

Chronicle November 2023.

Issue 442

Sunday, 5th November, in the Recreation Ground. 18.00



I am pleased to announce that the annual Aston Abbotts Fireworks Display is scheduled for Sunday, 5th November, in the Recreation Ground.

We are planning to provide a selection of Food and Drink, as well as glowing things for kids, in addition to the Bonfire and Fireworks display.

The event will start at 17:45.

A bonfire will be lit at around 18:00

Fireworks will start at 18:30 and last no more than 30 minutes.

You are welcome to bring Friends and Family to the event - the more, the merrier. However, we ask that any visitors do not park on the grass verges, especially around The Green.

The event is paid for partly by the Fete profits, along with donations

made on the day. Contributions can be made via the donation buckets that will be located throughout the spectator area.

Important Information:

- Please do not bring any Fireworks to the event.***
- Please do not bring any wood or other materials for the bonfire on the day.***
- Sparklers are welcome but must be used in the designated area - the Children's Play area.***
- Please follow all directions provided by the Marshals or Fireworks Team for your own safety.***
- Please do not drive to the Recreation Ground if possible. If you have Friends and/ or Family coming, it is best to have them park by your homes. This is to ensure access for Emergency Services is maintained.***

Finally, if you would like to offer your assistance with this event, please contact Martyn Simpson.

We recognize that Fireworks can be distressing for Pets and other Animals. We will ensure that the display is run at the timings provided above to allow people to plan accordingly. For advice on looking after Pets and other Animals during Bonfire Night, please refer to the RSPCA's website -

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/general/fireworks>.

Best Regards

Martyn Simpson

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07538 177 977

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Village News Plus

Our very own local campsite and Alpaca Farm, **Abbotts View** Alpacas CL, has won a national award. The Caravan and Motorhome club recognise the best CL's (Small 5 pitch Certificated Locations) through their annual awards. The awards are based on customer votes and Abbotts View Alpacas CL was awarded CL of the Year 2023 in the category of most Unique.



The site is based on an eco farm in the village of Aston Abbotts where owners James and Jo Dell run a thriving alpaca experience business and also a 5 star cattery. The Certificated Location was added with the aim of providing its customers with complete peace and quiet in a truly environmentally friendly way. It is adult only and dog free due the close proximity of the peaceful alpacas that can be seen grazing the paddocks around the site.

James and Jo were 'blown away' at winning this award as it is a very quiet campsite with a rather

limited customer base. James said "To win an award based on customer votes didn't seem like a remote possibility especially with so many excellent CL's around the country with a far larger customer base and longer seasons. But we won! We are truly shocked and utterly delighted. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our customers who voted for us".



Jo said "I think customers love the peace and quiet of a beautiful remote location surrounded by nature as well as having easy access to many wonderful local attractions like the 18 national trust attractions that are within 30 minutes of the site and

Bletchley Park. And we love sharing it too."

If you'd like to stay at this very special farm please visit their website

www.abbottsvialpacas-cl.co.uk

We also have a 2 to 4 person caravan available for hire on our site.



Many congratulations to you both and your team. You are a wonderful asset to our fine village. Ed!

Rose & Crown Wingrave

The latest on the list of local Village pubs closing came in October when, despite much work and dedication, the Rose & Crown Wingrave closed its doors.



Tenant, Ross said, Unfortunately, I have had to make a very difficult decision to close the Rose and Crown. This was made after a conversation with the brewery. I have tried to remain trading despite the rising costs, but unfortunately, this is now a decision I am forced to make.

Bus Fares new cap.

Colin Higgs, Chairman of Rural Bus Services, has informed the Chronicle that single fares are now capped at £2.50 until November 2024. This Government measure is aimed at further bus usage.

The local services needing more support are, 12 and 14.00 bus to Aylesbury. 14.3 from Aylesbury and the 13.40 from Leighton Buzzard.

Colin said, I constantly fight for our bus services. Please use them.

The Aston Abbotts Diary - November

Event	Details
Fireworks Night	Sunday 5th Recreation Ground 18.00
Churchyard Leaf sweep	Saturday 11th Church 10-12.00. Volunteers needed for about 1hr
Remembrance Sunday	Sunday 12th. 11.00 War Memorial. 11.15 Church Service
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 2nd/16th/30th 7.30pm. Village Hall
Bingo Pam Dixon 681626	Thursday 9th 7.30pm. Village Hall
Italian Night	Saturday 18th. Village Hall 19.30
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.
*Gin Competition Any flavour. Colin Higgs	*Saturday 2nd DECEMBER Village Hall 12- 14.00
*Christmas Quiz Night	*Saturday 2nd December Village Hall 19.30





As per demand

**Village Hall Saturday December
2nd at 7.30pm**

***Table Reservations in advance
please, 07544227991***

Cash prize + Others

Bring your own booze



Christmas Snacks on tables

£3 per person & £1 for interval game

A cheap but quality night out



Your Emails

Edit from 2 emails

Hi Pete,

Thank you for putting my emails in the Chronicle. I hadn't realised the fare on the bus into Aylesbury is only £2.00. Thank you for making me and hopefully others aware of the cheap bus fares and the threat of losing our village bus.

Lyn

Hi Pete

Just to let you know, when I got the bus into Aylesbury this morning the fare was £4.70 the driver knew nothing about the £2 fare. I will try to use the bus once a week but other journeys I will make by car. It's much cheaper.

Lyn.

Hi Lyn,

The single bus fare to Aylesbury has now been capped at £2.50 until November 2024, as Colin Higgs reports in the News Section.

