

The Chronicle

January 2023 Issue 432



2023 marks the 40th year of the Chronicle

Inside:

From the Editor, Local News, What's on in Aston Abbotts, The year in review, Epic Buck's murder story, January events gone by, your emails, Church Matters and more.....

From the Editor



So here starts two months of saying 'Happy New Year' to everyone we talk to. Happy New Year everyone.

As the front page shows, 2023 marks the 40th year of the Chronicle. September 2023 to be exact. This edition, as well as all the current news, features some interesting historical items.

I've been editor of the Chronicle for around 6 years or more. It's impossible to please everyone all of the time but I have enjoyed researching items and issues which I hope you have found somewhat interesting at least in part. Being a cog in the wheel reminds me to sincerely thank the treasurer, John Whyte, the coordinators, Jill Wenble and Sally Palmer and the deliverers of the Chronicle to us all. Mark Leeder. (new this year), Carol Spooner, Andy Bystra, Mel Nagele, Andrew Peacock, Deirdre Whyte, Chris Fox, Sondra Rickman and Tony Hinds. Plus the regular

Contributors, Peter Shorrocks, the Book club and the Church.

I'm happy to continue as Editor but realise there may be others who would like to have a go at improving what I hope would continue to be a hard copy magazine for all to use and hopefully enjoy. Please let me know.

Well, after the death of our Queen, three Prime Ministers, the war in Ukraine, the cost of living shock and France and Argentina in the World Cup final, 2022 has not been the best. So here's hoping 2023 is a better year. Until next time..... Pete

Sunrise at The Nail Barn Aston Abbots



Aston Abbotts

2022 in Review

January - The first threat of a 250% rise of HGV traffic through our village was alleviated when Lockharts Waste site, Cublington, application for a massive expansion was refused by Bucks Council.



Serious crash of a Fiat in Cublington Road, Aston Abbotts. Two people fled the scene.

February - An archive of 38 years of the Chronicle was painstakingly uploaded to the Aston Abbotts website

George Fox of Church Row, sadly died . He was 82.

The Village Quiz Night restarted at the Village Hall following the closure of the Royal Oak pub.

March - Another crash in Aston Abbotts. This time involving an HGV, a car, skip and the bus stop

on The Green. Thankfully no one was hurt.

April - Under the Coordination of Chris Phillips, Aston Abbotts entered the 'Best Kept Village Competition' after winning the 'Gurney Cup' before the Pandemic. The village started getting a makeover by the residents.



June - Jubilee Celebrations took place in Aston Abbotts with a street Party lunch on The Green and a 70 years exhibition in the village hall.

A Chronicle campaign started to stop tipper trucks roaring through our village every few minutes. They stopped.

July - The Village Fete took place under new management of Janet Walker and her team following the retirement of David Gray.

The first of the Pop up Pub Meet and Greet events took place.

August - The Tipplers returned so we upped our campaign to stop them and succeeded.

Aston Abbots won Champions of Champions in the Best Kept Village Competition with an impressive 195 out of a possible 200 points.

A regular market opened on the site of the Wing Social Club on Thursdays.

September - Her Majesty the Queen died on the 8th.

Award ceremony for BKV took place on The Green with many villagers in attendance.



Cate Wait treated us to a drive pass during the gathering and then off to her 100th Birthday celebration.

October - The Waste Plant in Cublington lodged an appeal against the refusal for expansion, threatening Aston Abbots yet again with an increase in HGV tippers by 250%. The Chronicle redoubled its campaign, and many of us got together to express our disagreement to the expansion. We are awaiting a final decision.

November - A successful Fireworks Night took place under new management of Martyn Simpson and his team.

Resident Simon Cowie suddenly died of a heart attack. He was just 51

Your Emails

Dementia UK

I would like to thank everyone who donated to my JustGiving page.

You helped me go above and beyond my target, and for that I am very grateful.

We topped £1000

Matthew

What's on in Aston Abbotts + in January

<i>Coffee Shop</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>	<i>Thursdays 10-11.30</i>
<i>Whist Club</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>	<i>Thursday 5th & 19th. 19.30</i>
<i>Rambling Club</i>	<i>Moorhills, Wing followed by AGM</i>	<i>Sunday 8th 14.00</i>
<i>Aylesbury Vale Public Transport Meeting</i>	<i>Old Town Hall, Aylesbury</i>	<i>Tuesday 14th 14.00 Train/Bus issues to Colin Higgs</i>
<i>Pop up Pub Get Together</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>	<i>Friday 20th 19.30 Details inside</i>
<i>Jumble Sale</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>	<i>Saturday 21st 14.00 - 16.00 Details inside</i>
<i>Wassailing in the village orchard</i>	<i>Vic Scott Orchard Aston Abbotts</i>	<i>Saturday 21st 15.00 Details inside</i>

Other weekly events are;

Women's club (Gnomes) Contact Carol 681544

**Men's pub Get group. (630 club) Contact Andy
681690**

Book Club Contact Sally 681152

Bingo Nights Contact Pam Dixon 681626

**Bingo - Next Meeting - Thursday 9th February
2023, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome**

News from in and around Aston Abbotts

Village Hall improvement

Extensive work has been carried out on the hall to improve acoustics, which were a major problem for group events, especially with music. I'm happy to report that the job has been a complete success.

Rec' Shed Demolition

Residents in Bricstock and residents using the rec' on 3rd January

The shed on the rec' is being demolished and taken away. Please do not park cars near the entrance to the rec on 3rd Jan?

In order to minimise damage to the recreation ground, the demolition company will be leaving vehicles outside until needed to collect the breeze block etc. Cooperation would be much appreciated.

