The Chronicle

Buckinghamshire Fly-tipper's dumping bags. Hefty fine.



A Milton Keynes man has been handed a fine after repeatedly dumping bags of compost on a rural country lane in Buckinghamshire. Anatas Vasky was caught on video illegally fly-tipping on a number of occasions in October 2022. Vasky, 33, pleaded guilty at a hearing at High Wycombe Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, March 8. As a result, he has been ordered to pay more than £2,000.

He was caught on camera by Buckinghamshire Council's

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fly-tipping enforcement team. The footage clearly showed Vasky attending the rural location on four separate occasions and unloading his car.

Enforcement officers traced the car back to Vasky and when interviewed, he told them that he was clearing a large industrial greenhouse and took cash to dispose of the last bags that would not fit into a skip.

Magistrates fined Vasky £1,166 with costs of £679 and a victim surcharge of £466, making a total pay of £2,311. Gareth Williams, Buckinghamshire **Council's Cabinet Member for** Climate Change and Environment said, "We have eyes and ears everywhere and if we catch you, we will do everything in our power to prosecute. "Please do not pay cash for anyone to take your rubbish away." If you spot fly-tipping anywhere across Buckinghamshire, report it straightaway on Fix My Street.





Saturday 29th April 7.30pm Aston Abbotts Village Hall A fun night out. New Categories Cash Prize + Play your cards right Bring your own booze / drinks

Snacks on tables Tickets £3 per person Maximum of 6 to a team. Join the fun on a cheap night out Best book in advance 07544227991

From the Editor

Last month I had a pop at the bloated Buckinghamshire Council for raising council tax by the maximum allowed under Government rules despite reducing 5 district councils into one unitary council and claiming this would achieve £millions in savings.

Anglian Water is now set to increase household water bills by an average of £47.77 in 2023/24. Anglian Water made nearly £100m in profits last year.

The water giant was last month ordered to pay over £500,000 for pumping six million litres of pollution into the river by Brackley, which had a 'substantial' environmental impact and killed thousands of fish. The company faces yet another high-profile court case for dumping untreated sewage into the River Great Ouse near Milton Keynes.

Why are there no prison sentences for the CEO and/or the senior management if they sanction such a crime?

It's inexcusable for water companies and bosses to be pocketing millions of pounds during a cost-of-living crisis, particularly when they continue to dump sewage in our rivers and fail to fix leaky pipes.

We have no choice on where we get our water from. It's disgusting that Anglian Water sees this as an opportunity to capitalise on such a necessity.

What with hikes in Council Tax, Prescription charges, Postage stamps, oh and the BBC Licence tax. Don't get me started!

Thanks to everyone for getting in touch regarding the trucks getting through and getting stuck in our village. I was informed that this one below got stuck and eventually delivered to the chicken farm, Norduck.



February's Quiz Night was fun and full. I hope to have another full Quiz Night on Saturday 29th April. So keep your brain healthy and have a good laugh in the process. Reservations are now open!!

Thanks for supporting the Chronicle.

Until next time, be safe.

Pete Lucas.

News

Attempted Burglary Aston

Abbotts. During Sunday 19th March between 12-13.00hrs, three unknown males tried to enter a bungalow on Wingrave Road Aston Abbotts.

It's understood they tried to access the house via a side gate and window before being scared off by the homeowner. They left the scene in a grey Audi A3.

If anyone has any information or CCTV in relation to this please call 101 and quote the reference 43230122217.

Please keep your gates and sheds locked.

QE II Memorial Bench



Many of you will already have noticed, and even sat on, the new bench in the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council submitted a bid for funding to support this purchase when it became apparent that the previous bench had reached the end of its natural life. The Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board have provided the funding which is a huge help to the PC and our village community.

We have recently heard that the Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board will offer further funding to support the purchase of an outdoor Table Tennis table, which we will look to put in place in time for the summer months. The PC would like to thank the Community Board for its support and hope you all enjoy the benefits, either playing Table Tennis or sitting on the bench watching others take the strain.

CALL TO END THE 8am SCRAMBLE FOR A GP

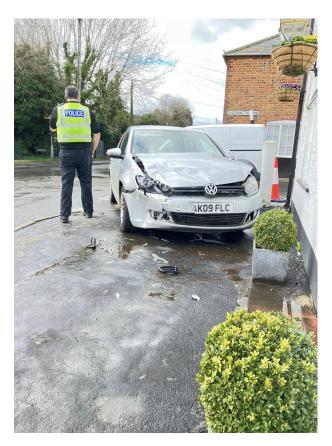
GPs will be told to make it simpler for patients to compare waiting times as part of a drive to make it easier to get a doctor's appointment.

Rishi Sunak is expected to publish a GP rescue plan in the coming weeks focused on making it far less difficult to book an appointment and get advice.

While it is not expected to set any new targets for quicker

appointments, it will seek to use a bonus pot of more than £250 million to incentivise family doctors to make it easier to access services.

Another Crossroads crash in Long Marston



On Tuesday 23rd March this vehicle was the casualty of another crossing Station Road, Long Marston, outside The Queens Head pub which narrowly escaped being hit. The driver of this car said, "I'm just glad I drive like a granny 'else this could have been really bad".



Fortunately there were no major injuries.



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Keepers Corner, Moat Lane, Wingrave, HP22 4PQ

What's on in Aston Abbotts - April

Event	Details
Palm Sunday	2nd
Coffee Shop	Every Thursday 10.00 - 11.30. Village Hall
Whist Drive	Thursday 6th & 20th Village Hall
Good Friday	7th
Easter Day Parish Communion Service	Sunday 9th. 10.30. St James Church
Easter egg hunt	Monday 10th. 10.30 The Orchard
Bingo	Thursday 13th. 19.30. Village Hall
St George's Day	Sunday 23rd
Annual Hall Meeting	Monday 24th 19.30. To residents 20.15. Village Hall. See inside for details
Annual Parish Council Meeting	Wednesday 26th. 19.30. Village Hall
Bus Trip	Friday 28th. 10.00 bus to Aylesbury. Details - Colin Higgs 681343
Village Quiz Night	Saturday 29th. 19.30. Village Hall
Rambling Club	Sunday 30th. Meet on The Green at 14.00

Future events to remember

Village Festival & Fete - 22 & 3 July

Bucks County Show - Thursday 31st August

Village Horticultural Show - Saturday 2nd September





The Big Walk

Step up and make a difference

Walk for Pace and make a huge difference to our inspirational children, who face mobility challenges every single day.