Don't forget Colin Higgs' monthly bus trips. Ed!

Hi Pete,

I'm sending you photos of what we have to put up with when walking the Public Footpath at the Abbey field.

The Cows are constantly congregating on the public footpath and we cannot get through them especially with a dog. Then there's the cows muck along the path to avoid.



The walk has been spoiled.

Dog Walker

How to beat parking fines



ACT FAST: It's free to make an informal appeal, and if you act quickly, you could still be eligible for a 50 per cent discount.

Data has revealed that 64 per cent of parking ticket appeals work, suggesting you should appeal even if you're worried you'll miss out on a reduced fine. Motorists are being encouraged to challenge their tickets if they've got valid reasons to think they've been fined unfairly, as 35,000 people take action against their tickets every year with the Traffic Penalty Tribunal, and 64 per cent are successful.

Experts at Quotezone.co.uk have pointed out the parking ticket scenarios that can be challenged and offered a step-by-step guide to help motorists. It's free to make an informal appeal, meaning it's worth attempting to overturn a ticket, and if you act

fast, you may still be eligible for a 50 per cent discount that applies to people who agree to pay the fine.

The four steps to challenge a parking ticket are as follows:

1. Act quickly

You must act fast if you want to retain your 50 per cent discount; by doing so, the discount will be frozen and should remain in effect when you file an appeal within 14 days of the incident.

2. Find evidence

Getting evidence will only make your case stronger, with photographic or CCTV evidence being the simplest way to prove you haven't broken the rules. If this isn't possible, it would be useful to obtain witness statements and get a doctor's note if the alleged breach is the result of a medical condition or emergency.

3. Make the right type of appeal

There are three types of appeals: informal, formal and one with an independent adjudicator. Informal appeals only apply to the penalty charge notices you find on your windscreen, and you simply have to send your appeal

to the local authority, including any evidence.

If the informal appeal is unsuccessful or the fine was via post, you'll have to enter the formal appeal process and submit a form to get your penalty overturned. If the dispute fails in the formal stage, you can take your appeal to the private adjudicator for free. You can opt for a personal hearing or complete the process via email, phone or post.

Elvis Night, Hitchin 9th December

Elvis /Rock n Roll
Big Screen Christmas Disco
Saturday December 9th

Hitchin Town fc
Fishponds rd
Hitchin, Herts
SG5 1NU

ELVIS

Great atmosphere

Raffle

Early evening will be a selection of Rock n Roll favourites
Followed by 100% Elvis Disco through to close
All shown on the Big screen with high quality sound and vision
As seen at many UK wide events

Accommodation
close to the venue

7.30 til 12.30 £5 on the door For more info phone Adam 07732789370

Elvis big screen disco will be in Hitchin for the Elvis / RnR

Christmas party, Saturday 9th December, with loads of accommodation within walking distance or a short taxi ride from the venue, early evening will be a selection of Rock n Roll classics followed by a 100% Elvis disco all shown with high quality sound and vision

EVERY MORNING YOU
HAVE **TWO CHOICES:**

CONTINUE
TO **SLEEP**
WITH YOUR
DREAMS

OR

WAKE
UP AND
CHASE
THEM.

WE BUY RECORDS!!!

**ALL GENRES, ALL ERAS,
NO COLLECTION IS
TOO BIG OR SMALL.**



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WITH OVER
35 YEARS
EXPERIENCE
OF VINYL &
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Annual Half Page Inside	£70
Annual Quarter Page	£50
One Offs Full Page	£30
One Off Half	£25
One Off Quarter	£10

Aylesbury High Street in 1960

Many of the shops along there had been around for quite some time. On the left is Ivatts shoe shop, the demand for shoes must have been greater in those days as they had a number of shops dotted about the town, the main one being in Kingsbury.

Further along from there is WH Smith's shop which is the third one with the awning. The Granada cinema is on the opposite side of the street. This later became a bingo hall which now lies empty.



Whitchurch 1953

This photograph was taken on 4th July 1953 when the Whitchurch Morris Men held their fourth annual day of dancing. They were joined by dancers from surrounding areas. During their tour they split into two parties and visited other towns and villages



Why Did the Putnams Elect to Leave Aston Abbotts?

As my earlier articles indicated, my trip to Aston Abbotts and Puttenham really helped me appreciate the land upon which my ancestors lived prior to my continued research quest recognising that it is very unlikely there is one reason but rather a very complex series of considerations that went into this decision.

Although I had taken Western Civilization history as well as

nearby. At 7pm they arrived in Aylesbury and danced in Market Square to a huge crowd of people. Here we see a couple of men by the Clock Tower. Behind them are buildings that were demolished in 1964 to make way for Friars Square shopping centre. On the right is Weston's Fashion Corner - what later became Freeman, Hardy & Willis's shoe shop. emigrating to the Massachusetts Bay Colony after waiting sixty plus years. However, my trip did not help me understand why Priscilla and John Putnam left your parish when they were in their fifties.

Since my return, I have revisited the immense amount of English Putnam genealogy research and have started immersing myself in 15 th and 16 th century English and Buckingham and adjacent areas history to better acquaint my understanding of the history of your area to see if I might start some hypotheses to include in

American history in my college days, I soon realised that my historical knowledge of my ancestor's homeland was extremely limited and needed considerable "refreshment" and augmentation to better evaluate the micro history of the period

and place of England of my ancestors prior to their emigration to the U.S. With some of the new historiography methods coming on board, there was even more opportunities for learning about this history than I expected.

I will share the books that I have read at the end of this article and hope you will make recommendations for even more focused research.

