



December 2023. Issue 443



Village Hall Saturday 2nd December at 7.30pm

Cash prize + Others. Bring your own booze. Christmas Snacks on tables
£3 per person & £1 for interval game. Christmas Wear (Not essential)

SOLD OUT

From the Editor

Deja Poo

adj. The feeling of having heard this crap before

Yes, you may have done and it wouldn't come as a surprise to villagers that Aston Abbots is having a problem with dog poo left on our verges, footpaths and recreation ground.

My immediate neighbours and I have been repeatedly affected and I have received calls and emails from others.

I'm convinced this menace is caused by dog walkers from outside the village with multiple dogs. The alternative is unthinkable.

I have been told of a female multi dog walker letting the dogs free on the rec' and started fiddling with her umbrella instead of watching the dogs. As expected, the dogs poo was not picked up.

Another similar incident with the dog walker taking pictures whilst the dogs were fouling. This time the lady was challenged by a resident. The dog walker knew where the dog had done its business as she went straight to it when challenged.

I have contacted Bucks Council about the problem which was just a waste of time but there is a reporting link on their website. Good luck.

It's obvious to decent people that, if dog walkers cannot control their animals including knowing where they mess, they should not have them in their responsibility.

Dog owners who employ dog walkers should stress to them their responsibility to clear the dog poo and dispose of it correctly. Plus the fact that they could be watched whilst in the village.

CCTV and doorbell film footage could be valuable tools when discarded dog poo is evident or reported.

It would also be useful to have a periodic campaign of public notices that clearly state that dog fouling could be seen and reported. However, that would be the decision of the Parish Council.

The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse for dog fouling.

Bucks Council makes little sense Roadways, part of Bucks Council, will not include Lines Hill to Weedon in their gritting schedule

due to lack of money. The Hill is a School bus route.

Despite sucking up 5 district councils into 1 to save £illions, it can not afford to keep the roads safe but can afford to build MORE Council office blocks for the bloated administration!

Pete. Ed!

Village Headline News



The Parish Council, with the support of some of our residents, has been lobbying hard for Buckinghamshire Council to add Lines Hill to its gritting route. Councillors Bond, Cooper and Blamires have also worked hard to try to have this route recognised for winter gritting.

At the last Parish Council meeting, Cllr Bond advised us that Buckinghamshire Council will

be cutting back on expenditure and regrettably there is no chance of Lines Hill being added to the gritting route. We are extremely disappointed with this decision despite our collective efforts.

When winter really sets in we would ask all our residents to take care and reconsider their normal commutes. Lines Hill will not be gritted and other rural routes will also possibly go untreated this winter. The weather updates are generally pretty accurate and we sincerely hope that these will give you sufficient warning to change your route accordingly.



Aston Abbotts December Diary

Event	Details
Gin Competition Colin Higgs 681343	Saturday 2nd 12 midday
Christmas Quiz Night Pete 681387. SOLD OUT	Saturday 2nd. 7.30pm Village Hall
Whist Club Meal Colin Higgs 681343	Thursday 7th 6.45pm Cublington Unicorn
Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Showcase Event	Thursday 7th. 7.30 to 8.30pm. Village Hall
Bingo	Thursday 14th. 7.30pm (No Bingo in January)
Christingle Church Service	Sunday 17th 4pm St James Church
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 (Not on 21st & 28th)

Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Plan Showcase Event

7th December
7:30pm-8:30pm

Village Hall

Wine and nibbles provided

Influence Your Future

It's Your Plan

Your Village



Your Voice

You are invited to have your say. If you believe there are things we have missed, or other aspects we should consider, you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts with the steering group.

There's no formal presentation so please drop in anytime.

See next page



An event is being held in the village hall on 7th of December to showcase key aspects of the work that has been undertaken on the Neighbourhood Plan - in this article, you will find a brief summary of what progress is being made.

More detail will be provided at the showcase event at which you will have the opportunity to ask questions and raise topics that you think should be addressed.

Details of the event are provided at the end of this article.

What's been happening?

The development of the Neighbourhood Plan is being undertaken by a small steering group, established by the Parish Council.

There are a number of threads running through the work being undertaken. Two of these threads focus on safeguarding our environment and preserving the

village's heritage. This involves identifying and protecting green spaces and heritage assets.

A third, and very significant thread, is intended to influence future developments within the village. The aim of this is to ensure that any future developments harmonise with the existing character of the village.

Green Spaces and Views

Located on a hilltop, Aston Abbotts offers breathtaking views across Aylesbury Vale which are highly valued by the local community. The neighbourhood plan will explicitly identify these vantage points to discourage any future developments that might compromise the integrity of these wonderful viewpoints.

Green spaces are areas primarily designated for nature conservation, recreation, or aesthetic purposes. They play a vital role in enhancing our environment, promoting biodiversity, providing recreational opportunities, and contributing to the overall well-being of residents within our community.

Maps showing the green spaces and views will be on display at the Showcase event.

Heritage Assets

It is proposed to explicitly identify 23 heritage assets. Nine of these are already listed by English Heritage. A further fourteen assets have been identified by the steering group. Consultation with private owners of assets will be undertaken prior to their inclusion in the plan. The full list will be displayed at the showcase event.

Influencing Future Developments

The steering group have commissioned a design guide which will shape future development in the village.

The parish-wide design guide aims to guide future development in the parish, of any scale (house extensions or conversions, infill development and/or larger developments). It is informed and shaped by the local character of Aston Abbots and promotes design that is sensitive to its context.

A key part of the development of the design guide has been the definition of “character areas” within the parish. The design guide provides design guidance and codes which are specific to the individual character areas.

