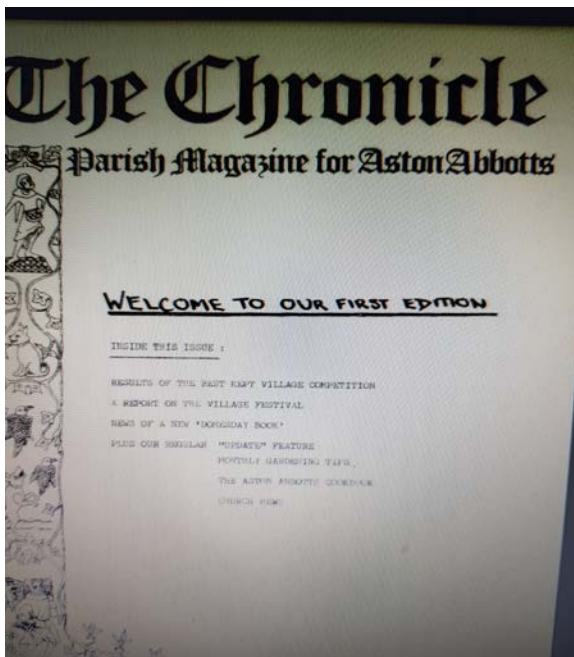




September 2023 Issue 440



See 'From the Editor' inside

News from Aston Abbotts and the surrounding area

Cycling World Championship. A 'Knight' to remember.



Aston Abbotts born Josie Knight won Gold and became World Cycling Champion of the women's elite team in Glasgow last month.



Great Britain claimed an impressive haul of five gold medals, two silvers and a bronze

on day three of the Cycling World Championships.

Josie Knight, Katie Archibald, Anna Morris and Elinor Barker rode superbly in the final race of the evening to win a first British gold in the women's team pursuit since 2014.



New Leisure equipment for Rec'

Thanks to the Parish Council and the Community Board grant, new equipment is featured on the rec' in the way of new goals and an outside table tennis set up.



Wing Residents up in arms over pub being sold to developers



A planning application has been issued to turn the Queens Head pub Wing into 3 flats and to build 3 properties on the land. AVDC Application 23/01308/APP & 23/01309/APP. It was validated on the 3rd July.

Some residents are up in arms about the issue citing that this outcome was planned previously when the present owners bought the property as an operational pub. From the information given to the Chronicle the pub reopened on 8th July 2022 and closed on 4th September 2022, less than two months later.

One resident said, "Absolutely fuming. They made no effort whatsoever to keep the pub viable. It was obvious this was their intention. I really hope that everyone objects officially, and their application gets turned down."

Another commented, "they have a history of doing this. We looked into it as soon as we saw who the owners were."

"I've been expecting this. Why else did they buy the pub? Although it is listed it can be developed. The entrance bit is not listed so could be demolished!"

The Bucks Council Sustainable Drainage Team have objected to the Queens Head planning application. They also objected to the Dove planning application for 5 new houses and conversion of the pub which has now been withdrawn according to the Wing Community site. And now this.

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

The applicant has decided to withdraw the application listed below, therefore no further consideration of the application will be undertaken, and no formal determination made by the Council.
23/01308/APP



According to social media, INDIAN RESTAURANT PITSTONE GIVEN 1 FOOD HYGIENE RATING



A resident offered this explanation. 'Often it's very simple things like not filling in the daily inspection book or not enough staff training. I've never used this restaurant but I have experience of working with council environmental health inspectors.'

Another wrote this. 'This place got heavily fined the other year for employing illegal immigrants.'

Police close property in Wingrave due to anti-social behaviour.

The Wing Neighbourhood Team obtained a partial closure order for an address in Chiltern Road, Wingrave. This order allows the residents only into the property. TVP said: "Anyone else found at the address will be arrested and dealt with robustly."

Anti-social behaviour was causing problems for other residents and the community. A police spokesperson said: "Ongoing work

is happening to try and educate and support the persons involved.

The spokesperson added: "Community intelligence is a vital part of policing, it helps us robustly take action against people who are committing crime in your community. Please keep it coming."

Weedon Walkies Secure Field

A secure dog exercise field has opened on the edge of Weedon just outside Aston Abbots. Weedon Walkies are taking bookings for dog exercise. They have added attractions including a sandpit for canine diggers.



Organisers comment, 'As we prepare to welcome visitors to the dog field, It's a pretty nice place for dogs and owners to play - we are excited to share it! More information can be found on the Weedon Community page and Aston Abbots too. (Facebook).

From the Editor

1983. *The UK was back on the World's map from its victory in the Falklands the previous year. Maggie romped home with another landslide, seat belts became compulsory for all, the first full heart and lung transplant was achieved, and in **Aston Abbotts**, Graham Parker was assigned the first Editor of the new village magazine, **The Chronicle**.*

For 40 years this month, the Chronicle has been harassing letterboxes in Aston Abbotts informing residents of events in the village, reporting on local current affairs, including local history, pub and restaurant reviews and speciality articles, mixed with humour and light entertainment for readers.

Over the years its editorial has been passed on from Graham to Caroline Lane and Gordon Smith, then a rota system with 'guest' editors. Chris and Bridget Brandon, Simon and Helen Dowling, David de Silva and Barbara Bellingham, Deirdre Whyte, Andy Bystra, Gordon Kemp and Ann Goodman, Janet Biddle, Margaret Chesher, Margaret Kent, Jeremy Bale, and Caroline Lane. Then to, Andy Bystra, Andi Swain, Phil Spooner, John Hardcastle, Janice

Issitt, John Hardcastle, Phil Corrigan and myself.

*Around 200 copies of each issue are printed by the brilliant Reprographics dept' of Waddesdon CofE School. Free distribution is made possible by the support of our advertisers, a contribution from the village fête proceeds (decided at the Annual Parish Meeting) and our Coordinators and distributors. **Editors are indebted to these wonderful people.***

The full history of the Chronicle can be seen with nearly all copies on; www.aston-abbotts.co.uk

The second helping of the series looking back at the Putnam family in Aston Abbotts and with the 'Salem Witch trials' is featured further on. It would be nice to receive feedback on this series so I can pass on to John Putnam.

September's Quiz Night

I'm now taking table reservations for the Village Quiz Night Saturday 9th September. As we go to print, two tables are left. Get your team together. It's gonna be a good one.

Until next time, be safe. Pete. Ed!



Saturday 9th September 7.30PM

Aston Abbotts Village Hall

Taking Table Reservations 07544227991

Cash prize. Bring your own booze etc. Snacks on tables. £3 per person & £1 for interval game.

Come and join the fun & frolics at a quality but cheap night out

Down at the village orchard it is a bumper year for plums and gages.



Many plums are ripe, or on a day like today, ripening as you look at them. It is particularly pleasing that some trees have fruit for the first time.

Villagers are welcome to visit and pick the fruit. For the most part, because of the dramatic colours of

the plums, you can tell from the orchard gate where to go.