Underlying this renewed research were two fundamental questions:

1. What would motivate a couple in their fifties who were likely well off economically, socially, and culturally in their adopted parish to even consider or risk a major emigration to colonial America with their whole family.
2. What attributes of Colonial Massachusetts either attracted them to leave their ancestral homeland or were there other factors existing in their contemporary times that helped to spark this decision.?

Let's explore several hypotheses to evaluate possible reasons for their emigration and evaluate how realistic each of these might be.

Religious Freedom through Emigration

For many years, the presumption was that most immigrants to Colonial Massachusetts between 1630-40 were Puritan refugees. About twenty years ago, I began questioning how immigrants from Buckinghamshire could be Puritan refugees when many of the early Puritans came from East Anglia and the West Country.

About the same time, I learned that Priscilla Putnam did not join the local Salem Puritan Church for several years after her arrival and John did not join for about ten years. To finalise any doubt, Jill Wenble advised on our trip that John was the Church Warden at Aston Abbots in 1638, the year before they immigrated. Thus, there is no truth to his hypothesis as they were Anglican members of St James before they left.

Emigration Was Done Through a Larger Family Contingent

As a general rule in genealogy, family members often emigrate simultaneously with

other family members or they follow within a short period of time. This idea needs more research but is a very likely

contributing reason for my Putnams' emigration.

Priscilla Gould Putnam had one brother with a bigger family that emigrated to the neighbouring town. The Goulds' were originally from Hemel Hempstead and as I recall eventually moved to either Aston Abbots or Wingrave. Hope to have more details on this family in the next couple months.

Emigration Offered the Best Option for the Family's Short and Long-Term **Economic Well Being**.

Certainly, it is difficult to assess the economic conditions of almost 400 years ago, but, in my recent reading, I was surprised to learn that the 100 years before this emigration took place was extremely stressful for folks living in this period. The pain points were many and were likely caused by the shift from feudal times to the modern ages.

Perhaps, one culprit was the early enclosures which concentrated the land into fewer owners. As this might impact John's outlook, he had three living sons which under the laws of primogeniture would have impacted his ability to provide each of his sons with a livelihood compared to relatively inexpensive land in Colonial Massachusetts. Other economic issues during this time:

1. Periodic poor harvests;
2. Limited markets although the proximity of Aston Abbots to London would have helped offset this somewhat;
3. Limited labour supply in rural areas;
4. Growing taxation by the evolution of the new English Nation State and the corruption of court politics; and
5. Periodic plague, small-pox and other epidemics.

This hypothesis needs more work but is likely a major reason for the emigration decision. It is interesting to see more articles addressing these conditions although the data may not be specific at the parish level.

Political Freedom through Emigration

In many respects, the term political freedom can connote many different conditions

especially in the 21st century. Certainly, the "politics" of the 1630s were a mine field of

pre-civil war conditions which adversely affected many English residents. As I recall my basic history, Queen Elizabeth I was a very powerful monarch who helped to keep the "lid" on a

boiling part of underlying economic and social conditions. Her successors, James I and Charles I, were less successful in their management of the Monarchy which slowly but surely led to further political disintegration and the rise of a battle with Parliament.

Both men were fiscally irresponsible, likely mismanaged international relations and the Thirty Years War, and were not well served by the folks with whom they surrounded themselves. Based upon preliminary reading, it appears this governmental mismanagement got progressively worse during the last ten years before the Putnams emigrated, so this hypothesis needs further work but likely contributed to their decision to move.

Note: I was surprised to read that King James used witchcraft as a tool to rid the Kingdom of undesirables. Wonder how much of this memory was passed to his sons prior to the Salem Witchcraft Trials.

As I prepared to write this month's instalment for the Chronicle, I thought it was important to set the stage for the next article which

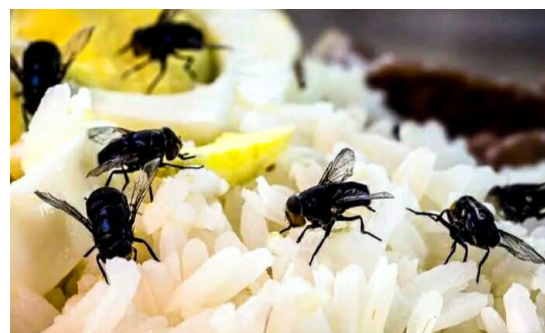
will address Priscilla and John's New World adventure.

Recent Bibliography:

Borman, Tracy; *Witches: King James I and the English Witchhunts*, Vintage, 2014. Healy, Jonathan; *The Blazing World: a New History of Revolutionary England 1603-89*, Knopf, 2023. Wrightson, Keith; *English Society 1580-1680*, Rutgers 1992.

Final Note: In addition to the above, I have read several Bucks Archeological articles on this period which are most interesting.

As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions for further reading. My email is: **jeputnam@aol.com**. My research is a continual evolving pursuit and I am not convinced I will ever answer the question of this article, but suspect either these or other reasons helped make them decide to "jump the pond".



When a fly lands on your food, they essentially spit on it. Since most flies cannot chew solid food, they release digestive juices to turn the food into a predigested, slurpable soup that they can ingest.

Winterproof your home

With winter upon us and average energy bills double what they were a few years ago, many people may be worrying about how they will afford to stay warm.



Fortunately, there are a whole host of things you can do to winter-proof your home to keep the heat in, and also to protect it against any damage that cold and wet winter weather can cause.

Here, we look at a few changes you can make to your home that could make facing the winter a bit less daunting.

