

The Chronicle

July 2023 Issue 438



HELP NEEDED.....As the Fete draws nearer, we are now finalising stalls, volunteers, etc. We would be grateful for any volunteers to **make cakes for the Cake and Gift Stall**. If you can make a cake, please take it along to the stall late morning on the 22nd July (day of the Fete). Francesca Bean would be very happy to receive any donations.

We would also be grateful for any volunteers to **make scones**

for the Cream Teas. If you can make any scones, please let me know and I will tell Heather, the Cream Teas organiser.

Finally, if you have any **unwanted gifts** please donate them for the Cakes and Gifts stall. We will price them up appropriately. Many thanks

Janet Walker 07929 242739
janet@sewart.net

From the Editor

Losing the Lockharts appeal will cost Aston Abbotts dearly.

Buckinghamshire Council has failed in its appeal to block the expansion of Lockharts Farm between Cublington and Wing. This will result in significant HGV traffic through Aston Abbotts by possibly 80 per day.

There are time restrictions but these overlap children's school runs.

We must be alert to this and report any damage and/or violations of restrictions.

Plus the safety of our children is paramount.

McD bags & vodka bottles

Like all of us, I'm fed up to the back teeth with the bums in our society who litter our countryside and village.

Just the other day this was left or thrown at the Lines Hill lookout.

It's a similar regular occurrence on the verges along Wingrave Road.



If anyone knows of a simple but effective recording camera system we can position along the area in Wingrave Road and Lines Hill lookout, I'll be happy to contribute to a fund to make this happen. Or perhaps the Parish Council help.

We need to deter these vandals or catch them.

The Putnams Aston Abbotts

It's a bit of a historical Chronicle this month including articles to do with Aston Abbotts and surrounding areas.

Do you remember previous articles regarding the Putnams and the Salem Witch Trials?

John E Putnam, the 9th Great Grandson of Aston Abbotts John Putman is writing a series of articles for the Chronicle including what happened at Salem. See the introduction article inside.

Stay safe and cool. Until next time....

Pete Lucas. Ed!

News

Lockharts Farm

Buckinghamshire Council lost its appeal to prevent an increase in commercial activity at Lockharts Farm.

This makes the serious increase in HGV traffic through Aston Abbots a reality.

The Parish Council hope to soon have a discussion with Unitary Councillors on what, if any, measures can be taken to mitigate the effects of an increase in HGV traffic through the village. (See Editors Comments)

Stunning wild flowers at Wingrave crossroads.



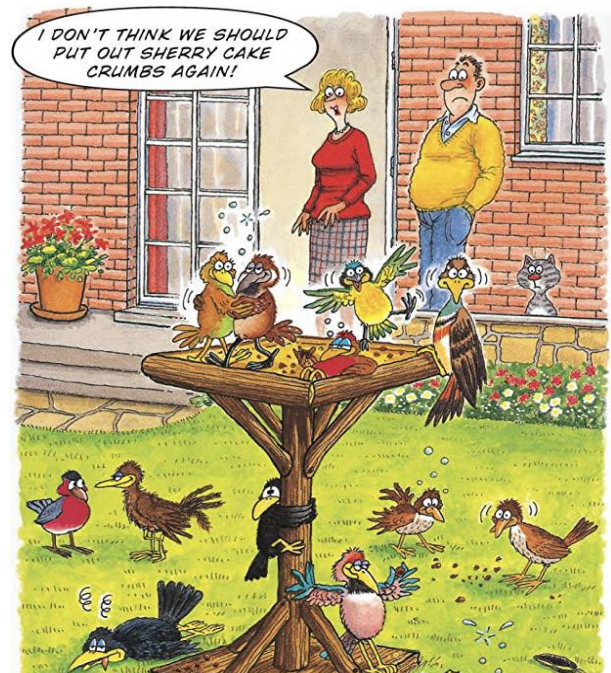
(See back page)

Phil Robinson and the Wingrave PC have completed a fine project

that improves the look and access to the bus stop on the Wingrave Crossroads bus stop.

Safety Crossing gets go ahead

Councillor Diana Blamires reports, Buckinghamshire Council has said it will allocate HS2 funding for a Puffin crossing on the A418 near the junction of Church Street Wing which schoolchildren, and anyone else, will be able to use to cross the A418 safely. The grant will be awarded following a successful application for funding by Wing Parish Council. There will be one more final study into design issues before any work can begin but a feasibility study has not revealed any problems.



The Aston Abbotts Diary - JULY

| Event | Details |
|--|---|
| Best kept Village Chris Phillips 07879660115 | Inspections commence in June so please keep gardens and borders looking good |
| Yoga See inside | Every Wednesday 18.00 to 19.00 |
| Whist Drive Colin Higgs 681343 | Thursday 6th & 20th Village Hall. 19.30 |
| Coffee Shop | Every Thursday 10.00 - 11.30. Village Hall |
| Rambling Club Colin Higgs 681343 | Sunday 9th. Meet at The Green 14.00 |
| Bingo Pam Dixon 681626 | Thursday 13th 19.30 |
| Village Fete & Festival | Saturday 22 at 13.00 & Sunday 23 Church open for floral displays |
| Fish & Chip Van | Every Wednesday around 20.00. Every Saturday around Lunch time. Listen for the bell |
| Bus Trip Colin Higgs 681343 | Friday 28th 07.40 Bus to Aylesbury |

Future events to remember

Bucks County Show - Thursday 31st August

August Bus Trip Friday 18th 09.00 Bus to L/B

Village Horticultural Show - Saturday 2nd September

Please note - There will be no Chronicle, Quiz Night, Bingo or Whist Drive in August.



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Your Emails

Pete,

I got your name from Jill Wenble who asked me about writing an article for the Chronicle about several Putnams visiting our ancestral village in England. I had planned on writing at least one for my genealogical society and perhaps an autobiographical one for my family. I am happy to write an article but wanted to know about any format, length, and timelines that I need to know before writing the article.

Appreciate any information on these topics. Hope to get something to you in the next 30 days. Thanks

John

P.S. John Putnam who emigrated from Aston Abbots is my 9th great grandfather. My brother and our wives also visited along with some more distant Putnam cousins from Kent, whose family likely did not live in Aston Abbots but probably lived in Puttenham area and maybe Wingrave.

John E. Putnam

A suitable reply was written and I hope you, like I, look forward to this Aston Abbots historical series including the infamous Salem Witch Trials. Ed!

