

Save our village Bus



In an effort to raise awareness about the potential loss of our village bus services, **the Public Transport Chairman for Buckinghamshire, Colin Higgs calls on everyone to use bus services through Aston Abbots as much as they can instead of the car. With maximum fares remaining at £2 each journey, it's a bargain and reduces the carbon in the atmosphere.**

Colin is hopeful that by raising awareness and encouraging residents to use the bus services,

they can save the route from being discontinued.

The Chairman believes that increased passenger numbers will demonstrate the importance of this route and ensure its long-term viability.

Colin says, "We're at real risk of losing routes if people don't use them. We're doing what we can to keep the routes going. **I can't emphasise how important it is that we all make an effort to use public transport when we can.**

From the Editor

Regretfully I start this message with sad news, With news that Christine Scott, formally from The Green, passed away on 14/09/23 at a nursing home in Bournemouth. The funeral will be at Bournemouth crematorium @ 2.30 on 6/10/23. She was a lovely lady and had many friends in the village.

Brian Stockdale from Weedon, passed away in September following a stroke. Brian was often seen working at the allotments.

Also Dennis Woodford from Brickstoc died in September. Although a keen biker and Folk music fan, Dennis pretty much kept himself to himself but was always kind and chatty when you saw him. As the Chronicle goes to print, there is no news on Dennis' funeral.

Inside the magazine is the continuing story of the Putnam's from Aston Abbotts. John Putnam was known for orchestrating the 'Salem Witch Trials' in Massachusetts. I thank the present day John Putnam

for his interesting series and sharing it with us. He welcomes feedback on the story so please let him know if you enjoy it. His email address is at the end of this edition.

Well, with nothing working in the country at the moment, I hope you enjoy this issue of the Chronicle. I too would like some feedback and any ideas for articles.

Until next time, stay safe.

Pete. Editor



Village News Plus

Low flying balloons over Aston Abbots.



Low flying balloons near scraping roof tops over Aston Abbots was the sight on a glorious Saturday in September. As residents waved them on, we were told the balloons landed in a field close to Wingrave.

Arson probes launched at Wing woodland after vehicle destroyed.

Firefighters from Aylesbury were called to woodland in the area at around 7.49pm on Saturday, August 19 where they found a car that was "well alight".

Firefighters used breathing apparatus and a hose reel jet to combat the fire. Regrettably, the car was completely destroyed.

A Thames Valley Police spokesperson said: "We received a report from Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service of an arson at the junction of Park Gate and

Aylesbury Road in Wing at around 9.15pm on Saturday, August 19. A black Nissan Koleos had been dumped and set on fire but had burnt out.

"Anyone with information should call 101 or make a report on our website, quoting reference number 43230371811.

Alternatively, provide information anonymously to independent charity Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or via its website."

Shock' after sheep is shot at Ivinghoe farm

Vets attended and saved the ewe's life after a crossbow and bolt became embedded in the neck. Police have launched an investigation.

Officers say it is believed the attack, which took place near Ivinghoe Beacon, happened on Tuesday morning (September 5) but stress it could have occurred earlier than this.

Luckily vets attended and saved her life; however the incident was shocking for everyone involved.

"Police have seized the crossbow bolt and are in the process of examining it forensically. If you have any information on this

crime, please contact Thames Valley Police on 101 or through the Thames Valley Police website, quoting reference: 43230397965.

Solar farm plan for Ledburn slammed over green impact.

Plans for a solar farm in Ledburn have drawn major opposition from residents, parish councils, Buckinghamshire Council and Historic England.



Novus Renewable Services Limited wants to build '[Redborough Farm Solar Farm](#)' on 113 hectares of agricultural land east of Aylesbury Road in Ledburn, near Wing and Aston Abbotts.

A consultation period is now active until October 12.

Proposals include installing solar panels, inverter units, substation buildings, a connection tower, transformer units, infra-red CCTV cameras and storage facilities.

Innova Group, which will own and run the solar farm, says it can be hooked up to the National Grid in 2024 and will generate enough electricity to power 11,887 homes.

However, Slapton Parish Council, Mentmore Parish Council and dozens of residents have objected to the solar farm over its potential harm to the environment and wildlife.

Neighbour Robin Beaman said: "The site would be highly visible, ugly and intrusive from all the surrounding areas, Mentmore, Wing and beyond. in what is a conservation area and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."

Historic England has also said the solar farm would have 'serious' harm on the views from National Trust property and former Rothschild family home Ascott House, as well as other nearby Grade II listed buildings.

Although there is significant opposition to the project, Innova says: "The site has been carefully selected and designed through a detailed assessment process considering grid availability, heritage, landscape, amenity and environmental designations, access, and agricultural land quality."

1800s Rothschild home formerly part of Mount Tabor House estate up for sale in Aylesbury

Rothschild houses are an iconic part of history in our county

One of the iconic surviving Rothschild homes in Buckinghamshire is now on the property market. West Lodge, which was built as part of the Wingrave Manor House estate in 1876, could be yours for a hefty £1.1m.



The Aylesbury house is filled with charming history, especially as it was built by the famous Rothschild family. The big banking family bought and built many country houses in the 1800s across Buckinghamshire, and during that time our county became humorously known as 'Rothschildshire'.

The picturesque style of the property was influenced by the work of George Devey, who was a highly successful architect in the 1800s. There is an ornate finish in the property as well as a crafted front door with inset stained glass windows.

Iron gates protected by Grade II listing sit outside the reclusive property, and keep this iconic home set back in its own land. The

gardens are manicured and have a variety of shrubs and trees to maintain the all-important privacy of the future owner of this historic house.

The house boasts a traditional feel while benefiting from modern renovations, striking the right balance for an owner to enjoy. There is a traditional bespoke fitted kitchen/breakfast room with woodblock surfaces and a butler style sink, range cooker and working log burner.