However, it is not clear for all trees, so on the orchard grid, these are the squares to look for:

G1, D1, D6, D7, D8, D10, D12, L3, L4, L7, L9, L12

Varieties available include several Victoria Plum, Stewkley Red, Aylesbury Prune, Warwickshire Drooper, a Leicestershire Damson, Marjorie's Seedling, Rivers Early Transparent. Names of varieties are on labels on treeposts. For those new to the orchard, information, including location, can be found at

<http://www.aston-abbotts.co.uk/villageorchardpage.htm>

Your Emails

Dear Editor

I have just cleared the rubbish from the fete which was left in and by the bin on The Green, as the dustmen predictably did not take it.

I was unable to clear all the rubbish because I reached a layer made up mostly of used dog poo bags. Obviously, I was not prepared to touch this revolting mess, and I doubt anyone else will be either.

Whoever thinks it is OK to put your dog poo bags in an open, public bin situated on a village green where people sit to enjoy the lovely surroundings, and where walkers and cyclists often stop to eat their lunch, shame on you. It is only 20 paces (yes, I measured it) to the official dog poo bins on the verge, which are emptied and cleaned regularly at the expense of the parish council.

I sincerely hope that it was visiting dog walkers who have done this, as I simply cannot believe anyone who lives in our beautiful village would stoop so low. **Kate Curry**

Dear Editor

Is anyone else struggling to understand how our Council /

Council tax dept. works? I have today received a final notice for the full amount. My current Balance is ZERO as I'm a regular payer but as I don't pay on a DD they issue me a final notice. I repeat ZERO balance. Think I will let them take me to court and see what the judge says re the £0.00 due to them.

Peter

Peter,

Too late in life, I've come to the conclusion that anything the government does with our tax never achieves value for money. Endless letters from the tax office, councils and the NHS are a waste.

Technology could replace a Government bureaucratic system. But their 'Computer says No'! Ed!

We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard to make the village fete such a special occasion on Saturday. Whether you manned a stall, put up a gazebo, washed up tea things, monitored the car park or helped clear up afterwards (I could go on), you are all stars. Thanks also to everyone who turned out in the pouring rain to support their village fete - we couldn't have done it without you!

A special shout must go to the Rose and Crown in Wingrave who donated all the beer. Please do go into the pub for a drink and thank them for supporting our village.

Also thanks to the tractor drivers for sitting in the rain all afternoon, and the people who brought their pooches to support the dog show. Actually the list is endless, but the final accolade must go to anyone prepared to sit in a huge puddle in the pouring rain and try to sell ice creams. Bravo!

The finances are not yet finalised, but it looks as if the profit will be in the region of £3k, which is an amazing amount considering the weather conditions. Full details of the profit and how it has been distributed will appear in the October Chronicle.

Well done everybody!

From the Fete Committee

Ed, HELP NEEDED!

The Cafe Crew are looking for people with a little bit of free time who'd like to help keep our cafe going as we have lost several volunteers recently and are in desperate need of replacements.

You don't need to come every week, we have a very flexible rota and your commitment would only

be for 3 hours every four to five weeks. We all swap around to make sure it works!

Hours are 9-12 (max) on Thursdays.

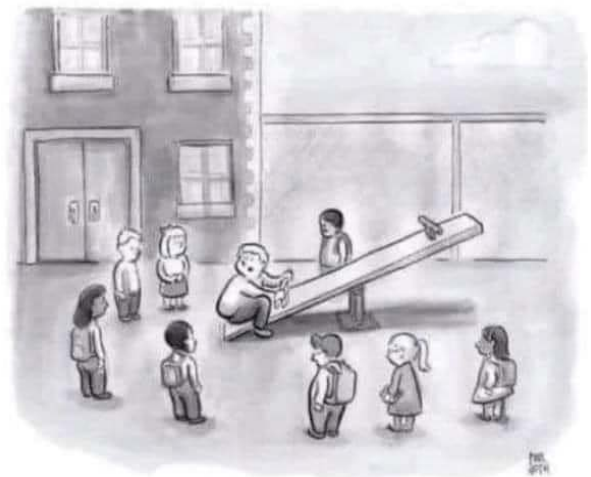
We're also short of able bodied people willing to set out the tables and chairs in the morning and again this is a very flexible arrangement.

This takes 20-30 mins max.

Please ring Deirdre Whyte 07980067967 or Caroline Lane on 07896 112829

or even better, pop along on Thursday morning and have a chat to see what's involved. You'll see first hand how much the cafe is appreciated by all those who use it! Thank you

Deidre



"O.K., now, when a teacher comes out, everybody look straight up."

The Aston Abbotts Diary - September

Event	Details
Village Horticultural Show	Saturday 2nd September
Rambling Club	Sunday 3rd. 2pm Meet on The Green
Public Transport meeting	Tuesday 5th. Train & Bus issues to Colin
Yoga & Meditation Class	Every Wednesday Village Hall 18.00 to 19.00
Fish & Chip Van	Wednesdays approx 20.15 Saturdays Approx 13.15
Whist Drive Colin Higgs 681343	Thursday 7th & 21st Village Hall. 19.30
Coffee Shop	Every Thursday 10.00 - 11.30. Village Hall
Village Quiz Night Pete Lucas 681387	Saturday 8th 19.30 start. Village Hall
Bingo Pam Dixon 681626	Thursday 14th 19.30 Village Hall
(Harvest)All Ages breakfast service	17 September Village Hall then Church
Bus Trip Colin Higgs 681343	Friday 29th 09.00 Bus to L/Buzzard

Our Village Hall is fully equipped, fully accessible and at fully good rates. To hire, call Nigel on 01296681152



ASTON ABBOTTS FETE 2023

Income	Proceeds after expenses)
Books	£91
Bottle Tombola	£288
Bric-a-Brac	£133
BBQ	£193
Cakes and Gifts	£390
Children's Activities	£62
Dog Show	(-£20)
Ice Cream	£44
PIMMS	£110
Beer	£240
Raffle	£1,248
Skittles	£32
Treasure Hunt	£29
Village Hall Teas	£264
Donations/ Stalls	£90
Total Income	£3,194

Expenditure

Aldbury Morris Men	£75
Queens Park Jazz Band	£200
Fence/pins for dog show	£72
Gaming Licence	£20
TEN	£21
Charge for use of village Hall	£72
Raffle expense 2022 (received late)	£200
Misc expenses	£44
Total Expenditure	£704

Net Proceeds £2490

Recipients 2023

Bulb planting (D Whyte)	£ 55
Fireworks	£272
Parish Council	£189
The Chronicle	£266
Fete Committee (tables)	£217
Fete bank account	£135
Village Hall	£272
St James Church (PCC Aston Abbotts)	£1,084
Total	£2490

Distribution of proceeds as decided at the Annual Parish Meeting. Public Liability Insurance Premium paid by the Parish Council

It may have rained on our parade but it didn't stop us

Opened by Jane.



Compared by Peter



Dave Dancing in it



They strutted



Incase too much!



Money Laundering



Booze Raiders from the Tombola Stall & beer tent.



Buy an Ice cream from them?



Despite the weather, we came and made thousands

Thank you Aston Abbotts and our Fete Organisers

Our second part of the series looking back at Aston Abbotts's John Putnam's family and the Salem Witch trials.