A map of the character areas will be on display at the Showcase

event and a draft copy of the design guide will be available for people to view.

How much is this costing?

The Parish Council has obtained grants to fund the development of the design guide and other consultations.

Showcase Event

Please come along for a showcase of key elements of the neighbourhood plan on **Thursday 7th December**.

The information will be presented on display boards and members of the steering group will be there to answer questions.

The village hall will be open between **7:30pm and 8:30pm**. There's no formal presentation so please drop in anytime.

You are more than welcome to enjoy a complimentary glass of wine and some nibbles while taking in the information.

Those attending the coffee morning (10:00 to 11:30) will also have the opportunity to view the display boards.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Trevor Hall

trevor.hall@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

Say hello to Sarah, Travel Impressions expert.



Travel Impressions

A World of Experience



FEATURING...

Travel Impressions of Tring

Welcome! Please introduce yourselves to our readers.

*Hello, my name is Sarah Watson and along with my colleague, Michelle Holt, we are **Travel Impressions**, an independent travel agent based in Tring.*

How long have you worked in travel?

Michelle has always worked in travel and has 40 years' experience booking holidays and cruises, while I've been a travel agent for over 25 years.

What makes Travel Impressions different from other travel agencies?

As we are not associated to any specific tour operators, we are able to offer our clients completely independent advice about their holiday plans. We understand that no two holidays are the same, and believe that the booking process should be nearly as exciting as the trip itself.

Are there any destinations that you specialise in? And what are your biggest sellers?

We can book holidays and cruises to places around the world, as well as closer to home. We specialise in tailor-making itineraries to destinations such as North and South America, Asia and Africa, but are just as happy booking a weekend break to Europe or guided tour from a brochure. I lived in New Zealand when I was a child, and am a Kiwi as well as an Australian specialist. I have also been a Canadian specialist since 2001, and am one of the top agents in the UK as recognised by Destination Canada. Michelle has visited many of the Caribbean islands and is a Mauritius and Sri Lanka specialist. Between us we have booked clients to most of the major destinations worldwide: if we haven't been there, we know someone who has!

What would be your top tip?

Book early and use a travel agent!

How do we contact you?

*Please call us on **01442 890265** or email **enquiries@travelimpressions.co.uk***

www.travelimpressions.co.uk

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Travel Impressions

If you need help and advice planning your next holiday,
we will be extending our opening hours in January to include
every Saturday from 9am-1pm.

Come in for a chat over a coffee!



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MEMORIES OF ANITA PARKER

Peter Knight

Because I have known Anita for longer than most of you, I have been asked to write about our dear friend. What worried me is that there is so much about Anita that I don't know.

A few of my memories will be personal but I make no apologies for that, I only ask your tolerance for my inability to do her justice.

The great overpowering occurrence in Anita's life was her dreadful overpowering final illness, Motor Neurone Disease, and how she coped so well with that I shall never know.

Huge credit goes to her partner of 17 years, Ian, who proved steadfast and caring, helping Anita live out her life with love.

Anita was the daughter of a farmer and she spent her early years on the family farm near what is now Milton Keynes. The family moved from the development to Shabbington near Thame. Anita trained as a teacher, married a teacher and, as a couple, they had two boys and moved to Aston Abbots 47 years ago.



Probably the first great sadness for Anita was the break-up of her marriage but she attacked her single status with vigour – she swam at Leighton Buzzard every morning before work, she played golf whenever she could and became very proficient.

Gardening she took seriously; she attended the village Book Club and skiing became Anita's favourite holiday. The Church became important to her and she was a member of the Parochial Church Council for many years and eventually she was gently bullied into becoming a Bell Ringer.

Anita was seen at virtually all village events, selling ice cream in pouring rain at the Fete – throwing her all into the Ladies Tug of War Team versus Men long years ago. From all these activities Anita made friends and widened her knowledge of people. She met Ian on a skiing holiday, a meeting that was momentous for both of them.

My particular memories of Anita were, of course, Bell Ringing; her self-doubt when learning, her satisfaction when we took our little village ringing team to Shabbington and rang there for her mother to hear.

The plants she offered me from her garden, but always the self-effacing “was I ok, was that good enough?”

Besides her own problems she has coped very recently with the deaths of both her brother and her son plus other family problems.

Was she ok? Was she good enough? YES, she most certainly was.

Despite all her troubles Anita coped brilliantly and I am full of admiration for the way she lived her full life and served others when she was needed.



MAY GOD BLESS HER.

Voted the Best Aylesbury Chinese Restaurants/Take Aways from local reviews

Joining the gastronomical scene is Noodle Nation in Aylesbury was applauded for its impeccable service and delicious food.

Aylesbury’s China Water is held in high regard for its takeaway Chinese meal for two.

Chinese fast-food eatery, Double Eight in Aylesbury is also popular. Customers love the 'most amazing' food on its full menu, marking it as the best Chinese takeaway in Aylesbury.



China Brasserie, another Aylesbury favourite, is in demand for its takeaway and dining service, receiving commendable reviews.

So food lovers, you have a journey to embark on. Happy eating!

Unfortunately ‘Wings’ Chinese Takeaway did not feature although a few of the others over the border did.



**Buckinghamshire
Council**

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT
YOUR GARDEN WASTE
SUBSCRIPTION****

**** ACTION REQUIRED ****

We are changing the way that you pay for your Garden Waste subscription which is due to end in December. We are no longer collecting payment by Direct Debit. Instead, we are giving you the opportunity to start your subscription on a date that suits you by changing to a rolling 12-month subscription.

Why are we making this change?

