

The Chronicle

January 2024 Issue 444

Wishing you a happy New Year

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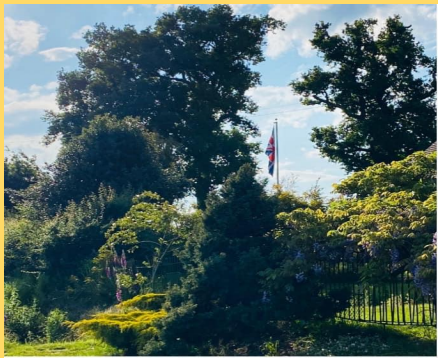
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Kings Coronation get together back in May



From the Editor

As Editor I don't usually delve into the murky world of politics but when our council tax is squandered, like many people, it makes my blood boil.

Martin Letts, Bucks Council Leader, posted his Christmas message to us all. Within it is this:

'We (The Council) will be having to make some very difficult decisions around our budgets ...deciding what we will spend, where, during the next financial year (2024/25).

Our budgets are under immense pressure and simply balancing the books is a real challenge.we ... overspent our current service budget by around £15 million.'

***On 1st of April 2020
Buckinghamshire cut 5 District Councils to 1 Unitary Council to save £millions by cutting waste and duplication. £725,000 saving in just printing and IT costs.
With that sort of reduction in District Councils, in manpower, redundant office buildings and land would make Bucks Council cash rich for some time, if managed properly.***

It's hard to work out how many non or little used council assets there are but Council office

buildings, some, like County Hall and the Walton Street Tower partially occupied remain over the County.



Furthermore, Bucks Council has reduced services and raised Council Tax to the maximum every year since it was formed.

So It is welcome news that after three years, Bucks Council are finally targeting some redundant office buildings for selling. Long overdue.

Thank you Chronicle Team. To the contributors, advertisers, Coordinators, Distributors and Treasurer. You are wonderful.

Happy New Year and thank you for your emails and for reading the Chronicle.

Pete. Editor

News

The Dove, Wing - Work Starts

There appears to be work going on at The Dove now a skip has been delivered.



The planning website shows that it's being converted into a 4 bedroom house.

Household recycling centres to accept DIY waste for free

In the new year, residents can dispose of small amounts of DIY waste from projects like re-tiling, renovating a bathroom or digging a pond in the garden.

Buckinghamshire Council's cabinet member Gareth Williams climate change and environment said: "We know these government changes will be welcomed by residents, but in order for us to manage them effectively, we are reintroducing a DIY e-permit

system like we have used previously.

"This may be an extra step for residents, but it allows us to ensure that everything will run smoothly and will deter commercial traders from abusing the new system which is for residents only."

From January, residents wanting to dispose of household DIY waste at a Household Recycling Centre should have an e-permit printed out or on a portable device such as mobile phone or tablet before visiting the site. The DIY e-permit allows residents to dispose of one load of DIY waste each week for free.

One load of DIY waste is no more than 100 litres of loose DIY waste, or one large item no bigger than 2m x 0.75m x 0.7m such as one bath tub, one door or one kitchen unit. Staff will scan the permit and check the resident's address, after which the e-permit will expire.

It can be renewed after seven days, to allow residents to dispose of another load of DIY waste for free.

Anyone wishing to dispose of more than one load of DIY waste in a week will be able to do so but will be charged, using the same

price list which has been in place for the past four years.

The council changes come after the government decided to change the law to make it easier for people to freely get rid of DIY waste.

Burglary Cublington Sentence

Following a Thames Valley Police investigation, a man has been sentenced following an incident of burglary and theft in **Cublington**.



Billy Butler, aged 26, now residing at HMP Ranby, was sentenced to two years and seven months' imprisonment following a trial at Aylesbury Crown Court on Monday (27/11). At the same hearing, Butler pleaded guilty to one count each of burglary and theft.

On 18 July this year, between 2pm and 4pm, Butler broke into a property on **Ridings Way in Cublington** and stole a quantity of cash and jewellery.

Butler was arrested the following day and was charged on 22 September 2023. Investigating officer Detective Constable Emily King, part of the Priority Crime Team, based at Aylesbury police station, said: "Burglary is an offence which we take extremely seriously and will always investigate thoroughly.

'Local LibDems accused of scaremongering in Wing and Wingrave footpath dispute' by publishing a leaflet with 'inaccurate' claims about closing footpaths hoping to gain more votes.

Liberal Democrats have been ordered to retract its flyer which claims popular walkways in Wing and Wingrave, used by walkers for more than 20 years, could be closed.

Hygiene Rating of 0 slapped on Aylesbury shop.

An Asian grocery shop, 'Jaffna' in Cambridge Street has been given the lowest hygiene rating possible after an unannounced inspection.