Beamed ceilings have become a much sought-after feature of properties in recent years, and West Lodge has plenty. There are several feature and working fireplaces in the property as well, giving it a cosy feeling despite its grand size.

The property has four double bedrooms renovated in a sleek modern style. There is also a large family bathroom too.

West Lodge is a beautifully designed and immaculately presented property that dates back to 1876.

"Thoughtfully renovated by the current owners, the property now offers deceptively spacious and perfectly presented accommodation, with quality fixtures and fittings and a bespoke

finish, yet still retaining plenty of character and charm. Of particular note is the wonderfully crafted front door with inset stained glass windows.

"The rest of the property benefits from an ornate finish throughout, complemented by many feature and working fireplaces as well as vaulted and beamed ceilings."

The property is currently sitting on the market for £1.1 million.

(Image: Savills and Leon Day)



Kate Waite celebrates 101 birthday

Kaite Waite celebrated her 101 birthday at the Coffee Shop 21st September.



Her actual birthday was Sunday 24th. Congratulations Kate.

Horticultural Show

The Horticultural Show went well on 2nd September with more entries and high standards. Unfortunately no children entered.

Congratulations to Caroline Lane as this year's winner.

The Gin Competition will take place on Saturday 2nd December in the village hall at 12.00. Any home flavours welcome.

Colin Higgs

Boo's Light Gardening



Hoeing, Mowing, Planting, Weeding, Watering, Pruning

Light hedge trimming & Strimming.

Other jobs to be discussed.

07739391627

The Aston Abbotts Diary - October

Event	Details
Yoga & Meditation class	Tuesdays 6 to 7pm. Village Hall
Fish & Chip Van Visits	Wednesdays around 8.15pm. Saturdays Approx 1.15pm. Various
Morning Coffee shop	Thursdays 10-11.30 Village hall
Whist Drive Colin Higgs 681343	Thursday 5th/19th 7.30pm. Village Hall
Bingo Pam Dixon 681626	Thursday 12th 7.30pm. Village Hall
Bus Trip & Walk about Quiz Aylesbury. Colin Higgs 681343	Friday 27th 09.50 Bus to Aylesbury. Wait on the Green for via Weedon
British Summertime ends	Sunday 29th. Clocks go back an hour.



Aston Abbotts Village Hall news – Oct 2023

New heaters: We have replaced the end-wall heaters, just in time for winter!

What next? The hall is well used and we are delighted that the Wednesday yoga class has re-started with a new teacher. There is still room for more regular events, though. What would you like to see going on? More of what we have, or something new? Is there anything you are able to run? Any facilities we don't have and should look at providing? Let us know for our future planning. And...

Management group: If you are interested in helping run the hall and developing new ideas, please let one of us know. The hall management group meets four or five times a year. Thank you!

Email:
astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com

Aston Abbotts Village Hall
Trustees/management group: John Whyte (Chair), Caroline Lane (Secretary/Safeguarding), Liz Hall, Nigel Palmer (Treasurer), Peter Shorrocks, Nigel and Sally Palmer (bookings)

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

Review of The Carpenters Story, Aylesbury Theatre.

“A musical journey through the glittering career of pop's most famous brother and sister duo”.



The Carpenters Story is a beautiful and fitting tribute to such an iconic band.

As a teenager I listened to their music and bought some of their LPs. It was great to listen to those familiar songs once more.

The songs were interspersed with some screened background information about the song and what was happening at the time. Most of the songs were well known and very well received by the audience who happily joined in when invited to do so.

The backing band consisted of six musicians who were very talented and professional. They blended into the background whilst Claire was singing and took centre stage for solo performances from time to time. Claire Furley was excellent. She managed to reproduce the magic of Karen Carpenter whilst still maintaining her own style.

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable evening. **Janet Walker.**

Your Emails

Hi Pete

Wondered if you could let people in the village know that **Christine Scott** passed away on 14/09/23 at a nursing home in Bournemouth.

The funeral will be at Bournemouth crematorium @ 2.30 on 6/10/23.

She was a lovely lady and had many friends in the village.

Karen Nichol

Hi Peter,

I recently watched a news feature on BBC London news. A 20mph speed limit has been introduced along the A2 Road and surrounding areas in London to give people living in the area more safety.

If a busy road like the A2 can implement a 20mph limit then why is it that our village is not able to introduce this. We have one footpath through the village. No footpaths on 2 of the leading roads in our village and it is so dangerous trying to walk along Moat Lane or Cublington Road even walking round The Green we have to avoid speeding traffic.

The mayor of London implemented the speed limit along the A2. Perhaps the Mayor of Aylesbury could do the same for Aston Abbotts. Thank you.

Lyn

Thanks for your email Lyn. The Aylesbury Mayor is more of a ceremonial Mayor. Although a councillor, individually, he has no real jurisdiction over the road authority.

20mph signs on close residential roads would make the streets safer. However, I'm told, a local Lib Dem Councillor persuaded the Wingrave Parish Council to pay over £10,000 to see if Wingrave met the criteria for a 20mph area. The council report concluded the roads in Wingrave didn't meet the criteria. Ouch!

Probably not a good time to approach our PC with a similar idea. Ed!

Hi Editor,

Just me again regarding my ginger cat Eugene.

He is STILL obviously getting fed somewhere else as he is looking very fat and his fur is very nice, which shows he isn't on the street at night, he also doesn't come back for about a week or 2 at a

time!! So it's clear someone in the village is still doing this!!

He came into his home the other day and my youngest picked him up to kiss him and he actually growled and hissed at her!, he's NEVER EVER in his 7 years done this!!! So I'm starting to get a little peeved off by the person who is continuing to feed, water, and home him.