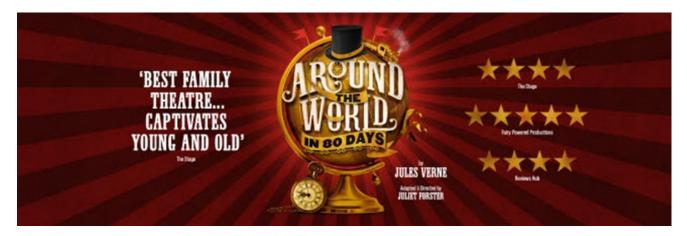


22nd April Three routes: 18, 12 and 6 miles along the infamous Ridgeway.

Sign up today at thepacecentre.org/event/the-big-walk/

Email kelly.houghton@thepacecentre.org thepacecentre.org @ @thepacecentre Registered office. The Pace Centre Ltd, The Bradbury Campus, 156 Wendover Rd, Aylesbury, HP22 5TE | Company number 2707807 | Registered Charity No. 1011133

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS



An exciting adventure, adapted from Jules Verne's iconic story, is touring the UK arriving in Aylesbury Waterside Theatre Tue 2 – Sat 6 May. Around the World in 80 Days is a fun-filled family production where circus meets theatre in a rip-roaring caper ready to dazzle and delight the whole family.

A band of travelling circus performers embark on their most daring feat yet: to recreate the adventures of Phileas Fogg as he sets off on his race around the world.

But this is a telling of two tales; fact meets fiction as we learn the incredible true story of American journalist Nellie Bly who emulated the character of Phileas in her record-breaking trip around the world.

Watch the drama unfold as skilled performers traverse every country, embrace each character and navigate every mode of transport, as two tales intertwine on a madcap journey around the globe. Jules Verne's original characters are transformed in Juliet Forster's adaptation, embracing different modeof transport as they journey across the globe. Audiences can join the Ringmaster, the Acrobat, the Clown, the Trick Rider, and the Knife Thrower on their frantic race to travel Around the World in 80 Days.

Audiences can sit back and enjoy skilled performers traversing countries across the globe, embracing each character from the book and navigating different modes of transport. Join the Ringmaster, the Acrobat, the Clown, the Trick Rider and the Knife Thrower on their journey as fact clashes with fiction in this madcap adventure around the world.

Book now at <u>www.atgtickets.com*</u> .

*Booking fees apply



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Your Letters

Dear Pete

Just to say thanks to Deirdre for thinking of getting extra daffodil

bulbs last autumn for planting round the village. Lovely to see them flowering!

Caroline Lane

Dear Editor

Finally visited Aston View Alpaca walks today with my grandchildren.

What a wonderful local attraction. We had such a lot of fun walking and feeding these beautiful animals.



The morning was topped off with tea/coffee and delicious cake.

So friendly and well organised.

It's a great place to go if you have friends or family visiting you.

Dawn

I agree Dawn. I love the place. Those guys do such good work. Real assets to the village. Ed!

Pete

This ruddy great 44 ton truck just came up Moat lane from The Green and after two attempts managed to turn down the lane towards norduck.

Michael

Hello

I am often asked about how the public can submit information to the police about things that are not happening then and there and you think it would be useful for us to know about (examples below). Normally this can be done through the local neighbourhood team email addresses, 101 or the TVP website.

However I want to try and make this a smoother process for some of our partners and community members.

Therefore if you would like to submit information which can be inputted onto police systems then please reply to the email address, include your information: your date of birth (if willing), address (if willing) and how you know the information – if someone told you or you witnessed it yourself – and would you be willing to provide any more information. Examples of information that would be useful: *"I see drug dealing on my street every night at 7pm. I don't know the dealer but they are tall with brown hair"*

"The person riding the motorbike around Bedgrove every night keeping people awake is Joe Bloggs"

"The neighbour down the road at number 32 is always on Facebook holding knives"

"There was a fire in the grounds of the local school and my neighbour told me it was Joe Bloggs"

"I always smell cannabis coming from number 32 when I walk passed"

Hopefully you get the idea. It can be seemingly low level information but it might be the final piece in the jigsaw that means we can take action. Any questions then please let us know.

Police Inspector 4625 James Davies. Aylesbury Vale Neighbourhood Team. Aylesbury Vale LPA. Mobile: 07966 178040 Address: Buckingham Police Office, 12 Swan Business Centre, Osier Way, Buckingham, MK18 1TB

JO HOWLAND C5585. Neighbourhood Administrator. Aylesbury Vale LPA. Ext: 3116418. Address: Aylesbury Police Station, Wendover Road. HP21 7LA. Email: joanna.howland@thamesvalley.police.uk

Mon 7:00 -13:00. Tue 7:00 -13:00 Wed 7:00 -13:30

Dear Chronicle Reader

Criminals are targeting WhatsApp users by posing as a friend and asking for a security code. Action Fraud has received over 60 reports relating to this scam.

The scam begins when a criminal gets access to another WhatsApp account which has you listed as a contact.

The criminal, posing as your friend or someone that's a member of a WhatsApp group you're in, will then send you seemingly normal messages to try and start a conversation with you. However, around the same time you will receive a text message from WhatsApp with a six-digit code. This is because the criminal has been trying to login to WhatsApp using your mobile number. The criminal will claim that they sent you their code by accident and ask you to help them by sending it to them. Once the criminal has this code, they can login to your WhatsApp account and lock you out.

The criminal will then use the same tactic with your WhatsApp contacts in an effort to steal more accounts and use them to perpetrate fraud.

What you need to do:

Set up two-step verification to give an extra layer of protection to your account: Tap Settings > Account >Two-step verification > Enable.

THINK. CALL. If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.

Never share your account's activation code (that's the 6 digit code you receive via SMS)

You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp.

Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it to <u>Action</u> <u>Fraud</u> or 0300 123 2040.

Ed,

Please pass a big thank you to all the litter pickers on the 19th March. We gathered 9 sacks full plus tyres, traffic cones, dozens of drink cans, a mirror and lots more.

Colin Higgs.



A wonderful view of Kingsbury in May 1961.

Notes from Parish Council Meeting March 2023

The Parish Council meets again on 5th April, 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Winter roads

At the Parish Council meeting on 28th February much of the discussion with the Unitary Councillors was on the topic of gritting. Residents have made it clear that they are unhappy with Bucks Council's decision to not grit Lines Hill and we, with the help of **Cllrs Peter Cooper and Diana** Blamires, are pushing hard for justification of this and a review in time for next winter. Timed with the introduction of new contractors appointed to work on Bucks Highways we are hopeful for a reconsideration at the very least.

The Green

Work to some of the trees on The Green is set to be carried out on17th & 18th April. We will send a reminder out via Postie and would ask that residents avoid parking around the green on those days.

A Casual Vacancy

Notice is hereby given that by reason of the resignation of Councillor Lakin, a vacancy has occurred among the members of the Parish Council.