Planning Application for walkies at Groveway Farm, Aston Abbotts Road, Weedon (22/04045/APP).

Mr and Mrs Chapman, applicants of the scheme, want to change a piece of agricultural land north of

Aston Abbotts Road , 0.97 hectares, to a dog walking field.

The proposed field will provide a secure, safe, and enclosed environment for people to walk their dogs and will operate on an appointment basis with users able to use the field exclusively. The applicants do not propose offering puppy or dog training/agility classes.

Access to the site is via an existing access to Aston Abbotts Road to the south. It will also provide parking spaces for up to four vehicles.

The applicants say due to unpredictable weather patterns and the loss of farm subsidies, they need to find other income opportunities for the farm.

No flood lighting is proposed for the site, and it is proposed that the site shall operate between 8am and 4pm in the winter and 8am and 8pm in the summer.

Bucks planning officers are yet to determine the application.

Temporary Bin Day changes

Bin collection for Wednesday 4th January has changed to Friday 6th. And Wednesday 11th has changed to Thursday 12th

ASTON ABBOTTS FETE 2023

The Fete will take place on Saturday 22nd July, 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

This is an early notification to say we **urgently need more volunteers** next year and to ask villagers to consider if they can help. We are not asking people to give up the whole day. Rather, just to be part of a rota.

We are particularly looking for help with the following tasks:

- Helping put up the gazebos either the day before or in the morning of the Fete.
- Helping take down the gazebos after the Fete.
- Help with roping off the dog show; and roping off the car park.
- Moving tables for stallholders from the church shed to the green.
- Taking down the tables after the Fete and putting them back in the shed.
- Helping on a rota with the cream teas and Prosecco.
- Putting up signs around the village, and taking them down afterwards.
- Overseeing the car-park, one hour at a time.

- Helping with the hay bales to temporarily close parts of the Green.
- Helping on the stalls for about an hour to give the stall holders a break.
- Helping with the children's entertainment.
- Helping find raffle prizes from any contacts you may have.
- Distributing raffle tickets along your road, plus picking up raffle money and bric-a-brac.

As previously mentioned, we are planning rotas to cover these tasks, so if you can spare any time (even 30 mins) then that would greatly help.

This year's Fete showed us that there are currently insufficient volunteers for next year's Fete. So extra volunteers are crucial for it going ahead.

Please look at the list above the let me know if you could help with any of those tasks, and please specify how much time you could give in doing so.

Many thanks. **Janet Walker**

On behalf of the Fete Committee

Email: janet@sewart.net; Mobile: 07929 242739



**Aston Abbotts Good Samaritans
Bingo**

Donations totaling £922 were made
in 2022 as follows:

£80. Royal National Lifeboat
Institution

£450. Florence Nightingale Hospice

£40. Calibre Audio Library

£45. Motor Neurone Disease
Association

£60. Cancer Research UK

£50. Stroke Association

£75. Royal British Legion Poppy
Appeal

£122. Candelighters

A big thank you to all those who
continue to show their support.

Pam Dixon & Sondra Dickason

***Wassailing in the village orchard, 3pm
Saturday 28 January***

***If you have sponsored a tree in the orchard (or even if you haven't),
come wassailing with us this year! Traditionally to frighten away the
bad things and attract the good, and get the trees off to a good start
in the spring.***

***As far as we can tell this involves making a noise, chanting, and
sprinkling cider on the trees. So bring musical instruments, a drop of
cider, juice or whatever, and let's see what happens. If you know
what you are doing, excellent. If you don't, then neither do we!***

***Meet at 3pm at the gate to the orchard (walk through the
allotments).***

For about half an hour.

Caroline Lane and Jill Wenble

Pop Up Pub Get Together



Friday 20th January 7.30pm

Village Hall - With much improve acoustics

Get together for a chat and a few laughs

Bring your own booze etc

Nibbles available

Join us for a cheap night out. Just £2

December Transport Meeting

Changes were announced to several bus services local to us.

Route 50 Aylesbury - Wendover reduced to hourly. Route 55 Aylesbury G Missenden - Chesham, withdrawn. X60 Aylesbury,

Buckingham, M/Keynes reduced to hourly. Route 150, Aylesbury, L/Buzzard, M/Keynes, no Sunday service. Town services are frequently reduced. ***However Route 165, Aston Abbots, Aylesbury L/Buzzard, no change. We need more people to use our local service or we will lose it.***
Colin Higgs.

***Murder In Buckinghamshire.
In response to comments made
about the Chronicle series,
'Buckinghamshire Murders',
ending about two years ago, I
have found another local
gruesome true story from
around 100 years ago. It's
whole, so a bit long but highly
interesting.***

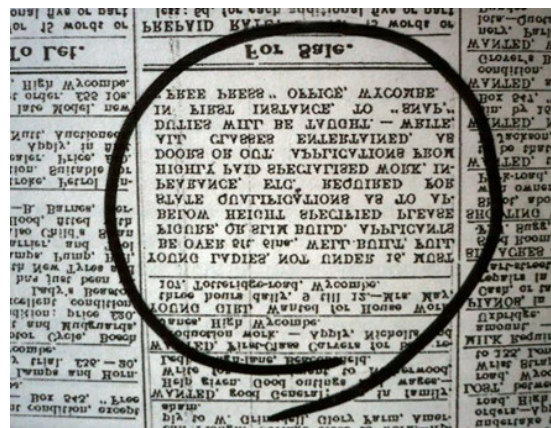
***I had no previous knowledge of
this disturbing account. Ed!***

Don't Let My Music Die.