Walking in the Footsteps of My 9th Great Grandfather

By John E Putnam

After touring the village church and ringing the Putnam Bell, it was hard to imagine the continuation of connecting with my immigrant ancestor, John Putnam (John ye 1 st), who resided mostly likely in the Burston area of the Aston Abbotts parish for about 45 years prior to immigrating to Salem Village in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

When Jill Wenble first mentioned this as a possibility prior to arriving in your village, it was certainly another opportunity to get a sense for the land on which John and his family made a living even though there are no remaining buildings on that land to see. In this article, I want to share my impressions of hiking through the current pastures with Jill and Mike Wenble, Terry and Jim Putnam (brother), Louise and Rob Putnam who live in Kent and are distant cousins, and my wife Sue.



Why did it matter to me to walk John's farmland from 400 years ago: Three reasons:

1. As we know, most of our ancestors depended on the land to make a living so seeing where they conducted their life's labours is an interesting nugget of family history.
2. Does the land give any clues on why John might have emigrated since so far there is no clear record why he made this decision?
3. As a farmer's son, I am always fascinated to see how my ancestors have farmed through the centuries and this hike took me to the most distant historical land upon which my ancestors had lived.

Even though the hike did not necessarily resolve any of these questions, it certainly gave a clearer perspective of John's surroundings and revived my quest to further research the history of his time to

provide a richer understanding of his life when I returned home.

After a short walk from the church, we arrived at a community trail head which would provide access to the pastures most likely farmed by John. What a great village asset to have accessible walking trails to enjoy the very pastoral scenes that we experienced.

Three initial impressions upon entering the first pasture:

1. What an amazing view overlooking the Chilterns and Vale of Aylesbury which was very green and a mix of open fields and forested land! Despite previewing your village on Google Maps and Earth, I was surprised to see such a pastoral scene intermixed with current agricultural activities.
2. It was interesting to see the hedgerows which, at some point(s), enclosed the land to better define land ownership and to keep sheep and cattle in their pastures.
3. After cruising and touring the United Kingdom and Ireland for almost three weeks, my wife and I had seen many flocks of sheep but were unable to get close to them. In the first pasture, there were likely 100 sheep including which had not been shorn yet. Although we have no records to prove it, John ye 1st likely raised sheep as one component of his agricultural

pursuits! Finally, Sue was able to take pictures of sheep up close and especially of ewes with their lambs.



For the readers who have never visited the Salem Village area (currently the Town of Danvers Massachusetts), John likely had a similar view from the so-called highlands area of his adopted town, although the colonial landscape would likely have contained more trees, less open space, and perhaps slightly lower altitudes.

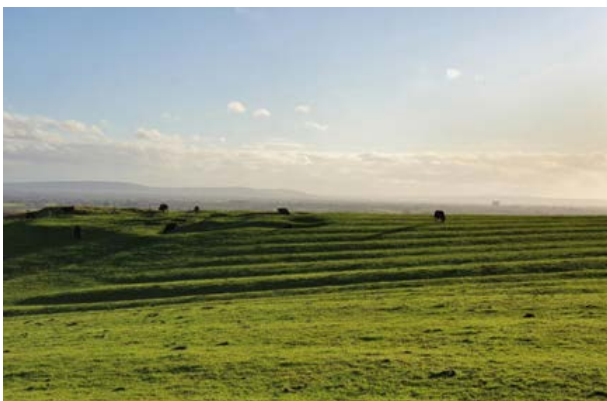
After crossing the first pasture, we entered a second pasture which contains evidence of the old, early mediaeval ridge and furrow method of dividing the open fields into strips which were then leased to residents who could afford these rents, with the remainder farmed by agricultural workers (serfs) in the employ of the Manor owner. Based upon my subsequent research into this mediaeval form of land tenure, it looks like it was the main land tenure system back until at least the 13th century and may go back even further to the Norman conquest. For a variety of reasons, this method was followed in the

late 15th century by larger landowners purchasing greater areas of land and “enclosing” them with hedgerows so the owners of this land could raise more sheep or other products for the international and national marketplace.

Assuming John farmed this area, he gained ownership of this land from his father, Nicholas, at the time of his death in 1598. According to our family stories, he continued to farm this land until he emigrated to Salem in 1639.



As Mike Wenble and I continued to cross this pasture and to look down toward the area that once was Burston, the views kept getting better. It is always interesting to imagine former “ghost” towns which no longer exist. What were they like? Who lived there?



What happened to the town? Each town has a story whether in Buckinghamshire, Massachusetts, or Colorado, but knowing that an ancestor live in the area certainly adds another dimension to imagining the past.

Upon returning home, I have worked to find more information on Burston’s rise and fall and did find the book, Aston Abbotts 1000-2000, A Village History, very helpful in diving deeper into its history!

Because I am a slower walker, Mike and I finally caught up with the rest of our group looking into a pasture of cows, another agricultural pursuit for which this area pursued.

Although Jim and I grew up on a chicken and vegetable raising farm in Massachusetts, we were surrounded by two dairy farms so are quite used to seeing them. What a great

hike to wrap up our short visit to Aston Abbotts! Also, it was great to see the land continuing to be used for agricultural pursuits and understanding some of the restorative processes to improve the environment and better manage the warming Earth! What we did not see on our short hike was evidence of the grain and vegetable crops growing now like they did when Grandpa John farmed...part of the continual

historical and economic change that uses the land for most comparatively advantageous purposes for that historical time.

Certainly, an hour's hike is a short time to capture the many mental images of both your town and grandpa's farm. However, I am most appreciative for the effort of Jill and Mike to share this snapshot of family history with our group. In the meantime, I hope to spend more time this winter leveraging the visual images that we saw into the Putnam Family history.

If any readers can point me to great resources available online, any information about Brunston, other historical families in the 16th and early 17th centuries, and/or the brief Putnam stay in Aston Abbots would be most appreciated. My email is:

jeputnam@aol.com.

Note: Even though my Putnam branch lived for such a relatively short time in your village, John's ancestors had lived within a radius of 25 miles or so of Puttenham, Hertfordshire since the Norman Conquest and perhaps even longer.

John was born in Wingrave, his wife Priscilla Gould was from Hemel Hempstead, his father, grandfather, and great grandfather were all born in Wingrave.

If you know any English Putnams, we are likely related. When Priscilla and John emigrated to Salem with their three daughters and three sons, they would start the largest branch of Putnams in the US.

Will save that story for a future article.

Whist Drive at the Aston Abbots Hall twice a month.

September Whist Drive

Thursday 7th & 21st Village Hall. 19.30

Details from Colin Higgs. 01296681343

Advertise to our readers

Annual Full Page Inside	£130
Annual Half Page Inside	£60
Annual Quarter Page	£40
One Offs Full Page	£25
Half	£20
Quarter	£10

Contact John Whyte 07988001834

Deadline for Chronicle contributions is the 24th of each month.

Please send articles to: editor@aachronicle.co.uk



- **Be digitally connected with other members of the community**
- **Totally complements the excellent coverage on Postbox & in the Chronicle**
- **Read news and events from across the community**
- **Search Google or Facebook for Aston Abbotts Community to enter**
- **Please also support Aston Abbotts Business Noticeboard to help local, aspirational businesses. Search Facebook for this group**

The Great Train Robbery 60 years ago.

I wrote about this and included a news article for the Chronicle a few years back. *(See the Chronicle archive on the Aston Abbotts website.)*



60 years ago the Great robbery took place at the Bridego Railway Bridge, Ledburn, near Mentmore. from a Royal Mail train heading from Glasgow to London on the West Coast Main Line in the early hours of August 8, 1963

The 15 member gang was led by Bruce Reynolds and included Gordon Goody, Charlie Wilson, Roy James, John Daly, Jimmy White, and Ronnie Biggs among others.

