

The Chronicle

March 2023 Issue 434

This damage has got to stop



On the verge at Lines Hill and another across the line approaching The Green. More on page 2



News

Two explosion sounding incidents took place in Wing and Aston Abbots. Residents of both villages were shaken as were some buildings with the noise intensity.

Both incidents were caused by HGV tyre blow outs, one by the bells in Wing. The other in Cublington Road Aston Abbots.

One resident commented, It sounded like it was coming from the road right outside our house! Our dog went berserk and men working on our barn said it made the whole building shake. very strange and extremely LOUD.



The truck in Aston Abbots was an 8 wheeler nearside tyre which blew. The driver stopped to check it out but then carried on to Wingrave.

And then this.

New scheme up and running to cut lorry traffic in Aylesbury Vale villages.

A new scheme aims to improve road safety and reduce air pollution in a group of Aylesbury Vale villages, by cutting down the number of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) travelling through them.

Buckinghamshire Council has introduced new traffic regulations, preventing freight vehicles weighing more than 7.5 tonnes from driving through:

- B440 Leighton Road between the junction with the A505 and the Travellers Rest roundabout with the B489.
- Dark Lane
- Tring Road
- Leighton Road
- Winslow Road
- Cheddington Road
- High Street
- B488
- Long Marston Road
- Horton Road
- Park Gate
- A4146
- Ivinhoe Aston
- Slapton
- Cheddington
- Wilstone
- Wilstone Green
- Little Tring
- Church End
- Pitstone
- Greatgap

- Horton
- Mentmore
- Crafton
- Wingrave (A418)
- Hulcott
- Puttenham
- Astrope
- Gubblecote
- Lower End
- Marsworth
- Startop's End
- Drayton
- Grove
- Little Billington
- Ledburn

(I note that Ivinghoe, Pitstone and Slapton to name three villages, have speed humps and width restriction and Crafton is a dead end. Why are they on the list? What about Aston Abbots?) Ed!

The Ivinghoe Freight Zone HGV restrictions are part of a pilot programme across five areas of Bucks. HGV traffic will be prevented from coming off main roads to take a shortcut through the villages.



Signs have been placed around the area making this restriction legally enforceable. HGVs that need to

service commercial and residential needs in the area will still be permitted.

Steven Broadbent, cabinet member for transport, said: "We're committed to making Buckinghamshire a more sustainable and pleasant place to live, work and visit. The approval of these new freight vehicle restrictions in the Ivinghoe area is an important step in that direction.

(As long as they don't send them in our direction) Ed!

"We believe the zone will help to reduce the impact of HGVs on the community, and address concerns about road safety and air quality in the area.

"We're proud to be leading the way in rebalancing the impact of HGVs in favour of residents within the freight zone, by keeping these vehicles on more suitable roads outside of the area."

(I've been told by the Chair of the PC that they have been looking into why Aston Abbots is not on the scheme. It seems some of the villages have canal bridge concerns. Also, the A418 was the boundary)

Sally Palmer sent a report to the PC regarding this issue. (Next page) Ed.

REPORT OF MEETING WITH GRAHAM HILARY FORM BUCKSCC FREIGHT TEAM FRIDAY 25TH NOV

In Jane's absence I met with Graham and Diane Blamires in Aston Abbotts for a meeting of 45 minutes to discuss ways to reduce the impact of HGVs on the village

During our meeting we did witness several vans turning into the inner green but only one lorry passing through via the Green and even that wasn't very big. This did not exactly help our case

His main point was that if we want anything done about this problem we have to prepare a detailed and strong business case to the Design team at the council setting out the problem and our preferred solutions. I said that I thought we had done this during our application for funds for the traffic calming scheme on Moat Lane but he was adamant we had not!

Diane is trying to get an example of such a plan from the relevant team at the council but broadly it would involve a traffic survey (that we could do ourselves by organising volunteers to count vehicles by type for at least one day but preferably a week). Also we would need photos and other documentary evidence. Graham indicated that an absence of any accidents was a major problem for any application!

If such an application were successful we would still have to fund any scheme and this is likely to be very costly for a small village such as ours. Yes we could apply for Community Board Funding but this has been cut back and we

would be competing with other villages. It seems highly unlikely to me that we could be in a position to make a successful submission within this financial year.

In deciding if we should spend time taking this idea forward the following points need to be borne in mind

- 1 Any HGV traffic arising from local facilities can ignore any restrictions so traffic from Lockharts will not be deterred
- 2 **Some** HGV signage is advisory
- 3 The council has to be convinced the problem is serious enough
- 4 The Council will resist any schemes that simply pushes a problem somewhere else.
- 5 We are a relief route if the A418 or A413 is closed and this will no doubt effect the Councils view.
- 6 We know that the existing signs are ignored

Graham also made the point that negotiation with particular companies might be more productive than just complaining, i.e. a more constructive and conciliatory approach.

I also asked about the Sat Nav system. Apparently ,councils map their areas and I believe sell the maps to commercial companies who modify them and sell on to various sat nav companies. There are specific trucking sat nav systems but many drivers also use their phones to access other systems that are often more detailed (i.e. show more roads and routes) so it is almost

impossible for us to get anything done with that.

My personal overall conclusion is that we are not going to succeed in doing much about this problem. After the meeting I took our blind lady I sometimes take shopping who was once an active councillor in Bishopstone and they prepared a detailed plan as suggested by Graham that was rejected by The Council.