The traffic down Wingrave Road is appalling. We would say 8 out of 10 cars disregard the speed limit. There is an accident waiting to happen down here. We have seen cars overtake here just before the bend and I know people who will not even consider walking on the footpath. I hope that something can be done and sincerely hope that an accident doesn't happen!

Jo

Dear Ed,

Walking or cycling to Wingrave early morning around 5.30, generally motorists are respectful and abiding to the speed limit (I have come across a couple who are driving fast but not many) and the same on my return journey around 2.15 in the afternoon.

I leave home very early and am back early afternoon, so I miss the rush hours.

The problem I have had is not so much speed but size!

When a large truck comes round a bend it is a bit intimidating, particularly when they have to mount the kerb to avoid oncoming vehicles. That hasn't happened too often and I know we have had ongoing debates about it already - so best to leave that one alone for now.

All in all I think our village roads are generally quiet and calm. For me the best sound is the clip clopping of horses hooves (or a lovely V8 of some sort leaving the car show at Weedon - beautiful sound).

Kate Lili-An Boyer

Hi Kate,

The Chronicle has been campaigning on this with the PC and residents for years. Also on the juggernauts pounding through the village. We have won battles with the HGVs (NOT THE WAR) but don't seem to be making progress on speeders.

Councillor Diana Blamires has been working with the Unitary Council to get some money for traffic calming. However, real measures to calm the traffic, eg. protruding island on the main road of The Green or traffic humps cost stupid amounts of money as with anything Councils do, and takes forever to achieve.

We are obtaining our own 30mph SID I believe.

A Resident patrol Speed check took place before the pandemic but even with that, the police would only have us in one place

and with no sanctions for speeders apart from a letter sent to the car owner.

I fear for the kids in the village. At times, I park my car on the street zigzagging cars on the opposite side with the desire to slow traffic on The Green. It works but more of us need to have a go at this as long as we don't cause obstructions. It works well in Wingrave.

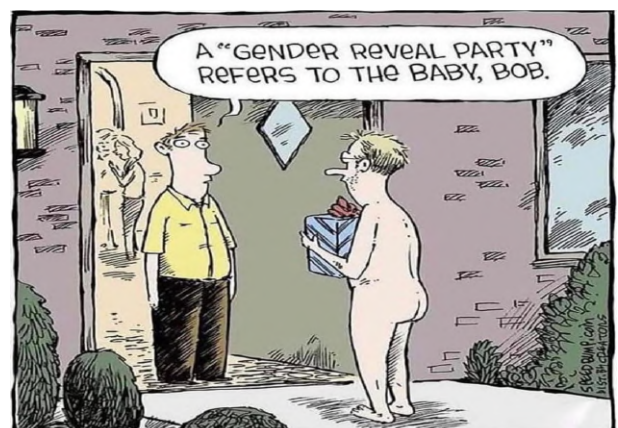
I hope this helps. If you have recent past Chronicles, you will see what we have put up with and the limited successes and the failures we've had.

Past Chronicles are on the AA website.

Pete. Ed!

Pete Lucas thank you for answering Robert's initial question and thank you for such an informative and concise reply!

Kate Lili-An Boyer



Village Verges

In answer to my concern regarding much of the village verges left uncut. Ed!

Hi Pete

I have spoken with the contractor who clearly is grass cutting according to the contract we have set up with him. The contract has not changed from previous years. What has changed is the guidance on wild flowers which ideally should now be left uncut. I understand that this is what he has done wherever possible and is due to take them down with his next scheduled cut (next week). Hopefully that clears things up a bit.

Kind regards

Liz van Hullen

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Aston Abbots Parish Council
01494 758800

Hi Pete

We live in one of the most astonishing places on earth ...I have recently published a book called The Intelligence Zone which explains why. One chapter of the book is called The Whaddon Web. It is about the web of MI6 communication sites controlled from Whaddon Hall; the voice and

ears of the secret services during World War Two.

I am writing a series of seven articles on this chapter, which I am publishing in my local parish magazine Focus (I live in Great Horwood). I hope that this amazing and enthralling true tale of spies, saboteurs and freedom fighters might be of as much interest to the people of Wing and Aston Abbots as it is proving to be to other inhabitants of our area.

The first of these articles is on my website (as a blog) at www.theintelligencezone.com Please read it and I hope you enjoy it. I will keep you informed as I release the six subsequent articles.

I hope you find my website – and indeed my book – of interest – for it tells why we live in one of the most astonishing places on earth.

Alan

I have included your initial chapter in this edition and will do my best to print future chapters for the residents of Aston Abbots. Thanks

Pete. Ed!

Hi Pete,

Living in Bricstock is now like living in a car park. The other evening I counted 25 vehicles parked around Bricstock. The thing that is

worrying is selfish drivers who are parking opposite each other near the entrance to Nashs Farm.

The road is so narrow that even with my small car I struggle to get past. if an emergency vehicle needed to get round to the bungalows or houses in Bricstock they would not manage to get through.

For the last week a van has been parked in Bricstock it hasn't moved and no one knows who it belongs to. We have several residents with 2 vehicles each so parking spaces are limited now.

We do have a sign in Bricstock saying parking for residents only but as usual people choose to ignore this. I do think a sign is needed advising emergency vehicles need access and vehicles should not be allowed to block this access.

Sorry if I seem to be moaning but something needs to be done.

I don't see why those of us who live in Bricstock and have one vehicle only should be pushed out of our parking area.

Thank you.

Lyn

Aston Abbotts Parish Council June 2023

The Parish Council meets again on 21st June, 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Roads and verges With the warmer weather comes the longer grass. The Bucks Devolved Services financial package remains unchanged but we are confident that we can continue to work with the same contractor to maintain the vision splays within the village. Our Clerk speaks with the contractor regularly so please do flag up any concerns over roadside verges, in particular at junctions, within the 30mph village zone.

With regard to road repairs, Bucks is now settled into a working relationship with a new Highways contractors and we have been assured by our Unitary Councillors that the key objective is to achieve long lasting repairs

During last winter many of you raised the issue of gritting along Lines Hill. In March we asked Bucks for clarity on the criteria a road needs to meet in order to benefit from gritting, whilst pointing out that Lines Hill is a school bus route. To date we have no response, but sincerely

hope that come the winter we have not only a response, but a workable solution too.

The Green Work on some of the trees on The Green has been completed and we are now well into regular grass cuts in anticipation of the judging for the Best Kept Village and the annual Village Fete. Both these ventures receive the support of the Parish Council.