Hygiene inspectors have given

Jaffna Stores an overall hygiene rating of 0, signifying urgent improvement following an inspection on November 24, 2023. The inspection indicated the hygienic handling of food, potentially including preparation, cooking, reheating, cooling, and storage, is in need of improvement. Moreover, the cleanliness and condition of the facilities and building, handwashing facilities and pest control measures need major improvement.

Al Kebabish Takeaway scores 1

According to the Food Standards Agency website, Al Kebabish, also of Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, was given a 1 out of 5 score by a Council Official during an unannounced visit.



Major improvement is needed, according to the report, when it

comes to the vendor's management of food safety.

These ratings of 0 -5 allow consumers to make an informed decision when selecting dining establishments, thus upholding public health interests.

Pond Crash Wingrave. A car went into the railings early 1st January. A resident was woken by the blue emergency lights of the police car at about 6am. The driver was taken away by the police. When she woke up again at 8am, the car had already been moved. I didn't see it happen, but some of my neighbours were outside talking to the police.

Girl followed Long Marsden.

January 2nd. A young girl walking her dog into the park in Long Marsden was followed twice by a male. He was spooked the second time by a woman who is reported to be the girl's mother.

The man was reported to be in his 50s with a black puffer jacket and jeans with black hair. The police have been informed.

2023 Chronicle Review

News Items covered in the Chronicle during 2023

In January The Wild Raven Farm Shop, Berton, closed having been open little over a year.

The Swan Pub Whitchurch was saved from permanent closure.

In February two explosions were heard in the Aston Abbots causing residents concern. Both turned out to be tires from juggernauts exploding in Wing and Aston Abbots simultaneously.

March saw an attempted burglary on Wingrave Road Aston Abbots. The failed 2 were scared off by the house owner and got away in a grey Audi 3.

Drivers of 44 ton trucks still chancing their luck through the village but quick direct action reduced them significantly.

April. We entered Best Kept Village for the third time in recent years.

The Audi 3 turned up again. This time to burgle houses in Wingrave. Again failed.

In May, another accident in Cublington Road left a sports car breach in a dip for weeks.

Aston Abbots Celebrated the King's Coronation On The Green. (See page 2)

In June / July The Queens Head Wing had residents fuming about developers plans for the pub they say was a going concern.

In July Aston Abbots Josie Knight won Gold at the Cycling World Championship in Glasgow.

The Village Fete was a complete washout but that didn't stop the village and outside supporters from making it the usual success. *The Chronicle is so indebted to the Fete Committee for its funding contribution.*

August/September Featured a campaign to save our Bus Services. Colin Higgs does a great job defending our services.

We lost Christine Scott, Brian Stockdale and Dennis Woodford.

Kate Waite celebrated her 101 birthday.

October celebrates the Certificated Location (CL) National Award to the Abbots View Alpaca Farm.

Dog Poo becomes a problem throughout the village.

In November we lost Anita Parker. The Village plan Exhibition took place.

In December came the usual Christmas celebrations starting with the Christmas Quiz Night, Christingle service and Carols outside the 5 Elms.

Aston Abbotts January Diary

Event	Details
Yoga & Meditation class	Tuesdays 6 to 7pm. Village Hall
Fish & Chip Van Visits	Wednesdays around 8.15pm. Saturdays Approx 1.15pm. Various areas.
Morning Coffee shop	Thursdays 10-11.30 Village hall
Whist Club Colin Higgs 681343	Thursday 4th & 18th. 7.30pm. Village Hall

As per demand



Village Hall Saturday 16th March 7.30pm

Reservation payments in advance please

07544227991

Bring your own booze - Snacks on tables

£4 per person to include interval game

A cheap but quality night out

Your Emails & Posts

Ed.

I'm pleased to report that all the dwarf daffodils have now been distributed. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to plant them. I'm looking forward to seeing these little pops of colour in the Spring.

Thank you also to the fete for raising the money that funded the bulbs. I won't be asking for any funds next year but I've received lots of suggestions for other projects including summer bulbs and permanent (larger) plant pots.

If you would like to pursue any of these please make sure you attend the Annual Parish (Village) Meeting to put forward your case.

The meeting is usually in late spring but will be well publicised on the Postie and in The Chronicle.

Thanks again. **Deirdre Whyte**

Dear Ed,

Please remind readers that 'Bus Trips out' resume on Friday 22nd March

Colin.

Dear Editor,

Following Anita's funeral at St James Church on December 4th, I would like to thank everyone

involved for a most beautiful, memorable service and committal.

I would also like to thank her many friends in the village for their kindness shown during her battle with MND and for their cards, messages and moving tributes after her passing. It is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten. Bless you all.

Ian Smith (Partner)

Ed,

FABRIC/REPAIRS TEAM NEEDED FOR ST JAMES'S CHURCH.

Not a churchgoer but value the building and its contribution to village life? Have building skills or are familiar with building projects and maintenance? Please read on...