We are giving you flexibility to start your garden waste subscription from whenever you want to. You can choose to renew your subscription from 8th December, or you may wish to do it at the start of the next garden waste season. The 2024 service will start from 22nd January 2024 and each subscription lasts for 12 months, with a 6-week suspension period during December and January.

So, for example, if you decided to pay in February 2024, the subscription would be valid until February 2025.

What do I need to do?

Please go to our website, any time from 8th December, and follow the instructions to make payment using either a credit or debit card. Currently

the subscription costs £55 per bin per year and we'll send you a new sticker when we receive payment, which takes around 10 working days.

We know that reminders are appreciated, so we invite you to create a MyBuckinghamshire account. This will replace any previous MyAccount you have set up. You can use the MyBuckinghamshire feature to sign up and pay for the 2024 garden waste service and it also means you can manage all garden waste requests online and receive reminders when your subscription is due for renewal.

Will I receive an invoice?

No, there will no longer be any invoices issued. You need to go to our website to subscribe and renew.

What will happen to my Direct Debit?

As we are moving to a flexible start date, this means we will no longer take payments previously set up by Direct Debit. You can cancel the Direct Debit authorisation through your bank should you wish to.

What if I need help?

If you require help, please refer to our garden waste FAQs on our website which may be able to help you. Alternatively, please contact our customer services team on 0300 131 6000.

Yours sincerely, North Garden Waste
Team

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Your Emails

I'm very sorry to say that this is the second dog poo that has been left outside my house this week. (17 The Green) Can everyone please make an effort to clean up after your dog.



Thank you.

Hi Peter,

I have just received the latest copy of Focus.(Lib Dem flyer). It says that Peter Cooper has written to Steve Broadbent who is the Bucks Council cabinet member for transport regarding implementing a 20 mph speed limit in Wingrave. Perhaps we can get Mr Cooper to do the same for Aston Abbots. I know we do not have a school in our village but we have Moat Lane which is really now a bypass for motorists cutting through from

Buckingham Park and Berryfields to the A418.

If Mr Cooper was to try walking up Moat Lane or Cublington Road where we have no footpaths he would appreciate the speed and volume of traffic that Aston Abbots now has.

Something needs to be done before someone is either seriously injured or even killed walking along these roads.

We live here and should be able to feel safe to enjoy walking in our own village.

I would willingly write to Mr Broadbent if it will help get something done. Thank you.

Lyn

Hi Lyn

As I mentioned in the last Chronicle, Peter Cooper's campaign cost the Wingrave Parish Council around £10,000 and it failed, as Wingrave Roads do not meet the criteria for a 20MPH limit. Money was wasted.

It has to be said that Aston Abbots roads are not like Wingrave's. However, If Mr Broadbent insists on a feasibility study similar to Wingrave's, I don't think the village PC could afford it.

Writing to him won't do any harm and may be a positive.

Pete. Ed!

Anita Parker

Many of the villagers will probably know by now, but unfortunately Anita Parker of The Cloisters, Church Row passed away after her battle with Motor Neurone Disease. It was very peaceful, sat in her chair in the living room. She is now at peace.

Anita's Funeral will take place at St James Church, Aston Abbotts on Monday 4th December at 11am

There is a tribute page.

<https://anitaparker.muchloved.com>

Many thanks. **Ian Smith (partner)**

Tribute further on inside.

Fireworks Night Spectacular

Oh my goodness! The fireworks were incredible! Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to put this event together. Amazing!

Kate Lili-An Boyer

Excellent display, very well organised. See you next year. And.... anyone driving that knows us, park on our drive next year!!

Robert Boyer

Another fantastic display as always ! We loved it as did our grandchildren ! Thank you Martyn and Team for such a great evening

Heather Jane Langdon xx

Dear Ed.

I am pleased to share the provisional Financial Report concerning the Aston

Abbotts Fireworks 2023. See attached for the full breakdown.

The Fireworks were well attended this year, with record numbers of people. I heard that the event was indirectly shared with both Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard communities, which was likely the reason for this.

We collected generous donations on the gate totalling around £1,600, an increase of £600 from 2022. Income from the Food & Drink, and the Glow shop was also up approximately £180 from last year, generating £460 and £190 respectively. The total income, including all donations was £2,700

Costs of the event were slightly higher than 2022 by approximately £100 due to the delayed costs of repairing the Rec from 2022 falling into 2023. The total cost to put on the event was around £1,600.

Overall, the event generated a surplus of just over £1,100. This leaves an account balance of £2,600, sufficient to cover next year's costs and enough of a buffer that poor weather on the day next year would not affect our ability to run the event in 2025. Final accounts will be shared at the APM in 2024.

A big thank-you to all those involved, and a special thank-you to all those with livestock, pets and people who suffer with the noise. If you have any other feedback, please email me at martynjsimpson@gmail.com.

Martyn Simpson

Mobile: 07538177977

Accounts next page

Aston Abbotts Fireworks

Financial Statement 2023 (Provisional)

Date Range

Beginning Date	1/1/2023
Ending Date	31/12/2023

Period Start

Opening Balance	1,548.25
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Income

Food & Drink Income	464.05
Glow Shop Income	197.10
Fete Donation	272.00
PC Donation	-
Other Donations	200.00
Gate Donations	1,611.12
Excess Food & Drink Sale	-
Total Income	2,744.27

Expenses

Firework Purchases	(1,240.15)
Food & Drink Purchases	(90.00)
Shop Expenses	(16.35)
Recreation Repairs	(125.58)
Materials Purchases	(4.99)
Floats	(183.00)
Total Expenses	(1,660.07)

Surplus / (Loss)	1,084.20
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Closing Balance	2,632.45
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Notes

- 1 Recreation Repairs for 2022 included in 2023.
- 2 Floats shown as an expense and recounted as Income in relevant stream.
- 3 No Parish Council (PC) Donation requested in 2023.
- 4 No Glow Shop Expenses for 2023, 2022 Stock used.
- 5 No Excess Food & Drink Sales (buy-backs) in 2023.