Insulating your pipes so they don't freeze is easier than you might think. Most DIY stores sell foam tubes, also known as "lagging", that fit around your pipes and prevent heat from escaping, allowing your water to stay hot for longer. All you have to do is buy it in the right size and slip it around any exposed

pipes. This is particularly effective on any outside pipes, as it will prevent them from freezing or cracking in the cold weather.

You can also buy lagging for your hot water tank, in the form of a large cylindrical jacket that keeps the heat in. A lagging jacket should be about 80mm thick, so if you already have one and it's thinner than this, consider upgrading. The Energy Saving Trust estimates that this could save you £20 a year, which is already more than the cost of the jacket itself.

A persistent cold draught in your home can be a miserable experience, especially when the weather is freezing. Luckily, there are some simple fixes to stop cold air from getting in.

Draughts. Draught excluders do exactly what you'd expect, preventing heat from escaping and cold air from blowing in. For doors, they come in a few different varieties, from seals that you can fix along the bottom to linen excluders that you place next to the door when it's shut. Some people take the homemade approach, and use rolled up towels or old clothes as draught excluders as well.

You can also buy draught excluders for unused chimneys – hot air rises, meaning that homes can end up losing a lot of heat through an open chimney. Chimney draught

excluders need to keep the heat in but still let some air circulate, so they tend to be either made of wool (which is breathable) or inflatable with a small air vent. The Energy Saving Trust estimates that a chimney draught excluder could save you £65 a year.

You can buy foam strips that fit around window frames to prevent cold air from making its way in. Metal or plastic strips are also available, which cost a bit more but last longer. To seal windows or fill in small cracks in doors, you can use a non-toxic silicone sealant to make them as airtight as possible.

If you have an old wooden floor, then it's possible for heat to leak out through cracks in the floorboards. Using a flexible, silicone-based filler to fill these, or even just a rug placed on top is an effective way to reduce cold air leakages.

Bleeding radiators means releasing air pockets that are trapped in your heating system, which allows hot water to circulate more easily. If your pipes are gurgling or the radiators in your home aren't heating up properly (for example, they are warm at the bottom but cold at the top), they probably need bleeding. However, even if they are not in urgent need of bleeding, doing so can still boost your home's

heat efficiency and save some money on your bills.

To bleed your radiators, start by checking the heating is off and the radiators are cold. Start with the radiator furthest from the boiler and hold a container or cloth under the valve and insert a bleed key (if you don't have one you can buy them on Amazon for a pound or two). Turn this anti-clockwise until you can hear a hissing noise, which means air has started to escape. Once water starts coming out (hopefully into the container), turn the key clockwise to tighten the valve back up. Repeat this with all your radiators, making your way back towards the boiler, and then check if they work properly when you switch the heating back on.

Additionally, if you have any radiators next to an external wall, then it's possible for some heat to escape through the wall, particularly if it's uninsulated. Radiator reflector panels can be placed behind the radiator to bounce heat back into the room, so none of it goes to waste outside. Heat essentially moves from a warm place to a cold place so fitting reflective foil results in more heat being moved into the room, rather than lost through the external wall.

You can buy kits online to make these, or simply use cardboard covered with tin foil. Bear in mind,

though, that this heat-saving measure won't work if you have cavity wall insulation.

It's a good idea to have your boiler serviced every year, to make sure it's in good working order and you can catch any minor problems before they develop into something more serious.

According to a Survey by Which?, only around three in 10 boilers that were serviced annually needed a repair in their first six years. However, this doubled to around six in 10 boilers for those serviced every two to five years. In other words, spending a little on a yearly check could save you a lot on costly repairs in the long run.

If you're worried about the cost of boiler repairs, you might want to consider boiler cover, which in return for a monthly premium can provide peace of mind that if your boiler needs repairing, you won't have to foot a large, unexpected bill. However, bear in mind that if you don't make a claim, you'll have paid hundreds of pounds to your insurer for nothing.

It's a much bigger investment, but if you're able to spend the money, you may want to consider insulating your walls, loft and floor.

A third of your home's heat is lost through the walls, though the cost of insulating these and exact

savings will depend on the type of walls you have. If you have cavity walls – that is, external walls consisting of two layers of brick with a gap in the middle – then having these filled in costs about £475 on average, but saves you almost £200 a year on average, according to the Energy Saving Trust. If your external walls are solid, the savings could be substantially greater – but so is the cost of installation.

Many lofts tend to be insulated already, but the material used is often not sufficiently thick for you to really save on your heating bills. Making sure the insulation in your loft is at least 270mm thick could keep your home warmer in the winter and save you an extra £15 a year.