One other point I took up with Graham is the extremely high cost of all these traffic measures. He was talking of £20,000 for a few signs. Apparently one Parish council got a quote to drop a pavement for £3000 but the council costed it at x12 times more at £36000.

I requested via postbox that all join me in writing to the Chair of the Ivinghoe Freight Project, Steven Broadbent to include Aston Abbots within the scheme, and many have. Thank you.

However the short and bitter answer was NO! However he did say this;

The emails I have received this week have sought to include Aston Abbots into the zone and/or seek guidance on how HGV restrictions and/or mitigation can be achieved for Aston Abbots. The Ivinghoe Area Freight Zone is not a readily expandable zone given the statutory requirements of introducing such measures.

However, Buckinghamshire Council does have a clear section that outlines the process for Requesting a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) restriction on a public road on the council website, which should serve to assist your enquiry. Naturally a number of relevant criteria are included in such a process and it requires the input of the town/parish council and your local community board: [Requesting a heavy goods vehicle \(HGV\) restriction on a public road | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

I trust this information is helpful to you.

*Regards,
Steven*

After speaking to Diana Blamires, it was made clear that there was more mileage (No pun intended) in working with her lobbying to have the 'Community Board' (Board of Council and community groups) pay the majority for permanent 'Weight Restriction' Signs. It was her view that if the PC gets in quick with a contribution commitment of around £2k to £3k it has a fair chance of getting passed. However that is a big ask of the PC which has the budget already allocated for existing requirements.

Fixed Weight restriction signs are not a magic bullet but it will

reduce the number of trucks using Aston Abbotts.

***As for now we should revert to plan B, to report any HGV we see with dates & times and if possible the company names, to the said company asking them to cease the practice of using Aston Abbotts as a cut through. And copy reports to the PC;
clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk***

***We win when we stick together.
Ed!***



3WHealth Surgeries.

With effect from 1st March 2023 the Surgery opening times will be changing as follows:

All 3W GP Surgery Sites open doors and phone lines from 08:00-13:00 and 14:00-18:30. All 3W GP Surgery Sites will close at Lunchtime from 13:00-14:00. All 3W Dispensaries open counters from 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-18:00. Dispensary phone lines will be open from 09:00-12:00 and 14:00-17:00.

Village Hall Update

It took a very long time for the process to come to fruition but The Village Hall Trustees are pleased to report that we have finally completed negotiations with the solicitors representing the Church with regard to extending the lease to a period of 99 years.

This gives long term security for the village and will, we believe, encourage future investment in the hall.

The end of these negotiations has also led us to look at the profile of the existing Trustees. The current Trustees are all of a certain vintage and we would be keen to encourage some younger representation as we believe that this could lead to more ideas on how the hall could be used.

If you would like to know more please email me or talk to any of

the current Trustees. I will list their names at the end of this news.

Apart from major ceiling improvements to improve the acoustics, recent small improvements to the hall include a new microwave and a new kettle. Work is underway to repair a fault in the plate warmer, which we know is well used by the Cafe on a Thursday. **John Whyte (Chair) Other Trustees: Caroline Lane, Nigel Palmer, Peter Shorrocks, Liz Hall**

Pensioner guilty of harassing neighbours by digging their graves

Michael Copelin, 75, of Oving Road in Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire, has been charged with committing harassment with fear of violence from November 1, 2021 to January 14, 2022 in Aylesbury.

Wycombe Magistrates 'Court heard that Copelin made the complainant fear that violence would be made against them, and that during the period of harassment he dug two graves on the complainants land.

Two crosses were also added next to the graves for headstones.

It was added that Copelin told the complainant "I'm going to kill them, I'm not leaving this house. I'm going to bury them in a field."

Copelin also wrote a letter to the complainant. It said: "It's now your turn to be stuffed in the ground. Don't send in the Bailiffs, that's when the fuse is lit and the clock starts ticking."

On January 9, Copelin, who had no previous convictions, was given a 12-week prison sentence suspended for 18 months as well as being banned from the complainant's land. A restraining order was also made against Copelin.

Aylesbury slips down the poll as 'The worst place to live in England'. A controversial list.

The annual survey saw 105,598 readers vote for the worst places/towns to live in England. This year the poll was compiled by iLivehere and found a new place to top the chart as Luton managed to rise in unpopularity from No. 3 to take the very unwelcome crown.

Sharing their thoughts on the Bedfordshire town, one local said it was "not easy on the eye", while another said it made "Slough comparable to the 'Playboy tax haven of Monaco'." Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, which was named the worst place to live in 2022, slid down several spots to number five, while Huddersfield, which last year took second place,

was left off the list. However, there were those looking to defend their towns, with one faithful Luton resident claiming their hometown was a "vibrant, diverse town". While Linsey Sweet, chair of Love Luton, said the town had "award winning parks" and "fabulous communities".

The list:

10 Bradford. 9 Bournemouth. 8 Swindon. 7 Andover. 6 Aldershot. 5 Aylesbury



4 Slough. 3 Portsmouth. 2 Peterborough. 1 Luton.

Coronation 6th - 8th May

We have details from Buckingham Palace about the focus of each of the three days of the Coronation Weekend - 6-8 May. All the information is within these two links

<https://www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced>

First analysis suggests that on Saturday we will all be watching

television or being there, to see it live on the streets of London.

Sunday is the day for local celebrations, with Big Lunch and street parties, before the concert from Windsor that evening.

Monday is called 'The Big Help Out' and focuses attention on volunteering.

Of course such events only run with input from the amazing residents/volunteers we have in the village. If you are interested in organising a celebratory event please do get in touch with the Parish Clerk

'clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk' or pop something on Postie.