Any person wishing to fill this vacancy should apply to the Clerk in writing, stating what they feel they could offer to the Parish Council before 20th April 2023.

To know more about what is involved with being a councillor please contact the Parish Clerk or the Parish Council Chairman (Jane Baylis). The applicant's name must appear on the current register of the Voters List or the applicant should during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date have resided in or within three miles of the parish or the applicant's only place of work during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date is in the parish.

The applicant must not be debarred from standing as a councillor.

Unless a by-election has been called for, election to the aforesaid council will be voted for by the present sitting number of councillors.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Richard Lakin for his years of service.

The Big Help Out

As part of the Coronation celebrations, Buckingham Palace has announced the 8th May as the big help out day to encourage people to volunteer in some capacity that will support the local community. The Parish Council would really like to support this day with an Aston Abbotts working party. Initial thoughts are to carry out some minor maintenance and repairs within the Childrens Play Area at the Recreation Ground, however this is your village so any other ideas would be welcomed. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the Parish Council in the first instance.

For a full set of minutes from each Parish Council meeting please visit the website

https://astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk/

And if you would like to contact us please do so through the Clerk clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL MEETING

The Village Hall Trustees are meeting on the 24th April at. 7.30pm.

After this meeting there will be an open meeting for any villagers who would like to attend to raise any issues, concerns or indeed just to talk through any relevant topics. We anticipate a start time around 8.15pm.

All are welcome John Whyte On behalf of the Trustees

Aston Abbotts Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 26th April 2023 Village Hall 7.30 pm

Short presentations from the various groups/committees in the village, approve distribution of fete funds.

All welcome, please attend to see what is happening in our wonderful village.

Refreshments available.

Applications for Fete Projects

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 26th April 2023, at this meeting the decision is taken by residents of Aston Abbotts Parish on how the surplus of the fete funds should be spent. These funds can be applied for by any individual or group within Aston Abbotts and are used to benefit the village.

The Fete Committee has revised the guidelines for those wishing to apply for funds, these guidelines are to be approved at the Annual Parish Meeting prior to the applications. The guidelines are as below:-

Requesting Funds

The following guidance is provided for those seeking funding from the surplus of the Aston Abbotts Fete.

All requests must be made for a whole amount and be provided with suitable justification.

Requestors should ideally make their requests known in advance of the APM to the Fete Treasurer so that they can be added to the agenda, although this is not a requirement. Requestors should expect to speak to the residents detailing the amount to be requested, the purpose of the funds, and the general benefit of the funding for the village during the APM when called upon.

Amounts Over £500

A written request, including business justification, must be provided to the Fete Treasurer at least 1 week before the APM. In addition, an Annual Financial Statement or similar Statement of Accounts must be provided to the Fete Treasurer. This statement should include the current account balance if an established committee or group.

Amounts Over £1000

In addition to the items for over £500, receipts will be requested covering at least 80% of the amount requested.

Any additional information provided to the Fete Treasurer as part of requests over £500 may be disclosed to residents, if requested, during the APM.

Surplus Funds

Any surplus after the distribution of funds will be retained in the Fete Accounts, and this amount will be published along with the Fete Accounts to the Residents.

Requests in excess of Funds

Please note that in the event that the fete does not generate enough funds to cover the amounts requested, then there maybe the need for an additional meeting to review how the profit is allocated to the various bodies. Any surplus funds which are not allocated will be held by the Fete Committee and carried over.

Please apply to the Fete Treasurer:-

Kate Curry

2 Norduck Cottages Moat Lane

Aston Abbotts HP22 4NF

Email: norduck@hotmail.com

Aston Abbotts Fete Committee

Buckinghamshire libraries to offer free computer classes



LIBRARIES across Buckinghamshire have been transformed to offer

more services such as free computer classes, health checks, loanable tablets and more.

The council has recognised how vital the libraries were over winter as they provided a warm and safe space for residents to visit during the colder months.

With reading and book-borrowing still at the heart of the libraries, the new strategy reflects the growing use of libraries as community hubs accommodating other services too, for example, registrars and the Junction Youth Club in partnership with Action4Youth at High Wycombe library.

Many libraries also now operate as Council Access Points, helping residents with information on wider council services.

The strategy outlines the intention to:

Attract even more people to reading, including children, for example, by expanding the already popular Summer Reading Challenge

Grow the libraries' cultural offer, such as forging stronger links with arts organisations and hosting exhibitions and theatre shows

Promote health and well-being through the Healthy Libraries programme, providing a range of new activities such as parent advice and a men's mental health project.

Make libraries even more environmentally friendly, such as installing a Living Wall at Aylesbury Library

"It keeps books and reading at the heart of our library service while also recognising their essential role in supporting the community – and also how our libraries have had to modernise to meet our ever-changing and evolving needs.

These are cherished places which offer something really special and are hugely valued by users.

So please come and pay us a visit, especially if you haven't been into your local library for a while, to see the range of things we offer."



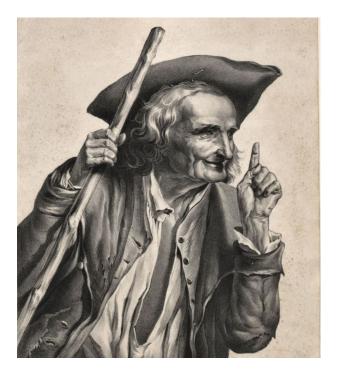


Contact Max to discuss your requirements

07949 508584 gardens@longmoormaintenance.co.uk

The Guardian Of Chapel Cottage: A True Ghost Story. David Kidd-Hewitt

I've taken a break from the 'Buckinghamshire Murder' series this month. Take a look at this story from Speen, Buckinghamshire. The story was a printed draft so I've edited it to improve grammar and punctuation. Ed!



I would like to recount my favourite true ghost story that I was told about fourteen years ago when I was writing Buckinghamshire Tales of Mystery and Murder (Countryside Books, 2003).

I had met up with Louise and Noel Dockstader who had recently moved to my neighbourhood and they kindly told me their fascinating story I've entitled *'The Guardian of Chapel Cottage'* and I have absolutely no reason to doubt its authenticity and I think you'll see why.

Ghosts in popular myth tend to be depicted as transparent, often appear to float, or possibly walk through walls and perhaps make strange noises. In my long experience of thoroughly investigating tales of ghosts or apparitions and interviewing 'witnesses' at length, a different picture emerges time and time again.

Those who pass my tough and tricky interrogation, who I can then consider to be reliable informants, rarely see semi-transparent beings. They have more usually been confronted by what appears to be a solid, three dimensional person. It then takes the brain a moment to register that there is something incongruous or out of place about what they are suddenly seeing, apart from why that person is there at all. The clothes are perhaps from another century, the whole appearance says this person is 'out of time,' and then they are gone. Sometimes instantaneously, sometimes fading away.