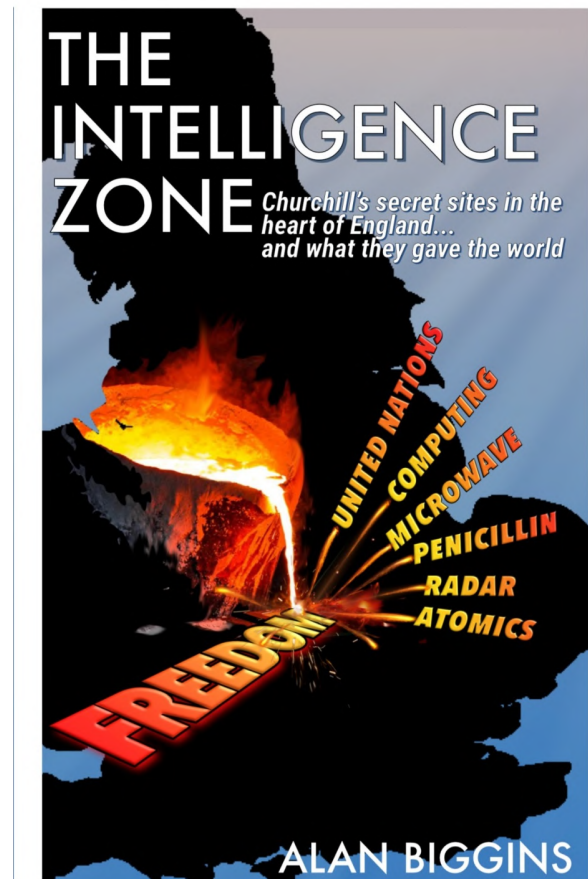


No-one enjoys climbing up a ladder and clearing out the gutters, but making sure yours are free from debris is a great way to prevent your home from water damage (such as damp and leaks) as the weather gets colder and wetter. Of course, you can hire a professional to do the job for you which may be wiser unless you've got plenty of

experience yourself. (For a cleared gutter, call Ian on 07572337832).

Checking for cracked or missing tiles in the roof is also a good idea. Weaknesses in a roof can lead to leaks or even flooding, and invalidate your home insurance if you end up trying to make a claim for weather damage. If you're worried about the condition of your roof, you could get a roofer to do a quick inspection, and ensure that shingles aren't loose and gutters are security attached, for example. It may be relatively simple to make minor repairs to ensure peace of mind ahead of the colder months.

Hopefully, you won't have to contend with any of these problems this winter, particularly if you follow the other tips in our guide. However, it's still worth checking your home insurance policy and seeing what exactly you are covered for – and if there are any exceptions that could make it harder for you to make a claim.



The Bodyguard of Lies - article 4 of 8 From local wartime stories

The intention of 'Black' Propaganda is to push its audience in a certain direction without them realising it. To do this, it mixes facts with liberal dollops of half-truths and lies. Often it gives the impression that it was created by those it aims to discredit.

The man in charge of British Black Propaganda in World War Two was Sefton Delmer. Delmer was very well known during the 1930s. He worked in Germany for the Daily Express, the newspaper which had, at that time, the biggest circulation in the world. He had been born in Germany, of Australian parents, and German

was his first language. He reported on Hitler's rise to power; meeting the Nazi leader on several occasions. Hitler, seeking to influence Britain, liked to deal with Delmer as he spoke native German, understanding every nuance. He used him to gauge popular feeling in Britain – asking him for example: “Does Britain want the German royal family (deposed after the First World War) restored?” Delmer even flew on Hitler's private plane. He filmed one of the trips, from Tempelhoff Airport, in 1932. It's on YouTube. Hitler is accompanied by his propaganda Minister, Joseph Goebbels.



Sefton Delmer ('Tom to his many friends)

Delmer was, however, on the side of the angels. During the war, he used his considerable talents to broadcast from England against the Nazis.

Joseph Goebbels was the man Delmer was up against. It was he who had elevated Hitler to the status of a god dedicating 'Party Days' and shrines to him and much more. Goebbels, could fool most

of the people some of the time; some of them all of the time. He reckoned that after an hour of speaking to an audience; “I can make them climb trees if I feel like it”.

Quite apart from which, Goebbels had direct control of every newspaper and radio station throughout occupied Europe. If anyone didn't toe the party line, they went to a concentration camp for 're-education' via starvation, the whip and often the bullet.

It is a sign of the desperate military state that the British were in that we had to explore all avenues to fight Germany; whose land army the country had no hope of defeating. So when he came to England, Sefton Delmer, under MI6, set up 'black' broadcasting. The headquarters of the operation was at Wavendon Towers, now in Milton Keynes (and where I come in, for this was where the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, for which I was the IT manager, had its first head office); from there, and the later recording facility at Milton Bryan, recordings were sent (on vinyl) to be broadcast from Potsgrove (near Watling Street) or Gawcott (near Buckingham). These sites were serious affairs. Gawcott had around 20 aerials, though all are long gone.

The shows they transmitted, purporting to be broadcast from Europe, provided first class light entertainment; featuring, for instance, the music of Glenn Miller - they even had a forces' sweetheart. They had a huge following in the German armed forces; indeed they were the favourite radio stations of the German submarine (U-boat) crews. Many Germans recognised them for what they were - British propaganda - but listened to them anyway because they were so good. A spin-off was that they gave British intelligence an almost supernatural aura in the eyes of the German navy; for they would report, for example, the destinations of German naval patrols, the fact that so-and-so's wife had just had a baby back in Germany (odd that, as her husband had been at sea for a year), even the scores of the latest inter-ship football match. (The recording and broadcasting of black propaganda was only part of the work of its parent organisation, the Political Warfare Executive – PWE. PWE also dealt with forgery and white propaganda. It's headquarters was at Woburn Abbey.)



The recording studio at Milton Bryan, on the Woburn estate. Currently looking rather sorry for itself. It is of major historic importance – and should (and probably will) be restored.



Our answer to Goebbels ...Gawcott broadcasting studios post-war. This building, although much modified, still exists. Thanks to Steve Morton, who worked there, for this photo.

But Sefton Delmer didn't have an easy time in his fight against Joseph Goebbels. Goebbels even claimed that when the sun shone it was 'Fuhrer weather'. If you can persuade your listeners that the sun shines out of your leader's ...eyes, you're a good propagandist. And, of course, Goebbels was backed by naked force.

To try and make the followers of a deluded and brutal religion question their beliefs is not only virtually impossible but dangerous and mostly pointless: which is why most visitors to Germany raised their arm in the Hitler salute.