**Brilliant show and a great return.
What a success. Thanks Martyn
and team. You've done us proud.
Ed!**

Dear Villagers.

There will be allotments available in the New year. If you think you would like one please contact Annie Pettie on 07793048289 and I will put you on the list.

Thank you for your interest.

Annie

***And then there's this outrage.
(From AA Community page)***

Hey guys

I was wondering if anyone had a car jack? I did have one but it seems the guy who last changed my tyre took it!! I need to put my spare tyre on.

Once AGAIN another tyre of mine is flat!!

It seems very strange that 4 tyres have been punctured in the space of 4 weeks on my car! Has anyone noticed anything suspicious happening around my car? It only happens at night which is why it's making me think it isn't anything on the roads doing it. Has anyone else's tyres been punctured lately in the village?

I'm on the green, with the white Audi A5.

Aimee

[Lisa Henry](#)

[Aimee Jayne](#) We also live on the green (moved in last year) and had all 4 tyres go last winter. Never had that before. Last week I had another go and it turned out to be a massive bolt. I did think maybe it's something suspicious but then... surely not and it's just the bad roads

Lisa Henry omg really?? Wow! That's 4 of us now then. Hmmmm...Well I've got cameras on the way so hopefully if it is "suspicious" we can catch the culprit

[Aimee Jayne](#) 4 people, that's weird. This was my tyre last week.



Let me know if you find anything.
Xx

[Fiona Knight](#)

Lisa Henry OMG! Myself and a neighbour both had our cars with the same bolt driven into the groove of our tyres earlier this year, and following that, my daughter parked in Bricstock had the same bolt damage. I reported it to the police at the time. Both mine and my neighbours cars were parked in the residents parking and my daughter's was on the roadside near the recreation ground. All had the same bolts driven in. Kwik fit told me it had to be malicious damage. We have our suspicions. xx

Fiona Knight oh dear....seems to be suspicious as I suspected xx

[Fiona Knight](#)

Aimee Jayne it definitely is. I just can't believe others have experienced the same thing. We had our suspicions who was doing it as a personal attack but now with these other reports I really don't know. The bolts are a particular type of roofing bolt. It's really horrendous. My dash cam didn't record the culprit and unfortunately there's no other CCTV in the car park

[Daryl Pendlebury-Jones](#)

That seems very, very strange. I've read the comments above.... It

sounds personal. I'd definitely be positioning a camera to capture all imagery around the car. I've never heard of such a thing in our village.

Kate Lili-An Boyer

somewhere where maybe building work is going on and have caught nails which have caused a slow puncture?

Keep watching everyone. Ed!

Oh that's awful! Hopefully someone might have a doorbell camera? Unless you have been



The poster features a snowman on the left and Santa Claus on the right, both in winter attire. The word "Christmas" is written in a red, cursive font, and "BINGO" is in large, light blue, block letters below it. The event details are: Thursday 14th December, 7.00 for 7.30pm start, Aston Abbotts Village Hall.

Famous Buckinghamshire landmarks used for blockbuster movies

Here are three famous buildings, landmarks and houses in Buckinghamshire that have been used to shoot scenes on the big screen.

The Royal Standard of England, Forty Green



Officially regarded as the oldest pub in Britain, the Royal Standard of England in Forty Green near Beaconsfield has been used for scenes in the 2007 comedy flick, *Hot Fuzz*, and the 2014 Stephen Hawking biopic, *The Theory of Everything*.

Apparently, Royalists were beheaded by Parliamentarians during the English Civil War outside the boozery and the upstairs rooms were used by King Charles II to discreetly meet and woo lovers.

Mentmore Towers



Built in the 19th century between 1852 and 1854 for the Rothschild family in Mentmore, the Grade I listed building has been used for several high-profile movies.

These include *Batman Begins* (2005), *Johnny English* (2003), *Infinite* (2021), *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999), *Quills* (2000) and *Ali G in Da House* (2002).

The venue has also been used for music videos, most notably 'Goodbye' by the Spice Girls which was shot in November 1998.

West Wycombe Park West Wycombe Park is another village that has been used to shoot famous movies.

These include *A Clockwork Orange* (1971), *Labyrinth* (1986), *X-Men: First Class* (2011) and *Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw* (2019) to name just a few.

Visitors to the tiny village of Turville may find themselves with a weird sense that they have been there before.



In fact, this village is better known as Dibley from the BBC TV series *The Vicar of Dibley*, and the delightful St Mary the Virgin Church is better known as St Barnabas!

The village has also featured in the films *101 Dalmatians*, *Goodnight Mr*

Tom, Pride and Prejudice and various other TV series.

The Cobstone Windmill at Turville featured in the film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Online survey on Adult Gym Equipment

The Parish Council is responsible for the Recreation Ground and children's Playground.

Maintenance is ongoing and along side this we are keen to keep the equipment up to date and of benefit to the local community. One idea is to introduce some adult gym equipment to the Recreation Ground area, but first we would like to understand if this would be of interest to the village community. Please take a moment to consider the questions below and feedback to the Clerk – clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk. Responses by 8th December 2023 please.

1. Would you like to see a few pieces of Outdoor Adult Gym equipment included?
2. Have you used Outdoor Adult Gym equipment before?
3. If outdoor Adult Gym Equipment was available to you would you use it? How regularly –

Daily? Weekly? Occasionally?
Not at all?