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

Fly Tippers Long Marston



As reported in 'Everything Long Marston, 2 young men 23/02/23 seen throwing a fair amount of rubbish out of their car down Watery Lane.

From The Editor

Takeaway deliveries Aston Abbotts

I'm wondering if I'm behind the times on the above subject.

For a moderate charge, we in Aston Abbotts can receive takeaway deliveries to our homes from Indian Restaurant 'Cafe Zeera', Chinese Takeaways, 'Lakeside Watermead' and a couple of Pizza outlets in Aylesbury. However, if you sign up to the app 'JustEat' the choice widens.

I was previously told 'Just Eat' was not available to us. But it is. With the app, you can pick Chinese from Pitstone, many curry houses, pizza, Kebabs and southern fried chicken for example. Who knows, if you check out 'Uber eats' and 'Deliveroo', the choice may expand further.

Not to forget our trusty Fish and Chip van visiting the village Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. You have to walk to that if you're lucky to hear the bell.

Council Tax up by max' again

I bang on about this each year. It needs to be known.

Buckinghamshire Council telling us that reducing 5 regional district

councils into 1 will achieve tens of £m savings and improve services. COBBLERS on both scores!

It is raising council tax by the maximum 4.99% allowed by the Treasury Dept' again.

Where are the savings? Where are the rewards of lower Council Tax? Reducing management teams, admin' repetitive processes, work, workforce and buildings seems to have not happened.

Bucks council leader Martin Tett said it would be "impossible" for the local authority to cope without the 4.99%t increase.

How the heck would it have coped with 5 district councils to deal with?

A bloated council body should cut off much of its excess members who are still claiming full allowances and ensure other councillor officials take a pay cut.

A good start would be the Chief Executive who takes around £225,000 per year.

Enough already! I've said enough. I love our village and apologise if I go on a bit, but do hope some good will come of it. Until next time.....

What's on in Aston Abbotts in March

Every Thursday morning from 10 - 11.30, the Village Hall **Coffee Shop** treats you to a bacon roll & tea of coffee for just £1.50. Everyone is welcome.



The **Whist Nights** take place on the 2nd, 16th & 30th at 7.30pm. £3. Information from Colin Higgs 681343

Quiz Night & hot Supper, takes place in the village hall on 4th at 6.30pm. **SOLD OUT**



Eyes down for **Bingo** at the village hall on Thursday 9th at 7.30pm



Friday 10th March 8.15pm

Village Hall Friday 10th March at **8.15pm**

Annual Litter Blitz occurs on Saturday 11th from the village hall at 2pm. Volunteers requested. Please wear a HiVis jacket . Sacks & pickers will be provided



Any budding Ramblers can join the **Rambling Club** free by meeting at The Green on the 12th at 2pm

Mothers Day Sunday 19th

Clocks 'Spring' forward on Sunday 26th



The Friday **Bus Trip** makes a return on 31st aboard the 09.00 bus to Leighton Buzzard & 28th April 10.00 bus to Aylesbury

Other Dates:

Monday 10th April. Easter Egg hunt in Village Orchard 10.30am

Pete's Quiz Night. Saturday 29th April 7.30pm Village Hall.

22/23 July Fete & Summer Festival

Saturday 2nd September Horticultural Show

Your Emails

Dear Pete

Sorry this is a bit late in the day. I had thought about sending the attachment but the postie notice about the Ivinghoe freight zone made me think I should. I believe this scheme is probably the result of wider concerns raised by the building of new A roads around Dunstable and Luton and also the problem of lorry traffic for HS2.

I must stress this is my own view that I submitted to the Parish Council after a meeting with Graham from the freight team on behalf of the council to discuss the issue of lorries in the village. The County Councillor Diana disagrees with my views!

At the meeting Graham acknowledged that the enforcement of the new zone will be difficult. It may sound great but such schemes may well push additional lorries through other areas such as ours. Anyway I attach my report and conclusions. We must also reflect that without lorries we would not be able to enjoy the services we do. For example recent lorries going through the village were coming and going to long overdue road repairs between Cublington and Stewkley that many of use.

I must stress again that these are my own views. Please ensure this is

acknowledged if you decide to print it.

One final point is that my report includes a mention of asking Bucks Council for a good example of a local council proposal for a HGV limiting scheme for us to use as a template for our own. The Council was unable to provide such an example as they claimed they had never received one.

Thanks Sally

Dear Editor

In a working life of more than 40 years I never went on strike and was never out of work.

If I was ever unhappy with my terms and conditions of employment and was unable to resolve the issue with my management myself, I found myself another job.

And anyone who believes that their skills and experience are not transferable does not deserve a pay rise.

In the UK we have just lived through a pandemic that killed 150,000 people.

Those of us who survived should be very grateful to the

government, whose actions saved many lives.

But there is a price to pay and we should all expect to suffer a reduction in our living standards in the next few years.

So, the people who are demanding inflation busting pay rises should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

Their selfish actions will just increase the burden on more responsible workers who cannot or will not employ the bully-boy tactics of the Unions.

David Gray.

Ed, We are still getting problems with dog walkers cutting across people allotment plots. Dog walkers should use the main gate and centre path to the Orchard, closing the gate after them. They **MUST** also pick up their dog mess.

Allotmenters.

Ed, I am attending the Public Transport Meeting as Chairman on 14th March. Anyone who has a public transport query should call me on 681343. **Colin Higgs**

Ed.