Lockharts Farm We have just heard that Bucks lost the appeal to prevent an increase in commercial activity at Lockharts Farm. We hope to soon have a discussion with our Unitary Councillors on what, if any, measures can be taken to mitigate the effects of an increase in HGV traffic through the village which may come as a direct result of this.

A Casual Vacancy The Parish Council has a vacancy. Parish Councillors really do make a difference to the village in many ways like arranging for a road sign to be fixed, organising repair or refurbishment to the bus stop, walking the footpaths to ensure they are accessible and safe, checking the dog bins are emptied regularly, lobbying for traffic calming measures, securing grants for village improvements, commenting on planning applications, managing the

playground equipment and so much more. If you have just 3 or 4 hours a month to invest back into the village please contact the Clerk for more information
clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

Annual Return The Parish Council has recently gone through a successful internal audit and the AGAR form supported by information on the accounts for the year 2022-2023 have been submitted to the external auditors.

The Recreation Ground A recent RoSPA report has highlighted issues about which we were already aware and are steadily addressing. We are also working extremely hard to organise a decent base for the outdoor Table Tennis Table for which we have secured funding. We are hopeful that at the next PC meeting (June 21st) we will be in a position to approve and action this.

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

Three Perfect Buckinghamshire picnic spots

While Buckinghamshire is home to a number of stunning locations, each one with its own unique source of beauty, there are three separate spots that seem to fit the bill when it comes to finding a picture-perfect picnic destination. And for those who want a good view while snacking away, these National Trust sites certainly have that to offer.

For dog lovers and those with furry friends who do not want to miss out on the fun, each of these picnic spots is dog-friendly too, a huge plus for those with animal companions. Whether you are planning on a solo picnic or one with loved ones, here are the three Buckinghamshire locations you should visit this weekend:

Stowe. Octagon Lake is beautiful scenery for a picnic



Perhaps a favourite picnic spot for locals is at Stowe, not too far from Buckingham. While the entire area here is just pure bliss, a picnic by the Octagon Lake, accompanied by the sight of ducks and geese gliding in the area, is for sure a picnic spot worth trying.

Here by the lake, it is also possible to have a wonderful view of the iconic Palladian bridge and the Gothic Temple right from your picnic blanket. Like a scene out of a romance novel, this spot couldn't be any more perfect for a picnic if it tried.

Hughenden



The manor house has a timeless beauty to it (Image: National Trust/ Hugh Mothersole)

Another picnic spot worth exploring has to be Hughenden near High Wycombe, an accessible picnic spot with so much beauty. If you set up your picnic blanket on the east slope in the parkland area, you can enjoy

the magnificent sight of the manor house behind you, which seems to radiate timeless beauty.

Looking ahead, the expansive view of the parkland, trees and even a pretty church in the distance is enough to make you feel easily relaxed, especially when the sun is shining down too. And if this isn't enough for you, there is also a stunning chalk stream nearby at the bottom of the valley which is certainly worth checking out.

Waddesdon



The views are almost unbeatable (Image: National Trust / Chris Lacey)

The third picnic spot in Buckinghamshire not to be missed is Waddesdon. Although only open from Wednesdays to Sundays, the area below the Parterre with a view of the manor has been a favourite for years among picnic lovers, and it isn't hard to see why.

With dogs not having previously been allowed on the Parterre, they are now more than welcome, which is a huge bonus for many families. And for those with dogs, this picnic spot may just be the most convenient, with parkland trees providing some much-needed shade for those who are just finding the weather a bit too warm.

Whether you are a local or visitor to Buckinghamshire, it's safe to say the area is perfect for a picnic or two. just don't forget the sunscreen and hat!



5

In Aid of Age UK

7

BINGO NIGHT

GAMES FUN & PRIZES

Thursday 13th July

7.30 PM start

Aston Abbotts Village Hall

6

Putnam Connections

John E Putnam, the 9th Great Grandson of Aston Abbotts John Putnam writes for the Chronicle about his heritage.

From my earliest days, my grandmother Putnam told me that my immigrant ancestor and 9th great grandfather, John Putnam, left Aston Abbotts / Burston to settle in Salem Village, Massachusetts Bay Colony. While it was great to know from where he immigrated, I always dreamed of visiting that village to get a better idea of the area in which he lived so I could augment my genealogical research to better understand the reasons why he might have decided to leave. Although many Putnams have visited Aston Abbotts over the years, no Putnams in my direct line back to John have ever visited. My dream came true when I visited your village on May 30, 2023 along with my brother, Jim Putnam, our distant cousin Rob Putnam from Kent, and our wives.

Last year, my sister-in-law talked us into taking a 10-day cruise around England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Ireland. My wife and I agreed that if we were to ever visit Aston Abbotts, we should plan to extend our stay in

England after the cruise to make my dream happen. Last fall, I reached out to my three brothers to see if there was any interest in undertaking such an adventure and Jim signed on and agreed that his wife Terry would drive which facilitated our planning significantly. As our trip approached, I reached out to your Village Council to arrange a visit to the St James Church, tour the town, and purchase your local history book. This outreach really started the ball rolling with introductions to Jill Wenble who agreed to meet us at the church on May 30 with the Bell Director, Peter Knight, so we could play the Putnam Bell!

After a hearty English breakfast at our hotel, we headed to your village through the surrounding Buckinghamshire countryside. I had not expected such green pastoral scenes. As we approached the village on Cublington Rd, the views were a bit more panoramic as we were higher in the Chiltern Hills and noticed many pastures with sheep and cattle grazing. We did not need to travel far into the village to find parking and the church where we met our English cousins, Louise and Rob Putnam, who had driven up from Kent. It wasn't long before we met with our hosts, Jill & Mike Wenble and

Eliza & Peter Knight, for our church and farm tour. After short introductions, they took us into the church to show us where Priscilla & John Putnam worshipped for forty years prior to their leaving for Salem, Massachusetts, around 1640. Their three sons were individually baptised in the same church and are Jim's and my 8th great grandfathers. Prior to my visit, Jill advised that John was the churchwarden for a couple years prior to his emigration. Even though much of the church except the bell tower (15th century) was rebuilt in the 19th century, it was still thrilling to imagine a place where our ancestors worshipped 400 years ago.

St James was the first of two parish churches that we visited in England, but the only one we were able to enter. The interior and exterior architecture was quite stunning and well maintained. There were great stained glass windows which helped to brighten the interior on this sunny day in Aston Abbots and the pews were covered with hand-made cushions. The beautiful chancel was very picturesque from both the nave and the belfry area. After exploring the nave area, it was time to learn about the bells, especially the Putnam Bell.