4. When would you be most likely to use such equipment – Early mornings? Daytime? Evenings? Weekends? Never?

5. The equipment we are considering could include the following. Please indicate which, if any, of these you would use and if 'Other' please suggest one item you would like to see in an ideal situation.

- i) Rower
- ii) Health Walker
- iii) Slalom machine
- iv) Squat machine
- v) Pull Down machine
- vi) Other

Thank you for your time.

Responses to – clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk by 8th December 2023 please.

Kind regards. **Liz van Hullen** Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Aston Abbots Parish Council

01494 758800



Christmas Fair



Saturday December 9th 2023 - 1pm to 4pm

A Christmas Fair featuring hand made textile gifts from local sewers and cakes. Raising money in aid of Alzheimer's Society.

Aston Abbots Village Hall
The Green, Aston Abbots HP22 4LX



Together we are help & hope for everyone living with dementia



Registered charity no. 296645. Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

John Putnam's (1580-1662) Great Migration

John Putnam of Aston Abbotts move to Salem Massachusetts



As related in my last article, we have limited information on which to determine why John left his known environment of Buckinghamshire when he was almost sixty years old. Likewise, we have very limited evidence on how his 3222 mile trip to Salem Village in the Massachusetts Bay Colony happened. In this article, I will try to piece together the historical, geographical, and genealogical that I have found through research to share

with you how John and his family transplanted the Salem Branch of the current United States Putnam Family from which I descend.

Let's start with the unknowns:

1. What planning was done to sell the land in England to raise enough cash to undertake this journey with his whole family...wife, three daughters, and three sons?

2. From where did he embark on this journey? Considering the usual ports used in the Great Migration, I strongly suspect he left from either London or Southampton but there is no evidence yet to prove this.

3. When was this journey made? Until recently, it was suspected that the trip was undertaken in 1634, but recent evidence suggests it took place sometime between 1638 and 1640. Assuming these latter dates are correct, the Putnam Family emigrated near the end of the Great Migration and likely had information from earlier emigrants or land promoters about the availability of good lands in which to settle.

4. What was the attraction of Salem and what information would the family have had to decide where to go? In my recent research, it is possible that John's brother-in-law, Zaccheaus Gould, had scouted the general area north of Boston MA (known as Essex County) a couple years before the Putnams left Aston Abbotts. The Gould Family was originally from Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, but likely owned land in the Wingrave / Aston Abbotts area.

Despite these informational gaps, we know the family emigrated to the Salem area in the present town of Danvers, Massachusetts where eleven generations lived prior to my lifetime.

It is hard to imagine the thoughts going through the Putnams' minds as they embarked on their trans-Atlantic journey, but certainly the voyage across the "pond" must have been the first of many challenges they faced. There are many accounts about the perils of this long journey in the 17th century ships which varied depending upon the time the voyage took place. Besides the journey, it is possible they were wondering where they would stay when they arrived and how long it would take to find land on which to farm.

Finally, it is likely that they had advanced information on the relative safety of living on lands formerly claimed by the local Native American. As their ship sailed into Salem Harbor, likely one of the two best harbours in Colonial Massachusetts, they were relieved to be nearing the end of one journey and the start of establishing their new homes and farms in the New World.

Colonial Salem had an interesting early history. It was initially settled 10-12 years before the Putnams

arrived by a group of settlers from the West Country under the leadership of Roger Conant. When the Winthrop group arrived two years later (1630) who were largely from East Anglia, the leadership of the town changed to John Endecott. Despite their English origins, the differences between these groups created some interesting politics including a split in the Puritan Church in 1636 and some people believe paved the dynamic for the eventual Salem Witchcraft trials that happened approximately sixty years later. Initially, when the Putnams arrived, the lands nearer to Salem Town were already occupied which required John to look further inland for the land.

In the remainder of the 17th century, Salem's character changed from a small colonial port to one whose merchants were connected to the greater Atlantic international ports. As it became wealthier, it created a gap with the surrounding more rural villages and the farm folks who lived there. Certainly, an essential priority was to buy land and build a shelter for the family. When he arrived, the new immigrants were settling an area known as either Salem Village or Salem Farms shown in blue on the map below which was about

7-8 miles from Salem Town (shown in yellow). This land is rolling much like I saw in Aston Abbotts although it is about 150 feet above sea level.

There were two types of land transactions: one for meadows to grow hay and the other for highlands to graze cattle or to provide wood to build shelters or warm the homes. At this time, this settlement could nearly be described as the “frontier” with few other Europeans living between them and the Native Americans.

The homes were built in a village setting to assist with their defence. Likely, the Putnams saw more trees, colder winters, and occasional “noreaster” storms than they had in Buckinghamshire. However, land was plentiful and quite fertile. John’s first land purchase was for 100 acres in Salem Village around 1640 and was continual for the first years of his residence. By the time of his death, he and his sons had acquired approximately 800 acres of land in this area which set up his sons for their livelihoods. After the land was secured, it was essential to build a more permanent shelter. Fortunately, wood and roofing materials were plentiful in their raw

state, but needed considerable labour to gather and adapt to building a house.

Based upon their economic status, it is likely that the Putnams could hire a sawyer to cut the logs into usable boards to build the main part of their house, but very likely the family pitched in to make saw the logs. Roofs were thatched with reeds gathered in the salt marshes which were three to four miles away. Crude bricks were used for building a fireplace for heat and food preparation. Very likely, the first buildings were very similar to the English cottages with which they were familiar. The picture below shows a replica of an early house that is now in Pioneer’s Village in Salem, Massachusetts. Some buildings were even cruder than this one. Metal objects used in construction were rare because they were imported from England, so their prices would have been quite expensive.