The church has been very fortunate to date in having people "hands on" to deal with the physical upkeep of the church building, most recently Andy Bystra. We really need some more help now, perhaps a group of two or three fairly knowledgeable villagers? No need to be churchgoers, just need to value the building and want to help keep it in good order. We have just had our five-year inspection and have a list of works to be done over the next few years – so it would be really good to have someone to help assess priorities, get quotes and talk to tradespeople.

If you are interested please have a chat with Andy to find out more, or contact anyone on the PCC.

Church PCC

Val Smith would like to thank all those who came along to the Christmas Fair on Saturday. Thanks to their generosity £834 was raised in aid of The Alzheimer's Society.

A wonderful result and much appreciated.

Ed.

To those of you who came to our Christmas fair at MacIntyre School & Children's Homes, THANK YOU! It was wonderful to see so many of you - your support means so much to us. A special thank you to the children who came from Wingrave School - we always look forward to your visits and are proud of the connection our school has with yours [#CommunityEngagement](#) 😊

Kate

Ed.

BROWN BIN ORDERING ISSUES

Please note that if people are struggling to complete the new form for brown bin emptying requests or would rather not use the new digital process to get brown bins emptied, council customer services staff are on

hand and are trained to deal with such requests. The telephone number is 0300 131 6000 and there is a dedicated line for waste services.

If people are being presented with error messages the messages should be "screen-shotted" and Ashley and I can pass on the details to the right council officer.

Diana Blamires.

diana.blamires@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Hi Pete

A Happy New Year. We have 3 dates for talks which might be of interest to the folk of Aston Abbotts,

Friday 26 January 8pm (to follow our AGM at 7.15 pm) Talk - Ford End Watermill

**Friday 23 February 7.30 pm
Talk – John Hamden MP – Rebel or Patriot?**

**Friday 22 March 7.30 pm
Talk – Agricultural Labourers ie 'Ag Labs'**

Held in the Wingrave Community Centre, £4 on the door for visitors and the bar will be open.

info@wingrave'rowsham'heritage.org.uk

Linda Hooton

Secretary, Wingrave with Rowsham Heritage Association

New Year Period bin collection dates

See the below table for revised collection dates over the Christmas period.

<i>Normal day</i>	<i>Revised day</i>
<i>Wednesday 3 January</i>	<i>Friday 5 January 2024</i>
<i>Wednesday 10 January</i>	<i>Thursday 11 January 2024</i>

Garden waste collections are suspended for 6 weeks between Monday 11 December 2023 and Sunday 21 January 2024 (inclusive).

Collections will resume from Wednesday 24th January 2024.

Planned collections may be subject to change due to adverse weather conditions.

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
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The top 5 most haunted pubs in South Buckinghamshire

Highwaymen and ghostly fiddle-players: Buckinghamshire's most haunted pubs You'll find much more than just alcoholic spirits in our round-up of Buckinghamshire's most haunted boozers.

We've taken a look at the histories of some of Buckinghamshire's oldest pubs to give you a run-down of the creepiest spots to grab a pint at this weekend.

5. The Crown Inn, Amersham

This 16th-century coaching inn is the place of residence for not one, not two but five ghosts, according to HauntedRooms, one of whom resembles an old Victorian housekeeper who “tucks guests into bed, then torments them through the night”. Charming!



4. The Crooked Billet, Marlow



This pub, originally two 16-century cottages which became a cider house in the mid-1800s, is, according to ParanormalDatabase, haunted by the ghost of a highwayman who was hanged from a nearby oak tree. Don't let the beautiful flower garden at The Crooked Billet deceive you – there's plenty of creepiness to be found there too.

3. The Kings Head, Aylesbury



This Grade-II listed building also dates back to the 15th century – and is reportedly home to a chair once sat on by the leader of the Parliamentarians Oliver Cromwell. That's not all, either, with a Grey Lady who is thought to have fallen

down a staircase at the pub during the 18th century often spotted at the base of the establishment's steps. Creepy!

2. The White Hart, Chalfont St Peter



The landlady of the Grade-II listed White Hart pub previously told the Free Press that her partner had “heard someone walking past him when there was no one there” and described spooky incidents of glasses smashing for “no apparent reason”. A former landlord can also reportedly be heard playing a ghostly fiddle to see people out of the free house. Whoever said ghosts can't be hospitable too?

1. The Royal Standard, Beaconsfield



This pub claims to be the oldest in England, dating back to the 1200s with a traditional beamed interior to prove it. According to the website HauntedRooms, Royalists were beheaded by Parliamentarians during the English Civil War outside the boozier and the upstairs rooms were used by King Charles II to discreetly meet and woo lovers. Plenty of scope for hauntings there!