As told by David Kidd Hewitt

Miss Lilian Pretoria Marks felt life was passing her by. What future was there for a young lady working as a grocery assistant on thirty shillings a week in the market town of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire in England.

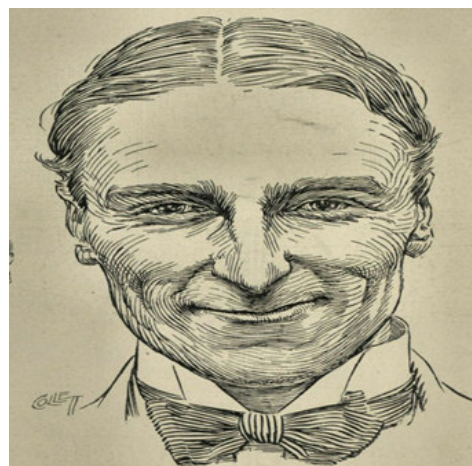
It was 1920, the Great War was over, and fun times should be around the corner, not just shelves stacked with groceries and the promise of the local 'palais' at the weekend. An excursion to the Grande cinema in Desborough Road to see a Pearl White adventure or a visit to the Jolly Butcher in 'The Narrows' was the nearest life got to excitement until, at the end of August that year, she came across a bizarre advertisement in The Bucks Free Press that caught her imagination:



Bucks Free Press 27th August 1920.

Writing back could do no harm and she could learn a new skill. She fitted all the personal qualifications, so why not? She wrote and she received a reply that requested her to visit a house in Furlong Road, Bourne End any evening after 6pm. This was, after all, the new decade of adventure and excitement following the privations of the war, so why not live for today and see what this highly paid job was all about.

After a long weekend thinking about it, she decided that come Monday evening after work, she'd pay a visit. So it was, on that Monday September 6th, 1920, young Miss Marks, grocery assistant of High Wycombe, found herself outside this Bourne End address contemplating the possibility of being involved in something that would change her life forever.



The door opened and a smiling, clean-shaven man in his early thirties introduced himself as George Bailey and invited her in.

He wasted no time in enthusiastically explaining what lay behind his unusual advertisement. Ushering Miss Marks into the front room, he told her that he was setting up a musical academy in nearby Little Marlow. He explained that he had invented a new way of learning and teaching music and if she studied his system hard for two weeks, she could then advertise it and take on her own pupils. He wanted to recruit around seven or eight young ladies to be his pupils at the new academy so they could become proficient enough to spread his remarkable invention of a new musical notation to others. This would revolutionise the teaching of music, he claimed, as his system did not use sharps or flats and was written in one key.

To his question of whether she was at all musical, Miss Marks asked if he meant piano or singing?

“Piano,” he replied.

He assured her that he could teach her all that she needed to know. He then moved on to the part of the advert that referred to her build and asked her to take off her hat and stand against the door so he could examine her figure more clearly.

Miss Marks took off her hat and unfastened her coat. Bailey also took hold of her hands and examined them. Clearly satisfied, he said he would pay her three guineas a week. She should give in her notice to the grocery store in

High Wycombe, inform her parents of this new opportunity and write to him again when she was ready to start as his pupil alongside the seven or eight other young ladies he expected to employ at his Little Marlow Musical Academy.

He also added that it would be more practical for her to stay overnight on two or three occasions a week with some of the other young ladies under his tuition so it could be a proper learning experience and not broken up by long journeys between High Wycombe and Marlow.

Miss Marks promised to consult her parents and let him know. In the second week of September, she received a letter from Mr. Bailey, dated September 10th, thanking her profusely for her visit and inviting her to start tuition with him in the week commencing 27th September. The letter asked her to bring all she needed to stay overnight at his new academy and to arrive for an early start so he could draw up a suitable timetable of instruction. The final agreement was for Miss Marks to meet George Bailey with her overnight bag on the morning of Wednesday 29th September in Little Marlow.

Complete with businessman’s bowler hat and raincoat. George Bailey greeted his new pupil as arranged and took her to his ‘academy’.

This turned out to be Barn Cottage in Little Marlow. As he politely ushered her into the drawing room, Miss Marks felt much more at ease to be introduced to two other young lady pupils – a Miss Winifred Field and a Miss Gladys Edwards. This certainly looked as if

Mr. Bailey's promise that she would be a pupil with other young ladies was indeed correct and in the corner of the room was a piano. Bailey wanted to start immediately, so without showing Miss Marks to her room, he began explaining to his class of three, the nature of his newly invented musical system. Part of the instruction involved Miss Field playing the piano from traditional music notation whilst he explained on paper sheets how his invention would change this and make it easy for anyone to learn and teach music. All three concentrated on George Bailey's enthusiastic introduction until around one o'clock in the afternoon.

The only brief distraction that morning was the sound of a young child talking in an adjoining room and Miss Marks thought she caught a glimpse of a dress or possibly an apron passing by the drawing room door, which was slightly ajar. So, there are others living in this house she thought. Anyway, instruction was over for the morning and it was arranged that Miss Field and Miss Edwards should leave and return the next morning for the second tuition session and that Miss Marks would stay overnight as planned. Bailey asked Miss Marks what arrangements she had made for lunch but she said she had left it up to him what should be done. He then gave her four shillings to buy lunch in Marlow and was very clear that she should not under any circumstances, return to Barn Cottage until 7pm that evening.

Miss Marks set off into Marlow and spent the afternoon and early evening there, waiting to return and unpack her portmanteau. It was rather a long time

to wait but things were turning out just as Mr. Bailey had promised and she was excited.