This part of the Whaddon Web was, perhaps, the least effective. Nor, I think, was that something for Delmer to be ashamed of. Racist

evil was the very lifeblood of the Nazi regime. Forget reasoning, forget lying: only brute force could drive out these devils. Only then could their slaves be freed. The trick was not to become a devil oneself in the process. In this – and it was no small victory – Delmer, and the western powers, succeeded.

If they didn't achieve a great deal in winning the war (although they did help in the surrender of the Italian navy), these transmitters came into their own towards the end of the conflict. American broadcasting technology was the best in the world and Whaddon set up the most powerful site of them all using American aerials. It gave this site the codename 'Aspidistra' (after a popular song 'the biggest aspidistra in the world'). It was in Crowborough, in Sussex.

Originally Aspidistra was to have been built near Whaddon; but there wasn't any space to be found; and anyway there was so many aerials locally that the authorities thought that adding new and even bigger ones were an open invitation to the German Air Force (the Luftwaffe) to take a (rather belated) interest in North Buckinghamshire. Erected at the second attempt (the

original aerials went to the bottom to a German torpedo in their passage across the Atlantic), Aspidistra was used, among other things, to swamp the air waves over Germany with fake instructions. So powerful was this transmitter that German attempts to jam it didn't work; they merely blocked out their own radio stations. German night-fighter controllers could only listen helplessly as their pilots were routed away from the Allied bomber swarms.

In my next article, I shall write about yet another of Whaddon's responsibilities; perhaps the most chilling of them all. This was to provide radio communications to the men who would have been 'fighting them in the fields' should the Nazis have managed the invasion of Britain.

This article is an expanded extract from my book, *The Intelligence Zone*. If you enjoyed it, you may well enjoy the book, which is available from [Amazon](#).

©Alan Biggins August 2023

Say Hello to Charlene, our new Aston Abbotts entrepreneur. Owner of Lathercute Soaps & House of Choco Slabs

Hi my name is Charlene, I am a mother of three boys and soon to be a baby girl, I started Lather Cute Soaps in 2018 on the side while I was working in finance as my oldest son had eczema and I was making him homemade skincare. I have always looked into healthy natural ingredients and their benefits. I started by making plain un fragrancd children's soaps with miniature figure toys inside to make washing hands fun.

Over the years I have had requests for more products including natural deodorant, Mens fragrance soaps and shower gels and many more items you can now find on my store. The men's fragrance soaps and shower gels have been such a big hit they're my best sellers and I sell these all over the world with many returning customers from Australia, America and Europe.

I have since also started a personalised Belgian Chocolate slab business in 2022 while I was pregnant as I just can't sit still while on maternity. I hope that one day Lather Cute Soaps and House of Choco Slabs will be my full time work and would love to see where the businesses will take my family and I.

At Christmas time my best sellers include personalised photo soaps, Hotwheels soaps, rattle hairbrushes and the men's range.

I have lots of items for the whole family and on any budget. I use only the best quality non toxic natural ingredients

Please check out my website for the latest discounts or contact me if you have any enquiries about any of my products I will be happy to help.

You can use code: LOCAL for free delivery within 4 miles or collection from Aston Abbotts

This code can be combined with any other offer at checkout.

Thanks for reading
Charlene
07591432041

See next page



Gifts for Her



Gifts for Him



Gifts for Kids



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ALLOTMENT DIARY

I have to report another strange happening on my allotment: not quite as curious as my pumpkin seeds growing courgettes instead of pumpkins, but pretty remarkable.

In the middle of September, I harvested a crop of early maincrop potatoes, a variety known as Picasso. It was a good crop, with a large number of tubers, some of which were large. We started using them, and I was delighted to find that they cooked well, and were particularly good for making chips. However, after about a week or so, Adam and I noticed an unpleasant smell coming from the larder where we were keeping them, and on tipping them out of the box where they were stored, I discovered that a number of them were oozing a nasty smelling brown liquid.

Examination of the potatoes revealed that two thirds of them had spots on the surface, which, when prodded with one finger felt soft and/or mushy – and, as the mushiness developed, produced the unpleasant smelling brown liquid I had seen. I realised right away what had happened: my potatoes were affected by potato blight. I had experienced this once

before, several years ago, when we had a very rainy spring; but had never had potatoes affected by blight at the end of the summer. Unless one uses the potatoes quickly, the mushiness spreads through the potatoes, and they are inedible. I was able to use a few of the potatoes before the blight spread, but still had to throw away about two thirds of the crop, since some potatoes which seemed OK when first inspected then also developed blight.

I have therefore done some research on the internet, and have discovered that there are in fact two sorts of potato blight: early season blight, and late season blight; and these are caused by two different fungi. Early season blight is caused by a fungus called *Alternaria*, while late season blight is due to a fungus called *Phytophthora*. Both are caused by wet weather, and you will recall that we had a very wet August.

It was the late season blight which was the cause of the Irish Potato famine in the middle of the 19th Century, which caused around one million deaths, and led to about the same number of people fleeing the country.

But now I come to the curious bit. What I have told you so far is sad,

but not remarkable. With some trepidation, I then dug up the remainder of my Picasso potatoes, which were in an adjoining row to those already dug up. I found that not one of the potatoes was affected by blight! Since then I have dug up the next three rows of potatoes – a variety called Cara – and found that these were also unaffected. I have also spoken to my adjoining neighbours on the allotments, Simon and James, who told me that none of their potatoes had been affected by blight.