A colonial iron industry was still about ten years away in the late 1640s when prices and imports from England were even higher due to the English Civil War. Near the end of John’s life, he built a more elaborate home as did his sons and peers.

Initial Colonial Homes



Second Generation House – likely built by John or a Grandson



Once these two critical tasks were done, Priscilla and John could begin to get involved with their new community.

Church: Puritans expected all residents to attend at least weekly their local church. For the Putnams, this meant travelling to Salem Town, 7-8 miles each way to attend all year round. It is hard to imagine the hardship this would have caused. Eventually, this commute would lead to the Salem Village residents asking to form their own church. This village church would later serve as a

factor in the Salem Witchcraft episode.



Priscilla Putnam joined the church in 1643 and John joined in 1647 which then gave him the right to vote as a “freeman”.

Town Affairs: John was seen as an early leader in Salem. The selectmen asked him to serve as a constable to identify folks who were not attending church. It is interesting to note that this occurred while John was not formally a member himself. In his later years, he became a selectman (town leader) for several years, but he became increasingly concerned about the rising power of the Salem merchants and the loss of power of the community farmers.

Village Affairs: Due to John’s influence and that of the large extended Putnam Family, the Putnams played a disproportionate role in representing their village and family in the Salem Town governance structures.

Family Leader: By the time of their deaths, Priscilla and John were the matriarch and patriarch of a very

large family. In his later years, John was focused on frequent land transactions to better his sons' future and apportioning that land largely equally among his three sons.

As descendants, we do not know the hardships that likely resulted from this move from England to Colonial Massachusetts. Certainly, the legacies he left to his family were many. Whether his lifespan was increased by this move, we will never know but based upon

earlier English Putnam lifespans, he lived to a remarkable 82 years of age.

If you have questions or comments, please let me know at jeputnam@aol.com.

Still actively researching this ancestor to better understand the historical times in which he lived.

Postscript: Wishing your readers Happy Holidays and New Year.

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***Contact John Whyte
07988001843***



You say it best when you say nothing at all

TUNING IN: In the words of the sage Ronan Keating, sometimes you say it best when you say nothing at all and just listen, as In Hannah Jones has discovered.



I've always wanted to be a woman of the world. The kind of someone who's as good in a crisis as she is in heels. That special person who just knows how to make a Victoria sponge on a whim, and always has the right ingredients in the top cupboard to do so.

In truth, I'm none of those things. All my shoes are sensible, and I'm a homebody teetotaller who buys ready-made everything.

I was musing lately, as is my very Welsh nature, about what I am not, when a conversation with a lady who's simply gone through A LOT in recent years reminded me

that I'm a dab hand at one thing: and that's not saying a word.

I won't go into details about what happened to her here, but what I can say is that she lost her daughter under tragic circumstances just before her 40th birthday.

It was two years ago, and the pink letter A on this grieving mother's bangle and the single photo screensaver on her phone of when her daughter was little said all there was to know about the grieving process.

Because while somebody may put on a cheery front, as she was doing on a night out on the razz with me and a few others, enjoying some wine and having a laugh, loss is the albatross that follows you to restaurants for the rest of your life and is the company you simply can't be bothered to give the best of welcome to.

Now I can talk nonsense with the best of them, but not saying anything at all may well be the superpower I didn't know I had until that night in the restaurant and staying quiet which leads me to ask you this: When was the last time you really listened to somebody? Not having the kind of

conversation where it's a two-way thing, to seek out an opportunity to tell your story, give your perspective, or sort something out in your mind, but actually listen to somebody else's troubles?

For an hour, I just took it all in - took HER all in.

She didn't cry, she didn't dramatise, she didn't complain, she didn't self-censor. She didn't ask for anything from me.

She just talked.

And I just listened.

I mean, I had nothing to offer, did I? I've not got fancy papers in psychology and haven't experienced that kind of loss in my life, although I've known heartache and still struggle around a plate of warm broad beans slathered in butter because they were my late grandparents' favourite. And they were MY favourites. Still. Even now. Today. Thirty-odd years later.

Anyway, as with all things when tiramisu is plonked in front of you, the conversation stopped at the undeniable pull of coffee-drenched sponge and morphed effortlessly into some nonsense about dog treats and

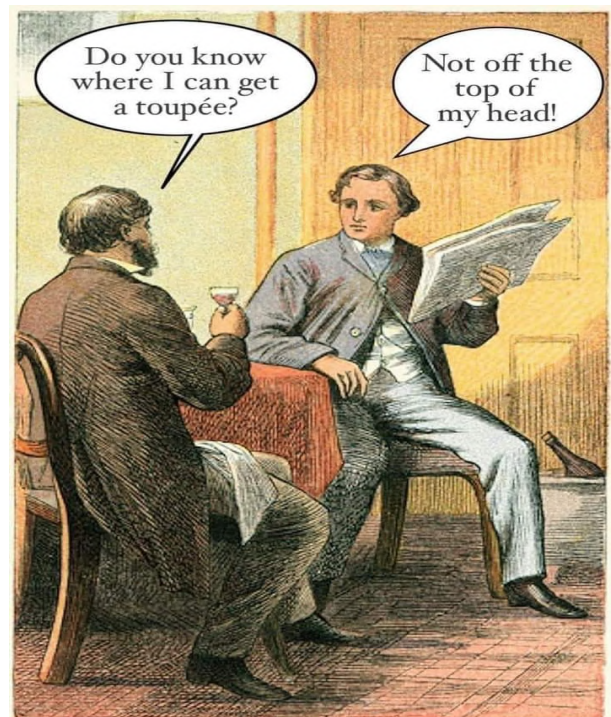
stag dos. You know, when heart-breaking seriousness slithers into the invaluable banalities of life that keep us all connected in ways that may seem trivial but are the markers of shared connection.