We are very much in need of a couple of volunteers to assist with mowing the church grass.

This is not an onerous task. Each volunteer usually cuts the grass 2, 3 or 4 times a year, at weekends, between the beginning of April and the end of October. It usually takes 2-3 hours once you learn the ropes, with much of it done using a ride-on mower and the rest using a propelled petrol mower. Cut grass is left to mulch, so there is no clearing up.

You can choose which weekends you can (or can't) do the job and it is easy to swap weekends with someone else if something comes up.

Most of the current team of eight have been doing it for many years, but this year sees two older members of the team 'retiring'. I believe the churchyard appearance was commented upon favourably by the Best Kept Village judges and it would be very nice to continue to keep it in good order.

If you think you might consider helping, please email Mark - mark.davison@hotmail.co.uk - and he can give you more information about the task before you make any commitment.

Thank you.



BINGO night

**THURSDAY
9TH MARCH**

GAMES - FUN - PRIZES

Doors open 7pm, 7.30pm start

**Aston Abbotts
Village Hall**

In Aid of RNLI



*Get together for a chat and
some laughs. All welcome*

*Friday 10th March **8.15pm***

Aston Abbotts Village Hall

Bring your own drinks.

*Snacks around the hall. Music in the
background.*

£2. Another cheap night out

The Buckinghamshire Murder Series

A number of people were hanged in Buckinghamshire in the 1800s for crimes ranging from stealing horses to bloody murder.

While the lack of DNA testing and modern scientific advancements would have meant that some criminals went free in Victorian Buckinghamshire, technology did play a part in apprehending at least one of its cold-blooded murderers.

In this article, we look back at some of the county's most horrific murders, crimes that shocked the county. Not only does it explain how criminals ended up on the gallows, but how the community played its part in bringing them to justice.

The Murder of Sarah Hart by John Tawell

The murder of Sarah Hart is confined to history because it was the very first time that technology - specifically the telegraph, which had been invented eight years earlier - had been used to make an arrest.

Back in 1845, Slough was part of the historic county of Buckinghamshire, and it was here

that John Tawell poisoned his former lover Sarah Hart in a bid to eliminate his 'financial burdens'.

According to the British Transport Police, John Tawell first got the death penalty in 1814, for forging a £10 note - which was then a capital offence.



Smith's Bank, Tawell's victim, was a Quaker company that opposed the death penalty, so Tawell's sentence was downgraded to transportation.

He was sent to work on coal ships in Australia before working in a convict hospital. He was pardoned in 1820 and went on to get married to Mary and have two children, selling pharmaceuticals from his own shop to support his family.



Salt Hill today (Image: Google Maps)

Both of the couple's children died after they moved to London in 1831. The pollution back then was terrible and caused many inner city residents to become ill.

Mary was one - heartbroken over the loss of her sons, she became ill and employed a young nurse called Sarah Hart to take care of her.

After Mary died in 1838, John Tawell began an affair with Sarah and they had two children. Tawell went on to marry a Quaker widow, Mrs Cutforth, and he moved Sarah and their children into a cottage at Salt Hill, visiting regularly and paying £1 a week in child maintenance.

By 1843, John had fallen into financial trouble. He needed to decrease his outgoings, and settled on murdering Sarah Hart to eliminate what he considered to be a financial burden.

On January 1, 1845, John travelled to see Sarah, two bottles of Steele's Acid in his pocket. Steele's contained prussic acid, a poison that was used to treat varicose veins, and John tipped the solution into Sarah's beer before leaving - noticed by the next door neighbour Mrs Ashley.

It wasn't long before Mrs Ashley heard loud groans through the wall, so she went to see if Sarah was OK.

She was on the floor, writhing in pain and foaming from the mouth. The doctor was called, but Sarah died before they got there.

John jumped on the 7.42pm train to Paddington, but a cleric - Reverend E. T. Champnes - was hot on his heels. He had been one of the first to hear Mrs Ashley's call for help and had chased Tawell to the station.

The vicar saw Tawell board the train but it was too late - he couldn't stop the train in time. However, Slough station had a telegraph - and technology was about to have its first moment of glory in the world of justice.

The police followed the killer when he alighted at Paddington Station

Station master Mr Howell was told of the murder and he arranged to send a message to Paddington.

According to the British Transport Police, it said: "A murder has just been committed at Salt Hill and the suspected murderer was seen to take a first class ticket to

London by the train that left Slough at 7.42pm.

"He is in the garb of a Kwaker [sic] with a brown great coat on which reaches his feet. He is in the last compartment of the second first-class carriage."

Sergeant William Williams was on duty in Paddington and he put a plain coat over his uniform to meet the train as it arrived.

He followed John Tawell on to an omnibus and tailed him through London, to a sweet shop where he stopped for a treat and on to the Jerusalem Coffee House.

Onward to Tawell's home Sergeant Williams followed, and the next day, he and Inspector Wiggins of the Metropolitan Police at Paddington Green Police Station caught the criminal in the same coffee shop he'd visited the day before.

At the trial at Aylesbury County Court on March 12, 1845, Tawell's lawyer argued that the prussic acid poisoning had happened because she ate apple pips when gorging on apples over the Christmas period.

The jury was having none of it and found Tawell guilty. He got the second death sentence of his life and after making a full confession

to a priest on the morning of Friday, March 28, 1845, he was hanged before 10,000 onlookers.



Aylesbury prison

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Aylesbury Remembered



chimney stacks look very solidly built. Health & Safety was practically unheard of in those days but at least the men are wearing hard hats. However, they wouldn't be of much use if they fell.