At 7pm sharp, Lilian Marks knocked on the door of Barn Cottage. George Bailey greeted her and showed her into the dining room. He explained that while she had been out, two more pupils had arrived from Scotland and being very tired after their long journey, had gone to bed. In fact there should have been a third pupil arriving but for some reason she had not done so. Anyway, tuition would begin the next morning and now there would be five pupils, possibly six if the missing lady turned up. The academy was taking shape.

George Bailey then picked up Miss Mark's case and led the way to her room so she could settle in before supper. She heard a child crying in the next room and called down to Mr. Bailey, asking if she should go and see what was wrong. "No, I will see to it," he replied immediately, making it clear she was not to investigate.

She unpacked and heard him next door soothing the child, who did eventually stop crying. She went back downstairs

and had supper in the dining room with Bailey who occasionally popped out to see if the missing pupil was to be seen. He would not talk about the child except to say, rather mysteriously, that if the child cried again, he would have to go through Miss Mark's bedroom to comfort it. He did not reply as to why that was necessary when he could use the main door as before rather than cross her room to the interconnecting door.

Miss Marks joined him outside on the lawn for about three-quarters of an hour, both looking out for another young lady on her way to Barn Cottage, but no one came. It was coming up for 9pm, so she decided it was time for her to go to bed.

Bailey said he would stay up until 11pm in case the new pupil had caught the last train to Bourne End. From her room, Miss Marks heard Bailey going up and down the stairs and about 11 pm he shouted upstairs that the other girl had not arrived.

Lilian went to secure her door but found it was not possible to lock it. She could comfort herself with the knowledge that two other young ladies were in the house and everything he had promised so far had happened. She was however, puzzled about the child, and her brief glimpse of a woman passing the door. Was he married? She blew out her candle and tried to sleep after what was turning out to be quite a strange adventure.



Moonlight streamed through her window and, half asleep, Lilian was aware of the latch on her bedroom door slowly being lifted. Creeping past her bed was George Bailey wearing an overcoat over his pants. He made straight for the child's bedroom.

Miss Marks did not know what to do. He had said he was going to pass through her room to check on the child, so once more he had done exactly what he had told her. She was probably worrying over nothing.

A little time elapsed and George Bailey re-appeared in her room and whispered, "Miss Marks, have I disturbed you?"

Lilian Marks said nothing, she did not know what to say.

George Bailey went to the side of her bed and once more asked if he had disturbed her as the child had cried out. Miss Marks knew this to be a lie because she would have heard the child had it cried. She was now worried and said to him, "No it has not or I should have heard."

Bailey, ignoring her comment, said, "I'm going to ask you a very great favour."

She asked what it was, and he said it was "...to sit on the armchair behind the door."

This was now seriously wrong, thought Miss Marks, who began to panic. George Bailey questioned her about why she could not go back to sleep and she told him she could not while he remained in the room and he should go. He explained that he needed to ask her a question, which was, "What do you think of the cottage?"

This was now getting gravely out of hand, thought Miss Marks, and said she did not want to discuss this now and he should leave her room. Bailey ignored her protests and said, "How would you like to be the mistress of the cottage?"

Miss Marks was now highly agitated at the way this was going but he went on to add that he had come for one thing and if she couldn't decide it, he would and he sat on the side of the bed and then quickly tried to climb into bed with her and to rape her.

She fought him off but he was very strong and he pushed her down each time she tried to prise him off. She struggled hard and did manage to escape from the bed and run to the window shouting for help but Bailey pulled her back and said there was no one to hear her cries.

By now Miss Marks was hysterical and George Bailey was talking fast and furious, saying that he wanted her to be the mother of his children. She shouted he was to leave her alone and he had tricked her. He admitted that there were no other young women in the house and he had come to her room solely for the purpose of having sexual intercourse with her so she could have his children.

She said, in her confused state, "It is ridiculous talking, that can never be."

Throughout the night Bailey made repeated attempts to assault her. She sustained bruises on her arms chest and legs but he did not succeed in raping her. Towards dawn while Lilian Marks cowered, terrified from him, he stayed silent and then he asked, "Are you going to say anything about what happened?"

Miss Marks did not reply, and he stayed there in glowering silence.

Dawn broke, Lilian not daring not to sleep or further antagonise him. Bailey, sitting on the armchair was muttering. By 8am, Lilian thought it was best to humour him, so asked if she could go downstairs and prepare breakfast. He agreed she could do that while he went and had a shave.

Whether Lilian thought about making a run for it and changed her mind is not clear, but she did go downstairs and began to prepare breakfast as if nothing had happened. Bailey came downstairs for breakfast and he brought the young child who she had heard crying, introducing her as Hollie, aged three. He asked if the child looked like him.

Lilian said she did. He explained that he was the child's uncle and Hollie's mother was unwell and living in Swindon. Lilian asked if he was married and Bailey said that he was not.

Breakfast over, Lillian cleared everything away and, as if nothing had happened, he asked her if she was ready to begin lessons. She explained that she was too upset and shaken by events and wished to leave. Bailey then asked her to go to the village for him and buy some ham,

fruit and cakes for lunch as he was expecting Miss Field and Miss Edwards at any moment. He gave her six shillings and sixpence to make the purchases.

Miss Marks went to her room rather than the village, got everything ready to leave and stayed there until 11.30am when there was a loud knocking on the front door and Bailey answered it. It was Miss Field and Miss Edwards.

Quickly Lilian put on her coat and slipped out the back door, heading for Cores End about two miles away and went straight to the vicar's house where she blurted out to a startled Reverend Allen all that had happened to her.

The vicar arranged for her to get home to her parents and once her father learnt about what had happened to his daughter, he cycled all the way from High Wycombe to Cores End to speak with the Revd Allan.