Below is the prison van in Market Square;



There wasn't enough room at County Hall. What memories do you have of this event?



Sue reports, 'Funny Enough We went on Holiday the Next Day. No one saw us Go or Knew where we were !! So, When We Got Home there were the powers of Be on our Doorstep. Oh did we Laugh'.

Ian says, 'My father 'John West' was on duty that night at Aylesbury Fire Station, and was called out with his crew to the scene of the robbery. He was the person who used the bolt cutters to free the train driver that night.'

And David says, 'My father was a signalman at Cheddington box that morning taking over from Ros Elder on the night shift.'



Celebrities who come from these Bucks towns

From comedians to chart-topping musicians, a whole host of celebrities were born in Buckinghamshire and/or their star-studded careers started in these towns.

Ellesborough - Sir David Jason



The 83-year-old, who is best known for playing Derek 'Del Boy' Trotter in the critically acclaimed sitcom, 'Only Fools and Horses', has lived in the county for around two decades with his wife, Gill Hinchcliffe and their daughter, Sophie Mae, who was born in Stoke Mandeville Hospital in February 2001.

They live in the village of Ellesborough.
Beaconsfield - Vernon Kay & Tess Daly



A presenting couple, the duo have hosted some of the country's most popular television and radio shows and slots. Vernon, who is originally from

Bolton, has fronted game shows such as 'All Star Family Fortunes', 'Beat the Star' and 'Splash' during his career, whilst also hosting on Radio 1 between 2004 and 2012.

The two lived in Fulmer near Gerrards Cross with their two daughters, but moved to Beaconsfield.

3. Holmer Green - Phil Vickery. TV chef Phil lived just outside Holmer Green with wife Fern Britton until they separated. Phil still lives in Holmer Green but Fern reportedly moved to Cornwall.

Phil has presented a number of cooking demonstrations from his home in the village and came under fire back in May 2020 for sending homemade KFC by courier to London at a time when many people were avoiding unnecessary trips.

4. Ricky Gervais - Marlow.

Reading-born comedian and Marlow resident Ricky Gervais is often seen across the south of Buckinghamshire.

The 62-year-old has been regarded as one of the most influential comedians and actors of his time, following the success of 'The Office' between 2001 and 2003 and more recently Afterlife on Netflix.

He has been seen on several occasions along Marlow's High Street, with one resident saying, 'he is a lovely person and he has a lot of time for you'.

Leigh Anne Pinnock - High Wycombe

The Little Mix member was born on October 4 1991 in High Wycombe and grew up there. She is a former student of the Sir William Ramsay school and

talked about her home town to fellow south Bucks celeb James Corden on his American TV show.

Lorraine Kelly - Bourne End. The Scottish TV presenter lives a very peaceful life in the riverside town of Bourne End.

She has a stunning property which lies next to the River Thames that she shares with her husband Steve Smith and her border terrier Angus.

Tom Kerridge - Marlow



The local Michelin-starred chef has three restaurants in the town which he says he is “super proud to call home”.

He said: “Marlow is one of those incredible communities that is built on social connections around sport, schools, family, friends, small-scale independent operations and has this wonderful hub of the community that people are really proud to be part of.

Cookham - Ross Kemp. Cookham resident of over two decades, Ross Kemp is known within the community and is regularly seen walking in the area (when not filming dangerous documentaries or strolling into the Queen Vic).

The 58-year-old has taken note of how welcoming residents have been since his move to South Bucks in the 1990s.

Cheryl moved to Bucks in 2019



Now officially Cheryl Tweedy - singer, dancer and television personality, Cheryl has made her home in Bucks in the large village of Chalfont St. Peter.

She rose to fame in the pop girl group Girls Aloud in the early 2000s - she started her solo career while still in the girl group.

She had a son with Liam Payne from One Direction in 2017 while they were together from 2016 to 2018.

Liam Payne: The One Direction singer has a rented home in Chalfont St. Peter, likely to see his son that he had with Cheryl.

Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne have lived in Bucks for many years. Ozzy Osbourne: The English singer, songwriter and television personality has a home in Jordans - a village in Chalfont St Giles parish in Bucks.

He is best-known for being the lead vocalist of the heavy metal band Black Sabbath in the 1970s. In 2020 he revealed he has Parkinson's disease.

Not A listers but some famous friends of mine in Bucks. Ed!

Alvin Printwhistle, first rate comedian and Elvis Tribute Artist. **Alvin lives in Aylesbury** with wife Yvonne.



Alvin started performing young. He was the lead in the Itsy Bitsy Band which toured the UK and abroad. In 1990 he set out on his own with his two hour Elvis tribute show mixed with audience participation comedy. In 2003 he produced the American Trilogy show with live band, orchestra and backing singers. He owns 'AP Entertainments' agency.

Alvin was a regular subscriber to my 'Elvis Now' International Magazine.

If you get a chance to see this guy, don't miss it. A great night's entertainment.

Dez Kay, Born in High Wycombe, a Broadcaster, Compère and Presenter for a variety of events. He also does voice over on films. Part of being a

radio personality, he can be heard on Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio Thursday evenings from 6pm.



Dez has supported SMHR for 41 years. He also compares Aylesbury's Live in the Park event.

A loyal Spurs fan, we regularly rib each other when Spurs or my team, West Ham, lose. I'm ribbed more by him of course.

Andrew 'Andy' Collins is a British television and radio personality. He leads the weird Three Counties Radio Breakfast show and is a regular leading character at The Aylesbury Waterside Theatre's Christmas Pantomime and a fellow Theatre Ambassador.



Andy lives in Aylesbury.

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

Ride+Stride raises money for the repair and restoration of churches and chapels of any Christian denomination. We have had lots of help here for St James's in Aston Abbotts. **Saturday 9 September 2023, 10am – 6pm**

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

Details on the website if you want to join in:

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

I'll be cycling, and would love company, and also any sponsorship you can spare, however small, before or after the event! Here is my JustGiving page (or I have a traditional paper form too):

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/caroline-lane13>

Caroline Lane, tel. 01296 681373
carolinelane@btinternet.com

What happens when a football kit is no longer needed? Taking football kits to Africa. Chris Phillips

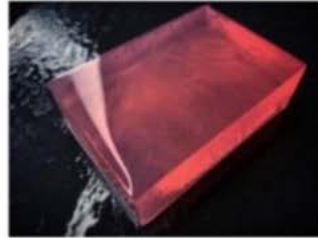
Way back in 2020, whilst football was suspended for Covid, Chris Phillips, Aston Abbotts resident and then chair of Wingrave JFC collected all the old kit lying around, sorted it into piles and donated it to RAF FA.



Supporters of the Taking Football to Africa and Beyond Appeal visited Kenya taking the old kit and distributing it amongst schools.

These images were supplied recently and have given such joy. As many Wasps players live in the community, I'm sure you'd love to see the kit being used to great use once more.

Surely this could be for other clothes too? Ed!