In the mid-1880s proposals were put forward for the building of a new Post Office in Aylesbury. In the initial stages a suggestion was made that it should be sited in Buckingham Road, but fairly quickly this idea was dismissed as it was not close enough to the town centre.

Eventually a site was chosen next to Hale Leys Passage near the top of the High Street. Work began in 1888 and in the following year it opened. The building was designed in a typically grand Victorian style with fine brickwork and stone detailing.

By the 1960s it had become old fashioned and it was decided to demolish the building and replace it with a more modern one.

This photograph from the winter of 1970 shows demolition underway. It says a lot for Victorian construction - those

Ascot House, Wing, of past years



Willow G.S

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Reviewed

If you're a fan of Irish humour and soul classic songs, the stage production of The Commitments is definitely for you. The 1991 smash hit film had rave reviews and was brought to the stage at the modern Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury.

The Commitments is the story of Jimmy Rabbitte (James Killeen), a young working class fan who puts together an Irish amateur band. A mixture of musicians and misfits. The band proceeded through early rehearsals for their first gig. The focus is more on the relationship between the characters and the music they perform. Massive Elvis fan Deco (James Deegan) was the main lead singer in the band and had outstanding vocal skills. Just phenomenal.

Over twenty soul classics were performed over the two hour spectacle including River Deep, Mountain High, Papa Was A Rolling Stone and Mustang Sally.

The audience were embraced throughout and the cast and crew

deserved a raptures applause at the end. Just reminded me of the film all over again, bringing back good memories.

Full credit goes to the Director Andrew Linnie.

Ian Duffy



'I accept you saw Elvis – I just don't believe he had a tomato.'

I went for a drink at England's oldest free house pub the Royal Standard and was transported to a bygone era'

There's character in every nook and cranny

We live in an era of gastropub supremacy, where every new hospitality venue looks to be shinier and more luxurious than its competitors. The age of the traditional public house sometimes feels lost to history.

That's not to say that contemporary pub restaurants don't have their place. Many are excellent spots for modern dining and socialising.



But there is something very special about a historic pub, be it a

coaching inn or a traditional free house. The Royal Standard of England in Buckinghamshire is one of the most unique in the latter category.

Loved by filmmakers and pubgoers alike, The Royal Standard is found in Forty Green, a few miles outside of the town of **Beaconsfield**. It's played host to royalty, cult classic movies and some of the area's biggest-name celebrities.

Ricky Gervais is one of **many famous faces** to enjoy the pub, which is run by Matthew and Anna O'Keefe. With more film crews set to take over the pub in the coming weeks, we decided to head down to South Bucks to see what the fuss was all about.

Immediately upon arrival, there's a hint of what to expect inside. A wonky roof and a stone courtyard welcome visitors as a preview of its many unique features.

The huge entrance door creaks open and a narrow corridor to the main bar area follows. A barrel room with an especially cosy open fire is just to the right as you look at the pumps of ale waiting for customers.

It's hard to do justice to the pub's historic beauty with words. But in every nook and cranny - and there

are a lot of them - is a new feature to enjoy.

There are stunning wooden beams everywhere - and I mean everywhere. The bounties of old hunts remain adorned on the walls as the O'Keefes refuse to alter the pub's interior.



That decision means that all the character of the Royal Standard - its main hall, massive fireplaces and the quirky slot and clocking-in machines - remain in situ. But there's more to the pub than meets the eye.



The Royal Standard of England is steeped in history, and that's plain to see. But there's also more to appeal to the senses here.

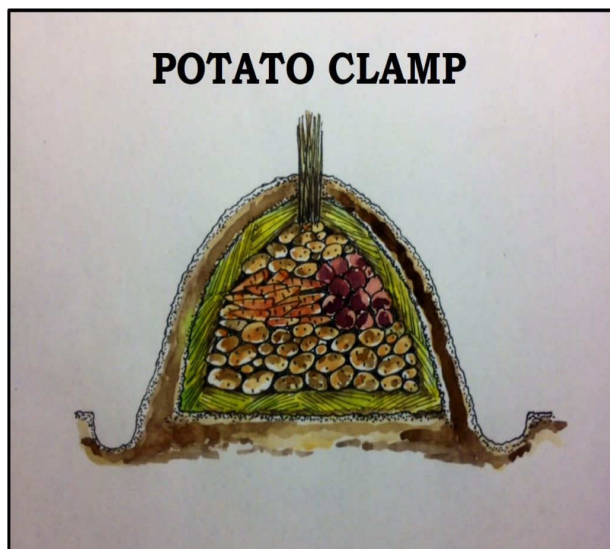
You can smell the home-cooked food a mile off, with delicious aromas wafting all the way through from the kitchen to the many booths.

There's a delightfully old-school smoky whiff that follows you around. Not the unpleasant, overpowering kind you'd find at a bonfire; more like a reminder of a simpler time.



ALLOTMENT DIARY

Clamping works!



No, I am not talking about the device that the parking mafia use on your car if you stay beyond the permitted time in a parking space, but the method gardeners used to preserve potatoes in the days before potatoes were available in abundance throughout the year in supermarkets.

A potato clamp is basically a long pyramid of potatoes which are built up on the ground, covered in straw, and then in soil. Some months ago, I mentioned that I was going to try out this method of storing potatoes on my allotment. Since I did not have any straw to use, I used woven plastic, in the thought that this would allow water to pass through it, whilst keeping away bugs which might fancy noshing on the

potatoes while they were stored like this.