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***A convert To Panto.
Well, If Aylesbury
Waterside has
anything to do with it.***

***Snow White and the Seven
Dwarfs reviewed by Pete Lucas.***

My Bar Humbug at Christmas is the Pantomime season. I used to avoid such things until last night. We were wined and dined at the wonderful Aylesbury Waterside Theatre's Gala night for 'Snow White and the seven dwarfs',

starring, Eastenders, James Bye, (Prince Frederick), BBC Radio's Andy Collins, (Muddles), Rhiannon Chesterman, (Snow White) and the usual outrageous Drag, Leon Craig, (Dame Dilly Donut).

After the audience was welcomed using so many PC 'tongue in cheek' pronouns, I was ready for my interval drink!

Broadly following the famous tale, the cast of grown up small and tall people plus a team of young children displayed spectacular song and dance.

Along with young and grown-up comedy, innuendos and stage acting ability, captivated a packed lively interactive audience. It was a Blinder!



Lindsey Gardiner, (The wicked Queen Grimelda), should have received after show counselling following the Boos every time she appeared.

The small people with their alternate quirky names did not disappoint playing victim to they're size.

The children from, All Stars Academy and Castielli School of Dance, as the magical animals, sang and danced smiling all the way through like true professionals, were a delight and a highlight for me.

Being the big name in the show, James Bye, The Prince, did not have a great singing voice which accounts for him being an actor. His cleverly timed stumbling pranks raised the expected laughs.

Muddles, the hard working jester did just that. Andy Collins, no spring chicken anymore, ran around the whole theatre trying to catch toilet rolls and dodge the water cannons. (See the show). The sweat dripping from poor muddles was evident by the end.

The obligatory drag queen, Dame Dilly Donut was another hard worker, changing into more outrageous costumes before belting out her songs received well deserved applause.

And the beautiful Snow White was played, not by a mild softly spoken melancholy singing voice but by somewhat assertive character whom could belt out a song as well as any other vocal acrobatic diva.

Backed by a small but top orchestra and Directed by the Brilliant Chris Nelson and his team, this year's Christmas Pantomime at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre is a must see, to get you into the magic side of Christmas.

In fact, tickets to this Panto would make a great Christmas present.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs plays until 3rd January 2024.

DID YOU KNOW the 1st Earl of Carnarvon was Sir Robert Dormer of Wing?



Known as a wild and impetuous youth, Dormer was resolutely Catholic in an age when this was heavily persecuted by the Protestant Church.

Born in 1610, Dormer became a ward of the royal family when he was 6 years old. Born into wealth, he became one of the richest men in England after marrying Anna Herbert, daughter of another wealthy family in 1625. When the Civil War broke out in 1642 he sided with King Charles I and against expectations quickly gained a reputation as an energetic and talented soldier. Unfortunately, his military career ended violently in 1643 when he was killed at the Battle of Newbury

by a Parliamentarian cavalryman.

His mortally wounded body was found by his men and he was asked if he had any final requests of the king, to which he allegedly replied, "No. In an hour like this I have no prayer but for the King of Heaven."

Robert Dormer was buried at Ascot House just outside Wing.

He was succeeded by his son Charles, who died in 1709. The Earldom of Carnarvon ended there.



"How do you feel about me going to my sister's for two weeks?"

Aylesbury Remembered

There are certain parts of Aylesbury's town centre that have largely escaped redevelopment and have retained their charm.



This corner of Market Square, pictured here in the 1930s, is one of them. The Town Hall arches were built in 1864 after the old White Hart Hotel was demolished.

At least in those days the Victorians built ornate and imposing buildings that fitted in quite well with their surroundings.

Barclays Bank is seen on the left covered in wall creepers. The building is called Bedford House and was originally a private house with extensive gardens at the rear. It contained two tennis courts, a pleasure ground, kitchen garden and other outbuildings.

The house was sold to Barclays Bank in 1921 for £5,700.



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 with an uncertain future. Looking down the very bottom of the street we can see the chimney of Hazell, Watson & Viney's printing works.

That part of the factory was demolished in the 1980s.

It's said that Aylesbury was a great market town back then. Ed!

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In your 50s, 60s or more? Take a look at impressive savings as advised by the 'Restless' Site

As you enter your 50s and 60s, you'll be able to take advantage of a whole range of discounts on various services. While more of these are aimed at over-60s than over-50s, it's still worth knowing what's out there to look forward to.

Here, we've compiled a list of some of the best discounts and concessions in areas such as food and leisure, travel, health and fitness, and more.

Shoppers over 60 can receive a 10% discount at Iceland every Tuesday with no minimum spend, provided they can show proof of age.

Plenty of restaurants and pub chains offer discounts to people aged 60 and above. For example, some Greene King pubs offer a 'Seniors menu' offering discounts on meals or a 'Star Seniors Loyalty Scheme' where you'll receive larger discounts for frequent visits. Not all pubs will offer this however, so check with your local one.