I always began my many such investigations as a sceptic but the following experiences recounted, checked and double checked make it difficult to do other than conclude that this story, 'The Guardian of Chapel Cottage,' is as authentic as any ghost or spirit story can be.

The story begins when a young married couple, Louise and Noel Dockstader, decided to move to the picturesque Buckinghamshire village of Speen.

Noel, who originates from California, had met the love of his life, Louise from England, whilst in the States, and they had married and were now both living in California. Noel told Louise that he had ambitions to move to England and live in some kind of historic house. Louise was keen to return to England and for Noel to experience the English way of life away from what she called, "Shiny, new California."

So in 1991, after their first year of married life in the States, they rented a farm cottage in Gloucestershire and set about looking for a more permanent home.

They wanted an area with hills and countryside close enough to travel to London for work and so their research took them to the old Buckinghamshire village of Speen.

They took days out looking for 'For Sale' signs and in January 1992 came across Chapel Cottage.



No one was at home, so they peeked through the windows and both knew immediately that this was what they wanted. At that moment the owners returned from a walk and invited Louise and Noel in. They sat them down for some tea by a roaring fire in the cottage's original sixteenth century inglenook fireplace and it was at that moment Louise and Noel both realised this had to be their cottage.

By February 22nd, 1992, they were driving down from Gloucestershire in a rented van to move into Chapel Cottage. It was a mild February morning at around ten o' clock in the morning when they arrived outside their new home. Their first job was to unload the many boxes that they had managed to cram into the van. Noel was anxious to return to Gloucestershire for their second load, whilst Louise agreed to stay and to sort out the first batch into some semblance of order.

The cottage was even better than Louise remembered it. As you open the front door, you enter directly into a cosy living room, where, in the far left-hand corner, there is a small stairwell from which steep, narrow, polished wooden stairs spiral upwards. They look almost too vertical to climb safely and the stairwell entrance is enclosed by a small latched door.

Louise liked the way the stairs looked as if they were escaping from a small cupboard. Also you couldn't quite see where they were leading which made them quite exciting. A major attraction of the cottage for Louise and Noel was not only this amazing staircase, but all the nooks and crannies they could enjoy, as well as the authentic inglenook fireplace that was almost half the size of the living room.



It was an interesting design because it had an additional brick section right at the back, halfway down, that might have been there to throw heat forward into the room, or perhaps an unfinished attempt to open up the fireplace to serve the dining room behind.

Anyway that was a puzzle to solve another day. They both loved the built-in bread-oven and salt cupboard, all part of the original function of the fireplace when the early occupants would be busy cooking and baking bread over a log-fire. They saw the possibilities of perhaps doing this themselves one day once they had settled in.

As they moved in on this February day in 1992, the first part of our story begins.

While Noel was busy unloading from the van, Louise carried her first box into the living room. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw a figure standing on the stairs in the corner watching her.

There is always a split- second before the mind adjusts to what it has just seen and Louise's immediate thought was, 'Oh, the estate agent is here or someone Noel has asked to meet us but forgot to tell me.'

But no sooner had she thought this, then she released that the figure's appearance did not support her reasoning. The figure was male, completely solid – not the transparent apparition of a traditional ghost story – and was wearing a type of farm worker's smock and a rather incongruous floppy hat over long curly black hair. In that split-second it was difficult to see his face clearly.

Louise recalled how her mind logged a bizarre similarity to how she would imagine Salvador Dali would look if you met him unexpectedly in your living room, but in an instant of recognition he was gone. Louise also recalls how she did not have any urge to scream.

It almost seemed that he was supposed to be there. The cottage was welcoming and there was no sudden change in atmosphere or a cold draught blowing across the room we are told is supposed to happen if you are in the presence of a ghost. Also it was mid-morning and in all good hauntings, ghosts are not thought of as morning people.

Louise called for Noel and told him what she had seen. He knew Louise was not prone to imaginary episodes, and there was nothing to see, but he kept an open mind that it was perhaps a strange configuration of the light or something that could be similarly explained.

However, during the course of that day while they moved in scores of boxes, both Louise and Noel did encounter a strange occurrence that neither of them have been able to account for and only happened on that first day in the empty cottage.

They noticed something they have, on reflection, called a 'reverse echo' preceding them into the living room. As they carried in a box, the sound of footsteps went ahead of them as if someone invisible was already walking into the room. This was then accompanied by the sound of a box being thumped to the ground before the box Louise or Noel was carrying was placed down on the floorboards. It was as if their movements were being mimicked just ahead of them.

As they both recall, "It was like the sound was coming before the thing that you had done – in advance – and that was really spooky."

That might have been the end of a very brief, bizarre experience they both found difficult to explain but something was yet to occur that Louise will never forget.

But first there were to be seven years of incredibly happy times in their cottage home without the slightest hint of ghostly happenings. In fact the house was one with a comforting atmosphere that soon put behind any lingering thoughts that it was haunted. Louise recalls how there was always a warm presence. She described it as "A wonderful house that had a really live feeling as if it were really taking care of us and we hated to leave it but it was tiny."

Before any question of leaving Chapel Cottage arises, however, there is the happy event of the first of July 1997 to record. The birth of their son Joseph.

Noel and Louise were overjoyed and Louise's mother came to stay at the cottage to help.

Noel, Louise and now Joe, enjoyed two more happy years in their cottage in Speen before deciding it was time to move. This cosy home was too small to bring up a family and the steep stairway and nooks and crannies were too tempting and possibly dangerous for a young toddler who was now a confirmed walker, zooming along with that toddling gait that youngsters use so effectively to reach quite remarkable speeds.

They settled on buying an old house with a large garden in nearby Prestwood, an ideal property to bring up a family and big enough to acquire a family dog as well.

The moving date was July 10th 1999 and Joe was now just over two years old and into everything. Eventually the cottage was cleared out ready for the new owners, and was completely empty again, just as it had been when they moved in. Louise undertook a final check to make sure all was clean and tidy for the new occupants.

She was carrying Joe in her arms back down the stairs after checking the bedrooms. Suddenly he made Louise stop and said "*Mummy, who's that*?"

"Who?", asked Louise.

"That man," said Joe, "with the funny clothes."

"What man?"

"That man standing next to you mummy," said Joe, pointing.

Louise was half-way down the stairs holding Joe in front of her and anyone standing next to her would have been in exactly the same spot, when seven years ago, Louise saw her ghost as she entered the living room of Chapel Cottage for the first time.

Five years before Joe was born.

Louise felt goose-bumps begin, and, not daring to turn, she looked straight ahead and asked Joe what the man was doing.