Please SPRAY him with water so it makes him feel not welcome at your home... and please do NOT make any attempt or encourage him to come into your home.

This is not fair on me or my children as he is OUR CAT! OUR PET! Who we have loved and cared for the last 7 years. I pay his insurance, vet bills, flea treatments and whatever he needs from an owner, so stop taking him in as yours.....

I can't keep stressing this.

Please stop.

I don't want to be a moan of the village but we are getting really upset by this.

Thank you xx

Aimee

Hi everyone

I used to live in Aston Abbotts in the 80's with my parents, Stuart and Helga.

I have since relocated to the USA and infrequently travel back to the UK. I initially took my wife back to the UK some 19 years ago and we visited the village and my mum's grave.

We noticed a plant there but at the time did not really think much of it. Roll on to this year and we visited again and there was another plant. We were both completely taken back that someone has been keeping an eye on the grave and are both so really grateful.

I would love to know who has been doing this for so long and would like to thank them. If you think you know (or knew) our family or you might know who looks after my mum's grave. Please speak up so we can chat. Please feel free to reach out privately if you prefer.

John Davies.

Hi Pete,

I was disgusted to see people can be so ignorant. I picked up a dog mess from your neighbour's grass verge. She keeps it so nicely mowed and even has the notice no Fouling and yet people still don't pick up after their dogs.

So many people in the village appreciate what a pretty village we

live in and try our best to keep it looking nice .

I'm looking after a friend's dog at the moment but I take a handful Of doggie bags with me. If I walk up Moat Lane I also take a carrier bag to collect any cans, bottles and plastics that are dropped .

Let's hope the offending fog owners feel guilty and pick up in future.

It's so nice to see the bus stop still looking so pretty with the flowers in bloom and the containers around the village.

Thank you.

Lyn

Good afternoon Pete

I am very proud and excited to deliver this news!

Last night **Aylesbury Waterside Theatre** won the **Bucks Business Award for Community Champion and Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure Business of the Year.**

We hope you are able to join us in celebrating the news, Best always,

Ali x

Communications Manager

Congratulations to you and your team Ali. The theatre stands high

and stately in the centre of Aylesbury and commands the best of shows and deserves them. The theatre teams, directors, producers, choreographers, actors and production make us, the Theatre Ambassadors, supporters and theatre goers proud to have you.

Pete

Hello all,

We will be moving our horses to the village this coming weekend, please PLEASE can I respectfully ask - if you plan any fireworks over the next few months, even a couple in your back garden - could you post a heads up warning, or drop me a message...

So we can plan for them accordingly & try to prevent them from killing themselves (horses can be quite good at trying ...)

Massive thank you in advance for understanding. **Claire**



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Dog Friendly Buckinghamshire



Many of us like to keep our doggy companions by our sides and luckily, there are plenty of places in Bucks that welcome dogs. Take a look at these dog friendly attractions and venues, plus read all about the National Trust's new Pooch Passport.

If you fancy a delicious breakfast, brunch, lunch or afternoon tea accompanied by your pooch, then head to The Grange Restaurant which is at The Hearing Dogs for Deaf People's centre in Saunderton. Dogs are of course welcomed and you can sit inside or in the courtyard or on the terrace. The food is top notch and made with local ingredients whenever possible, plus there's a lovely gift shop.

The Chiltern Open Air Museum is a dog friendly 45 acre site with over 30 reconstructed historic buildings

to visit and extensive grounds which include a working farm, cottage garden and 1940s inspired allotment. They host lots of events and many of them are living history experiences such as Roman enactors and Ragged Victorians. If you have a nervous dog, you might want to check what's on before visiting.

If you'd like to take your dog on the water, then The Little Trip Boat in Aylesbury is more than happy for them to join the crew. Cruise along the Aylesbury branch of the Grand Union Canal to the marina and learn some of the local history and how to open and close locks whilst gliding leisurely along. Or how about the train? Step back in time on a steam or diesel train from Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway and take a heritage ride through the countryside. Well behaved dogs go free.

Buckinghamshire's many parks of course welcome dogs and include Black Park, Willen Lake, Campbell Park and Langley Country Park.

Recently the National Trust has made its estates much more dog friendly and although you can't usually take them into the properties, dogs on leads are now welcomed in the grounds. At Waddesdon, you can take the path up to the house and wander

through the grounds or veer off across the fields by the car park and into the parkland. Both Hughenden and Cliveden have extensive grounds heading down to rivers, a perfect spot for a doggy dip in hot weather. Privately owned Chenies Manor is one of the finest examples of a Tudor mansion in the UK and you can visit the gardens (the house is currently closed) which include a sunken garden, rose garden, walled kitchen garden, physic garden and parterre. Dogs on leads are welcome. And the grounds at Stowe are perfect for walking your dog with loads of space and beautiful Grecian architecture to admire at every turn. Launched in partnership with natural pet food maker Forthglade, the National Trust Pooch Passport has just been unveiled exclusively at 29 National Trust places across London and the South East, including Cliveden, Stowe, Hughenden and Waddesdon. They have been specially selected because they have been awarded a two pawprint or three pawprint rating, which means that they provide good or very good facilities for visiting dogs. This may include dog-washing areas, drinking stations, dog zones in cafés, waste bins and downloadable walks for dog walkers. Pawprint ratings can be

found on property web pages and in the National Trust Handbook. From 1 September 2023 to 29 February 2024 dogs who enjoy walks at participating properties can have their Pooch Passports stamped. Once they have collected unique stamps from six different places they'll receive a special Forthglade treat. And if they visit 12 locations they'll receive a second Forthglade treat.

Sheep on the road



Mutton? I'll be the judge of that!