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YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT ME VIA EMAIL

✉️ LATHERCUTE@OUTLOOK.COM

☎️ 07591432041



***Aston Abbotts
Horticultural Society
AUTUMN SHOW***

***Saturday 2nd September
2023 Village Hall***

***Staging of exhibits
between 10.00 & 11.30am***

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SECTION 1 – Classes 1 – 9

1. Beans, Runner – 4 pods
2. Beetroot – 3, with 5 cm tops
3. Carrots – 4 with 5 cm stalks
4. Tomatoes – 4 with stalks
5. Potatoes – 4 any variety
6. Onions – 3 any variety
7. Longest Runner Bean
8. A plate of 10 soft fruits
9. Apples – 3 any dessert variety

SECTION 2 – DOMESTIC CLASSES

10. 4 Fruit scones
11. 6 Jam tarts
12. A Jar of Jam/Jelly (labelled with fruit used)
13. A Jar of Chutney
14. 4 Rock Buns

15. Spicy GingerBread (See Recipe Attached)

18. A Pot Plant

SECTION 3 – JUNIOR CLASSES

(Age up to 12 for classes 19, 20 & 21 must be given on entry form)

19. Best decorated bottle

20. A collection of wildflowers/grasses

21. Something new from old

RECIPE

Spicy GingerBread

For the cake:

4oz (114 grams) Butter

4oz (114 g) Brown Sugar

- Cream these two ingredients together

4oz (114g) Golden Syrup

6oz (170g) Self Raising Flour

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1 Teaspoon Mixed spice

2 large eggs

Mix altogether!

Bake in Oven - 1 hour (ish)

You'll also need:

1 2lb Loaf tin.

Call Colin Higgs for more details

01296 681343



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Prize Raffle

BINGO NIGHT

**THURSDAY 14th
SEPTEMBER**
7.30PM START

**In aid of Motor Neurone
Disease Association**

Aston Abbots Village Hall

The poster features a yellow background with a white border. It includes several bingo cards and callouts with numbers like 19, 04, 32, and 75. The text is in various colors and fonts, including a large red splash for 'Prize Raffle'.

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FRI 1 SEP 8PM, THU 28 & FRI
29 SEP 7PM & 9.30PM
TICKETS FROM £30.

MANIA THE ABBA TRIBUTE SAT 2
SEP 7.30PM TICKETS FROM £26.75
Direct from London's West End,

**THE BUCKS RADIO BACK TO
SCHOOL DISCO. SAT 9 SEP 7.30PM,**
NORMAN BRAGG STUDIO
TICKETS £16.50

DAPHNE'S FLIGHT THU 14 SEP
7.30PM, NORMAN BRAGG STUDIO
TICKETS £21.73

**RUBY WAX I'M NOT AS WELL AS I
THOUGHT I WAS FRI 15 SEP**
7.30PM TICKETS FROM £29.64

**PHIL WANG WANG IN THERE,
BABY! SAT 16 SEP 7.30PM TICKETS**
FROM £29.09

**HUNDRED WATT CLUB AN
EVENING OF BURLESQUE &
VAUDEVILLE SAT 16 SEP 8PM,**
NORMAN BRAGG STUDIO TICKETS
£19.80. Ages strictly 18+

THE CARPENTERS STORY SUN 17
SEP 7.30PM TICKETS FROM £30

MUSICAL THEATRE KARAOKE TUE
19 SEP & THU 16 NOV
3.30PM, NORMAN BRAGG STUDIO
TICKETS £11

PLATFORM: YOUTH BAND NIGHT
FRI 22 SEP & FRI 17 NOV
6.30PM, NORMAN BRAGG STUDIO
TICKETS £6 Join us for our brand
new Youth Band Night in
partnership with XYZ Music
Academy showcasing live music
from young local bands. Under 14s
must be accompanied by an adult.

UNSIGNED SAT 23 SEP & SAT
18 NOV 7.45PM, NORMAN BRAGG
STUDIO TICKETS £6

Bringing together a mix of local
bands and genres, join us for our
regular Band Night

SILENT DISCO AT THE WATERSIDE
FRI 22 SEP 7.30PM TICKETS FROM
£18.43

Grab those headsets, flick that
switch, cut some shapes and be
prepared to sing your head off!

BIG FISH LITTLE FISH SAT 23 SEP
2PM TICKETS FROM £15.95 Show
your kids what raving was like back
in the day!

**WATERSIDE CEILIDH WITH
CEILIDH TREE FRI 29 SEP 8PM,**
NORMAN BRAGG STUDIO TICKETS
£18.43 Join Ceilidh Tree for a night
of foot-stomping tunes!

FIREMAN SAM SAVES THE CIRCUS
SAT 30 SEP 11AM & 2.30PM
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Penny, Elvis, Station Officer Steele
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SHOW SAT 30 SEP 8PM,** NORMAN
BRAGG STUDIO TICKETS £14.30

**NOEL FITZPATRICK BEYOND
SUPERVET SUN 1 OCT 7.30PM**
TICKETS FROM £40.72

Noel Fitzpatrick takes to the stage
this autumn as he brings his
uplifting and motivating show

**PETER PAN GOES WRONG TUE 3 –
SAT 8 OCT TUE – SAT 7.30PM, THU
& SAT MATS 2.30PM, SUN
MAT 2PM TICKETS FROM £13**

Mischief returns with riotous spin
on a timeless classic, West End
smash hit Peter Pan Goes Wrong.

***The iconic Chitty Chitty
Bang Bang Windmill in
Turville, Bucks, has gone
on sale for £9 million.***





Dear School Friends and Neighbours

The timing of this article will bridge the end of one school year and the start of another so we have therefore said farewell to another Year 6 cohort and sent them on to various secondary school adventures.

As always it has been a great privilege to be custodians of these young people and their learning during the seven years they have been with us but, having done our job, they are ready to move on and we could not be more proud of them. Our Leaver's Presentation and Church Service provide meaningful occasions to reflect on their successes and encourage their future endeavours, shared together with pupils, staff and parents.

Meanwhile we have been paving the way for a new 30-strong Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception) cohort joining us in September. Bearing in mind this process started with school tours almost a year ago, since then we have held introduction meetings, teacher meetings and a family picnic (albeit inside due to the weather) in order to provide the warmest welcome and smoothest transition into our school community. We do appreciate this period of change is

often most challenging for the parents!

Frustratingly this time of 'passing on' and 'welcoming in' comes at a time when the children and staff are running lowest on time and energy. Not necessarily a good combination but made all the easier by the goodies which are generously gifted to the staff room by our parent body – a little chocolate goes a long way.

Despite being the summer holiday there is still plenty happening on site with our caretaker and grounds maintenance team making the most of the absence of children to get jobs and larger projects completed safely and without interruption. Staff will also use the opportunity to continue working through their 'to do' lists so they can hit the ground running in September. We welcome a new Bursar and Catering Provider in September so new blood and fresh ideas make for a very exciting start to the new school year.

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

Your church is here for you

This month Annie Cooper has written this message:

One of the great things about being a Licensed Lay Minister is that I get a chance to get to know all 8 villages in the Cottesloe Team. And you are all different. Not just bigger or smaller. A little community might have a big issue to deal with. A big community might be divided on issues which matter. Some of you are blessed with schools, shops, pubs. Some not.

I really enjoy being part of the church communities, taking services, visiting, and helping where I can with fetes, garden parties, quizzes and the like. I even got to be part of the band which played for the Cublington fete this year.