"He's poking you mummy," said Joe, demonstrating poking actions with his finger. Louise remembers how Joe was making eye contact with someone over her shoulder and even looked a little embarrassed at mimicking the stranger's actions.

Louise, now quite unnerved, plucked up the courage to whip around, and confront the man but couldn't see anyone or anything.

Joe, however, was looking straight at the spot where such a figure would be standing.

Louise mumbled something about how they ought to go now, as she didn't want to alarm Joe, and continued quickly down the stairs, straight outside and locked the cottage door for the last time, never looking back.

Louise and Noel have thought about their ghost a great deal since, and Louise in particular is frustrated about not knowing more about Chapel Cottage and its history. She also feels that perhaps, the figure, or whatever it was, was only trying to communicate and now it is too late to find out why.

Joe never spoke about the incident as he has no reason to consider it as anything out of the ordinary. At two years of age he would know nothing of ghosts and wouldn't be worried about a man standing on the stairs, his finger apparently prodding his mother. Louise and Noel did not discuss it with him either in case it frightened him.

Several things still puzzle Louise.

Why did someone or something only appear so briefly when they moved in and then on the day they moved out but in between the cottage felt so comforting and protective? Was this some kind of benevolent guardian?

Did it/he? watch over the family, generating the warm presence that both Louise and Noel felt in their home? Also why did she see him on the first day but only Joe could see him on their last day?

Why did Joe say he was poking mummy? Louise has thought a great deal about this and wondered whether this was not what he really saw. It was more than likely that the apparition of Chapel Cottage was not poking at all – he was pointing.

But what, on the stairs, was he pointing at if it wasn't Louise?

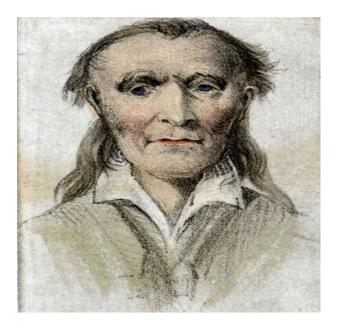
Had he a story to tell? Did something happen on that staircase? From his position he could perhaps have been pointing to the incongruous brick section that had been added after the original inglenook fireplace had been built. Also Joe had never, prior to this incident, or since that day, claimed to have seen anyone who wasn't there as far as mum or dad were concerned.

Louise recalls, rather chillingly, that the stairs were so steep, rising up high into the roof space they were easily tall enough for someone to hang themselves or be hung. But then this would not accord with the friendly feel and happy atmosphere they always enjoyed in the cottage so it seems more likely that attention was perhaps being drawn to something hidden in the area of the stairway.

The only other unusual event that Louise recalls happening during their time at Chapel Cottage – and on the face of it – seems totally unconnected with these two appearances of the Chapel Cottage ghost – concerns a visitor to the cottage.

It was July 2nd 1997, Noel had popped out for a short while and Louise was resting upstairs having only just returned from High Wycombe hospital that very day, with their precious one-day old baby. It was Joe's very first time in his new home and Louise's mum had come to stay for a while to help out.

There was a knock at the cottage door and mum answered. There was an elderly stranger who introduced himself as someone who had been born in that very cottage in 1900 and was back visiting his old village of Speen and his former home.



Louise could hear snatches of the conversation below as her mother chatted with him and it was clear that he fully understood that it was not convenient to come in and look around while mother and new baby were resting. He thanked Louise's mother who suggested he call back in a few day's time. She told Louise that for ninety-seven years old, he looked very good.

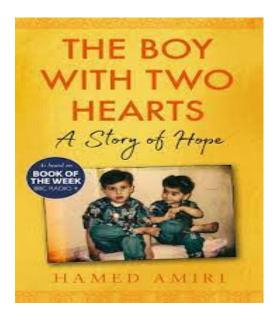
A few days later, a beautiful old photograph of Chapel Cottage was put through the letter-box with a brief note explaining that the young boy standing outside, aged three years old, was him in 1903. He never called by again, unless,....

Was this a coincidence?

Is there something that connects the unexpected visitor on Joe's first day in the cottage with the apparition on Louise and Noel's very first and Louise and Joe's very last day of occupation?

The mystery of the ghost of Chapel Cottage and the unexpected visitor remains to be solved. I will go and visit this cottage next year and somehow find out if the current occupants have any similar experiences but I dare not suggest their home is haunted if they have no knowledge of anything unusual. It's a little tricky but it would be great to see what has happened there over the last eighteen years – especially if they had a certain visitor now aged one hundred and seventeen years old leaving them a photograph.

ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUBFEBRUARY



The book choice for February was The Boy With Two Hearts by Hamid Amiri. It is described on the front cover as A Story of Hope.

The Amiri family, father, mother and three sons come from Afghanistan. They lived under the rule of the Taliban. The mother was angry and frustrated about how women and girls were treated by the Taliban and made a public speech expressing her views. As a result of

this the family were in danger of severe persecution and death by the Taliban. The family had another problem, the eldest son Hussein had a serious heart condition and they had tried to get help outside of Afghanistan without success. They knew there was a chance of treatment in the USA or UK. They decided to flee from Afghanistan, so they sold their few possessions and left. The journey across Europe via Moscow took 18 months to get to Calais. It was hazardous and uncomfortable. Nearly half the book was devoted to the care and treatment of Hussein by the NHS.

There was discussion about the current issue of refugees arriving in the UK. The role of the NHS in the life saving treatment of Hussein and others in need, lead to thoughts about managing the system. There was some sympathy for people living under oppressive regimes, and getting rid of an oppressor might be a solution to producing fewer refugees.

The text and language of the book was simple as some noted, there was no mention of a "ghost writer" so perhaps Hamed Amiri wrote it as a teenager, using his second language.

The book was thought provoking as well as being a love letter to Britain's health service.

Anita Parker

Recycling. Common mistakes many of us are making

Recycling's a confusing business. And we're not alone in thinking so.

A recent poll by Recycle Now found that many Brits are baffled by exactly which items can be recycled, with a whopping 84% of households putting one or more things in the rubbish bin that could have been reused. Overall, a third (34%) of the 3,000 households surveyed are incorrectly disposing of five or more items, and almost one fifth (17%) are disposing of 10 or more items incorrectly.



The issue is further complicated by inconsistency among councils, who make their own rules about recycling.

But all this confusion is coming at a cost as it was revealed last year the government missed its target to recycle 50% of all household waste by 2020, with levels of recycling stalling over recent years.

With that in mind, and figures revealing that humans contribute to a staggering 2.12 billion tons of waste that end up in a landfill, it's more important than ever to keep up our sustainable efforts.

We've highlighted some of the common mistakes we're making as well as the items you can and can't recycle.

Not understanding the labels

It is unacceptable that in the UK we do not have an easy-to-understand and consistent system for assessing if an item can be recycled. That there is confusion over the Green Dot logo.