Around 3pm that afternoon, the vicar went to Barn Cottage to talk to George Bailey. Bailey answered the door but claimed not to know a Miss Marks amongst his 'thirty pupils'. As the Revd Allen prepared to leave, Bailey suddenly recalled a Miss Lilian Marks visiting him in a state of great distress. The vicar, however, had not mentioned to Bailey that Miss Mark's first name was Lilian. A distressed woman appearing on a doorstep would hardly reveal her first name to a total stranger. When Revd Allan returned to Cores End he found Mr. Marks waiting for him. They decided to report George Bailey to the police.

It was the afternoon of Thursday 30th September when Superintendent George

Kirby from Wycombe and Inspector William West from Marlow received from Mr. Marks a complaint of a serious assault against his daughter. Inspector West visited Barn Cottage the following morning to speak with Mr. Bailey but there was no one there and the cottage was locked, although some windows were open upstairs.

Superintendent Kirby agreed to meet Inspector West the next morning, Saturday, at Barn Cottage to investigate further. The truth about George Bailey was about to emerge. He was already under police surveillance by Marlow police who had witnessed some thirty women calling at either Furlong Road or Barn Cottage in response to his advertisement. They tried the doors but all were locked. However, the Inspector climbed through the window, saw a front door key on the mat and was able to let Superintendent Kirby in.

No one was about and in fact the table was laid ready for tea with bread and jam, butter and cakes and some kind of pudding. This was hardly the scene of someone leaving in a panic knowing that they are likely to be reported for a serious sexual assault. Upstairs told a different story. In the back room where Lilian had heard the child crying were two camp beds, one of which was covered by a large counterpane and underneath that particular bed was what appeared to be a large bundle of sheets. When the officers investigated more closely, they found the body of a young woman who had obviously been dead for a couple of days and whose flesh had a strange discolouration. They immediately arranged for two doctors to attend from Marlow and they both agreed it was

death by poison. The cottage was sealed off as a crime scene and the hunt began immediately for George Bailey.

On Sunday October 3rd, the famous Home Office pathologist Doctor Spilsbury carried out a post-mortem at the crime scene, removing the contents of the stomach for analysis at his London laboratory, but one thing was clear, the young woman was in an advanced state of pregnancy, so there were now two victims of this tragic crime.

The body was identified as Kate Lilian Bailey, aged 22, Bailey's wife of just over four years. Bailey's real job was as a milkman for Mr. Hall, the local dairyman, who had only recently taken him on. He had said he used to be a milkman for the Express Dairy Company, which turned out to be true. He did, however, omit to tell Mr. Hall that in 1913, he was arrested and sentenced to six months hard labour for embezzling money from them.

The milk may have been guaranteed absolutely pure, but there was lots more to learn about George Arthur Bailey, or should it be Arthur George Bailey, or even Ronald Gilbert Treherne, or perhaps Tremayne? He had been known to various police forces since 1908 when he had spent many spells in prison for fraud, forgery, and embezzlement and had become an army deserter to add to his crimes. His unfortunate pregnant wife had also suffered committal to prison because of his crimes for passing cheques he had forged and young Hollie, who Miss Marks wanted to comfort that terrible night, had been born in Winchester Prison.

Now Hollie's mother was dead, poisoned, so where was Hollie now and more to the point her father, George Bailey?

It was in fact on Saturday evening October 2nd that P.C. Poole of Marlow police, who knew what Bailey looked like, spotted him and together with Detective Sergeant Purdy of the Berkshire Constabulary, arrested him at Reading railway station. P.C. Poole had been sent there just in case Bailey turned up, and he did. From Reading police station, he was taken to Marlow, questioned and charged with the wilful murder of his wife Kate Lilian Bailey.

But where was the child? Bailey had been to Swindon and left Hollie with his sister there and was apparently intending to return to Barn Cottage. On Monday, 4th October, Bailey appeared at Marlow Police Court for committal proceedings, was charged with murder and remanded to Oxford Prison.



He made a second appearance at Marlow the next morning and was then sent back to Oxford Prison to await his trial at Aylesbury Crown Court.

Daily Mail for October 5th, 1920, led with the following story:



As a result of the inquest discovering Mrs. Bailey had been poisoned by prussic acid in her tea, and now the revelation that Mr. Bailey attempted to rape Miss Lilian Marks at that same house having seemingly murdered his wife there, the newspapers were becoming more and more incredulous as this bizarre and tragic story unfolded.

The trial began in January 1921 and Bailey pleaded 'Not Guilty' but the evidence against him was overwhelming. Miss Field and Miss Edwards both appeared in court and described their dealings with Bailey, corroborating everything that Lilian Marks had said about the recruitment process and the music. Further damning evidence was that he had actually been in possession of four bottles of the same poison at the time of his arrest at Reading railway station. Also a letter was found on him addressed to the coroner via the police. In it he admitted to poisoning his wife and it went on to outline his intention to

return to Barn Cottage to give her a last kiss, murder baby Hollie then kill himself "I should like our three bodies laid together," he had written.

On Monday 17th January, 1921, the judge sentenced George Bailey to death. The fact that he had murdered his wife and intended his daughter Hollie to suffer the same fate was horrific enough but the trial revealed something else that sent shudders around the court and put into stark context the reasons for his trespass into Miss Mark's room on the night of 29th September which resulted in his assault on her.

On the afternoon of the 29th September when Miss Marks was in Marlow waiting to return to the cottage, Mrs. Bailey had been seen by a neighbour apparently in good spirits. She had indeed been the woman who Lilian glimpsed through the doorway that morning while she was receiving tuition with Miss Field and Miss Edwards. Bailey had slipped stramonium* in her tea that very afternoon and when she felt unwell because of this drug, he had put her to bed in the back room where he fed her with prussic acid and, in a perverse attempt to ease the agony of that poison, gave her chloroform.