All of our church communities, though not large like many town churches, somehow manage to raise enough money to pay for the clergy who are there for everyone - not just the church goers.



They are also responsible for the upkeep of the buildings. No small task when our churches have been in the centre of the villages for centuries and need constant maintenance.



Sometimes there is an urgent need to find lots of money for work which cannot be put off. And sometimes we want to make changes which will make our buildings more useful - for church use but also to meet community needs.

We are very thankful for the help you give by supporting our fundraising efforts.

Please feel free to ask for help from us - Revd Howard, Revd Andrew, Revd Pam or myself - we are here to serve everyone who lives in our patch, through the good times and the rest.

God bless!

Annie

Services - September 2023

03 September	6.00pm	Evensong
10 September	10.30am	Parish Communion
17 September	09.30 then 10.00	Breakfast, village hall. HARVEST service, church. ALL AGES
24 September	10.30am	Parish Communion
20 September	10.30am	Lay led service
27 September	10.30am	Parish Communion
01 October	6.00pm	Evensong

Church Duties September

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
1/2	David/Colin	Colin
8/9	Alex/Colin	Colin
15/16	CarolineL /Ann	Harvest
22/23	Annie/Tatiana	Harvest
29/30	TBA	Offers

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

Church Matters September

The Festival weekend – we were happy to see so many visitors to the church in spite of the rain. The church was beautifully decorated with themes of nursery rhymes and children’s stories, so thank you to the talented florists who created these. We are very

grateful to the village in general for the support given to church funds from the fete.

COMING UP

RIDE and STRIDE 2023

Ride and Stride in aid of Bucks Historic Churches Trust is on Saturday 9 September. Sponsored walk, bike or ride around as many churches as you’d like to visit. Always an interesting day out to see churches that are not usually open. Details on the website (Mursley deanery to see local churches):

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

If you are not joining in I'm always very grateful for sponsorship, online here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/caroline-lane13>

or I've left a paper form in the church. Half the money goes to the Trust and half to one's chosen church (St James's in my case). The Trust has helped St James's with repairs so good to support!

HARVEST

The Harvest service will be the All Ages service on Sunday 17 September. Come along to breakfast in the village hall from 9.30am and join us in church at about 10am for a short service. You are welcome to bring offerings of non-perishable food for a local food bank.

100 CLUB 2023-2024

Thank you to everyone who has subscribed to the 100 Club. It is now up and running for 2023-2024; if you didn't get round to joining, you can do so at any time of the year to be in with a chance to win monthly cash prizes. Ask, 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 this month 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).

100 Club Draw July

1st prize, £50 - Ann Goodman

2nd prize, £10 – Juan Gutierrez

100 Club Draw August

1st prize, £50 – Lynne de Looze

2nd prize, £10 – Ian Langdon



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Low Scrubs walk in Chiltern Hills that takes you back in time

This walk takes you through the stunning woodland, passing relics of its ancient past from as far back as the early Iron Age.



The Chiltern Hills offer up a variety of stunning trails

With summer well and truly making itself known across the county in recent weeks, many of us have been spending most of our spare time enjoying the sunshine. Whether it be a family picnic, a beer garden or a stroll through the countryside, our county has much to offer.

National Trust has shared a stunning walk through the [Chiltern Hills](#) to enjoy this Summer. Starting at Coombe Hill Car Park, this short circular waymarked walk takes you through the stunning Low Scrubs woodland, passing relics of its ancient past from as far back as the early Iron Age.

The walk is roughly 45 minutes long and does include some gentle slopes and possibly some muddy areas during wetter weather. The trail is around 1.2 miles long and can be found near [Wendover](#).

The trail comes with 9 steps;

Step 1: Enter the woodland at the public footpath sign just to the left of the wooden posts that mark the road end of the car park. After 50m, ignore a path bearing to the right. Continue on the main path winding through the trees until you reach a signpost on a sunken path that crosses the one you're on.

Step 2: Turn left here and head gently uphill on this ancient trackway. Continue on the main, broad path for 350m until you reach a large beech tree with a marker pointing to a path on the right.

Step 3: Take a sharp right onto the path on the right, going partly back the way you came. After 100m, another path joins from the left.

Cross this path, continuing in the same direction, and go through a gap in a distinct line of large trees.

Step 4: Turn immediately right at the section of iron fence to follow a broad path. The distinct line of large trees will be on a bank on your right.

After a while, this path curves round to the left until you reach a T-junction.

Step 5: Turn right and follow the path, keeping the iron fence on your left, with a paddock behind. After 200m, you'll reach a point where solid wooden fencing has been installed behind the iron railing fence.

Look back to see if you can spot some Iron Age archaeology. Then continue for another 50m to a footpath sign.

Step 6: Turn right here to walk along a narrow path that starts off flat and then slopes gently downhill. At the end of the downhill section, you'll meet a path crossing this one.

Step 7: Turn right down the path. After about 100m, you'll see a clear area to the left. About 25m after you re-enter the woodland.

Step 8: Turn around and retrace your steps. Continue past the point where you joined this path then bear right at a footpath, following it gently uphill until you reach a T-junction.

Step 9: Take a sharp right here towards a thick grove of silver birch trees. Once through the grove, continue along the path until you rejoin the path you started the walk on. Turn left to return to the car park.

The full route and more information can be found on the National Trust website.

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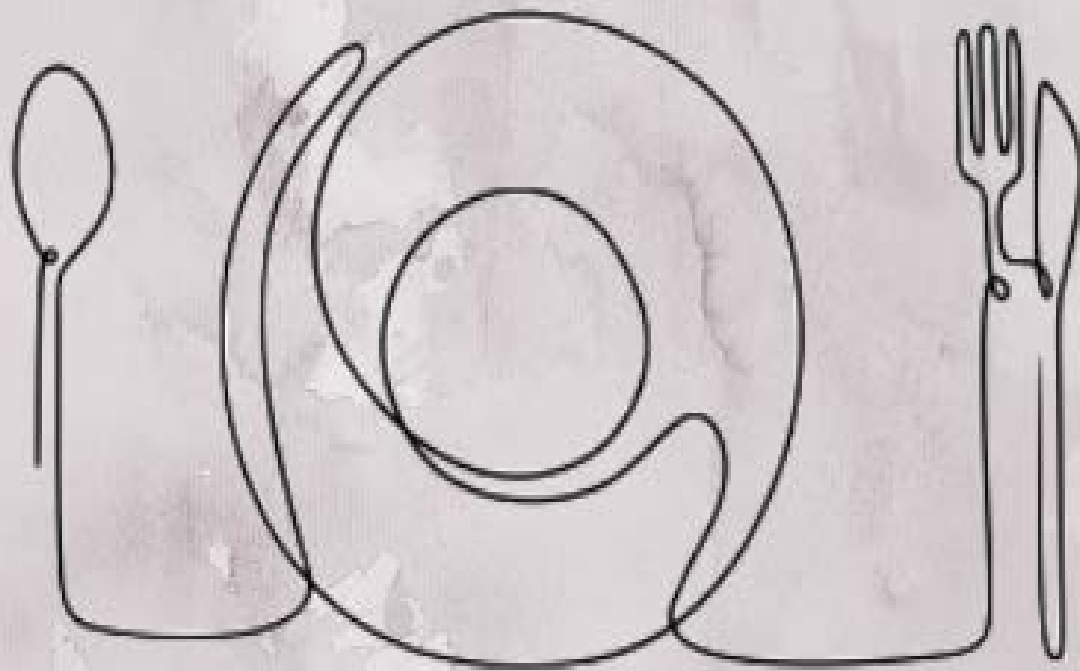
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The Generals

The Alan Biggins Article 2

These articles first appeared, or are due to be published, in the author's local parish magazine Focus.