"The Green Dot logo does not actually mean that the packaging in question has been recycled, nor that it can be recycled (meaning it can sometimes be found on reusable packaging). It simply signifies that the producer has made a (usually financial) contribution towards the recycling of packaging."

What is needed is a legal requirement by manufacturers to adopt the triangle system (already an international standard used in other countries) allotting a number from one-seven indicating which of the seven types of plastic the item is.

"If this system was taken up, environmental educators would find it easier to communicate to the public which type of plastic (eg. PET, HDPE, PP) goes where. You cannot always tell just by looking at plastic."

There should be a second symbol, she suggests, with more precise instructions such as 'Do not Recycle at Home'. Without a clear labelling system, items are being disposed of incorrectly and are tossed in the recycling when in fact they should not be included.

Not knowing your non-recyclables

Though we know we need to recycle, we're not always sure what we should and shouldn't be putting in the recycling bin.

"Many of us now make a conscious effort to recycle as much of our household waste as possible, whether it's the plastic packaging on our food or the various glass bottles and jars we accumulate over time. However, not everything we buy can be recycled," says Nik Williams, managing director of paper recycling company Shredall SDS Group.

"Recycling has become so commonplace that individuals too often assume that all standard household products are designed to be repurposed at a later date," he continues.



Despite 95% of us trying to recycle, people are confused about what can and can't be recycled. (Getty Images)

The truth, he says, is that despite major advancements in our country's recycling capabilities we've still got a long way off from having a truly circular economy.

"Greasy pizza boxes, plastic-lined wrapping paper and standard pet food

packaging are all not currently fit for recycling, yet people continue to contaminate their recycling bins with these products because they falsely believe they are."

While we wait for the system to be improved, here's a rough guide on some of the things you can and can't put in the recycling.

Items you can and can't recycle

Pizza boxes

"Used pizza boxes are not recyclable because the paper fibres cannot be separated from the fatty oils during the pulping process, making them unusable," explains Williams.

Wrapping paper

"Wrapping paper is often too covered in glitter and plastics to separate the necessary paper fibres," he adds.

Foil

It's not plastic so not everyone believes foil is recyclable, but it is. It must be cleaned and scrunched up into a ball, before putting in the recycling. If it's sticky with food waste, it should go into general waste.

Paper cups

There is some confusion about whether paper cups are able to be recycled but according to Mike Turner, of the Paper Cup Alliance, they are 100% recyclable. "We have more than enough capacity here in the UK to recycle all the cups sold on our high streets," he explains.

Shampoo and shower gel bottles

Give them a quick rinse and put them in with your plastic recycling, but make sure you remove any pumps first as this will need to go in with general waste.

Mattresses

"Did you know that mattresses are actually 100% recyclable? If the answer is a 'no' then you're not alone as according to Reduce Reuse Recycle, only 16% of mattresses are recycled in the UK," a spokesperson from Room to Grow says.

Aerosols

If you steer clear of recycling aerosol cans because of a fear they may explode, it's time to stop as aerosols are in fact recyclable. They're made from aluminium and steel which are both recyclable. Providing that the can is completely empty, the can and lids are widely recycled, but please consult the Recycle Now website to ensure that your local authority collection does facilitate this.

Light bulbs

Though the newer energy efficient light bulbs can be recycled, older incandescent bulbs should be tossed in with general waste. But you know you should be switching to the newer light bulbs anyway, right? Better for the environment and all that.

Food and pet pouches

Generally pouches for baby and pet food should be placed in your regular rubbish bin. "Pet food pouches usually have an unrecyclable aluminium lining to keep the food fresh," explains Williams. TerraCycle and Ella's Kitchen have joined forces to create EllaCycle, a free recycling programme for any brand of baby food pouches.

Wine corks

"Unfortunately, corks don't break down in landfill," warns Rachel McClelland, founder of Planet Shine, a channel aiming to help people make more ethical choices.

"But there is a way to indulge (almost) guilt free because you can recycle them with Recorked UK," she continues.

Batteries

Recent research by VARTA Batteries revealed that 39% of us throw their batteries straight in the bin, but this can cause potential problems with the chemicals eroding into the soil.

Battery recycle points can be found across the UK, at dedicated recycling centres and at many different supermarkets.

Another cause of recycling confusion is the fact that some packaging items resemble recyclable items but are in fact made using a different material. "Crisp packets, for example, can look like they are made from aluminium foil, but in fact they are made from a metallised plastic which is not recyclable at the kerbside," explains Chris Latham-Warde, programme manager for Every Can Counts UK.

A good test for this type of packaging, he says, is the 'scrunch test'. "Scrunch the foil packaging up in your hand and if it stays in a ball, then the foil is made from aluminium and is recyclable. If however the packaging springs back in your hand, the packaging is not pure aluminium and is not recyclable at the kerbside."

Other items that are commonly mistaken for aluminium foil but are in fact metallised plastic include confectionary wrappers, pet food pouches, drink pouches and medicine blister packs.

Drinks cans

Finally a product where there should be no recycling confusion. "When it comes to drink cans, the story is very straightforward," explains Latham-Warde. "It doesn't even matter if the can is crushed or not. Drink cans are made from aluminium which is endlessly recyclable, and because of the high value of aluminium, empty drink cans are widely recycled across the UK. In fact, drink cans are the world's most recycled beverage container!"

ALLOTMENT DIARY

Isn't it strange how the weather seems to even itself out? We had a drought in February, which is most unusual (in times past the month was sometimes called "February Fill-dyke"), but in March it has hardly stopped raining. I suspect that these unusual weather patterns may be exacerbated by global warming, and we should not complain, having regard to the extreme weather patterns elsewhere in the world.

This month I began the Herculean task of wheeling wheelbarrow-loads of compost from my garden to the allotment. Readers with long memories may remember that last year I took over 40 barrow-loads to the allotment, and I was anticipating having to do the same again this year. However, I also had a large heap of compost on my allotment, which I had covered with a plastic sheet over the winter in order to kill the weeds, and I was intending to use some of this as well.

However, my splendid son, Adam, having completed his first rotavation of the plot (he does two), then turned his attention to the allotment compost heap; and when I turned up with my barrow and spade one Sunday morning, I discovered that he had beaten me to it, and had started demolishing the allotment compost heap. To my great pleasure, he did not just hollow it out as I would have done, leaving the bulk of the heap intact: he did not finish until he had cleared the whole pile of compost! My labours of Hercules were therefore considerably reduced, and I have only taken twenty-odd barrows of compost to the allotment. My garden will thus also benefit from this, since I will have to use the surplus compost there.

