. We had a wet spell in the early spring, and quite a lot of fine sunny weather since, which has produced ideal conditions for growing vegetables.

All my vegetables are flourishing with the sole exception of my parsnips, which, as in every other year in which I have tried to grow them, have been a disappointment. Having failed to get a single carrot to grow last year, this year practically every seed I planted seems to have germinated; and I have had to do some extensive thinning out. Adam and I started most of our sweetcorn in the greenhouse; and this year about 90% of the seeds germinated. About a third of my plot is now devoted to sweetcorn. (As I have previously mentioned, Adam freezes the bulk of the crop to enjoy after the autumn).

I had 7 courgette seeds left over from last year, and the packet said that they should be planted before the end of this year. I therefore planted all of them, and inevitably they have all come up! I shall have another year where I will be harvesting many more courgettes than I can eat. Much the same thing happened with my tomato seeds: they had to be planted this year, and of course every one germinated! I have given a large number of plants away, but am still left with a dozen plants, when 4 or 5 would suffice for our needs

There are only two clouds on the horizon. The first is that, having previously largely only infected my leek crop, this year the allium borer beetle (which stops onions from maturing properly) has attacked a large number of my onions. If it gets any worse, I will have to consider netting my onion crop. The second is that for the first time in my life, I have developed back trouble. A couple of weeks ago I spent over 2 hours bending over and pulling up weeds - those growing around my onions in particular. They were so close together it was difficult to use a hoe. That evening I regretted it, when I started getting spasms of pain in my lower back; and the problem has not gone away. Any bending over I do can cause pain –

even something innocuous, like putting my socks in the morning. And, I have discovered, the hard way, quite how much gardening involves bending over!

I read recently about a new development which could have saved me from getting my back problem, had it already been on the market at a reasonable price. A company called Root-Wave has teamed up with English Heritage and others, in the trialling of an electric tool, called the Root-Wave Pro, which delivers an electric shock to the stem of any plant it touches, boiling the cells of the plant, but leaving the surrounding plants unaffected. The dead plant can then be left to compost into the ground. However, the snag is that the devices cost about £12,000 each, and are connected by cable to a high-voltage generator, carried on the back of a 4x4 or all-terrain vehicle! It has proved especially useful in dealing with Japanese knotweed infestations, which are difficult to control, using weed-killers employing glyphosate, such as Round-up.

I think it may be some time before it is available for domestic use!

Peter Shorrock

Giant hogweed Britain's 'most dangerous' plant found in county

Contact with the plant can cause severe health issues. Liam Ryder. An invasive plant labelled the country's 'most dangerous' by experts has been located in Buckinghamshire. The fast-spreading species Giant hogweed has spread across the UK and can cause burns and scarring in anyone who touches its sap. Short and long-term side effects can be very painful for those unfortunate enough to touch the plant.

To make matters worse, symptoms can present themselves from even the slightest touch. Some of the worst effects include blisters, purple blotches and disfiguration.



Should the toxic sap find its way into someone's eyes, it can cause permanent blindness. But now the plant has found its way to

Buckinghamshire, according to WhatShed.

Giant hogweed is unlikely to kill anyone who comes into contact with it, but it can cause serious complications to those with pre-existing medical conditions, children and the elderly. Many require hospital treatment as a result of their encounter with giant hogweed.

What is giant hogweed? Giant hogweed is a member of the parsnip and carrot family and first arrived on British shores in the 19th century. The plant was brought over from the Caucasus Mountains between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

It looks similar to cow parsley but is much larger, and can grow to a maximum height of 16ft. It can spread to cover a range of between one and two metres, and its thick green leaves can grow as large as 5ft wide.

Before becoming aware of its hazardous effects, the plant was used as food for bees and it has white flowers that can grow up to 2.5ft in diameter. The flowers can be seen from spring to mid-summer.

What should I do if I find giant hogweed? If anyone finds the plant on public land, they should contact their local council to provide them with the location. If found on private

land, homeowners should contact the Environment Agency for advice.

If you think you've come across giant hogweed, WhatShed advises to keep your distance. "If you or someone you know happens to make contact with the plant, be sure to wash the affected area as quickly as possible, seek medical advice, and try to get indoors and away from direct sunlight as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of burning. Touching giant hogweed is not recommended.

Where in Buckinghamshire has giant hogweed been found?

According to an interactive map published by WhatShed, giant hogweed has been identified and located in Buckinghamshire. The plant has been pinpointed as having grown on land off Love Green Lane in Iver.

There are a number of cases close to the Buckinghamshire border, however. Giant Hogweed has been spotted in three neighbouring counties.

Giant hogweed cases have been reported near Maple Cross in Hertfordshire, at Yardley Hastings and Brackley in Northamptonshire. It's also been spotted in Woburn in Bedfordshire, on the fringes of Milton Keynes.