*'We're shifting Manchester
70 miles south to
Birmingham. It's cheaper
than building HS2'*

Aston Abbotts John Putnam's English Roots



As related in my earlier articles, my major objective was to visit your village to get a sense from where my 9th great grandfather had emigrated. What a treat to finally visit the church where he worshipped and, walking the ground where he farmed.

After our hike through the pasture, we had worked up a good appetite so headed to Wingrave for lunch but the one restaurant was either not open or had closed. We headed to Aylesbury where we enjoyed a very enjoyable lunch and discussed our next objective from two: go back to the graveyard at Wingrave or to head to Puttenham. Considering the very large role that Puttenham had played in the mediaeval times for the ancestral Putnams and is where we get our name, that was the consensus choice.

As I researched for my trip, I finally realised that grandfather John (12) may have been one of the few Putnams that ever lived in Aston Abbotts or Brunston. He only lived there for about forty years after he inherited the lands on which he farmed from his father, Nicholas (13), who was born in Wingrave but lived in Stewkley when he died, although he may have spent time in Rowsham too.

Judging by the lands which he owned, Nicholas was apparently a large landowner. Likely, he inherited some land from his father John, but I wonder whether he may have received some from his marriage to Margaret Goodspeed. Nicholas had two younger brothers who might have inherited some land, but they died quite young with a month of each other which left most of Richard's estate for Nicholas. Nicholas' father John (14) and brother Richard are both buried at the Wingrave church yard.

John's great grandfather, Richard (15) was born in Edlesborough. He was involved with his brother in a "riot" in 1517, received lands from the Barking Abbey in Slapton as part of the dissolution of the Roman church lands, and was buried in Woughton. From here, the ancestral trail gets a bit murky but his father, John, was likely

born in the Slapton area where he lived in the early 15th century. However, it is likely this John (16) was the first generation of Putnams/Puttenhams to have moved from Puttenham sometime in the late 14th century.

Most genealogists trace the Putnam/Puttenham family back to Saxon times just before the Norman invasion.

It is believed that a Saxon family member became a follower of Odo, the Bishop of Bayeux, who was the half-brother of William the Conqueror. For this, he was rewarded with a manor near present day Puttenham. While it is likely some family members moved from the ancestral hearth before the 14th century, the family seems to scatter into the surrounding Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire areas during the fourteenth century. While pedigrees tell you the vital statistics of your ancestors, they do not often give much context to why things happened or how our ancestors lived.

What caused the exodus from Puttenham? Was there a shortage of land to distribute to family members? Why was there more land in the surrounding area? Did this coincide with the first round of enclosures where lords were

trying to consolidate land holdings for greater wool production? Did the Black Plague accelerate migrations with more land available? Interestingly, the causes of this migration and the causes of John (12) moving to Massachusetts Bay are similar. Certainly, a big takeaway from our visit was the need for more in-depth research into these questions.

Genealogically, Puttenham plays a big role in determining other Putnam migrations within England and to Salem, Virginia, Canada, and Australia. If families have a Putnam ancestor in these areas, they likely all originated in Puttenham in Hertfordshire (not in Surrey).



Robert, Jim, and John Putnam

Prior to my visit, I worked to connect a common ancestor with

Rob Putnam from Kent to my brothers and me. It is still a work in progress but a promising trail leads from Puttenham to Wingrave, to Chesham, and closer and closer to London over the past almost four hundred years.

As we approached Puttenham, my brother Jim and I posed with Puttenham sign like many other American Putnams have.



We decided to turn around and find St. Mary's Church which has a similar history to your beautiful St James the Great Church. Modern day Puttenham has a large dairy farm, the church, a church hall, and a few other residences. It is much smaller than Aston Abbotts but the residents continue to maintain the church but only have services once a month. The church

was surrounded on two sides by a pasture with a herd of curious cattle.



Wow...what a great visit to the Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire area. Amazing to think my Putnams lived in this area for almost 600 years prior to moving to Salem! My short visit confirmed the need to more fully research this geographical area and to better understand the mediaeval times in which the Putnams lived. Looks like a full agenda of winter research!

Note: I am always happy to hear from my readers to learn from them how best to research this area and era in local resources. I am also happy to send any reader with a genealogical relationship chart if they are interested or know of local Putnams who are looking for connections. My email is jeputnam@aol.com.

Aston Abbotts Parish Council September

The Parish Council meets again on 18th October, 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Below we summarise key matters addressed at the meeting 20th September.

Roads and verges

We are working with Bucks Council to reach a resolve on the matter of gritting Lines Hill during extreme winter weather. Cllr Peter Cooper is adding power to our elbow as we continue to lobby Bucks for a change in their current policy. We have made it quite clear to them that not only is the road a school bus route but a cut through for local commuters whenever there are issues on the surrounding A roads. Supported by data retrieved from our MVAS systems that count traffic flow through the village. We are hopeful that Bucks will agree to add the route to their winter programme.

Also on Lines Hill a badger set appears to be having a negative impact on the road surface. The Local Area Technician for this area is progressing repairs, in

conjunction with an approach to somehow moving the badgers on.

Cllr Hall is monitoring the state of the sink hole in the road opposite The Green. Our Local Area Technician has overseen repairs a couple of times and we are keen that the next stage is to investigate further into the reason why this keeps recurring.

Hedges

The Parish Council will soon begin work on the hedges for which it has responsibility, including those around the Recreation Ground. We will also liaise with Highways to ensure roadside hedges outside of the 30mph zone are cut back. It seems timely to remind all our residents that if you own a hedge that borders road or pavement you should ensure that it is properly cut back and that the bordering road or pavement can be used safely.

The Recreation Ground

The outdoor Table Tennis table is now fully installed and ready to use. All you need is your own bats and balls. We look forward to seeing families and groups of friends having a game or too. Enjoy!