Many museums, theatres, cinemas and art galleries across the country offer concession prices for over-60s for general entry or exhibition tickets. These include the Beamish Open Air Museum and the Tate Modern.

Most major cinemas offer discounted ticket prices for over-60s too. Empire's Seniors programme and Odeon's Silver Cinema offer exclusive screenings to people in this age group, with free tea or coffee beforehand. Memberships with Picturehouse are also discounted for those over 60.

Most major UK football clubs offer considerable discounts on season tickets for over-60s. Check your team's website to see whether they offer a seniors discount.

If you are 60 or over and have held a National Trust membership for at least the last three consecutive years, you will be eligible for a senior discount of 25%. These come to £63.00 a year (normally £84.00), or £104.40 for a joint membership (normally £139.20). Be aware that this switch doesn't happen automatically when you turn 60, and you'll have to call and let them know that you want the senior membership instead.

English Heritage also offers a senior membership programme for people over 65, granting access to more than 400 historic sites across the UK for a discounted price. It's £63 per year (rather than the usual £69), £108 per year for a joint membership if only one of you is over 65, or £96 per year if both of you are over 65. Membership also includes free entry for up to six children.

The Royal Horticultural Society offers a discounted lifetime membership for people over 60, at a cost of £935 (rather than the usual £1,495) or £1,355 for a joint senior lifetime membership (rather than the usual £2,045). This grants unlimited free entry to all RHS gardens and over 200 partner gardens, special access and discounts on tickets to RHS shows, monthly magazines, personal gardening advice and more.

If you are over 60 and travel frequently by train then you may want to consider buying a Senior Railcard, which will save you a third on train fares for a year. This railcard costs £30 for one year and £70 for three years, and includes special offers on holidays and theatre tickets. According to the website, Senior Railcard users save about £76 per year on average.

That's if the %*@@*^%“ are running! Ed!

If you prefer to travel by coach then you might want to think about a National Express Senior Coachcard at a cost of £15 a year (plus £3 postage). This will save you a third of the price of any standard and fully flexible fares (whether peak or off-peak), guarantee £15 day-return tickets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

In England, you will be eligible for an Older Person's Bus Pass, which entitles you to free bus travel, when you reach the state pension age, regardless of your gender. If you're not sure exactly when you'll reach state pension age, then you can find out with the GOV.uk calculator.

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, you will be eligible for the equivalent bus pass as soon as you turn 60. ***Yes, I know what you're thinking! Ed!***

If you are over 60 and planning an adventure around Europe then you can purchase a Senior Interrail Pass at 10% off the standard price, which covers both 1st and 2nd class trips.

If you prefer to travel by plane, then several airlines offer discounts to people over 60, so it's always worth double-checking before you book.

If you are over 50 you can get the flu vaccine for free from your GP surgery, pharmacies that offer the service, or by appointment at the hospital. Find out more on the NHS website.

Anyone aged over 60 who holds a Boots Advantage Card can earn eight points per £1 spent, as opposed to the usual four when buying Boots products as well as gaining access to selected exclusive deals.

Specsavers offer 20% off any pair of glasses over £69 for people over the age of 60.

Your local gym or leisure centre may offer a senior discount or special classes.

Many local councils offer free handyman services to people over 60 for small repairs and installing basic home security. These will vary according to where you live, but it's always worth looking into. People over 60 on low incomes are also eligible for Age UK's handyman scheme, which includes free or discounted repairs, smoke alarms, lock installation and other minor services.

If you or someone in your household was born on or before 25 September 1957, then you might be eligible for the government's

Winter Fuel Payment to help you pay your heating bills in the winter. This is typically between £100 and £300.

Some companies, such as E.ON, offer free or discounted prices on home insulation and boiler installation if you receive the State Pension Credit or are on a low income. You will normally be eligible for this even if the company you apply with is not your usual energy supplier.

If you share your home with a pet, trips to the vet can be very expensive, but some practices offer discounts for over-60s. It never hurts to ask! Dogs Trust offers 50% off on membership for over-60s too, for an overall cost of only £12.50 a year. This includes a professional 24-hour advice service and public liability insurance for your dog, among other benefits.

Some of the savings you'll make may seem insignificant, but they can add up very quickly. The most important thing to remember is that it never hurts to ask if you're entitled to a discount, as sometimes it's not always obvious that concessions are available.

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Events in January Past

24 historic events that happened in January

1st January, 1502

Portuguese explorers landed at Guanabara Bay on the South American coast. Believing the bay was the mouth of a river rather than the sea, the explorers named the area Rio de Janeiro – meaning ‘River of January’.

1st January, 1863

As America approached its third year of civil war, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

This declared that all people held as slaves within rebellious American states were now ‘free’.

1st January, 2002

The Euro first entered circulation. Euro banknotes and coins were introduced in 12 different countries.