In answer to the counsel's question, "Where was your child then?" Bailey answered, "In bed with my wife."

The court was horrified as he went on to explain that he left his little girl next to her murdered mother and then had to concentrate on not letting Miss Marks enter that same room to comfort the crying child. That's why he insisted on entering her room and staying with her until the next morning.

When Miss Marks went downstairs to prepare the breakfast, he had bundled the corpse under the bed and brought Hollie downstairs pretending that she was his niece. That three year old child had spent fourteen hours lying next to her murdered mother and Miss Marks had spent the night with that same murderer in her room who then attempted to rape her and make her pregnant.

Only a little over four months had passed since Miss Marks answered what the newspapers referred to a “a curious advertisement” in the Bucks Free Press, but things would never be quite the same for Lilian Marks. That advert certainly did change her life.

Hollie was brought up by her grandmother in Devon and the subject of her real parents was a forbidden area of questioning. Her own imagination and snippets of overheard conversations led her to believe her parents had died in some sort of suicide pact. Three marriages and five children later, she began to seek the truth about her parents.

Discovering she had been born in Winchester Prison, she also checked up on a vague memory about Oxford Prison and found her father had been executed there for murder in 1921, She obtained her mother’s death certificate which

recorded death by poisoning. So it was, at the age of 66, she wrote to the Bucks Free Press asking them to help her find out the truth about that day in Little Marlow when she was only three years old. Robert Perrin, feature writer at the paper listened to her story and together they visited Barn Cottage. Hollie recounted how she used to have recurring nightmares where she would be clawing at a mound of earth because she knew a body was underneath but would stop before uncovering it. Now knowing the tragic reasons for that horrific dream, she was starting to understand the torment of her thoughts over the preceding years.

As for her father’s claim to have invented ‘the musical notation of the future’, it had been dismissed in court as, “Grossly grotesque, resembling a crude drawing of a trail of tadpoles seeking an incubator.”

Bailey however, passionately defended it to the end. After an unsuccessful appeal against his death sentence, George Arthur Bailey was executed on March 2nd 1921 at Oxford Prison. His last words revealed by his High Wycombe solicitor were, “Don’t let my music die.”

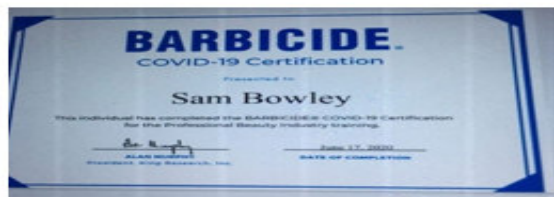
FOOTNOTE: *It was also a significant case as women had only recently been permitted serve on juries and this was the first case in which women jurors condemned a man to death*

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Historical events in the month of January

1622 The Catholic Church adopted 1 Jan as the beginning of the New Year (instead of 25 March).

1924 English explorer Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings, near Luxor, Egypt.

1967 Death of Donald Campbell. His jet-powered speed boat Bluebird somersaulted on Coniston Water, Cumbria, at a speed of 300-mph whilst attempting to break his own world record of 276-mph.



1806 [Lord Nelson](#), naval commander and hero of the Battle of Trafalgar, is buried at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

1918 The House of Lords gives its approval to the Representation of the People Bill, which gives women over the age of 30 the right to vote.

1893 The birth of a new political party in Britain as James Keir Hardie unites socialists under the banner of

the Labour Representation Committee.

1965, Sir Winston Churchill died at the age of 90. His body is to lie in state in Westminster Hall, London

1759 Birth of Robert "Rabbie" Burns, Scottish poet. Burns Suppers are celebrated all over the world each year on this day.

1265 England's first Parliament meets at Westminster Hall in London. Representatives from towns and villages across the country meet for the first time in one chamber.

(A young Colin Higgs represented Aston Abbotts) 🤪

1926 Inventor John Logie Baird demonstrates his new television machine to members of the Royal Institution in London. Some have suggested that this could one day provide every home with a substitute for the cinema.

1596 The most famous English seaman and adventurer of the Elizabethan era, Sir Frances Drake, is buried at sea. The Spanish breathed a sigh of relief!

1649 The courts deemed him a "tyrant, traitor, murderer and enemy of the people", for this England's King Charles I was beheaded in Whitehall.

Swedish meatballs

Try this Swedish meatballs recipe with tart lingonberry sauce and creamy mash. This Scandinavian classic is perfect for a comforting supper

Recipe tip: Lingonberries are a European relation of the cranberry - you can buy lingonberry sauce from Ikea, or just use cranberry sauce instead.

Ingredients

1kg of 1 or a mixture of both minced pork and beef

2 eggs

125ml cream, double or single

60g fine dry breadcrumbs

1 onion, finely chopped

a pinch allspice

a grating nutmeg

oil

mashed potato to serve

lingonberry sauce to serve (see intro)

RED WINE SAUCE

2 tbsp plain flour made up to 250ml or use beef consommé beef stock fresh, cube or concentrate,

100ml red wine

STEP 1

Mix together the first 7 ingredients and season well. Scoop out tablespoons and roll each into a ball. Heat 2-3 tbsp oil in a frying pan and fry the meatballs in batches for about 10 minutes, shaking the pan to brown them on all sides. Scoop out, drain on kitchen paper and keep warm.