So, why should one single row of potatoes be affected by potato blight, and not the adjoining rows – one of which was of an identical variety of potato?

My internet research indicates that the *Phytophthora* fungus spreads from plant to plant by its spores being passed through the soil by water, and then attacking the eyes of the tubers growing on other potato plants. My guess, therefore is that one of my Picasso potato plants became infected with blight, and that this blight was able to spread underground to many of the other plants in the same row; but not to the potatoes growing in the adjoining row, which was a couple of feet away,

and banked up as rows of potatoes are.

However, I still have some rows of maincrop potatoes to dig up, which are destined to be stored through the winter, and I will have to keep my fingers crossed that none of these potatoes are blighted!

Peter Shorrock

100 Club Draw October

1st prize, £50 – Mark Davison

2nd prize, £10 – Shirley Hanlon



St James' Services - November

5th	6.00pm	Evensong
12th	11.00/11.15	Remembrance and Service
19 November	09.30 then 10.00	Breakfast, village hall. Then All Ages Service.
26th	10.30am	Parish Communion

Churchyard leaf sweep. Would you spare an hour between 10am and 12 Noon on Saturday 11th November at the Church?

Church Duties November

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
3/4	David/Colin	Donated
10/11	Alex/Colin	Remembrance
17/18	CarolineL /Ann	"
22/25	Annie/Tatiana	?

Sunday 17 December: 4pm Carols and Christingle

Church Matters November

ALL AGES in October was all about the parable of the wedding feast – can be a puzzling one but all became clear in the end...

The next All Ages service is on Sunday 19 November at 10am, with breakfast first in the village hall at 9.30am. All welcome

A big thank you to all our visiting organists this year when Nigel was away and especially Michael

Hawkes from Wingrave who has played on three occasions for us.

COMING UP

Evensong (first Sunday of the month) falls on Sunday 5 November, Bonfire Night, and the 6pm service might be re-timed or cancelled – due to the early Chronicle deadline we are not yet sure. Please check the church noticeboard or watch out for Postie updates.

The Remembrance service on Sunday 12 November will start as usual with a gathering at the War

Memorial in the churchyard at 11am for a two-minute silence and reading of the names of the fallen from this village. The service will follow in the church at about 11.15am.

The Italian evening on Saturday 18 November in the village hall is now sold out – thank you to all who have bought tickets for this.

Early notice: our Carol Service/Christingle will be on Sunday 17 December at 4pm

CHURCH OPENING

Anyone, churchgoer or not, is welcome to use the church for

quiet reflection and/or prayer. Although the church is now locked during the day for the winter months, please just ask one of the Carolines (below) 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)

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER *Village Hall!*



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*Come and enjoy a “**Taste of Italy in Aston Abbots**”*

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 Bean; francesca.bean@icloud.com Caroline Abel Smith; cbjlas@talk21.com Caroline Lane; carolinelane@btinternet.com or Heather Langdon; heathergalvin@hotmail.com

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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Burger Daddy opens in Aylesbury after success in High Wycombe

A new burger restaurant has launched in Aylesbury following its success in High Wycombe.

Burger Daddy, which is situated on Buckingham Street, opened its doors to the public at the start of the month.



Similar to its branch in the south of the county, the eatery boasts a unique décor that focuses on film and television culture, with sketches of Darth Vader from Star Wars, Gus Fring from Breaking Bad and Jules Winnfield from Pulp Fiction being visibly seen.

Additionally, the business, which was founded by Wycombe-based

chef George James, openly makes your meal in front of you so you can see how fresh and clean your food is being prepared.

As well as burgers, they sell grilled chicken, wings, tenders, hotdogs, cheesesteaks, dips, milkshakes and other cold drinks.

In one of their many launch videos, in which numerous members of the Aylesbury public visit the town's latest burger joint, they said: "What a day! "Open day [October 7], was a massive success. "Lots and lots of orders kept on flying in, we got scared! "Thanks to everyone who showed up and apologies for any mistakes, first day teething problems and all. "Will get ironed out in time.

"Let's do it again."





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Remember, remember... that we are now open on Mondays

Calling all crime fiction readers

We have received a generous donation from a Wingrave resident of the full collection of bestselling DCI Ryan mysteries by L.J. Ross, set in north-east England and published from 2015.

The second book in the series is titled *Sycamore Gap* with a picture of the iconic tree on the cover. The location is about 30 miles from where the author was born and grew up.

Check them out at www.fantasticfiction.com

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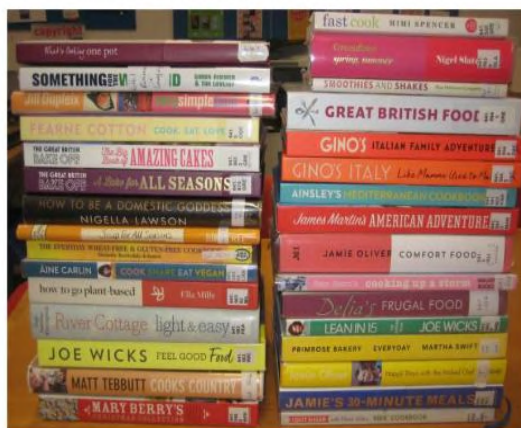
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Cookery books are expensive, but we have all these in the library. Come in, be inspired, and find something different to cook.