This was the world’s largest monetary changeover ever. Some of the currencies replaced by the euro included the Austrian schilling, French franc, Greek drachma, and Italian lira.

3rd January, 1922



English explorer Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings, near Luxor in Egypt.

Tutankhamun ruled Egypt as Pharaoh for ten years until his death at age 19, around 1324 BC.

6th January, 1066

Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex, was elected by the Witan (the assembly of noblemen who stood as council to Anglo-Saxon kings) to be the next King of England.

Famously, Godwinson would die at the Battle of Hastings later that year when fighting William the Conqueror.

8th January, 793 AD

Danish Vikings attacked Lindisfarne Island off the Northeast coast of England. Destroying the famous church of St. Cuthbert, the attack sent a shockwave throughout Europe.

Despite the raid, a Christian community survived at Lindisfarne and recorded the event on the famous ‘Domesday Stone’.

10th January, 1918

The House of Lords approved the Representation of the People Bill which gave women over 30 and all men over 21 the right to vote.

It wasn’t until the Equal Franchise Act of 1928 that all women over 21 were able to vote and women achieved the same voting rights as men.

11th January, 1569

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the first ever state lottery was held in England. Tickets could be purchased at the West Door of St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

Working to raise funds for several public works projects, Queen Elizabeth was given the choice between levying a new tax and holding the first state lottery. The Queen decided to hold a lottery.

13th January, 1893

A new political party was born in Britain after James Keir Hardie united socialists under the title of the Labour Representation Committee.

15th January, 1559



Elizabeth I was crowned Queen of England at the age of 25. Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who was beheaded in 1536.

She went on to reign for 45 years in what has been remembered as a 'golden age' of English history.

15th January, 2001

While working to produce Nupedia (an online encyclopaedia written by

scholars), Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger also launched a second free encyclopaedia called Wikipedia that anyone was able to contribute to.

While Wikipedia initially didn't attract much attention, today around 545 new articles are published each day.

16th January, 1986

On what would've been his 57th birthday, a bronze bust of Martin Luther King Junior was revealed in America's Capitol Rotunda in Washington. It was the first statue of an African American to appear in the building.

Four days later on 20th January, the country held the first national Martin Luther King Junior holiday.

18th January, 1486

After 30 years of civil war in a conflict known as the Wars of the Roses, the Royal Houses of York and Lancaster were united by the marriage of Henry VII to the eldest daughter of Edward IV, Elizabeth of York.

The couple had a happy marriage and produced seven children together (including the future King Henry VIII) before Elizabeth's death in 1503.

20th January, 1265

England's first ever Parliament met at Westminster Hall in London under the temporary rule of Simon de Montfort (previously the Earl of Leicester). It was the first time that representatives from towns and villages across the country met in one chamber.

De Montfort had led the rebellion against King Henry III during the Second Barons War. He became ruler of

England through military dictatorship for less than a year.

20th January, 2009

Barack Obama became the 44th President of the United States.

Obama was the first African-American to hold the office, leading his country until 20th January 2017, when Donald Trump was elected.

21st January, 1846

After founding the newspaper himself, Charles Dickens published the first edition of The Daily News in London. The Daily News was considered a radical rival to the right-wing Morning Chronicle.

The paper didn't initially find commercial success, and after editing 17 issues himself, Dickens handed editorship over to his friend John Forster, who had more journalistic experience.

22nd January, 1879

Commanded by Ntshingwayo kaMahole Khoza and Mavumengwana kaNdlela Ntuli, around 20,000 Zulu warriors attacked and massacred 2,000 British forces at Isandhlwana in Natal Province, South Africa.

British losses included around 800 army troops and 500 African auxiliary troops. The Battle of Isandhlwana was one of the first significant battles of the Anglo-Zulu war.

22nd January, 1970

The first Boeing 747 Jumbo jet carrying 324 fare-paying passengers returns to London Heathrow Airport after

completing its first transatlantic flight from New York.

24th January, 1965



Renowned wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill died at the age of 90. Buried at Westminster Hall in London, Churchill became the first non-royal to receive a state funeral since William Gladstone in 1898.

Churchill resigned as Prime Minister in 1955, but didn't retire from politics itself until 1964.

26th January, 1788

Captain Arthur Phillip guided a fleet of 11 British ships carrying convicts to the colony of New South Wales – founding Australia.

Australia was originally planned to be a penal colony (a place to exile prisoners and convicts), but this only continued until 1868.

27th January, 1926

Scottish inventor, electrical engineer, and innovator John Logie Baird demonstrated his new machine, the world's first live working television system, to the Royal Institution in London.

28th January, 1807

Demonstrated in Pall Mall, London became the first city in the world to be lit by gas lights. Gaslights cost around 75% less than oil lamps and candles.

By 1859, gas lighting was found all over Britain and around one thousand gas stations had been set up to meet the demand for the new fuel.