From left: Eliza Knight, Mike Wenble, Jill Wenble, Jim Putnam, Peter Knight, John Putnam, Robert Putnam. Missing from the picture: Sue Putnam, Terry Putnam, and Louise Putnam.

Most of the remaining tour inside the church was conducted by Peter Knight, the Bell Director, who led us through the history of the bells, the mechanics of playing the bells, and seeing the bells atop the tower. He started with the plaque in the back of the nave which recognises the donation of money for the purchase of the Putnam Bell in 1930 by William H. Putnam, who was John's 5th great grandson. This donation was given because the treble bell from the 15th century could not be restored. Afterwards, Peter took us up to the bell belfry where the bells are

played on Sunday morning to summon church goers and demonstrated how the bells are played and the schematics used to play them in an organised way. Between Jill and Peter, we got an excellent overview of both the bells' history and how they make music. Peter gave each of us an opportunity to ring the Putnam Bell which seemed like such a fitting way to commemorate both our Putnam ancestors as well as recognise the generous donation of our cousin.



From left: Jim Putnam (Massachusetts), John Putnam (Colorado), and Robert (Rob) Putnam (Kent)

Note: Belated apologies for our bell ringing at 11:30 on a Tuesday!

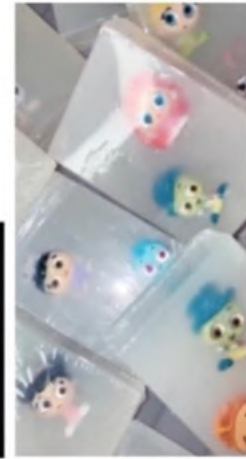
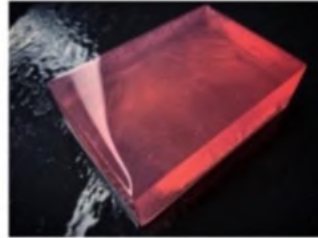
Wrapping up the bell tour, Peter led several of us to the top of the bell

tower to show the bells and the mechanics of how they are connected to the ropes below.

Our church tour concluded by walking through the churchyard and visiting the graves in that hallowed ground. Since our Putnam ancestors did not die in Aston Abbots nor did their ancestors, there were no Putnams buried in the churchyard. Peter did want us to see the grave of James Clark Ross, a famous British Naval Officer known for his exploration of both the Arctic and Antarctic regions in the 19th century.

Our thanks to our Aston Abbots hosts and hostesses who took their time to share their knowledge and show us the church and bells. Their tour far exceeded our expectations for this visit, but the tour was not yet over. It was so great to finally visit the church where our ancestors worshipped so long ago.

Jill and Mike agreed to take us for a hike across a nearby pasture which is where our Putnam ancestors lived while in Aston Abbots. I will save that story for the next instalment of a series of articles telling the story of our visit and our immigrant ancestors from **Aston Abbots**.



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Vet's advice for care of pets in the heat

Many pets have a built-in coat and can struggle in hot temperatures

With temperatures rising, it's hard to keep ourselves cool – never mind our four-legged friends. With fur coats on, it can't be easy being a pet in a heatwave.



According to PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), in the USA alone, 70 dogs (and other companion animals) have died from heat-related causes since 2022 – with many expected to be unreported.

“Heat can have a profound effect on our pets. From heatstroke to skin damage – such as paw pad burns, sunburn, and possible skin cancers with prolonged excessive sun exposure – our pets have similar risks to us humans,” says veterinary surgeon Lily Richards,

advisor to Trusted Housesitters. So, how can we keep them safe and cool?

Getting out and about

Your dog will still need exercise in hot weather, but overheating is a worry.

“Overheating is a particular problem for certain breeds of dogs; those that are brachycephalic [short nosed], those that are naturally very active, have a thick coat, and older pets or younger animals. Heatstroke is an unfortunately common medical emergency seen in vet clinics,” says Richards. “Avoid exercising your pets at the hottest parts of the day, aiming for early mornings or late evenings, when the temperatures are more manageable.”

Keeping hydrated

“Ensuring your pet has constant access to water is essential in hot weather. You could consider offering iced treats – freezing their usual treats in treat puzzles, for example. Ensuring your pet stays out of the midday sun and in the cool will also help prevent excessive dehydration,” says Richards.

Continued....

Sun protection. You may not think animals get sunburnt like us. “But, sunburn is a risk to our pets, those that have less hair cover, or white features – such as white ear tips or noses – are particularly at risk,” explains Richards.

“White cats who are avid sunbathers are commonly seen with skin damage, due to excessive sun exposure without protection. Pet sunblock is a must to help those prone to sunburn, as prolonged exposure can lead to blistering, or even the development of skin cancers. Don’t be tempted to use human sunblock, however, as some contain ingredients that are toxic to pets.”

There are many animal-friendly options on the market instead – try Petkin sunscreen or Be:Loved sun protection balm.

Things to avoid “Be careful to not leave pets alone with cooling mats, as if the mats are damaged and the contents ingested, your pet could become quite unwell,” explains Richards. “Avoid unsupervised paddling pools and bathing, as just with children, these are a great, fun way to keep cool – but accidents can happen and safety could be a concern,” she says.

While the majority of us would never leave a dog in a car on a hot day, or even take them for a long walk in high temperatures, Esme Wheeler from the RSPCA says it’s still a risk to take pets on short walks. “By taking them to fields and beaches with little or no shade, the truth is, walking dogs in hot weather can be a silent killer,” she says. “The message remains very simple – never leave a dog in a hot car because ‘not long’ is too long, and when it comes to walks, ‘if in doubt, don’t go out’.”

Keeping cool indoors “Keep the house temperature cool by closing curtains and opening windows. The addition of fans or cooling mats will help keep your pet cool in the house, too,” Richards says. “For small furrries like rodents, guinea pigs or rabbits, consider supplying frozen water bottles for lying next to, which will help them cool off if they’re feeling the heat.”

Signs that something is wrong

“Excessive panting, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea and lethargy are signs that your pet has been exposed to the sun excessively, and may be suffering from heatstroke,” Richards stresses. If you’re concerned your pet is feeling unwell, call your vet for immediate advice.

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What to do if you lose your baggage on holiday

Last year one in ten holiday makers had their holidays ruined through baggage loss on departure or arrival home, but what are the best ways to avoid it?

The number of lost bags in 2022 up by 24% compared to the previous year, security retailer safe.co.uk has created a guide on what Brits can do to keep their belongings secured, as well as how to keep safe should they be on holiday without their suitcase.