We have some repairs to carry out on the equipment and the fence

around the Play area, this work will be ongoing.

Please do talk to a member of the PC if you have any concerns about the equipment, or indeed if you would like to help out in any way.

We are delighted that The Village Fireworks will again be held on the Recreation Ground later this year.

The Bus Stop on The Green

We have some repair works to carry out and we expect this to happen mid to late October. The Book Shelves have become a little overcrowded recently, leaving some books to go to waste on the damp ground. The Parish Council will clear the shelves for the work to go ahead and reinstate them. Could we ask that residents are sensible about the amount of books donated to the Bus Stop Library. It is a fabulous resource

that many of our residents make use of, but there is limited space. If you have a load of books local charity shops will generally take them to sell on.

A Casual Vacancy

The Parish Council still has a vacancy. Parish Councillors really do make a difference to the village in many ways. 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

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

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

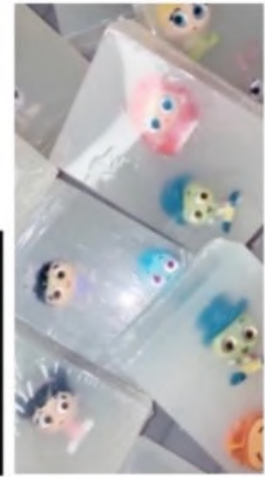
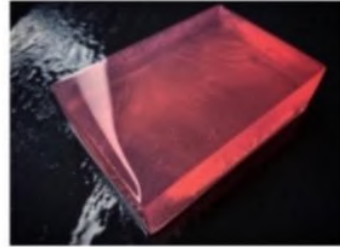
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Deadline for Chronicle contributions is the 24th of each month. Please send articles to:
[**editor@aachronicle.co.uk**](mailto:editor@aachronicle.co.uk)



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St James' Services - October

1 October	6.00pm	Evensong
8 October	10.30am	Parish Communion
15 October	09.30 then 10.00	Breakfast, village hall. Then All Ages Service.
22 October	10.30am	Parish Communion
29 October	No AA Service	Wingrave Service 10.00

**Remembrance Sunday 12 November: 11am
at war memorial, 11.15am in church**

Church Duties September

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
6/7	David/Colin	Donated
13/14	Alex/Colin	Donated
20/21	CarolineL /Ann	Colin
27/28	Annie/Tatiana	Colin

100 Club Draw September

1st prize, £50 – Annie Pettie

2nd prize, £10 – John Abel Smith

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER SAVE THE DATE NOW!



Taste Of Italy

One night only!

**Come and enjoy a “*Taste of Italy in Aston Abbotts*”
An evening of food and fun with a 3-course meal
(home-made of course, by Francesca) and all for just £20.
Tickets are limited and can be booked through Francesca
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**Italian Red wine will be available for a donation or bring your own.
All profits towards maintaining St James’s Church building.
RSVP by 10th November latest.**



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The Great Harvest

It's the time of the year when many churches are celebrating harvest festival, an occasion to remember two things: the harvesting of the earth that *we* undertake (along with its relation to questions of supply, need, distribution and social justice), and the harvesting that *we* ourselves don't do because only *God* can. The harvesting of the earth under God's direction is a theme we find in the Book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible. Coincidentally this is a book that one of the discussion groups in our benefice is currently studying in some detail. It is a style of literature that makes use of particular forms of imagery and symbolism (some of which requires a bit of unpacking) both to inspire and to challenge.



The Book of Revelation combines images and scenes of awesome promise and inspiration along with others that are, to put it mildly, very challenging. It addresses the tension between God's sovereign

rule and the presence of evil and looks towards a resolution of history, aiming to unveil the truth from a position not dominated by certain worldviews and powers of the time in question.

It proceeds to make a connection to the concept of harvest, the drawing or gathering in that God alone can ultimately do, certain aspects of which we may not even yet see – at best we see them 'partially', as St Paul says in one of his letters. One thing that becomes clear on reading the Book of Revelation one chapter after another, without decomposing it into isolated extracts, is that the 'seeing' in question is manifold. Reorientation is needed for greater clarity of vision.

The people who would originally have received the text of the Book of Revelation were communities who would have recognised the significance of the imagery used and many of the historical figures and tensions of their day to which the seer was pointing.

Our discussion group has been thinking about the relation of the text to the situations and tensions we find in today's world, because the theme of harvest, both that which is achievable by us and that which God alone can effect,

remains as relevant now as it did back then.

That ongoing relevance may be seen as an *invitation* to be received and explored in communities wanting to seek truth and orientation towards God's call on humanity, while being realistic about our human condition, our partiality and our capacity to do things that may hinder a harvest, both literally and metaphorically.

With prayers for our communities, the world and the harvest

Andrew Krauss

Church Matters –October

RIDE and STRIDE 2023 - report

The weather was very hot on 9 September, so we had very few visitors to our church (three, including me!). My own ride was to Cublington, Whitchurch, Oving, Nether and Upper Winchenden and Cuddington, finishing in Haddenham where I left the bike with family and got a lift home! I'd recommend a visit to any of these churches but particularly Nether Winchenden which has a beautiful old interior with box pews and a gallery (as at Dunton).

At the time of writing I'd raised nearly £300 to be split between St James's church here and the general funds of Bucks Historic Churches Trust. Thank you very much to everyone who sponsored me. If anyone would still

like to, the page is still open here for a while:

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

HARVEST

The All Ages service on Sunday 17 September was well attended and also our harvest celebration, with lots of participation and Annie Cooper leading. Thank you to all who donated non-perishable offerings which have been given to the foodbank at Aylesbury Vineyard Church for distribution to those in real need.