29th January, 1596

English explorer, sea captain, politician, and slave trader of the Elizabethan era, Sir Francis Drake, was buried at sea.

Having been sent to South America by Queen Elizabeth I in 1577, Drake returned home via the Pacific Ocean and became the first Englishman to travel all the way around the world.

30th January, 1649



Following the English Civil War, England's King Charles I was beheaded at Whitehall after the courts deemed him to be a "tyrant, traitor, murderer, and enemy of the people".

After Charles I's execution, the monarchy was temporarily abolished and Oliver Cromwell assumed control as Lord Protector of the new English Commonwealth.



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The So Called Witch of Wingrave

This comes from Highways & Byways of Buckinghamshire, and shows not all witch accusations were accepted. This one seems particularly lame, from the village of Wingrave:



William Wooley, who was vicar here for 1753 to 1783, was a great witch-hunter in years when the belief in witchcraft was happily dying out. It is related that during his incumbency Susannah Hannokes, an inoffensive old woman, was accused by one of her neighbours of bewitching her

spinning-wheel so that the owner could not make it go round.

This the accuser and her husband insisted upon attesting on oath before a magistrate. The accused was conducted to the church, stripped of her clothes, even to her shift, and was weighed on a pair of scales, against the Church Bible; but to the great mortification of her accusers, she passed the ordeal triumphantly, outweighed the Bible, and was thereupon acquitted of the charge against her.

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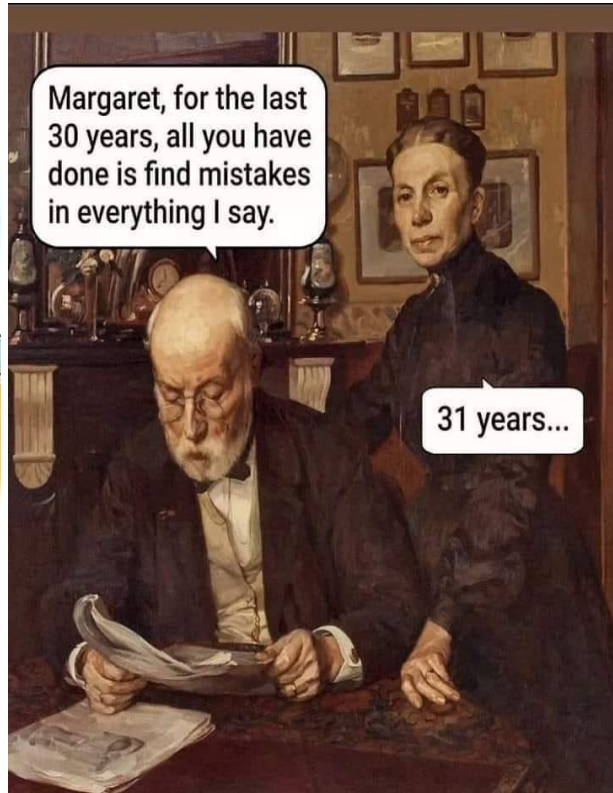
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Happy New Year. Will you mean it?

Well, here we are (another!) New Year. When I was a child I always felt New Year's Day to be a bit of let down – by then all the fun was over. Of course, when I was a child, I thought like a child and I reasoned like a child, but now I'm grown up, hopefully my thoughts are more ordered. So, what might we say about the "New Year"?

No doubt we will have said to others, perhaps many times over, "have a Happy New Year"; we say it quite readily even to people we don't really know. In the ancient worlds of which the Hebrew Old Testament and the more multicultural New Testament were both part of, words denoted action. That meant you only said something if you intended to follow it through. Yet how many of us actually intend to ensure someone else's new year is happy? Family apart, I'm guessing not really.

It is worth reflecting on this because the Christian gospel makes it very clear that the Almighty does follow through on what He said he would do; which is why John's gospel has at its

beginning the stirring phrase "The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us, full of grace and truth". Word denoting action meaning Jesus coming among us and if we've been anywhere near a church over Christmas we will have heard that passage read. I especially like the notably accurate translation which says that Jesus, the Living Word, encamped among us; meaning Jesus moved about.

Everything Jesus said and did tells us of God and His loving purposes for us. His ministry was, is, one of encounter and engagement following through on the great promise of the Old Testament that God does not forget us.

So, as we begin 2024, please don't pack Jesus away with the decorations and the tree; allow Him to grow up and move amongst us.

With every blessing,
Rev'd Howard Robson.

100 Club Draw December

1st prize, £50 – Brigitte Gutierrez

2nd prize, £10 – Jane Baylis

Church Matters

January

ANITA PARKER

There was a packed church of some 155 family and friends who attended the funeral and celebration of Anita Parker's life on Monday 21st November. A beautiful service, led by the Revd Howard Robson, and fitting farewell to a much loved friend and neighbour. Our sympathy goes out to her partner of 17 years, Ian Smith, and her son Piers and the rest of her family. The family have made a very generous donation to the church in her memory.