As I explained in my first article, the Whaddon Web was the tapestry of the many Second World War radio transmitting and receiving sites which were put up and controlled by MI6 from Whaddon Hall. It was the voice and ears of the secret service's wartime work.

That story is but part of a greater tale – a tale of skulduggery and spies, high drama and world-changing science; all happening in a titanic struggle between good and evil when old powers fell and new ones arose. But this was not spy-fiction; all of it was true, verifiable; though much of it is now forgotten. It happened right here – all around where we live.

Building the backbone

The boss at Whaddon Hall, Richard Gambier Parry, had been poached by MI6 from his job as the British Sales Manager for an American radio company, Philco. After he left, he went back and poached most of the other staff (Philco were very nice about it). They worked from Whaddon with feverish speed to put up masts at numerous sites to serve MI6's seven main customers.

The world of North Bucks at the outbreak of the Second World War was vastly different than it is today. It was then a deeply rural area; where electricity had only recently been introduced; indeed many of the farms and hamlets had no electricity, mains drainage or mains water.

Erection crews travelled from Whaddon, surveying, requisitioning and putting up sites on hills for many miles around. As the map at the top of this blog shows, there were more than 20 sites. To put up the masts, Whaddon had a 'small but merry' group of aerial riggers run by an Australian Army soldier, Sergeant Ernie 'Digger' Buick. He was described (by an engineer, Major Robin Adie) as:

'A remarkable man, although his language, parliamentary and otherwise, was fairly extensive ... they would set off in the morning, winter or summer, rain or shine... how they put up with his language I don't know.'

The masts were put on top of just about all of the surrounding hills. The flat lands of East Anglia start not far from Whaddon; so reception was generally good. There were many Royal Corps of Signals troops. The early masts were wood: two pine trees lashed together to make 140 foot masts with climbing 'steps' nailed in and lashed to wires in foundation concrete blocks. If that sounds dangerous, it was; as the graves of those who died on the job attest.

Although just about in living memory, this was a time when the modern world was only beginning. The transmitting stations were run from chargeable batteries and lit by hurricane lamps.



Royal Corps of Signals grave (Whaddon graveyard)

One wonders what the old gaffers in the smoke-filled bars of the Shoulder of Mutton or the Lowndes Arms muttered to each other about the mass of incoming soldiery as they supped their wartime week beer; what they thought of the great transporters brushing the elms on muddy country roads which were more used to horses and cows. But then, most of them would have fought in a World War themselves; many of them still carried wounds; all of them mourned brothers, sons or friends lost in that conflict. The past is indeed another country.

Whaddon and the radio war

The transmitters at Whaddon itself were used to communicate with Allied commanders in the field. Their customers were the top brass, such as Generals Montgomery and Patton; and their messages affected the war

– such as when they told Montgomery at El Alamein (in Africa) that his German opponents were down to a few tanks; and Patton in Normandy that his enemy were immobile as they had no fuel. Whaddon housed more than one aerial site; one of them on the ridge above the church where the unfortunate signalman lies buried. This exposed site – which is appropriately called Windy Ridge – has been used for centuries; it still has the base-mound of a windmill on it. Here was the largest of all the stations – with four shifts, each of around twenty extremely good operators. A Signals ‘Jimmy’ cap badge has been found by a metal detectorist there.



‘Jimmy’ - the rather racy badge of the R.C.Signals

But sending information to generals was only part of Whaddon’s work. Keeping it secret was at least as important; for the information they were passing on was courtesy of Bletchley Park; and had their enemies known their codes were being broken, they would have changed them.

To cope with the non-broadcasting part of his radio duties, Gambier-Parry had two satellite

camps built in Little Horwood. Each had a guardroom, fencing, armed guards, work space and accommodation. For this was high security. Here radios were manufactured for spies and saboteurs, and communication vehicles for the generals were fitted with radios. It is in one of the huts used for this purpose that Great Horwood's parish magazine, Focus, is printed.

Radios for the generals

The cars that MI6 used as radio command posts were, to begin with, a fleet of camouflaged Packards.

For Whaddon's radio work, Gambier-Parry recruited the very best signallers and Morse code operators; both civilian and military. The cream of the crop. I want to talk especially about one of them, Edgar Harrison. Edgar was a signaller whose life was spun in a new direction by Whaddon and the war. His experiences were so extraordinary that a book has been written about him. Of all the people of Whaddon, 'Pop' Gambier-Parry included, I think he is the only one who has been the subject of a personal biography.



A 1941 Packard

People for the generals – Moscow 1940. Edgar Harrison

Harrison was a Caerphilly lad, the eighth of ten children. He joined the army at the age of 14. He was a corporal in The Royal Corps of Signals when he was poached by Gambier-Parry for Whaddon Hall. Edgar began his time at Whaddon at Little Horwood, fitting radios into the Packards which were to have been used as command posts behind the lines in the then-likely event of German invasion (a subject I will explore in more detail in a future article). The Packard was roomy. The rear was stripped out and turned into a three man radio room – with a transmitter and a receiver. After Whaddon/Little Horwood, Edgar Harrison was sent abroad, to pass Ultra (the name used for MI6's secret traffic) to generals in the field. He was to take part in six retreats and become Winston Churchill's Ultra wireless operator. Had he been American, Edgar's life would probably have provided material for many a Hollywood epic. His first posting – and retreat – was from Norway. Then he was sent to Brussels – and retreated via Dunkirk. Then he retreated from Greece. Then he retreated from Crete.



Edgar Harrison

In 1941, he was directly involved in combating the German invasion of Russia. When Hitler unleashed his troops on Russia, in June 1941, Britain very quickly began shipping tanks there; and Edgar went with them. British tanks were a factor in Hitler's first land defeat – the battle for the defence of Moscow in the winter of 1941. Hitler got close to taking the Russian capital; his troops actually penetrated the greater Moscow area and could see the spires of the Kremlin through field glasses. It has been said that up to a quarter of the tanks that broke that attack were British (with Russian crews) – and I explain in my book *The Intelligence Zone* - why I find that figure credible. The British tanks were particularly valuable as, unlike the Russian tanks, they had radios – and could therefore fight in a co-ordinated manner and not be picked off piece-meal by the German attackers. Edgar Harrison was the man who was in charge of fitting those radios. While he was at it, he also fitted radios from Whaddon into Russian tanks; and trained their fitters and crews; making a co-ordinated defence possible. The Nazis had already suffered one defeat in the air (the battle of Britain) and one at sea (the sinking of the Bismarck). These

were both strongly linked to activities in the Intelligence Zone. Now, in Moscow, British technology also contributed to the first defeat of the German armies. Thus was democracy preserved from Nazism; the most vicious and racist creed ever devised by man. Instead of blue plaques being scattered like confetti across our area, there are huts used by small companies and unremarked grave stones in country churches.