I have already started growing some seeds in the house for transportation to the greenhouse when the temperature is higher – tomatoes and peppers. Next week I will begin planting on the allotment.

Peter Shorrock

Church Matters – April

LAST MONTH

Services – the Breakfast and All Ages service for Mothering Sunday was popular with a full English breakfast served up by the men. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Quiz – held on 4 March, the hall was packed for a fun evening, raising £570 for church funds. Thank you Andrew for another challenging set of questions!

Annual meetings of the parochial church council– Caroline Abel Smith was re-elected as churchwarden; so were Tatiana Butler (treasurer), Ro Knight (safeguarding) and Caroline Lane (secretary). Thanks to Ann Goodman, retiring from the PCC after many years in various roles, including establishing the wild area in the churchyard with her late partner Gordon Kemp. If you haven't walked around there recently do have a look at the newly planted crocuses and daffodils in the roped-off area.

COMING UP

Looking forward to Easter - our service will be at 10.30am on Easter Sunday 9 April followed by coffee and biscuits. See services list for the rest of Holy Week. <u>CORONATION TEA</u> - save the date – there will be a celebration tea for the coronation weekend on the afternoon of Sunday 7 May, details to follow

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. From Easter it will be open every day; until then either Caroline will be happy to unlock and 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, Annie Pettie; Andy Bystra (fabric); Tatiana Butler and Francesca Bean (finance)



St James PCC is organising a

Coronation Tea

Village hall and church, Sunday afternoon 7 May

Celebration time! Save the date, details to follow

Contact anyone on the parochial church council if you want to help

Easter Sunday service St James Aston Abbotts

2 April	6.00pm	Evensong
9 April Easter Sunday	10.30am	Parish Communion Followed by coffee and biscuits
16 April	9.30am Then 10am	Breakfast, village hall Then All Ages service
23 April	10.30am	Parish Communion
30 April	10.30am	Benefice Communion

& April 2023

Holy Week services across the benefice

Maundy Thursday (6 April)

7:30pm Communion, Soulbury

Good Friday (7 April)

10am lay-led service at Cheddington

2pm services at Wing, Wingrave and Stewkley

All Good Friday services are non-Eucharistic

Easter Sunday (9 April)

6:15am Dawn Service, Cublington

9am Communion, Mentmore

9am Communion, Cublington

9:30am Communion, Wingrave

10am Communion, Stewkley

<u>10:30am Communion, Aston</u> <u>Abbotts</u>

10:30am Communion, Cheddington

11am Communion, Wing

11:30am Communion, Soulbury

Best wishes on behalf of the ministry team

Revd Dr Andrew Krauss

Team Vicar for the Cottesloe Benefice, Diocese of Oxford

Parish article April 2023

Easter has arrived though being lunar dependent, there's always some discussion as to when that will be. Those who compiled the Book of Common Prayer clearly anticipated this for in its opening pages the Prayer Book has a method by which we can calculate when Easter falls. It is under the heading "A Table to find Easter Day". First it depends on the Pascal full moon, something called a Golden Number (GN) and something else called a Sunday Letter (SL). To find the GN add 1 to the year of our Lord and then divide by 19. The remainder is the GN or if no remainder, the GN is 19. To find the SL add to the year of our Lord its fourth part, omitting fractions and also add the number 6. Divide by 7 and the SL equates to a letter in the table given. If for some reason, all this proves too difficult, turn the page in the prayer book and there is another table to find Easter with the helpful title of "Another Table to find Easter".

Finding Easter; the compilers of the Prayer Book knew where their faith lay, but others stay in the empty tomb. Perhaps wonder how much force would be needed to roll away the stone or concentrate only on closely folded grave clothes; this is the thinking that stays right there in the tomb, measuring, concentrating on the bare bones, pinning, nailing, everything down. That is not where we find Easter.

Easter is the pivotal point in Christian faith. Not Christmas, not Pentecost and certainly not over size marrows at Harvest Festival. Easter is when the whole thing becomes true and finding Easter is the point in a person's life when we say I am a Christian; I have moved from death to life, leaving the tomb I am going to stride forth with Christ. The heart that finds Easter knows the new life of forgiveness and trusts in new possibilities. There's finding Easter in community too for no place we happen to be, physically or metaphorically, is outside Christ's power.

It therefore seems to me that the Easter challenge of Christianity is not "to believe that which we can't see"; the Easter challenge is to "not disbelieve that which we can".

With every blessing,

Rev'd Howard Robson.

EASTER LILIES 2023

There will again be a display of lilies behind the altar for Easter Sunday. If you wish to donate one, in memory of a loved one, the cost will be £3 per stem as last year. Names will be read out at the Service.

Please either let Caroline Abel Smith know by Monday 3rd April (tel: 681001) or enclose £3 cash in an envelope together with name/s to be remembered and post

through The Old Vicarage letterbox just inside the gate.

Church Duties

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
31/1	David/Colin	None
7/8	Alex/Colin	EASTER
14/5	Caroline L/Ann	Decoration
23/4	Annie/Offers?	Decoration

<u>100 Club Draw March</u>

1st (£50) Bob Bean 2nd (£10) Alex Radbourne



Dear School Friends and Neighbours,

As much as we have all been looking forward to Spring, the weather has been more than erratic this past couple of months. Snow, high winds and last year's 'extreme' temperatures, have all caused additional concern and complications for schools. Post pandemic, I am proud to say we have not closed our doors, unless directed to by the local authority, due to the resilience and commitment of our staff team. Our thoughts really have gone out to those smaller schools who manage on a minimal staff and no caretaker due to financial limitations.

Times when a 'Snow Day' was an official term are long gone, only to be replaced by the dreaded 'Remote Learning' days. It is frustrating that something of childhood dreams has been replaced by something that strikes fear into the hearts of children, parents and staff due to our pandemic and lockdown experiences. Also ironic that calls for improved school attendance are now being made by those who decided to 'close' schools for such a long period previously...

As always, we are here and committed to our pupils and community, whatever the weather as we have always known how important school life is for growing academically, socially and, as a church school, spiritually. Our previous tagline, 'Believe, Achieve, Enjoy' still adorns our letterhead and various signage but it could just as easily be 'Happy, Safe & Learning'. Sounds simple, but when you consider recent events both nationally and worldwide, our children are far more aware of current affairs than ever before that knowledge and a developing emotional maturity can be a tricky balance and despite being a school, it is possible to know too much at such a young age. That innocence and excitement around a 'snow day' is quickly lost to news stories of heating bills, traffic incidents and hospital backlogs to name but a few.

We endeavour to strike a balance however, preparing our young people for the big, wide world of secondary school, further education and employment whilst hopefully making the most of their youth, creativity and positivity. Realistically it cannot be plain sailing as life is full of difficulties, however facing adversity builds resilience to deal with greater challenges ahead. This is why we value the Growth Mindset approach as it is all about embracing challenges, taking risks and bouncing back when something inevitably goes awry.