So let me ask you once again: When was the last time you really listened to somebody?

Try it. Go on. I did. You never know what you may learn about yourself.

Hannah Jones

PS If you are grieving and need somebody to talk to, the Samaritans are there 24/7 and you can get in touch with them by calling free on 116 123 or emailing jo@samaritans.org





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Advent

We move once again into the Season of Advent, a season heralding the themes of hoping, awaiting and expectation, emphasising that these ways of being carry deep meaning and are not to be trivialised. Furthermore, they are shaped as part of a larger journey, both as individuals and as communities on various levels.

The Old Testament literature records ideas and events that led to a sufficiently significant shaping of the hope, awaiting and expectation of an entire people that they were deliberately and officially preserved for posterity. That shaping came through a great variety of means, recorded in many different styles of literature and expression, and involving many different people from different geographical origins and generations.

It is well known nowadays that *how* we anticipate and *what* we expect has very profound (and often very subtle and subliminal) influences on what we *believe* ourselves to be encountering in a given situation, which in turn influences our response. This includes any anticipation concerning where to seek God's engagement with the world – the

way in which we anticipate will have considerable influence on the nature of our faith. Advent calls us to remember that God's conversing with us, including the very manner and nature in which we are formed as material creatures of space and time, actively shapes our hoping, our awaiting and our expecting.

The word Advent means 'coming to/towards' and the season reminds us that the source of this conversing, shaping and forming comes from God. We also have the little-used word 'adventitious' for something coming from outside of a particular situation or system – some influence that is neither the result of internal design nor intrinsic to a particular nature (such as human nature). With respect to what we remember and acknowledge in Advent, such formational influence lies outside of our own control or design but moves us to direct our capacity to converse with God and thereby shapes our hoping and awaiting. There will always be something unexpected about the way in which this works itself out, just as the specific way in which God comes to us in Christ was not fully anticipated and understood in advance by those who first encountered its influence and transformative effect.

The current global situation may not, to many people's minds, seem to give reason for much hope – at least, not a form of hope purely of our *own* fashioning. In this fast-paced world things could of course change significantly in various locations/respects even by the time we reach Christmas, but that landmark occasion still represents a transitional moment

that would reform worldviews and shape the hope and expectancy of what would become not just a *community* but a *communion*.

With prayers and best wishes as we move through Advent towards Christmas.

Andrew Krauss



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Church Matters

Anita Parker – everyone was very sad to hear of the loss of Anita, who was a PCC member for many years and supported the church in so many ways. Her funeral and burial in the churchyard will take place on Monday 4 December at 11am – with bellringing at her request, and her many friends and neighbours expected to attend.

The Remembrance ceremony and service on Sunday 12 November was once again well attended.

The Italian evening on Saturday 18 November was a huge success – thank you to Francesca, Jane, Heather and others for cooking, table decorating and serving. And a big thank you to all who bought tickets and were so generous with raffle tickets too. The evening made almost £900 for St James's, a wonderful result and much appreciated. It will be put to good use on the stonework repairs due to be carried out shortly.

All Ages service in November was all about the Parable of the Talents – another puzzling one, acted out by members of the congregation, and although it seemed rather hard on Servant 3, all became clear in the end (it's about being ready for Jesus's second coming - you can read this in Matthew 25 v 14-30).

COMING UP

The next All Ages service is our **Carol Service/Christingle on Sunday 17 December** by candle light at **4pm**, with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards in church. All welcome. Come and see the church dressed up for Christmas!

Please see the services list for the Christmas period. There is no service here on Christmas Eve (Sunday); on **Christmas Day the service is at 10am**. Services on New Year's Eve and the following Sunday are Benefice-wide services (these alternate between the villages, and are not here this time round). All these are advertised on the church noticeboard and there will be Postie updates. You can also check the website A Church Near You for service times here and nearby.

ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH HARDSHIP FUND

The Parochial Church Council has set aside a sum of money for the Hardship fund this season. If you live in the village and need a little extra help please contact the Rector, Revd. Howard Robson (01296 688593, therevhoward@outlook.com) or Caroline Abel Smith (churchwarden) in complete confidence. Any donations to the Fund would also be very welcome and please again contact either Howard or Caroline. Thank you.

St James' Services - December

3rd	6.00pm	Evensong
10th	10.30am	Parish Communion
17th	4pm	Candles by candlelight Christingle
24th	No service here	
Christmas Day	10am	Family Christmas Communion
31st	No service here.	10.30am Benefice service Soulsbury
7th January	No service here	11am Benefice Service Wing
14th January	10.30	Parish Communion

Church Duties November

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
1/2	David/Colin	-
08/09	Alex/Colin	-
15/16	CarolineL /Ann	Christmas
22/23	Annie/Tatiana	Decorations
29/30	TBA	""

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; Tatiana Butler and Francesca Bean (finance); Andy Bystra, consultant on fabric.