Safe has four tips for holidaymakers to keep their suitcases protected as well as how to stay secure if their bags go missing:

Put all valuables in hand luggage: If suitcases go missing, then the biggest worry is always for valuables. More than a fifth (21%) admit to placing high-ticket items including money, rings and laptops into hold luggage. Not only will checked-in items have the risk of being stolen, but it may also accidentally be lost if a bag breaks or is damaged during the journey. Further to this, expensive items may not be covered under compensation as

an airline will likely challenge anything lavish in lost luggage.

Place AirTags in bags: Tech products are great at providing increased peace of mind for baggage and an AirTag will provide regular updates to the owner's phone of its general location on a map. Working over Bluetooth, this is permitted on a flight and once landed you will be able to see where any luggage is.

Placing an AirTag inside the luggage to keep it hidden and avoid placing it on the outside of a bag, as it may be accidentally removed. If baggage is lost it will provide an indication of which airport it has gone to or if it has been left behind.

Avoid social media posts: If bags are lost it can be tempting to post negativity towards the airline, but doing so can alert burglars that a home is empty.

Use a padlock: One of the easiest forms of protection is to place a padlock around a suitcase.

It might not be ideal, but should the worst happen you will be compensated by airlines, so purchase necessities and ensure to keep receipts as well as timings to receive as much help as possible.

Seeking completion?

We are at the time of year now when many people are reaching big milestone moments in their life journeys, especially in the educational sphere. Many have recently finished exams and are awaiting results and many others are coming to the end of their time in a given school or college.

Milestone moments very often involve a sense of completion of a particular task or phase. These moments seem especially important because we all like the idea of having what psychologists call 'closure' on certain things – promoting a feeling that we are truly ready to move on. Indeed, the famous philosopher and psychologist William James once said that 'nothing is so fatiguing as the eternal hanging of an uncompleted task'.

Completion, however, is always in some sense relative to a particular task or demand. We only complete *relative* to that demand rather than in totality. Other tasks and demands continue to surface. Moreover, the process of life in general preceded us all and will continue after we are gone, so we certainly don't complete the whole picture. St Paul says in a famous passage from one of his letters that we know only in part – we are partial beings both in the sense that we are composed of

parts and in the sense that we are partial *to* certain aims, hopes and ideas more than others. We do not see the whole fully and we also therefore only ever achieve relative completion or closure in part.

Some aspect of openness therefore always needs to remain within the ongoing process of life, which is far more than our individual lives. This greater whole isn't necessarily felt in milestone marking moments in the way that events in our individual lives are, so psychologically it may feel different, but we need to know it is there and enduring throughout all generations. If what we are part *of* is to become complete, or even be drawn towards its completion by God as the Author of Life, then we need to achieve openness to the ongoing process of life just as much as closure to certain past events. We need to hold a proper balance between what we know as a result of having moved beyond certain points in our life and what we realise we are yet seeking, what we yet need to explore.

With all best wishes to everyone for the next stage and especially to those currently awaiting exam results and other landmark moments.

Andrew Krauss

Church Matters

July/August 2023



LAST MONTH

The breakfast/all ages service was held on Fathers' Day in June – a cooked breakfast in the hall was followed by a thoughtful and fun service. We now have a summer break until the next breakfast service in September, which will be the Harvest service on 17th. All welcome to join in.

Coronation Tea – after costs, we made £190 for the Prince's Trust.

COMING UP

TEA and TOTS

Wednesday 5 July, 9.30-10.30am in the church. For pre-school children with their carers – an hour of play, songs, cuppa and a story.

FETE! As usual, on the Saturday nearest to St James's Day – everyone very welcome to visit the church – come in, look at the

flowers, and join in whatever the fete committee has planned in the churchyard. Church service at 10.30am that Sunday. We are very grateful to the village for St James's share of the proceeds.

100 CLUB – tickets on sale for 2023-2024

We need to sell a few more tickets to make a reasonable amount for St James – so if you haven't already, please do subscribe for the coming year July 2023-June 2024. It's a real help for church finances and a good chance of winning something! Contact Caroline Lane (below) or pick up a form from the back of the church.

CHURCH OPENING

Anyone, churchgoer or not, is welcome to use the church for quiet reflection and/or prayer. It is open every day until October from about 9am to 5pm; just ask at other times.

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).

Services - July/August 2023

| | | |
|-------------|------------------|--|
| 2 July | 6.00pm | Evensong |
| 9 July | 10.30am | Parish Communion |
| 16 July | No service here* | Benefice Communion at Stewkley, 10am |
| 23 July | 10.30am | Parish Communion |
| 30 July | No service here | Benefice Communion at Wing, 10.30am, exploring wholeness and healing |
| 6 August | 6.00pm | Evensong |
| 13 August | 10.30am | Parish Communion |
| 20 August | 10.30am | Lay led service |
| 27 August | 10.30am | Parish Communion |
| 3 September | 6.00pm | Evensong |

***All Ages breakfast service starts again here on 17 September (Harvest).**

Church Duties June

| Date | Cleaning | Flowers |
|-------|----------------|----------|
| 1 | David/Colin | Donated |
| 7/8 | Alex/Colin | Donated |
| 14/15 | CarolineL /Ann | Offers |
| 21/22 | Annie/Tatiana | Festival |
| 28/29 | TBA | Festival |

Note: Cleaners open church 9-5 from Saturday to Friday

100 Club Draw June (final draw 2022/23)

1st prize, £50 – Carol Spooner

2nd prize, £10 – Shirley Ford





Dear School Friends and Neighbours

As I begin writing this, I have a view out across the River Derwent, Derbyshire, Matlock Bath just a short distance upstream. These idyllic views are accompanied by the sound of 52 of our Year 5 & 6 children squealing with delight, determination and sometimes frustration as they climb, shoot and unknot (literally) themselves through various outdoor pursuits and exercises on their residential trip.

This is our first visit to Willersley Castle, this particular Manor Adventure site, but it is again brilliantly equipped and staffed to give the children the best possible experience, and what a vital experience it is too. More than ever, the chance to escape home (and parents...) and grow in independence and responsibility is so important. We made the decision to combine our Year 5 & 6 classes for this trip a number of years ago and this has provided a new level of collaboration and teamwork when the children come to share dorm rooms or activity groups with other children who

they do not normally interact with. Needless to say they have done us proud and we will yet again see an increased sense of 'grown-up-ness' and pride we always do after such a week away together.