In early February, having exhausted the supply of potatoes which I had stored in my shed, I opened up the clamp, and removed the potatoes from it. To my great delight, I found that despite the week of extraordinarily low temperatures which we had for a week or so before Christmas – when the night-time temperatures plummeted to minus 9 and 10 degrees – over 80% of the stored potatoes were still in perfect condition. It was only the top layer and those around the edges which had suffered from frost damage, which causes the tubers to go mushy and become inedible. I am fairly sure that had I anticipated the extreme cold weather we suffered, and built up a thicker layer of earth on top of the clamp, I would have had a success rate of close to 100%.

The result was strikingly better than my method of storing potatoes in bins in my shed, and covering the bins with insulation material, where, this year I lost about half of my stored potatoes

I shall certainly use this method of storing potatoes again. The only drawbacks are (1) it is a bit of a fag to have to open up the clamp each time you want to take potatoes

from it, and then seal the clamp up again; and (2) when the weather is very cold and frosty, top-soil becomes frozen solid, and breaking into your clamp is very difficult. I think I shall make sure that, in the future, when I take potatoes from a clamp, I will extract enough potatoes for 3 or 4 weeks, and keep them in a cool place in the house, to avoid repeated visits to it; and I will have several small clamps rather than one large one. And I will also store some potatoes in bins as well, for convenience: but will make sure that I keep a careful eye on the weather forecast, and if a prolonged cold spell is forecast I will bring the bins indoors on a temporary basis.

Peter Shorrock

Services at St James's Church - Aston Abbotts

5 March	6.00pm	Evensong
12 March	10.30am	Parish Communion
19 March Mothering Sunday	9.30 breakfast Then 10.00am	Village hall All ages, Church
26 March	10.30am	Parish Communion

St Piran's Day, 5 March



The day for all Cornwall lovers to celebrate the patron saint of Cornwall, St Piran, who (it is said) crossed the sea from Ireland on a stone in the sixth century. What is more, his sister followed him on a leaf. Beats modern transport any day. Anyway, as your resident Cornish bard I hereby encourage you to eat pasties and cream teas, have a glug of Cornish apple juice or cider, and shout "Kernow bys vykken!" (Cornwall forever!)

Caroline Lane (Skowl Rudh – Red Kite)

Church Matters

A Seasonal Reflection

By the time this article appears in village newsletters we will be into the season of Lent.

As is customary among many churches we have a Lent discussion group which, this year, is thinking about some of the very final words that Christ said from the cross on what we now commemorate as Good Friday.

We are using an accompanying book, specially written for Lent this year, that focuses on seven such phrases from across the four gospel accounts in the New Testament. One of these is the two-word phrase 'I thirst', which the crucified Christ utters among his final words in John's gospel. The author of the book points out that, in Hebrew (the main language of the Old Testament), the same word can mean both 'soul' and 'thirst'. There are several points in the Old Testament especially where spiritual desire is paralleled with the idea of an intense thirst, and often a thirst for 'righteousness', which meant the remaking of right relations among each other, between us

and creation and between us and God.

The author also points out that the one who is here saying 'I thirst' is the same one who, earlier in the same gospel, has said 'let anyone who is thirsty come to me'. Christ invites people to have their spiritual thirst quenched in and by him, but in the agony of crucifixion he expresses a share in that thirst – a full share in our humanity and in our trials. The author then asks a more psychology-centred question:

Namely, to what extent are we willing to examine the origins of our thirsts and desires? How might they be misinterpreted and even clash with those of others? Finding a common thirst is not always as easy as we might like it to be, especially when the nature of individual preference and motivation is probed. In some cases it even takes a crisis for communal agreement to surface.

To the author in question the crucifixion symbolises, among other things, such a crisis point – the Latin word for cross, *crux*, being in this sense related to the way in which we speak of getting to the real *crux* of a matter. Individual desire needs shaping for the good of the community, and this is a particularly seasonal

message for Lent and Easter, since they are a journey of growth fittingly paralleled with the development of Spring. The journey starts, on Ash Wednesday and the early part of Lent, in a wilderness, moves towards a city (Jerusalem) and then moves just outside it for the crisis point or crux of the matter on Good Friday, and then into the spring of rising, living water in the Resurrection moving into Eastertide. Life flourishes if individual aspects of that life thirst for what they need in proper relation with one another, which is why Lent does encourage individual self-discernment and examination of conscience, but always within the bigger picture of a thirst for communal flourishing and new life.

With all best wishes as we progress through the season.

Andrew Krauss

Church Duties

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
3/4	David/Colin	NO
10/11	Alex/Colin	FLOWERS
17/18	Caroline L/Ann	DURING
24/25	Annie/Offers?	LENT

Stand fast, bear well top Pray God send us a howling crop...

Wassailing in the orchard on 28 January was something a bit different! About 15 of us turned up and sang to the trees – they also got bits of toast and apple juice. The wassailers had refreshments including a lovely apple cake brought by some visitors from Wingrave. Here’s looking forward to a “howling crop” later this year.

Caroline Lane



100 Club Draw February

1st (£50) Jon Nicol

2nd (£10) Heather Langdon

Church Matters –March 2023

LAST MONTH

Services – the Breakfast and All Ages service on 19 February was again very well attended, with pancakes served up in advance of Shrove Tuesday

COMING UP

Quiz: Saturday 4 March, 6.30pm, village hall, in aid of church funds – sold out at time of writing.