STEP 2

To make the red wine sauce, add the flour to the frying pan and stir in, scraping up any bits on the bottom of the pan. Add the stock and red wine, bring to the boil then simmer for a couple of minutes. Taste and add a little water if too strong. Roll the meatballs in the sauce and reheat thoroughly, making sure they are cooked through. Serve with mashed potatoes and lingonberry sauce.



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Wingrave Diary January

Wed 4 1000 WI brunch Rose & Crown

Thu 5 1900 School term begins

Fri 6 2000 Wingrave Ramblers' AGM Community Centre

Mon 9 1500 Friendship Group Baldway House, Leighton Rd

Fri 13 1930 Family Bingo

Sat 14 0845 Men's Breakfast Talk: USA the state of the nation via Zoom

Fri 20 1345 Wild Slow Walk: the slow walk Village Green

Fri 20 1930 WwRHA AGM & talk: Buckinghamshire Railway Centre
Community Centre



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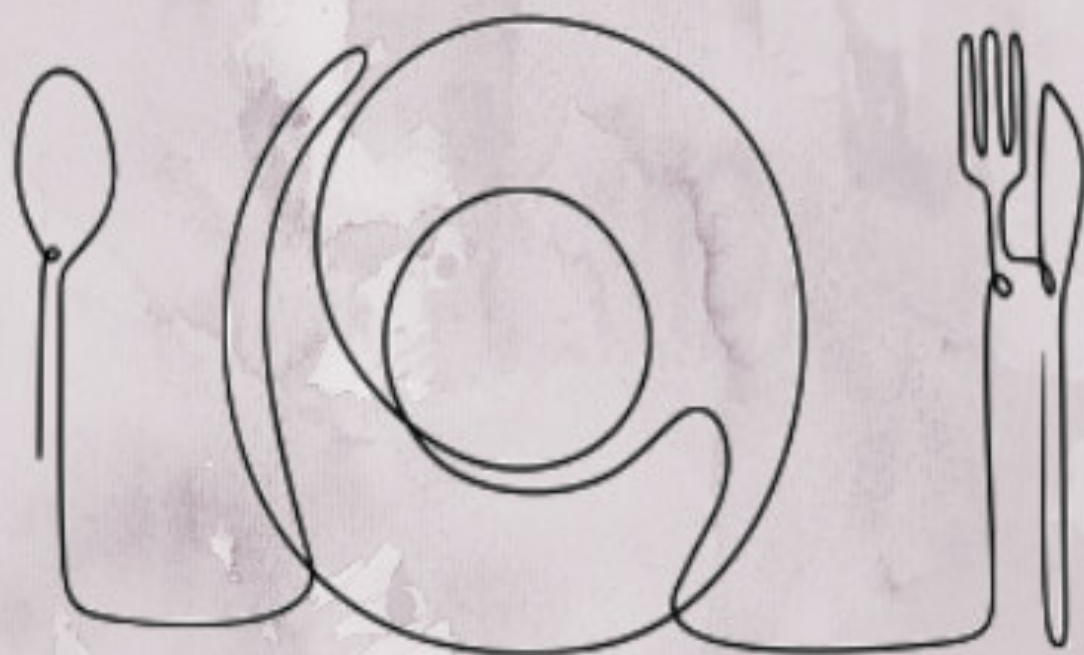
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Church Matters



Church Matters –January 2023. COMING UP

Jumble sale, 2-4pm Saturday 21 January: bring your clean and saleable jumble (no electrical items) to the village hall in the morning from 10am, come and buy someone else's pre-loved items in the afternoon! Jumble can also be delivered to Caroline AS (contact details below) a day or two earlier if more convenient. Admission 50p. Refreshments. In aid of church funds

Church Quiz save the date: Saturday 4 March, village hall

LAST MONTH

Carol singing – we managed nearly an hour and raised £45 for church funds. Thank you very much to those who sang and those who donated (even if it was to make us

go away!). And sorry to anyone who was expecting us, but it was very cold not only for us, but also for anyone opening their door, so we didn't stay out as long as intended.

Services - due to the early Chronicle deadline we can't yet report on the Christmas services, but hopefully many of you made it to our carol service/Christingle on 18 Dec and to the Christmas Day service. The church and porch will have been beautifully decorated for both services.

Christmas donations to villagers – Some of you might know that the church has for many years given small cash payments (up to £20) at Christmas to elderly people in need in the village. Over the years this number has reduced, and so this year the PCC is inviting applications from any household in need in the village. You don't need to be of pension age. If you would appreciate a share of the sum we have put aside this year please contact, in complete confidence, either Caroline Abel Smith (churchwarden), or Caroline Lane (PCC secretary), by the end of January (contact details below).

Your name will not be made public.

Bellringing – once again the bellringing team will be ringing in the New Year so do listen out for them as you celebrate!

Church opening hours - Anyone, churchgoer or not, is welcome to use the church for quiet reflection and/or prayer. It's now locked, but either Caroline will be happy to let you in (see below for contact details).

Caroline Lane, PCC secretary (2 Church Row, 01296 681373, carolinelane@btinternet.com)

Caroline Abel Smith, churchwarden (The Old Vicarage, 01296 681001, cbjlas@talk21.com)

PCC members: Anita Parker, Lesley Clough, Ro Knight, Ann Goodman, Annie Pettie; Andy Bystra (fabric); Tatiana Butler, Francesca Bean (finance)

Church Duties December

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
6/7	David/Colin	Colin
13/14	Alex/Colin	Donated
20/21	Ann/Caroline L	Donated
27/28	Annie/Andy	TBA

I am short of cleaners. If you can spare an hour per month, please let me know.

I would like to thank Anita and Gay who have both had to Church cleaning due to ill health.