Opening Times

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

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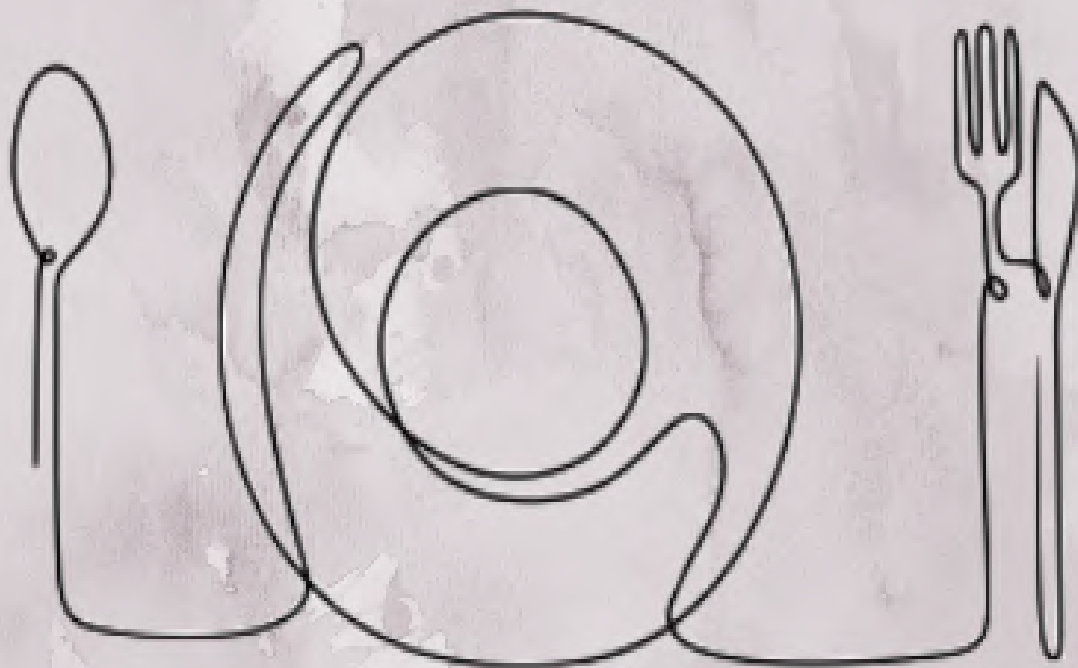


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Wingrave Diary

November

**John Hawkes (681022
diary@wingrave-wca.co.uk) for
diary entries**

**Sophie Ratcliffe (910991
bookings@wingrave-wca.co.uk) for
Community Centre bookings**

**Sheila Cotton (681226
sheilacotton@googlemail.com) for
Methodist Church bookings**

**Julie Mann (07585 454299
julieannemann66@gmail.com) for
Wingrave Park Pavilion bookings**

NOVEMBER 2023

**Wed 1 1000 WI annual meeting
Methodist Church**

**Fri 3 1800 Family spud night
Community Centre**

**Sun 5 1230 Swingrave dance
Community Centre**

**Sun 5 Link to Hope
Shoebox Appeal deadline
hannah.1902@hotmail.co.uk**

**Fri 10 1930 Family Bingo
Community Centre**

**Sat 11 0845 Men's breakfast
talk: Has "cancel culture" gone too
far? Methodist Church**

**Sat 11 1930 Community Choir
Autumn Concert Community Centre**

Sun 12 Remembrance Sunday

**Sun 12 1600 Messy Church, all
age service Parish Church**

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

**Mon 13 1500 Friendship Group
Baldway Ho, Leighton Rd**

**Fri 17 1000 Community Café
MacIntyre School**

**Fri 17 1930 WwRHA talk:
Vintage film 'The story of The Royal
Bucks Hospital' Community Centre**

**Sun 19 0930 Wingrave
Ramblers' local ramble Nup End
Lane**

**Wed 22 1200 Over 60s lunch
Wingrave Park**

**Thu 23 1900 Pantomime "King
Arthur's Camelot" Community
Centre**

**Fri 24 1930 Pantomime "King
Arthur's Camelot" Community
Centre**

**Sat 25 1430 and 1930
Pantomime "King Arthur's Camelot"
Community Centre**

**Tue 28 1930 Parish Council
finance meeting Community Centre**

**Wed 29 1830 Wreath making
workshop Wingrave Park**

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'ART at WINGRAVE' 2023. Just in time for Christmas...

Hosted by Field View and Home Farm, Castle Street, WINGRAVE, Bucks. HP22 4PT

We're pleased to invite you back to 'Art At Wingrave' from Friday 24th – Sunday 26th November, 10.30 am – 4.30 pm, just in time to find those special and individual Christmas gifts – or simply to have an enjoyable browse. (Free Event)

During the week-end Julie Pugh's lovely Studio will also be open for her successful, annual pre-Christmas showing of 'One of One' Jewellery at Home Farm, Castle Street.

And at Field View, Castle Street we will be hosting an exciting collection of works from a dozen local Artists and Makers – and expect to meet new Artists too!

From the beginning of November, A6 leaflets detailing the artists and showing examples of their work will be available in locations locally and at the Wingrave Shop. Look forward to seeing Ceramics, Ceramic and Paper Sculptures, Textiles, Glass Art, Designer Lamps, Pencil and Pastel Portraiture, Photography, Furniture Design, Hand-turned Wood, Mixed Media Paintings.

So here's the perfect occasion for that spot of enjoyable browsing; keep the dates free, bring a friend, head down Castle Street and pay us a visit: a warm welcome is guaranteed along with something mulled to drink and yummy cake of course (Proceeds from refreshments to Breast Cancer Research).

See you there – well 'here' in fact...

***Andrew and Margaret
Liversidge, Field View Studio***

Be prepared. More could be upon us.



Until next time, Pete. Editor