COMING UP

The All Ages service will be on Sunday 15 October at 10am. Come to breakfast first in the village hall, from 9.30am – everyone welcome.

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER: A Taste of Italy in Aston Abbots – three course supper. For details to book your place, see separate advertisement. SAVE THE DATE NOW! Tickets limited.

CHURCH OPENING

Anyone, churchgoer or not, is welcome to use the church for quiet reflection and/or prayer. Although it will be locked from the end of October, when the clocks go back, just ask if you want to go in.

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: Lesley Clough, Ro Knight,
Annie Pettie; Andy Bystra (fabric); Tatiana
Butler and Francesca Bean (finance).
Anita Parker has just resigned from the
PCC after many years' service. A huge
'Thank You' to Anita from all of us.



Dear School Friends and Neighbours.

The new school year is now well underway here at Wingrave Church of England School. The dust has settled on our new arrivals and we are straight into 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, Harvest celebrations, Remembrance and preparation for the Christmas season. Never a dull moment in the Autumn term!

All these events and occasions of course bring a great deal of people and subsequently traffic to the village and we continue to be very grateful to the community for their patience around parking. We regularly remind our parent body about considerate and sensible parking, especially to new families joining the school in EYFS and throughout the school.

We can all relate to lapses of judgement when we are running late and the circumstances are out of our control, however where parking creates dangers for pedestrians and other drivers, we welcome and support reports to the local police in the interest of everyone's safety.

Whilst the majority of families do live in catchment, this includes those further afield in Aston Abbotts and Rowsham who need to drive to school. Those few children who travel from Aylesbury make use of a bus service therefore reducing vehicles driving into Wingrave. As our pupil numbers continue to grow and our staff team expands, this too has implications for staff parking and we do all we can to minimise vehicles left off site during the school day.

We continue to encourage all those who are able to walk to school or who can make use of the car park at the Sports Pavilion to do so, limiting the amount of traffic around Twelve Leys, Abbotts Way and Anershall where we know it gets especially busy.

Thank you to our families who set off that bit earlier so they can walk or park further afield and limit the impact on the community. Equally a thank you to you, our school friends and neighbours, who time your journeys to avoid the twice daily 'school rush'.

Whilst I am sure you are very proud to have such a flourishing school in the village, your patience and understanding around the associated factors does not go unnoticed – thank you!

Matt Tomson. Headteacher

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds but becomes the largest of plants, and grows into a tree where birds can come and find shelter." Matthew 13:31-32

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

ALLOTMENT DIARY

At the end of August my pumpkin/courgette hybrids, thank God, gradually stopped producing fruit (although the week of hot weather at the start of the month reinvigorated them briefly). However, as they stopped, my 3 cucumber plants went into overdrive, and for three successive weeks they produced more than 20 cucumbers each week! Next year I shall limit myself to one plant!

Despite the unusual weather, this has, in my experience, been a very good year for growing everything, with one exception; my apple trees. Two trees - one of which was absolutely laden last year - produced no fruit at all: and all the others were well down on the usual crops. And, what apples did grow, frequently failed to grow in size, and remained the size of crab-apples. Talking to others in the village who had apple trees, I found that they had exactly the same experience. I would guess that my crop of apples was less than a thousandth of what it was last year. (Last year, for example, I took my surplus apples to be made into apple-juice, and got 90 bottles. This year I will have none).

So, what went wrong? The answer is, of course, a late frost in the spring. At full bloom, a temperature of 28° F (-2.2°C) will kill 10% of apple blossom; a temperature of 25°F (-3.8C) will kill 90% of the blossom. I don't know how localised the frost was, but I do know that my son's girl-friend's sister, who lives near Bath, had masses of apples this autumn, and clearly did not experience the same frost as us.

Why the fruit that did eventually grow failed to mature, I do not know, and can only assume that the frost damage prevented the fruit from developing properly.

In other vegetable news, I read that a British scientist working in the USA has produced genetically modified tomatoes, which are coloured purple, and which have a higher level than usual of anti-oxidants.



Why this excess of anti-oxidants is a good thing, I do not know, but even at twice the price of ordinary tomatoes, they are selling like hot

cakes, and they will almost certainly become available over here next year, unless the UK government bans them. Interestingly they were produced by adding two genes from a snapdragon plant to a normal tomato.

I have also read that some large companies are trying to make their office spaces more attractive, by installing “indoor allotments” – salad vegetables and herbs which are being grown hydroponically under artificial lights. Employees are allowed to harvest and take home the fresh produce when it is ripe. I have to say that I cannot see this ever catching on, and think it will remain an interesting eccentricity, which only very large companies will be able to afford to do.

Peter Shorrock

Allotments Available



There will be some vacant allotment plots from January. If you would like one please contact **Annie Pettie**

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The Spies

The third article of eight telling the story of this amazing area during the 2nd world war

In the early part of the Second World War, the British army did not (to put it charitably) fare terribly well in its head-to-head confrontations with the German army.

That concentrated Churchill’s resolve to wage war, where possible, by using intelligence (in both senses of the word). The gathering of military, economic and political intelligence - spying - was very much to his taste and, indeed, very much in the British tradition. The country had been sending spies abroad for at least 500 years. By 1940, this had become the job of MI6. The information that their spies uncovered came back through the gleaming antennae of the Whaddon Web. From there it was fed into Bletchley Park; where it was added to other intelligence, much of it gleaned from cracking enemy codes. Then the resulting

information was passed on – as I've described in my last excerpt – to Churchill and generals in the field.

Given the size of the landmass controlled by its enemy – most of Europe - Whaddon Hall had set up several transmitting and receiving sites for talking to their spies in the field. Each station dealt with a different area of occupied Europe. The English sites were at Middle Weald (with aerials at Calverton, operated by American engineers) and Nash. These were round-the-clock, three shift stations. Weald had eight radio operators on each shift, Nash had five. From this, it is obvious that they had quite a few customers.