I recently had the privilege of hearing Brendan Hall, who skippered the winning team of the 2009 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race, speak at a conference. Addressing leadership and what he had learnt from his experiences, he shared it was the teacher amongst his mostly amateur crew that had preached Carol Dweck's Growth Mindset concept at one of the journey's darkest points and brought the team back into focus. Now, I am not saying that 27-metre high waves in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is comparable to the classroom, but it is great to know we are preparing the children for almost anything!

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



Bucks Public Transport Meeting

Various bus routes are being reduced or withdrawn. However, the 165 remains unchanged. So please use the service through Aston Abbotts or we will lose it.

Colin Higgs

Easter Bin Collection day

Wednesday,	Thursday,
April 12	April 13



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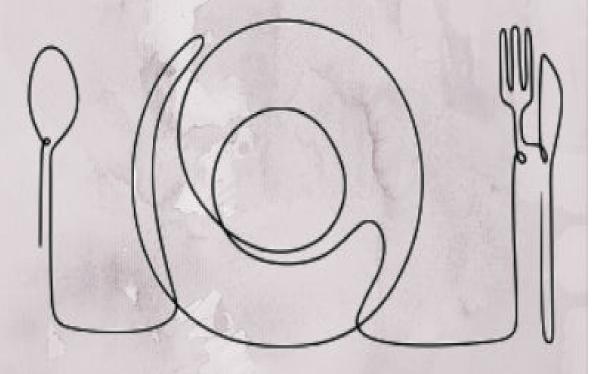
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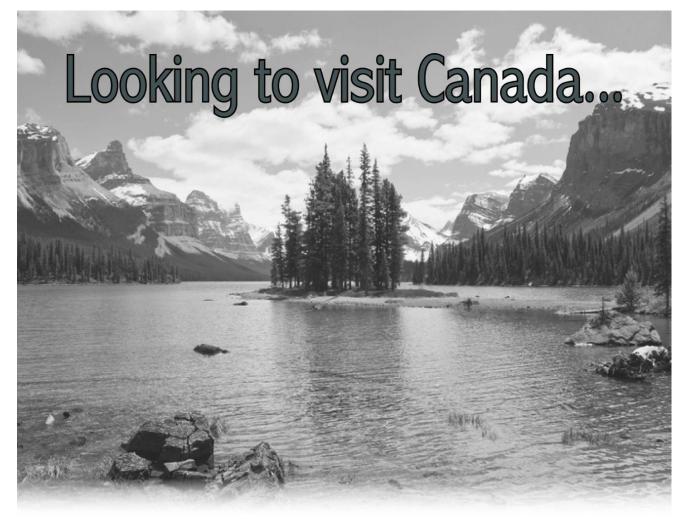
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Wingrave Diary APRIL

Sat 1 1400 Wild Wingrave Survey: jwalmsley@wwrpc.org

Wed 5 1000 WI meeting: Intro to chair yoga & meditation Methodist Church

Fri 7 NO Friday social evening Community Centre

Sat 8 0845 Men's Breakfast Talk: What is the future of the Monarchy? Methodist Church

Sun 9 Easter Day

Mon 10 1030 Aston Abbotts Easter egg hunt AA Village Orchard

Mon 10 1500 Friendship Group Baldway Ho Leighton Rd

Fri 14 1930 Family Bingo Community Centre

Mon 17 School term begins

Mon 17 Weekday Walking Group ramble, contact Jan Walmsley: 07813 085211

Wed 19 1200 Last of the Summer Ukuleles Rose & Crown

Sat 22 1930 Glee Choir concert Parish Church

Sun 23 0930 Wingrave Ramblers' local ramble Nup End Lane Mon 24 1630 Outdoor Bowls season starts Bowling Green

Thu 27 1230 Wild Slow Walk: finding your feet again Village Green

Fri282000 Kelly's and Paul'sQuiz NightCommunity Centre

Sat 29-8My Scarecrow Festival

Sat 29 1930 Pete's quiz night AA Village Hall



"I agree, Mr. Richards, there is a special bond between a man and his dog, but could you at least try and see why Mary has a problem with it?"

Who's Who?

Chronicle Editor Pete Lucas 681387. 07544227991

Chronicle Advertising John Whyte 07988001834

Chronicle Distribution Sally Palmer/Jill Wenble 681152/681877

Parish Council Chair Jane Baylis 681042

Councillor Trevor Hall

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

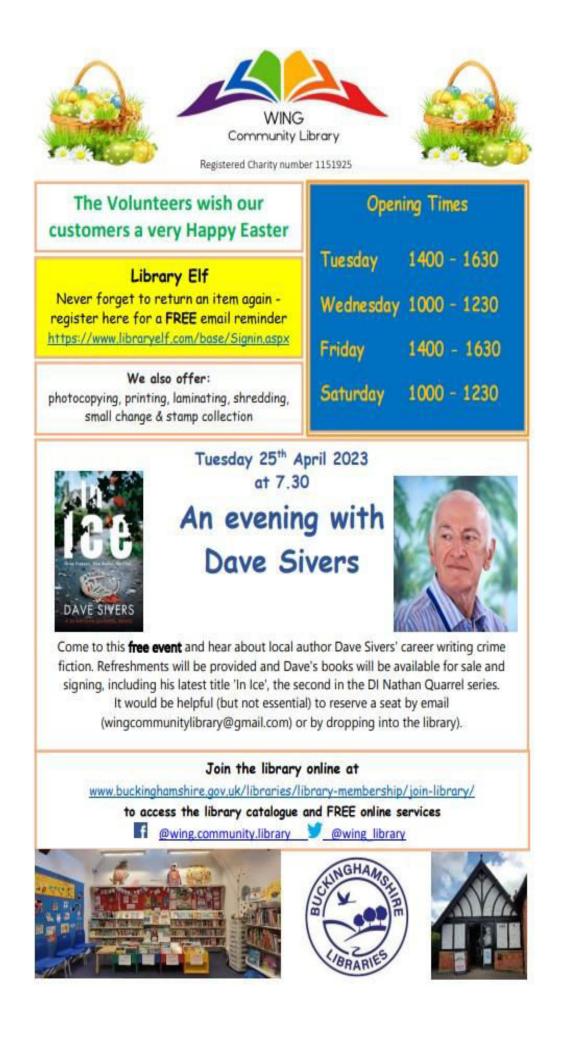
MP Greg Smith (Con) 01296 714240

Anglian Water 01296 385995

Pre School Wingrave 681127

Wingrave School 681436

Cottesloe School Wing 688264



Spring is finally here. Thanks Neil for these