Mothing Sunday, 19 March – breakfast in village hall at 9.30am (prepared by the men!) followed by All Ages service in church at 10am. Everyone is welcome, as always! For other services, see list elsewhere

Annual church meetings Thursday 21 March – open to all. 7.30pm, election of churchwarden(s); followed about 7.45pm by the annual church meeting. A general report by the parochial church council on what's been happening in the past year, plus specifics including finance, safeguarding, church building maintenance. Numbers on the church electoral roll, and re-election of some PCC members. Villagers are welcome to the meeting but only those on the church's electoral roll may vote. Come and see.

Looking forward to Easter next month, our service will be at 10.30am on Easter Sunday 9 April followed by coffee and biscuits

HARDSHIP FUND

In need of extra help? – The church in Aston Abbotts has a hardship fund – so if you need help at any time don't feel embarrassed, it is there for the asking and you can contact our Churchwarden Caroline Abel Smith (details below) in complete confidence.

CHURCH OPENING

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

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

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

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

I had to include this that took place at the wonderful Abbotts View Farm

Thank you Wingrave community for your support and donations for our daughter Ruby.

A total of £110 was raised for Abbotts view Alpacas.



A big thank you to the owners for the gift bag and feeding the animals.

I would like to recommend this farm to anyone that's looking for that quiet break or haven to see these beautiful animals

It truly is a remarkable place. Also the hard work and dedication shows how much they have put into it. Many thanks.



She was very happy to see the farm animals full of smiles and a cheeky tongues out 😊





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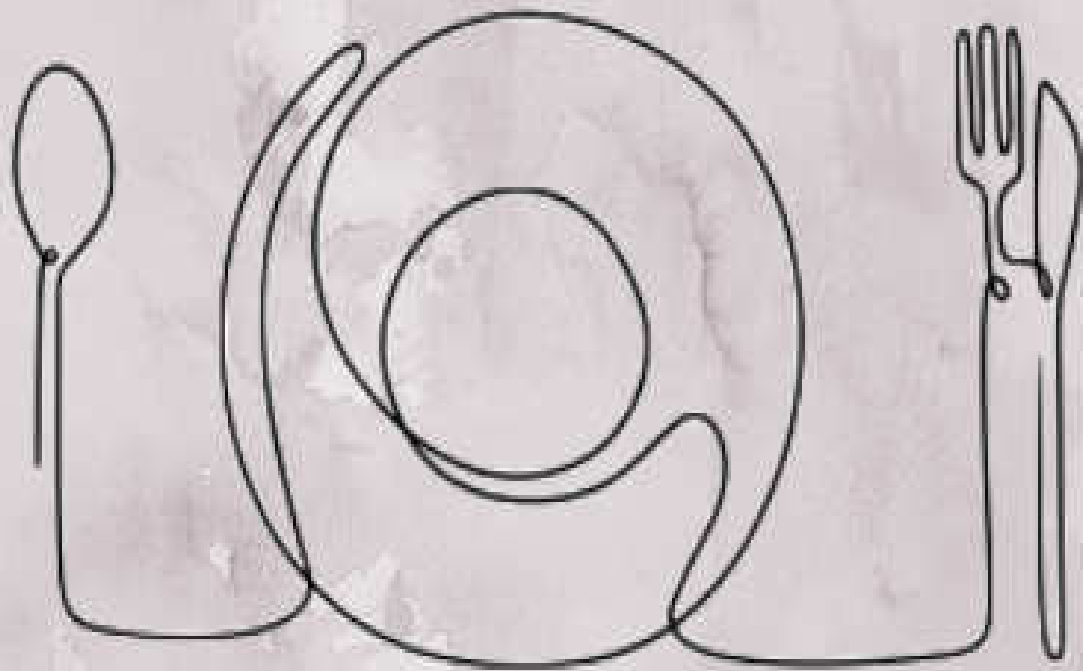
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Celebrate and remember loved ones with Forever Forget-Me-Nots at Waddesdon Manor



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has partnered with the magnificent Waddesdon Manor to launch a very special Forever Flowers event to celebrate and remember loved ones this spring.

A stunning, temporary display of 1,000 bespoke metal Forget-Me-Not flowers will be installed in the Aviary Gardens at Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury in April. Each flower will represent the life, love and memories of a loved one.

The charity is offering you the opportunity to be a part of this event by dedicating one of these limited Forever Forget-Me-Nots, which also includes an invitation to a private viewing of the display on Monday 17th April whilst the grounds are closed to the public. The Forever Forget-Me-Nots installation will then remain on display to the public for two weeks. Once the installation is removed, those who have dedicated a flower will be able to take it home to display as a forever keepsake.

By dedicating a Forever Forget-Me-Not you will be helping the charity to provide excellent local hospice care and be there for more patients and families across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

To dedicate a Forever Forget-Me-Not visit

<https://www.fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers> or call 01296 429975 for more information.

The poster is for 'The Big Walk' organized by Pace. It has a purple background with large, colorful abstract shapes in yellow, orange, and red. The title 'The Big Walk' is in large white font. Below it, the text says 'Step up and make a difference' and 'Walk for Pace and make a huge difference to our inspirational children, who face mobility challenges every single day.' It lists 'Three routes: 18, 12 and 6 miles along the ancient Ridgeway.' There is a photo of five women in red 'The Big Walk' t-shirts. A date bubble says '22nd April'. A white circle contains the sign-up information: 'Sign up today at thepacecentre.org/event/the-big-walk/'. The Pace logo is in the top right. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'Email kelly.houghton@thepacecentre.org', 'thepacecentre.org', and '@thepacecentre'. Small text at the very bottom reads: 'Registered office: The Pace Centre Ltd, The Sandbury Campus, 168 Windover Rd, Aylesbury, HP22 9TE | Company number 2707807 | Registered Charity No. 101832'.