MI6 only employed the best; highly talented Morse Code operators who worked at exceptional speed and accuracy. They had to. As soon as a broadcast began in occupied Europe, German monitors knew of it and began tracking it. Tracker vans raced to the broadcasting source, quickly homing in on it until they found the radio. Then they would break in and kill – or preferably capture – the man or woman sending the message. Then, for them, hell would begin; usually ending in death.

Operators (trained in England) were advised never to broadcast from the same place twice; to do so greatly increased their danger. But moving from place to place was in itself dangerous; for spot searches were routine in occupied Europe. While the sets (made in Little Horwood) were as small as MI6 could make

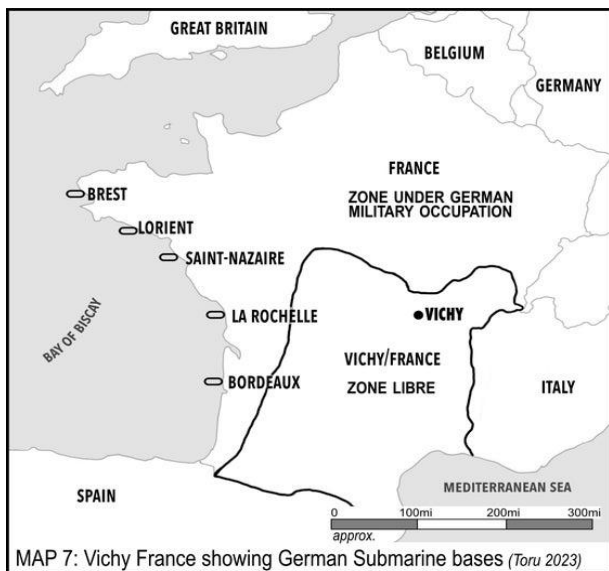
them, they were still bulky. The lifespan of the average resistance radio operator was in months; so if the operators at Nash and Middle Weald (or the northern site in Scotland) asked for repeats, they were quite likely to be signing the death warrants of their friends behind enemy lines.

MI6's main problem, at first, was that they had too few spies, especially in France. After the sudden defeat of France and her surrender in 1940, few there thought that resistance was possible. As Britain's fortunes changed, the resistance movements would grow to tens of thousands; but let me describe one of the very first – a lady by the name of Marie-Madeleine Fourcade. I will call her Marie from now on.

When the German armies broke the Allied armies in France in 1940 (leading to the evacuation from Dunkirk), most of the population of Paris fled before them. Marie was one of them; caught in the endless columns which trekked south, sometimes machine-gunned from the sky.



Marie-Madeleine Fourcade



After the French surrender, the Germans placed northern France and all of the French Atlantic coast under their own direct military control. Partly this was to protect that coast from British landings. Also – and more importantly at this stage – the French Atlantic coast was where the Nazis would build their submarine (u-boat) bases. From these, Germany would wage war at sea against the Royal Navy and British convoys. The rest of France was not occupied, but allowed a limited independence under a collaborationist government. This ‘free’ area was controlled from the town of Vichy and was therefore known as Vichy France.

Vichy was where Marie headed – there to join her boss, whose code name was ‘Navarre’. Their objective was to spy on the French collaborationist government in Vichy and, if possible, raise the remaining French armies against the German invaders. To do so, the two formed the very first French resistance group – Alliance. Bear in mind that they formed Alliance in the first days after

the French defeat – when the chances of beating the Nazis were very slim indeed; and the dangers of trying to do so were almost suicidal. The Nazis and Vichy worked hand-in-glove from the start to crush any resistance to the ‘New Order’.

After her boss (‘Navarre’), was captured in Rheims cathedral by the Nazis and taken to a concentration camp, Marie became the leader of Alliance – the most important French spy network of them all. I have little space to tell her inspirational story here; if you want to know more about this extraordinary heroine, I advise you to read my book, [The Intelligence Zone](#).

Marie considered that the ‘real war’ started for her when she got her first radio – from Whaddon. She and her group – like all the other spy groups – were supplied from England by MI6 and trained by them too. They were provisioned by light aircraft from RAF airfields in Northamptonshire and Suffolk.



‘Navarre’ Georges Loustau-Lacau after liberation from a concentration camp. 33.

These night-time flights were extraordinary operations, carried out

by crack RAF pilots, who flew their small aircraft on moonlit nights across occupied Europe to improvised landing places, where they were guided in by torches (hopefully not German torches). They delivered arms, money, radios, cigarettes, food and radio operators; and they took agents out for training (at the great sabotage schools in Hertfordshire and Scotland) and debriefing. Many pilots lost their lives.



The Westland Lysander

These operations, arranged from Whaddon, were often announced – in code of course - by the BBC. One of the code names used for an Alliance supply landing was ‘Nash’. It was named, of course, after the radio room which was used to communicate with Marie’s (and many other) resistance groups.

The information supplied by Alliance was of the highest order. From Marie’s network, for example, came much of the information about the V1 and V2 launching sites used in the rocket attacks against London; the world’s first ballistic war.

During the war, Marie was given by MI6 a ‘licence to kill’ (which she used). Alliance lost many operators, but Marie herself survived. She lived

on her nerves; and it was only those thin, jangly, spiking nerves - her reactions, her intelligence - that kept her alive at all. This is drama of the highest order and unparalleled courage. Marie was one of France’s greatest daughters. She stands almost in a class of her own. Her power came from an iron-hard, unbreakable decency; and a courage that would rather face almost certain torture and death than submit to evil. She was truly the flower of France.