This trip is just one of many opportunities we offer for the children to learn outside the classroom, enriching the curriculum with first-hand experiences they would otherwise only see in books or online. Whether it is animals visiting our EYFS class, or Years 1 & 2 walking with Dinosaurs at Paradise Wildlife Park these trips and visits all bring learning to life. Years 3 & 4 have not long returned from their 'Amazon' experience in Wendover Woods, and where travel and budget restraints obviously exist, our staff team think all the more creatively to plan activities which will be memorable and educational.

Although incredibly valuable, these opportunities are considered extra-curricular and therefore funding is not automatically available. We are very fortunate to be part of a very supportive community where parents, local charities and the Church have made it possible for every child to take part, especially on residential visits, should they wish to. We are also incredibly grateful to the staff team

who make these experiences possible; planning, organising and wading through red-tape and mountains of documentation to consider every eventuality. As I take in these beautiful Derbyshire views, my personal thanks to the staff who have yet again given of their time to accompany a trip such as this, and for everyone who consistently steps up to run business as normal back on site.

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

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ALLOTMENT DIARY

I'd like to begin with the curious case of the courgettes on my allotment. Last year Adam and I grew some pumpkins on the allotment. Adam enjoyed them so much that he kept a dozen seeds from one of the pumpkins we ate; and this spring we planted them in pots in my greenhouse, and then in due course, planted 6 on my allotment, and the remainder at the bottom of my garden. Three of those planted on the allotment were planted in the area where I had previously had a compost heap, and (no doubt because of this) these grew very rapidly and magnificently.

We were both extremely pleased by the luxuriant plants we had grown; but last week Adam noticed something very peculiar: all three of these plants were growing courgettes, not pumpkins! When he looked at the other three allotment plants, he discovered that two of these were also growing courgettes! Only one plant was producing tiny pumpkins. With hindsight, we should have realised the problem earlier: all five of the rogue plants were growing in courgette-style bushes, and only one plant was growing long

“tentacles” in the way the pumpkin plants grow.

James, one of our neighbours on the allotment, told us that we had suffered from cross-pollination; and on Googling this, we discovered that pumpkins, courgettes and squashes are all members of the same family, and these three species frequently cross-pollinate.



However, I remain somewhat baffled. I can understand that if a pollinating insect feeds on a flower on a courgette, and then lands on a pumpkin flower, the result could be that a courgette will grow on that pumpkin plant. However, I cannot understand how this can affect the next generation. The vegetable we ate last year, and from which the seeds were saved, was quite definitely a pumpkin. How can one of its seeds produce courgette plants? I think it unlikely that any cross-pollination

could have occurred this spring: at the relevant time there were no courgette plants within 50 yards of my plants; and although Simon has now planted some courgettes within that distance, at the time of writing they have still not started flowering, so that they cannot have caused the cross-pollination. It is a pity that Vic Scott is still not with us: it is the sort of thing he would probably have been able to explain.

Regular readers may remember that in my last article I mentioned that only 3 of the courgette seeds I had intentionally planted had germinated. Well, these three plants were very quickly eaten by slugs, so that I believed that I would have no courgettes this summer; and not knowing that I was going to have the benefit of the changeling courgette plants mentioned above, I bought 3 plants from a lady in Aylesbury who had advertised on Facebook. But it now seems that I am going to have even more surplus courgettes than I had last year!

Meanwhile, on my allotment everything is going surprisingly well, despite the recent hot weather and (as I write) drought. All my crops are flourishing, and one silver lining of the recent drought is that when one digs up

a weed, it dies, and the lack of moisture means that new weeds find it more difficult to take root. Fortunately, I have a large number of water-butts, but these are fast getting exhausted, and unless we get a substantial amount of rain in the near future, I will have to explore ways of bringing more water down to the allotments.

In the June article, I also mentioned that none of the tomato seeds I had planted in March had germinated, so that I had to buy in tomato plants to

replace them. Out of habit, I continued to water the pots with the tomato seeds in, and to my astonishment, four of them germinated at the end of May! Why they took so long to do so, I have no idea: they were in heated propagation trays initially. I don't really need them, having bought replacement plants, and since the plants grown from seed are so small and late, I doubt if I will get much of a crop from them, but have planted them in the greenhouse, and will see what happens.

PETER SHORROCK

Russell Taylerson-Whyte



I had a pair of dunnocks at my former home. Each year around late February they would return to the same spot in the sweet bay hedging and spend the next month busying themselves collecting moss, leaves, twigs and even dog hair from across the garden as they constructed a nest for the upcoming nuptials.

Dunnocks, according to my well-thumbed copy of Complete British Birds, are shy creatures that look much like a sparrow. That may be true for most of the year but come early spring they are anything but retiring. Squabbling males compete for territory, with the victor announcing his claim with as much raucous singing as his tiny lungs can muster.

With a change of residence, I have sadly left these feathery visitors behind and, as yet, have not created a garden any home-hunting avian would

consider settling in. That is a work in progress.

What my new rural home affords me are fields, hedgerows, woodlands and birds, birds, birds. From parliaments of rooks, soaring kites and kestrels to, and these are firsts for me, kingfishers, house martins and yellow wagtails.

So, I've seen some birds, they're everywhere after all, from little egrets tip-toeing through shallow water, to robins perched on the proverbial garden spade.

Bucks Railway Centre near Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard marks 60th anniversary of the Great Train Robbery

Bucks Railway Centre is only 11 miles from the scene of the heist, and many members of the gang stood trial in Aylesbury

By Hannah Richardson



The Bucks Railway Centre will mark 60 years since the Great Train Robbery on a special steaming day in August.

On August 8, 1963, a violent gang used false train signals to stop a mail train from Glasgow to London Euston between Leighton Buzzard and Cheddington and stole £2.6 million in bank notes. The British media dubbed this crime the Great Train Robbery.

Regrettably, several members of the mail train crew were attacked by the gang, including Jack Mills, the engine driver, who was left with a serious head injury.

The Travelling Post Office (TPO) carriages have received a fresh coat of paint for the occasion with exhibits outlining the events of that night 60 years ago.

Bucks Railway Centre is in Quanton, only 11 miles from the scene.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Great Train Robbery, the Traveling Post Office will be hosting special activities on Sunday, August 6.

A retired detective superintendent has recently undertaken a thorough review of the evidence gathered in 1963 by the Metropolitan and British Transport Police and the Post Office's own

detectives – its Investigation Branch (IB).