Wingrave Diary July & August

JULY

Fri	1	1800	WCA family BBQ	Community Centre
Wed	6	1000	WI meeting: Diane Roberts' journey into becoming a Doula, Life and Living with support	Methodist Church
Wed	6	1200	Last of the Summer Ukuleles	Rose & Crown
Fri	8	1800	Wesley Pizza Van	Rose & Crown
Sat	9	0845	Men's Breakfast Talk: Millennials are in a bind: expensive housing, university debts, etc. What are the implications?	Methodist Church
Sat	9	1430	WARGAS Flower Show	Community Centre
Sat	9	1900	Wingrave Community Choir concert	Parish Church
Sun	10	1200	Wingrave with Rowsham Village Fête	Wingrave Park
Mon	11	0930	Weekday Walking Group ramble, contact Jan:	07813 085211
Fri	15	1800	WCA family BBQ	Community Centre
Sat	16	1500	Tea , Cake & Choirs Concert	Parish Church
Sun	17	0930	Local ramble 4-5 miles	Nup End Lane
Wed	20	1200	Last of the Summer Ukuleles	Rose & Crown
Fri	22	1800	Wesley Pizza Van	Rose & Crown

AUGUST

Wed	3	1000	WI meeting	Methodist Church
Fri	5	1800	WCA family BBQ	Community Centre
Sat	6	1900	Aston Abbotts Quiz Night	AA Village Hall
Sun	7	1230	Swingrave dance	Community Centre
Mon	8	0930	Weekday Walking Group ramble, contact Jan:	07813 085211
Fri	12	1800	Wesley Pizza Van	Rose & Crown
Fri	19	1800	WCA family BBQ	Community Centre
Sun	21	0930	Local ramble 4-5 miles	Nup End Lane
Fri	26	1800	Wesley Pizza Van	Rose & Crown
Sat	27	1030	Garden party for the National Trust	4 Tattlers Hill



That's a load off your mind!

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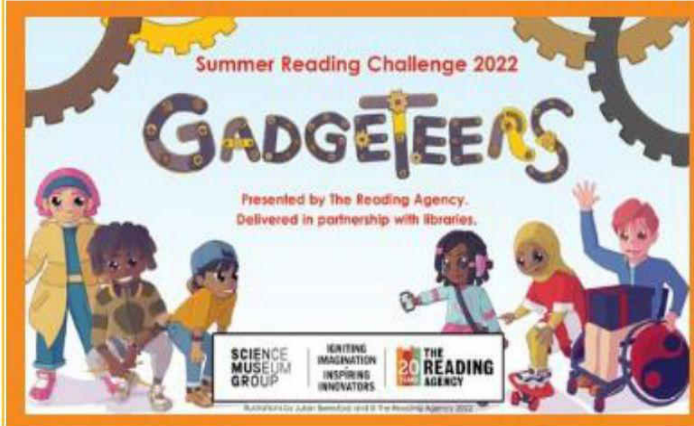
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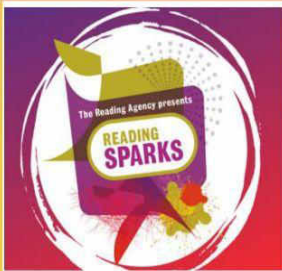
This year's Summer Reading Challenge starts on 9th July.

For children aged 4 to 11, The Reading Agency has partnered with the Science Museum Group to create "Gadgeteers", inspiring children to use their curiosity and creativity to discover the science behind the everyday and celebrate the role of the imagination in both reading and the sciences.

Through reading books and collecting rewards, Challenge participants will help the Gadgeteers use their special skills to get everything ready. With exclusive incentives to collect and plenty of brilliant books to enjoy, the Challenge is the perfect summer activity to build young readers skills and confidence during the summer holiday. Children can also take part online via <https://summerchallenge.org.uk/>

Pre-schoolers can also join in the fun with the Pre-school Mini Challenge. The pre-school card is suitable for children aged 3 years and under and is a great way for younger children to regularly borrow and read books over the summer, especially if older siblings are taking part in the main Challenge.

Please be advised we are CASH ONLY for fines, fees, photocopying, printing, scanning, and laminating.




Buckinghamshire Libraries are taking part in an exciting new project called **Reading Sparks** designed to engage children and families with science through reading. There are 4 themed boxes to loan to families which contain a book and activity sheets, and all a child needs to complete the activity. The books and activities are aimed at children aged 7 to 11 years.

The box themes are: Animals, Simple Machines, The Moon, Invisible Nature (coming soon).

The boxes will be stored at Aylesbury, Amersham and High Wycombe libraries, but can be reserved to go to any Buckinghamshire library. [Find and reserve your Reading Sparks set from the public catalogue](#) or via <https://buckinghamshire.spydus.co.uk/>



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Jubilee Weekend Aston Abbotts *Michael Gould*





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