Later in the war, Marie–Madeleine would be flown to England as a break from the mentally crippling work of running Alliance. The average time that an agent lasted was 6 months – when she was flown out she had been running Alliance for three and a half years. By this time she was chain-smoking sixty cigarettes a day. She was feted by SIS in London, being chauffeured in one of Pop Gambier–Parry’s sleek limousines. Marie, ever observant, commented on the:

‘...long black Packards, driven by the slim blonde nymphs of the British secret services, moulded into their fetching uniforms.’

She was taken to Whaddon by Lord Sandhurst, who was in charge of SIS’s agent radio operations. From there, she was taken to the Nash radio room – the other end of the communications from her agents. She described the transmitting room as:

'A tower of Babel where messages in many languages were taken by men and women operators who then passed them to the War Office. Lord Sandhurst appeared to me to be a chap one would have imagined more used to pig-sticking than managing secret transmissions ...my illusions about the English were confounded.'

Here I wish to break some of my own secret news! In my exalted role as footpath monitor for the parish of Great Horwood, I can add something that has never before been noted, to my knowledge. The Nash transmission hut was not in Nash at all – but in Great Horwood – opposite College Wood. It's on private land and not accessible; but it's still there. This place, where Marie Fourcade, The Flower of France, spoke for the first time face-to-face to those British friends who had done so much for the liberation of her country, still exists. It is, as many other parts of the Whaddon Web, unremarked these days. There are no blue plaques, no drums or trumpets, another site which should be celebrated is forgotten.

In my next article, I will talk about how Gambier Parry's merry men set up more sites – for black propaganda and, the most desperate of all, for the heroes with short predicted lifespans who were tasked to stay behind if the Germans had managed to invade. ©Alan Biggins June 2023.

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Friday	1400 - 1630
Saturday	1000 - 1230



Volunteers Janet, Sue and Esther with two of the Paralympic torches.

A successful Summer Reading Challenge saw over 30 children take part this year. We were delighted to host a display of memorabilia from the National Paralympic Heritage Trust and learn more of it's history.



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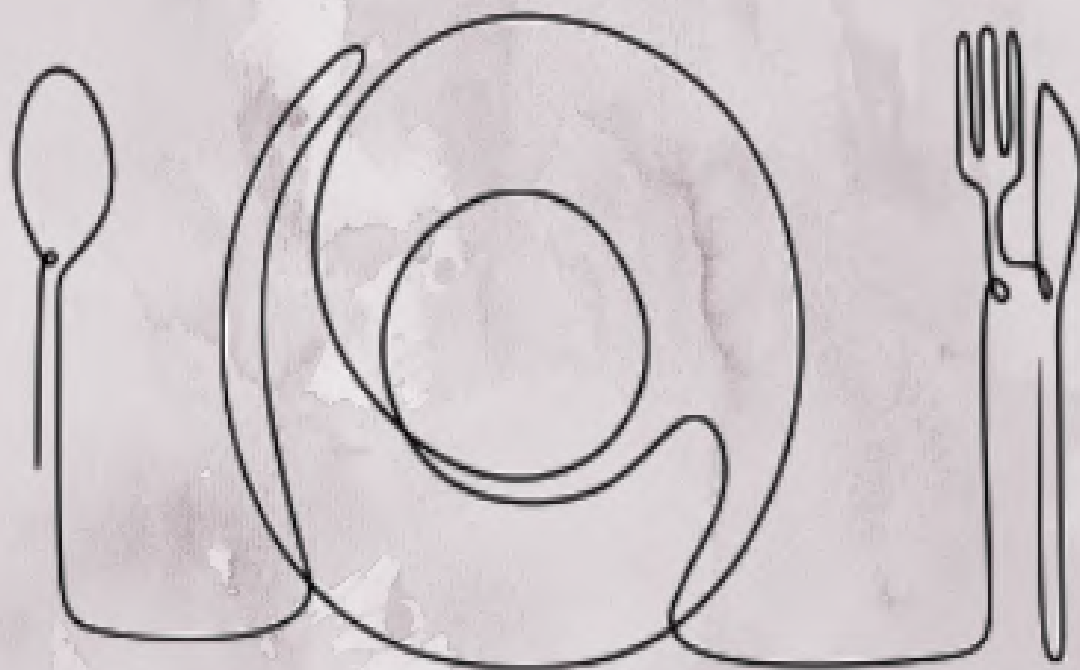


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Wingrave Diary

OCTOBER

Sun1 0930 Harvest Festival, auction and harvest lunch Parish Church

Wed4 1000 WI: Georgian Food & Dining Methodist Church

Fri 6 1800 Family spud night Community Centre

Sat 7 1400 Wild Wingrave Survey: jwalmsley@wwrpc.org

Sun 8 1600 Messy Church, all age service Methodist Church

Sun 8 1900 Theatre in the Villages: "Mountain Music" Community Centre

Mon 9 Weekday Walking Group ramble, contact Jan Walmsley: 07813 085211

Mon 9 1500 Friendship Group Baldway Ho, Leighton Rd

Sat 14 0845 Men's breakfast talk: Sewage Treatment Works at Wingrave and Rowsham and national management of sewage Methodist Church

Sat 14 1900 Autumn Assemble supporting Young Wellies & Cancer UK Community Centre

Sun 15 0930 Wingrave Ramblers' local ramble Nup End Lane

Fri 20 1930 Family Bingo Community Centre

Sat 21-22 Wingrave Singers at Bristol Cathedral

Mon 23-30 School half term holiday

Wed 25 1200 Over 60s specials lunch Rose & Crown

Fri 27 1930 WwRHA talk: HS2 archaeology in Buckinghamshire Community Centre

Sun 29 0200 British summer time ends

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It's on our toes. Enjoy the Autumn