Who's Who ?

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Councillor Richard Lakin

Councillor Sally Palmer 681152

Councillor Marisa Abel Smith

**Councillor & Pop up Pub. Heather
Langdon 688946**

Councillor Jane Plested 681740

County Councillor Peter Cooper

Vicar Revd Howard Robson 688593

**Church Warden Caroline Abel Smith
681001**

**Church Secretary Caroline Lane
681373**

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

Quiz Night. Pete Lucas 07544227991

Book Club Sally Palmer681152

**Village Hall Hire Nigel Palmer
681152**

Men's 630 Club Andy Bystra 681690

**Women's Gnomes Club Carol
Spooner 681544**

100 Club David Gray 681952

Bingo Pam Dixon 681626

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

Orchard Gordon Smith 681373

Community Services

**Post office & shop Wingrave Deva
682964**

**Baby & Toddler Group Kim Gayler
681123**

NHS Direct 24hr Advice 111

Stoke Mandeville Hospital 315000

Police Non-Emergency 101

Buckinghamshire Council 395000

Citizens Advice 08701264056

MP Greg Smith (Con) 01296 714240

Anglian Water 01296 385995

Pre School Wingrave 681127

Wingrave School 681436

Cottesloe School Wing 688264

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Dear School Friends and Neighbours

Schools have been in the news a great deal of late with many education unions voting to take strike action. As we have expressed to our parent community, we always try to do our best for the children in our care however, the Government are making it harder and harder for us to do this because of funding-related decisions. Like many public services, historical pay increases and the recent proposals have not been proportional to inflation. What is proposed, including other new Government education initiatives, is not fully funded either and therefore comes out of our existing school budget, impacting resources and wider school development. As more and more is expected of schools, without additional funding, the number of staff leaving a job in schools for better paid, less stressful jobs continues to increase nationally. One in three teachers leave education within three years, and nearly a third fewer trainees began teacher training this school year.

Unfortunately, our location related property costs makes many of the above factors especially challenging for staff, especially new teachers and support staff, who cannot afford to

live in or around this area. Although we are very fortunate to have such a stable and committed staff team, there has been a dramatic drop in applications for school-based jobs across Buckinghamshire. Whilst perhaps the media focus has been on teacher's pay of late, this is a wider issue that affects everyone in a school-based role and continues to make working in schools less sustainable for existing staff and less appealing for generations to come.

At the time of writing this, we have managed to avoid any major disruption on strike days, however this also minimises the impact of the message those of us in education want heard. Perhaps members of the community would consider writing to their MP about the challenges that face education as a whole that will ultimately affect the future of this school and the provision we can offer local families.

All that said we are very fortunate to have such a supportive community who help take some financial pressures of the budget – the PTFA and their fundraising, for example, and the recent John Mason Raven Trust donation that has made our entire library project possible. We accept that as a school if we focus on the dull but essential purchases like pencils and window maintenance, there are many members of our community who will provide the 'icing on the cake' by supporting

school events, making donations and offering help.

Over the past few weeks, we have been inviting school families to sponsor a book for our new library including a dedicated bookplate. If there are any wider community members or organisations who would like to do the same and be part of something that our local children will directly benefit from, please contact the school office for details.

Matt Tomson. Headteacher

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds but becomes the largest of plants, and grows into a tree where birds can come and find shelter.”

Matthew 13:31-32

**Å 01296 681436 > Twelve Leys,
Wingrave, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4QG
8 office@wingrave.school**

WINGRAVE DIARY MARCH 2023

Wed 1 1000 WI: Guided walk around College Lake - contact Janice Roach 07875 444552

Wed 1 St David's Day menu Rose & Crown

Fri 3 1800 Family Friday evening "Spud Night" Community Centre

Sat 4 1000 Wingrave Singers choral workshop with Scott Inglis-Kidger Parish Church

Sat 4 1830 Aston Abbotts Church quiz AA Village Hall

Fri 10 1930 Family Bingo Community Centre

Sat 11 0845 Men's Breakfast Talk: How would you define quality of life? Methodist Church

Sat 11 1000 Parish Church Vocations event Community Centre

Mon 13 Weekday Walking Group ramble, contact Jan Walmsley: 07813 085211

Mon 13 1500 Friendship Group Baldway House, Leighton Rd

Wed 15 1200 Last of the Summer Ukuleles Rose & Crown

Fri 17 St Patrick's Day menu Rose & Crown

Fri 17 2000 Twinning AGM Cheese & Wine Evening Community Centre

Sat 18 1400 Twinning Jumble Sale Community Centre

Sun 19 0930 Wingrave Ramblers' local ramble Nup End Lane

Sun 19 Mothering Sunday menu Rose & Crown

Fri 24 1930 WwRHA talk 'Long Crendon and Brill' Community Centre

Sat 25 1200 Wild Slow Walk: the silent walk Village Green

Fri 31 School term ends

Fri 31 2000 Kelly's and Paul's Quiz Night



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Tuesday 25th April 2023 7.30pm
An evening with local author
Dave Sivers

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Thank you Neil for the following. Please send your photos to me. editor@aachronicle.co.uk I will try to include them . Ed!





And to Tracy Gregory from Wing, showing Venus and Jupiter each side of the Moon.