Plaque at Crewe Station honouring the staff who were at the controls of the train the night of the robbery

He reached new conclusions regarding the source of the inside information that led the gang to target the train (known within the Post Office as the Up Special TPO) on August 7/8 1963, and these findings will feature in a PowerPoint presentation to be delivered during the event.

Some of the existing information posters giving details and background to the robbery are also being updated in the light of the superintendent's conclusions.

A Bucks Railway Centre spokesperson said: "We are holding this event to help educate anyone who is interested to learn about it.

"Although it is a very emotive topic, as it is obviously very upsetting for some to hear about such a violent attack on postal staff, we believe it is an important

part of railway history and we will be treating it with the respect it deserves."

Details of the special event can be found on the Bucks Railway Centre website.

Mysterious mummy found in Peru. Hands covering face

Not a usual item I would include but thought some may be interested.

In 2021 , A mummy, fully bound in ropes and with its hands covering its face, was discovered in an underground tomb in Peru.



Archaeologists from the National University of San Marcos found the mummy in good condition in Cajamarquilla, a significant site 15.5 miles inland from the coastal city and capital Lima, Peru.

The mummy is estimated to be between 800 and 1200 years old.

Although the mummy's striking pose – bound by ropes and in the foetal position – appears chilling at first sight, researchers believe it is a southern Peruvian funeral custom. The tomb also contained ceramics, vegetable remains and stone tools.

The Web is spun

Article 1 of 7. Alan Biggins

(See 'Your Emails' from Alan)

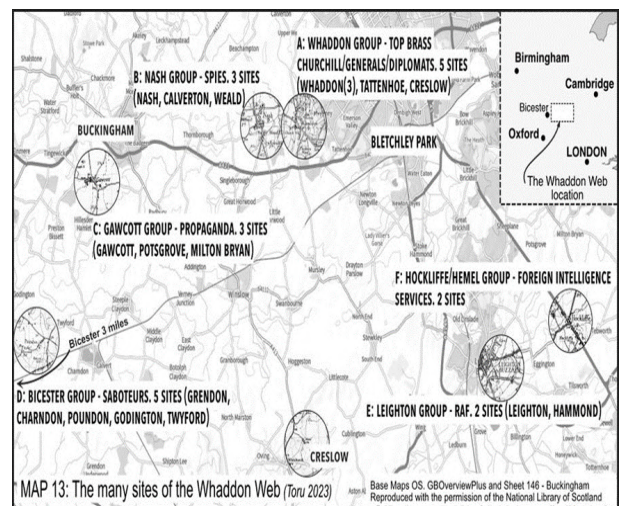
The Whaddon Web is about the web of MI6 communication sites controlled from Whaddon Hall; the voice and ears of the secret services during World War Two.

I am writing a series of seven articles published in my local parish magazine Focus (I live in Great Horwood). I hope that this amazing and enthralling true tale of spies, saboteurs and freedom fighters might be of as much interest to the people of Aston Abbotts as it is proving to be with others.

This article first appeared in the author's local parish magazine Focus (April 2023 edition)

For fifty years I have been living in the Home Counties (35 of them in Great Horwood) ...and in that time. I've done a lot of walking. Over the years I have come across many sites related to the Second World War war; and especially to communications, computing, spies and the special forces. Discovering how this treasure-trove of sites were linked together; and how they related to Europe and America, have resulted in my book *The Intelligence Zone*, which was published on Amazon.

Focus has been kind enough to ask me to write a series of articles about our amazing heritage of world-changing sites. That's a tall-order; so I will limit myself to part of chapter 9 – 'The many voices of the Whaddon Web'. I love maps, and the map I have commissioned of The Intelligence Zone will explain better, for each subject relates to a local place, or places, and each has its chapter in the book.



So what do I mean by The Whaddon Web? That's my name for the series of transmitting and receiving sites which the British secret services, MI6, put up to run their communications; and which were managed from Whaddon Hall. Before that MI6's communications had been at Bletchley Park, a couple of miles down the road. However, in September 1939, a few days after Britain declared war on Germany, it was thought that the aerial wires strung across the trees at B.P. were too obvious a target for the German Air Force (as well as

being a bit amateurish) – so they moved them out to Whaddon.



‘Pop’ Richard

Gambier-Parry Whaddon was under the management of MI6’s director of Communications, a highly amiable old-Etonian from the top drawer by the name of Richard Gambier-Parry - ‘Pop’, as he was affectionately known by his staff.

Pop’s teams put up communications for all sorts of people – spies, saboteurs and governments in exile to name just some. And they put them up right here; almost in a circle spreading over the hills and centred more or less on Winslow. They were hardly ‘secret’ in the sense of not being noticeable. Aerial masts can’t be that. But they were secure; as you might expect from MI6. Patrolled by armed guards, surrounded by barbed wire and with strictly policed entry; they were part of the

extraordinary story of how the British (and later American) secret services communicated with occupied Europe.

This is very, very, local. One of the most important of the secret sites – the other end of those exchanges between resistance agents in France and their MI6 controllers – was in this very parish.

The Whaddon Web is but a part of a gripping, exciting, moving, terrifying and often humorous epic. I have spent the last five years researching it, writing it and generally doing my best to do it justice. It is a saga of world-shaking proportions; for it tells of the fall of empires and the crashing of titans; as well as spies, saboteurs and heroes and heroines. And it is all true; all our history – and explains why the Intelligence Zone is one of the most astonishing places on earth; and why we should be proud of the place we live.

If you want the whole story – please buy the book. It (and its sequel) is on Amazon and priced at £9.99. Better, if you are a fellow resident of the village, I will sign it (my contact details are in the book).