I wonder if, as he fitted the radios in the Russian winter, Edgar Harrison thought with nostalgia about his home in Caerphilly – or indeed dreamed about nipping down to the Shoulder of Mutton at Little Horwood for a pint and a game of darts. If so, he would have shared the bar with Poles, Canadians and probably other nationalities; one of many uprooted people scattered to the Intelligence Zone by the war; who did their mite to shape the history of the world.



Signaller's local – a perfect English pub, then and now (and my bike!)

In my next article, I will move on to Whaddon's spy sites; and talk about the greatest of the French resistance heroines; and her visit to our very own parish.

ALLOTMENT DIARY



In my last allotment diary, I mentioned that a number of the pumpkin seeds Adam had planted had grown as courgettes, and I predicted that I would shortly have a glut of courgettes. Even I could not have guessed how big the glut would be! I have been picking between 5 and 10 courgettes a day! Much as I like courgettes, and Adam is prepared to eat them, this was far more than I could cope with, and I have been giving most of them away, to anyone who will take them

In over 20 years' vegetable gardening, I have never known plants like the four pumpkin/courgette plants planted on the site of my former compost heap. I am attaching a photograph of the four plants. To give you some idea of the size of the courgette jungle, my greenhouse on the right-hand side of the picture is about 6 feet wide. Each of the plants has a diameter of around 9 feet, and is about 4 feet high. Worse, since the plants were originally planted about 4 feet apart, they have all grown into

one another, so that the centre is almost impenetrable; and because the leaves are frequently the size of two dinner plates, finding the courgettes that have grown is increasingly difficult! Frequently Adam or I miss a courgette until it has grown into a marrow. However, these marrows are not wasted: Adam chops them up, boils them, and feeds them to his Koi carp, who seem to enjoy them!

The dreary wet July we have had this year, while a pain for most purposes, has been very good for my vegetables, and I think for all the other allotment-holders. This year none of my crops has failed, and some, like my cucumber plants, are producing my biggest crop ever. Unfortunately, the same is now true of the weeds on my allotment. In my June diary, I mentioned how the then drought was inhibiting weeds from growing: now the reverse is true. Unhappily my plot is being infested by the weed which has been the bane of my life as an allotment gardener, the "Gallant Soldier": and I am trying hard to pull up all of these weeds before I go on holiday next week. However, I feel a bit like King Canute trying to stop the tide coming in!

Two curious nature notes: the first in fact relates to my garden, not the allotments. Adam had rigged up a video camera to photograph anyone who came to the front door. A few weeks ago, we were astonished to see a piece of film that had been

triggered by a hare which came up to our door, and then bounded away! We have since seen a hare, presumably the same one, resting in the middle of our lawn one evening; and when Adam got up in the morning it was still on the lawn, and had presumably spent the night there.

The second is that Gordon Smith discovered a strange moth on the allotments, which he showed to me. It had a wing-span of about 5cm and a pink and black striped body. We eventually identified it as a privet hawk-moth, which is very curious, since there is, so far as I know, no privet on the allotments; and indeed, I struggle to think of any in the village.

Peter Shorrock

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WINGRAVE SEPTEMBER 2023

Sat 2 1030 Garden Party for the National Trust 4 Tattlers Hill

Sat 2 Aston Abbotts Horticultural Show

Sat 2-3 Winstock music festival Rose & Crown

Sun 3 1500 Last cream tea Parish Church

Mon 4 School term begins

Wed 6 1030 WI: Try Croquet lawn

Fri 8 1800 WCA family barbecue Community Centre

Sat 9 0845 Men's Breakfast Talk: Open forum Methodist Church

Sat 9 The Very Last Average Night in Wingrave Community Centre

Sat 9 Quiz Night Aston Abbotts Hall 19.30.

Mon 11 Weekday Walking Group ramble, contact Jan Walmsley: 07813 085211

Fri 15 1930 Family Bingo Community Centre

Sun 17 0930 Wingrave Ramblers' local ramble Nup End Lane

Wed 27 1200 Over 60s specials lunch Rose & Crown

Fri 29 1930 WwRHA talk: Community Centre

Sat 30 Late Summer Party Community Centre



WING
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Registered Charity number 1151925

New Opening Times from this month. Summer Reading Challenge is coming to an end.

Join us on Monday afternoon 4th September from 2 pm

for light refreshments and a warm welcome as we launch our Monday afternoon opening hours. If you haven't visited us before, come in and see what the library has to offer you.

Opening Times

Monday	1400 - 1630
Tuesday	1400 - 1630
Wednesday	1000 - 1230
Thursday	CLOSED
Friday	1400 - 1630
Saturday	1000 - 1230

We are collecting used Postage stamps for



Children's
Heart
Foundation



The Summer Reading Challenge

Ends on 16th September. Read 6 books to collect your certificate and medal at the podium.



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Have your children found COSMO?

Cosmo the cat is Naveen's mascot, helping him inspire others. Collect an entry form from the library and find Cosmo in 6 locations around Wing. Return the completed form for a chance to win one of 11 prizes.

Closing date Saturday 9th September



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How did we get on?

Best Kept Villages 2023?

Close but no cigar! We scored a very healthy 180/200 to earn us a certificate of merit in 2023 Best Kept Villages.

Thank you to everyone for your efforts in preparing for this year's Best Kept Villages. Unfortunately, we didn't win but we did score an Impressive 180/200 and received some amazing comments from the judges:



“Bus stop tidy. Information signs on green in good order. A well looked after noticeboard with very good local information.”



“Weed removal in evidence. Graves strimmed round.”

“Small pretty garden planted opposite green. Planters under village signs at entrances.”



We were competing in the Gurney Cup (for villages with a population up to 500 people).

Winner - Weston Underwood*

Runner Up – Cublington

* I was initially told Upper Winchendon won, but congratulations to, Weston Underwood.



Nothing but pride.

Are we disappointed we didn't win? We shouldn't be - we have so much to be proud of. Our village looked resplendent – colour

was everywhere, hedges were neat and tidy, the church and the surrounding areas looked perfect, bus stops looked great and our verges were well manicured.

Since 2019, we have hosted the Best Kept Villages sign on the Green and retained the BKV trophy – and we've basked in the glow of being successive winners.



But that winning streak can't go on forever. Villages have looked enviously at us since then – it's our turn to gaze at others.

No BKV post? No worries! Let's be honest, we do not need a post or a trophy to validate how special our village is. Yes, it's nice to have but everyone makes an effort with or without competition. Everyone made so much effort and that we should be proud of – the community came together once again, bought plants locally and dedicated themselves to the village.



What does the future hold?

Is the narrative changing? We need to be respectful of wildlife and the wildflowers, they need to thrive. Letting our flora and fauna grow a little wilder isn't compatible with a Best Kept Village competition. What I'm not suggesting is banishing our lawnmowers forever, but do we need a conversation to decide what we do from year-to-year? Do we want to encourage more wildflowers and the like or do we want to continue challenging for Best Kept Village honours? I know. It's not a life changing decision but I feel getting more people involved, with the Parish Council's involvement too, we can have fun along the way.

What are your thoughts? Please email me on:

mrpahillips@hotmail.com

with your views. Thank you, once again, for all your efforts for this year's competition. We are Aston Abbots and we have so much to be proud of.

Chris Phillips.