Colin Higgs

St James Aston Abbotts Church Services

Sunday 1st	10.00	No service here. 10.00am, Benefice service Stewkley
Sunday 8th	11.00	No service here. 11am Wing or 6pm Wingrave
Sunday 15th	9.30 breakfast Then 10.00am	All ages Church Service
Sunday 22nd	10.30	Parish Communion
Sunday 29th	No service here. 10.00 Wingrave	Fifth Sunday Benefice Eucharist



2-4pm Saturday 21 January, Village Hall

Bring your clean and saleable jumble (no electrical items) to the village hall in the morning from 10am (see Church Matters item for contact details)

Come and buy someone else's pre-loved items in the afternoon!

Admission 50p. Refreshments.

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Chronicle Distribution Sally Palmer/Jill Wenble 681152/681877

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Councillor Trevor Hall

Richard Lakin

Councillor Sally Palmer 681152

Councillor Marisa Abel Smith

Councillor Heather Langdon 01296 688946

Councillor Jane Plested 01296 681740

County Councillor Peter Cooper

Vicar Revd Howard Robson 01296 688593

Church Warden Caroline Abel Smith 01296 681001

Church Secretary Caroline Lane 01296 681373

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

Pop up Pub & Quiz Night. Pete Lucas 07544227991

Book Club Sally Palmer 01296 681152

Village Hall Hire Nigel & Sally Palmer 01296 681152

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

Orchard Gordon Smith 01296 681373

Community Services

Post office & shop Wingrave Deva 01296 682964

Baby & Toddler Group Kim Gayler 01296 681123

NHS Direct 24hr Advice 111

Doctor Out of hours Surgeries 01296 331511

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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

Now that Christmas is out of the way, those of you who grow vegetables will be turning your attention to the packets of seeds you have left for last year, and ordering new seeds, potatoes and onion sets for the coming year. I thought therefore (since, for obvious reasons nothing has happened on my allotment for some time) I would offer you some thoughts about this. While, as you know, I am no sort of expert, I have been growing vegetables on my allotment for around 20 years, fairly successfully, so I must be doing something right.

Most seeds come in packs which are too large for a single gardener, so you will probably have some seeds left from last year. Can you safely use them? Frequently the pack will indicate the date by which the seed should be sown, and you should be able to rely on this. If your packet of seed does not, then I can offer the following advice, taken from a newspaper article published around the time I began vegetable gardening, and which I retained. The author said that according to an old professional gardener friend:

“Melons, marrows and cucumbers will still be viable after 10 years. Turnips, spinach and all members of the brassica family (cabbages, etc.) will last for 5 years; radishes and lettuces for 4 years, and peas & beans for three. Almost all vegetable seeds will keep for a minimum of 2 years. The only really risky ones are parsnips”

I can't say that I have verified all these periods, but I have certainly planted seeds after the expiry date on the packet with success.

Next, when should you start planting? Again the seed packets should contain a guide, but if in doubt, I would suggest the following, starting with stuff to be planted direct into your garden/allotment:-

- Late February/early March: onions from seed
- March: parsnips and first early potatoes
- Mid to late March: onions from sets
- Late March: second early potatoes, leeks*, mangetout, beetroot. (*however, I like to start my leeks off in the greenhouse in late February/early March, and then transplant them)

Some seeds can be started off in a greenhouse or window ledge:

- February: peppers (but greenhouse will need to be heated)
- March: brassicas, tomatoes from seed (or if you have a heated greenhouse, can be planted in January)

Most other vegetables that I have grown do not need planting until April/May, including maincrop potatoes. Sweetcorn and outdoor tomatoes. **Peter Shorrocks**



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How much do you know about the Flying Scotsman?



It's one of the most famous locomotives in the world - up there with the greats like The Orient Express and good old Thomas the Tank Engine.

The iconic steam locomotive will be celebrating its 100th year anniversary in 2023 and you're invited on this extra special centenary experience! Do not miss your chance to travel behind this magnificent train and take an unforgettable trip back to the heyday of the golden age of steam.

But how much do you know about the Flying Scotsman's early history and its subsequent WWII makeover?

1. The Flying Scotsman was built in Doncaster in 1923 and was the first steam locomotive officially

credited with achieving 100mph in 1934.

2. This timeless train was designed by Sir Nigel Gresley as part of the A1 class – the most powerful trains used by the LNER during that time. It is 70 feet long and weighs 96 tonnes.



3. When it was first created, the Flying Scotsman was painted apple green, but during World War II it was repainted black in common with all railway stock and to comply with the blackout-blitz

measures that were in place in order to foil Luftwaffe bombers.



4. The Flying Scotsman was later painted blue when the railways were nationalised with the formation of British Railways in 1948. The locomotive remained blue until it went out of service in 1963.



5. The Flying Scotsman retired in 1963. After retirement, the magnificent steam locomotive toured the USA ferrying tourists about between 1969 and 1973 before returning to the UK.



6. The locomotive was then later bought and repaired by the British

businessman William McAlpine during the Eighties. It was once again refurbished and set to work on various heritage routes. After this, The Flying Scotsman went on a tour of Australia, where it ran for 422 miles - the longest ever non-stop run by a steam locomotive.



7. The Flying Scotsman, also sometimes referred to by its pre-war locomotive number, 4472, has roughly travelled 2,500,000 miles over its lifetime.

8. After a successful campaign, the iconic steam engine was once again returned to public ownership in 2004 thanks to the enthusiastic backing of Sir Richard Branson and the National Heritage Memorial Fund. This incredible, record-breaking locomotive was purchased by the National Railway Museum in York in April 2004 and its latest decade-long struggle to reach working condition and be certified for modern use cost a staggering £4.2m.