WINGRAVE & ROWSHAM DIARY DECEMBER 2023

Fri 1 1800 Family spud night
Community Centre

**Sat 2 1200 Gin Competition - any
flavour Aston Abbots Village Hall**

**Sat 2 1930 Christmas Quiz Night:
table reservations 07544 227991
Aston Abbots Village Hall**

Sun 3 1200 WCA over 60s'
Christmas lunch Community
Centre

Sun 3 1800 Advent Carol Service
Parish Church

Mon 4 Weekday Walking Group
ramble, contact Jan Walmsley:
07813 085211

Wed 6 1230 WI Christmas lunch
Wingrave Park

Sat 9 0845 Men's breakfast talk:
Nostalgia isn't what it used to be
Methodist Church

Sat 9 1200 Cambodia Trek 2024
fundraising sale Methodist Church

**Sat 9 1300 Crafty Christmas Fair
for Alzheimer's Society Aston
Abbots Village Hall**

Sat 9-10 Christmas Tree Festival
Parish Church

Sat 9 1845 WCA Once upon a time
fairy tale ball Community Centre

Sun 10 0930 Wingrave Ramblers'
local ramble Nup End Lane

Sun 10 1600 Messy Church, all age
service Methodist Church

Sun 10 1230 Pie Sunday
Community Centre

Mon 11 1500 Friendship Group
Baldway House, Leighton Rd

Tue 12 1930 Parish Council
meeting Community Centre

Thu 14 1730 Santa Float

Fri 15 Christmas Fair MacIntyre
School

Fri 15 1930 Family Bingo
Community Centre

Sun 17 1800 Carols by Candlelight
Parish Church

Tue 19 School term ends

Fri 22 Carols on Twelve Leys Green

Sun 24 1600 Christingle & Crib
service Parish Church

Wed 27 1000 Wingrave Ramblers'
local ramble Nup End Lane

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Wing!

Wing, as a name, is a contraction - a shortened word coming from a longer, more complex place name. It was first recorded in about 966AD as Weowungum, which is a bit of a mouthful.

There are two possible theories for this place name, both coming from Old English spoken by the Anglo-Saxons.

The one considered most likely by historians is that Weowungum originates from Wiwaingaham, another mouthful!

When split into its component parts, this would translate as the village of Wiwa's People. Wiwa could either be a person's name, possibly a Chieftain or other important person, or it could be the name of a local tribe or clan.



The less likely, but much more exciting theory is that it comes from Weohingaham (yet another mouthful...). This translates as the village of the people of the pagan temple and if true would date to the time before the Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity.



It's true that Wing was a place of significance to early Christians, as evidenced by its fantastically early stone Anglo-Saxon church (one of the earliest such buildings in the country!).

Could this significance be because they were trying to put their mark on a place long used for pagan worship...?

If you're interested in learning more about Leighton Buzzard's history then you can join us here:

<https://www.lbdahs.org.uk/join>

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www.thepacecentre.org/event/winter-waggle/



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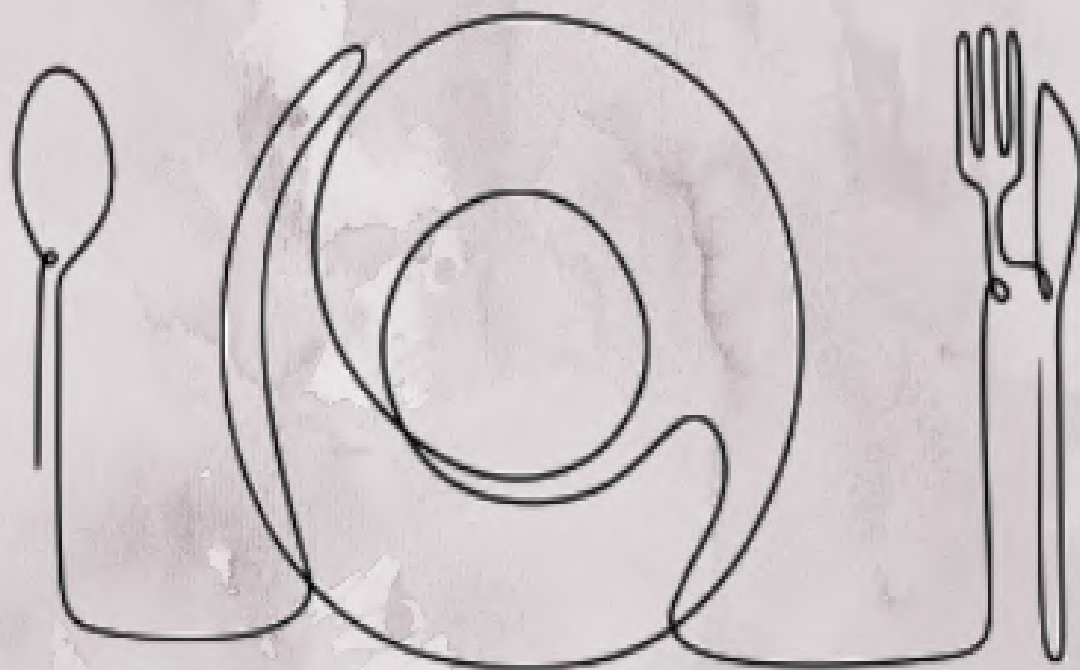


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Italian Night held in November

An Italian Night held in the village hall on Saturday 18 November to raise funds for the church was a huge success!!

The event was a sell out with a wonderful 3 course meal cooked by the amazing Francesca and served by her lovely helpers!!!

The hall and tables were decorated keeping the Italian theme in mind and platters of antipasti, olives and

pate were served, followed by slow cooked italian homemade meatballs with garlic and herb potatoes - then finished off with delicious chocolate torte and lemon drizzle cake - a real taste treat!

An Italian themed quiz and a raffle were held during the evening and much fun was had by all who attended - with over £800 raised for church funds.



Until next time, I hope you have a great Christmas and a great new year. Thank you for your support. God bless. Pete. Ed!