In my next article, I will explain how and why this astonishing web was built; and what it achieved; starting with Whaddon itself. **Alan**

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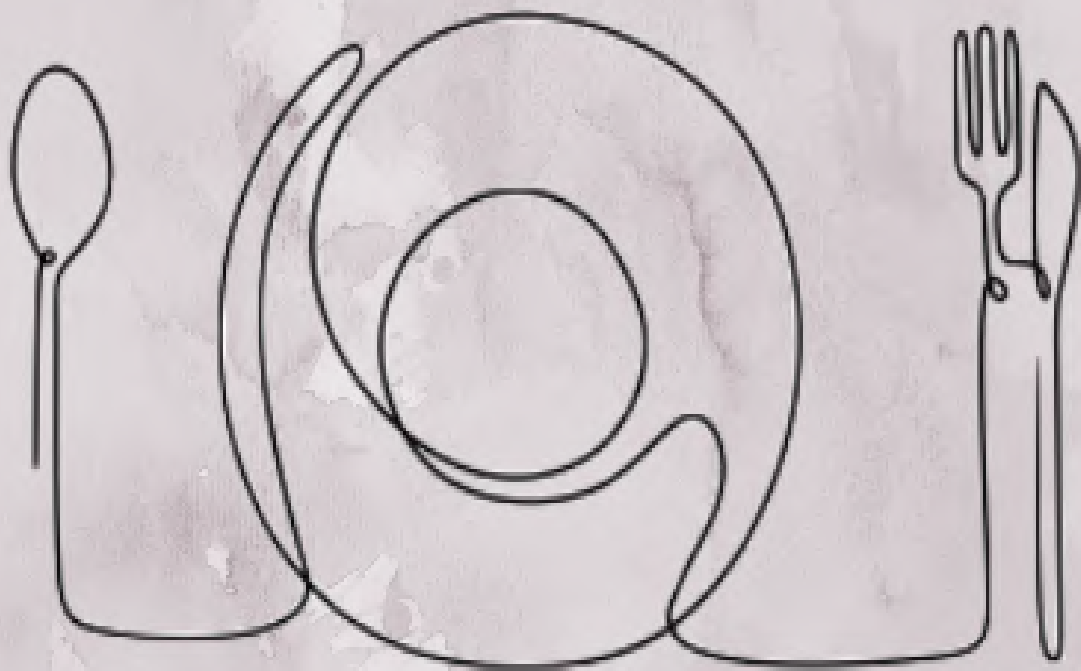
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Wingrave Diary

JULY 2023

- Sat 1 Afternoon tea Rose & Crown
- Tue 4 Steak night Rose & Crown
- Wed 5 1000 WI: "Idiotic and engaging", those funny things Brits say Methodist Church
- Thu 6 Cocktails evening Rose & Crown
- Fri 7 NO Social Evening Community Centre
- Fri 7 Fish dish evening Rose & Crown
- Sat 8 1430 WARGAS Flower Show Community Centre
- Sat 8 Beach Disco party Rose & Crown
- Sun 9 1200 Wingrave with Rowsham Village Fête Wingrave Park
- Mon 10 Weekday Walking Group ramble, contact Jan Walmsley: 07813 085211
- Mon 10 1500 Friendship Group Baldway Ho, Leighton Rd
- Tue 11 1930 Parish Council meeting Community Centre
- Tue 11 Pasta dish evening Rose & Crown
- Sat 15 Bottomless brunch & Horse racing entertainment evening Rose & Crown
- Sun 16 0930 Wingrave Ramblers' local ramble Nup End Lane
- Tue 18 Steak dish evening Rose & Crown
- Wed 19 1200 Last of the Summer Ukuleles Rose & Crown
- Fri 21 School term ends
- Fri 21 1800 WCA family barbecue Community Centre
- Sat 22 Afternoon tea Rose & Crown
- Sat 22~3 1300
Aston Abbotts Village Fête
& Summer Festival.**
- AA Village Green**
- Wed 26 1200 Over 60s specials lunch Rose & Crown
- Fri 28 Mexican dish evening Rose & Crown
- Sat 29 1200 Wild Slow Walk: another wander Village Green

Kicks off on Sat 8 July for children aged 4-11



This year's theme is the power of play, sport, games, and physical activity.

Join the superstar team and their marvellous mascots to get involved.

Collect free materials from the library and/or visit the online Challenge website.

Children will be encouraged to keep their minds and bodies active over the summer break. The characters navigate a fictional summer obstacle course collecting stickers to track their reading as they go. **There is a simpler scheme for younger children.** By participating in the challenge, young people will have the opportunity to explore new reading material, develop skills, and discover new interests.

Join the library online at:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/library-membership/>

to gain access to the library catalogue and
FREE online services.

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Wednesday 1000 - 1230

Friday 1400 - 1630

Saturday 1000 - 1230

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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 682078

Councillor Sally Palmer 681152

Councillor Marisa Abel Smith 681411

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

Book Club Sally Palmer 681152

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 01296 681373

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681123

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Citizens Advice 08701264056

MP Greg Smith (Con) 01296 714240

Anglian Water 01296 385995

Pre School Wingrave 681127

Wingrave School 681436

Cottesloe School Wing 688264

Best beer gardens and outdoor dining spots in Bucks

We combed through TripAdvisor to find some of the most popular places in Buckinghamshire for outdoor dining, so you don't have to.

The Five Elms, Weedon

Like every other restaurant on this list, The Five Elms in Aylesbury was a recipient of TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Award 2022, the highest honour the site can bestow upon an eatery.



Serving up high-quality pub grub, one reviewer described The Five Elms as "an undiscovered gem" with a welcoming outside seating area and quiet, picturesque village views.

The Rose and Crown, Ivinghoe



A 300-year-old village pub, The Rose and Crown in Ivinghoe was praised by one reviewer who visited last year and described their experience sitting in the beer garden as "a superb summer evening supper".

With menu highlights including a Toblerone cheesecake and plenty of non-meat and gluten-free options, this is definitely one to check out while the sunny weather holds.

The Greyhound, Beaconsfield

For those feeling more ostentatious, Michelin-starred restaurant The Greyhound in Beaconsfield boasts an impressive 5-star rating on TripAdvisor from over 300 reviews.

Visitors to the pub have praised its "amazing" tasting menu, enthusiastic staff and "lovely" outdoor seating area.

The Chequers Inn, Western Turville



The Chequers Inn in Weston Turville, Aylesbury has a rating of 4.5-stars from over 1,000 reviews with one person writing that it "needs a Michelin star for the food and another one for the service".

Another said that the only problem with the family-run business was that it was difficult to ever leave, adding: "I'd have happily sat in the garden all afternoon and gone back into the restaurant for dinner."

The Plough, Milton Keynes

Another gastropub offering a range of classic pub fare with gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan offerings, The Plough in Milton Keynes has received heaps of praise from visitors on TripAdvisor.

One person wrote: "I have eaten in posh restaurants with Michelin-starred chefs, and I have to say this is up there as being one of the best meals I've had."

Stunning wild flowers down at the crossroads.

Phil Robinson and the Wingrave PC have completed a fine project.

Phil has been volunteering his time fixing the bus shelter; organising a footpath so you can access the stop safely away from the roadside; and planting the wildflowers from WILD. This is all part of the Wingrave Parish Council job list to sort the bus stop which is a historically significant asset for our community.