COMING UP There is no service here on 7 January but all are welcome to the benefice-wide service at 11am in Wing.

The next All Ages service is **Sunday 21 January at 10am**. Come along to breakfast at 9.30am in the village hall first.

FABRIC/REPAIRS TEAM NEEDED FOR ST JAMES'S CHURCH. Not a churchgoer but value the building and its contribution to village life? Have a building skill or familiar with building projects and maintenance? Please read on...

The church has been very fortunate to date in having people "hands on" to deal with the physical upkeep of the church building, most recently Andy Bystra. We really need some more help now, perhaps a group of

two or three fairly knowledgeable villagers? No need to be churchgoers, just need to value the building and want to help keep it in good order. We have just had our five-year inspection and have a list of works to be done over the next few years – so it would be really good to have someone to help assess priorities, get quotes and talk to tradespeople.

If you are interested please have a chat with Andy to find out more, or contact anyone on the PCC.

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.

Caroline Abel Smith, churchwarden
(The Old Vicarage, 01296 681001, cblas@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

St James' Services - January 24

7th	No Service	11am Wing
14th	10.30am	Parish Communion
21st	9.30am 10.00am	Breakfast in village hall All Ages service
28th	10.30	Parish Communion

Church Duties November

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
5/6	Alex/Colin	Donated
12/13	Ann/Caroline Lane	Donated
19/20	Annie/ Tatiana	TBA
2/3 Feb	Colin/David	TBA



ALLOTMENT DIARY

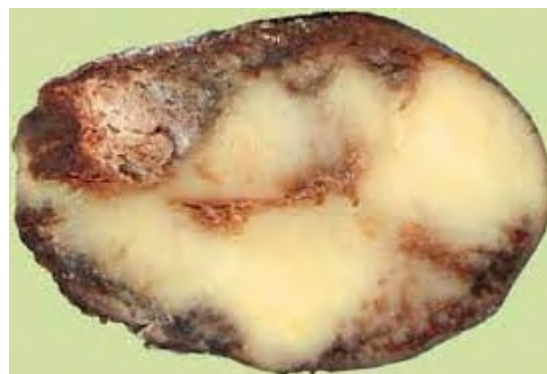
At the moment, this piece could more accurately be called the “Not on the Allotment Diary”. Because of the cold spell in November, followed by the very rainy weather in December, I have hardly set foot on my allotment for a couple of months.

In November’s Allotment Diary, I reported that a whole row of a variety of potato called Picasso, which I had dug up, had been affected by late-season potato blight; but that the adjoining row of the same variety was unaffected, as were the next rows of a variety called Cara.

I dug up the final row of Cara potatoes in mid-November, and stored them in my shed. It was an excellent crop: lots of tubers, and many of them were very large. A week or so later, having discovered that a lengthy period of cold weather and frost was forecast, I decided I had better do something to make sure the dustbin containing the potatoes was adequately covered by insulation, since if potatoes get attacked by frost, they quickly turn mushy and become unusable.

To my astonishment and dismay, I discovered that this final crop of Cara potatoes had gone the same

way as the Picasso potatoes I had dug up earlier, and were affected by blight – only this time every single potato was affected!



I checked the store of Cara potatoes I had dug up earlier, which were stored separately in the house, and found these were still unaffected (Thank Goodness)!

Fortunately, the remaining potatoes I have dug up and stored in a dustbin in a cupboard in my house - a new variety called Carolus - are unaffected, some weeks after being dug up. Another variety is stored in an earth clamp on my allotment, and I am keeping my fingers crossed that these potatoes are unaffected.

What has happened confirms my suspicion that the fungus which causes the blight easily spreads underground to other potato plants in the same row; but finds it more difficult to spread to potatoes in adjoining rows, because of the way that one earths up rows of potato plants.

Otherwise, I have little news from my allotment: I still have one and a half rows of potatoes left to dig up, (mainly potato plants that grew elsewhere on the allotment and were moved by me), some carrots, and a number of rows of leeks, which seem to be flourishing. In common with most of my fellow allotment-holders,

Finally, a news item that gave me, as an allotment-holder, a great deal of pleasure. The 12th Duke of Northumberland (estimated family fortune £445,000,000) has an estate at Syon Park in west London.



On this estate is a 3-acre site which has been used as allotments since 1917, when it was leased by the then Duke to the local council to be used as allotments, for the benefit of wounded soldiers, returning from the War. The current Duke wanted to rip up the 37 plots, and build 80 luxury flats

on the site. After an 8-year battle, involving two public enquiries, the planning inspectorate has rejected an appeal by the Duke, on the grounds that the development would harm protected open space and heritage assets, and restrict allotment provision, when demand in the area was high. Jolly good, say I!

Peter Shorrock





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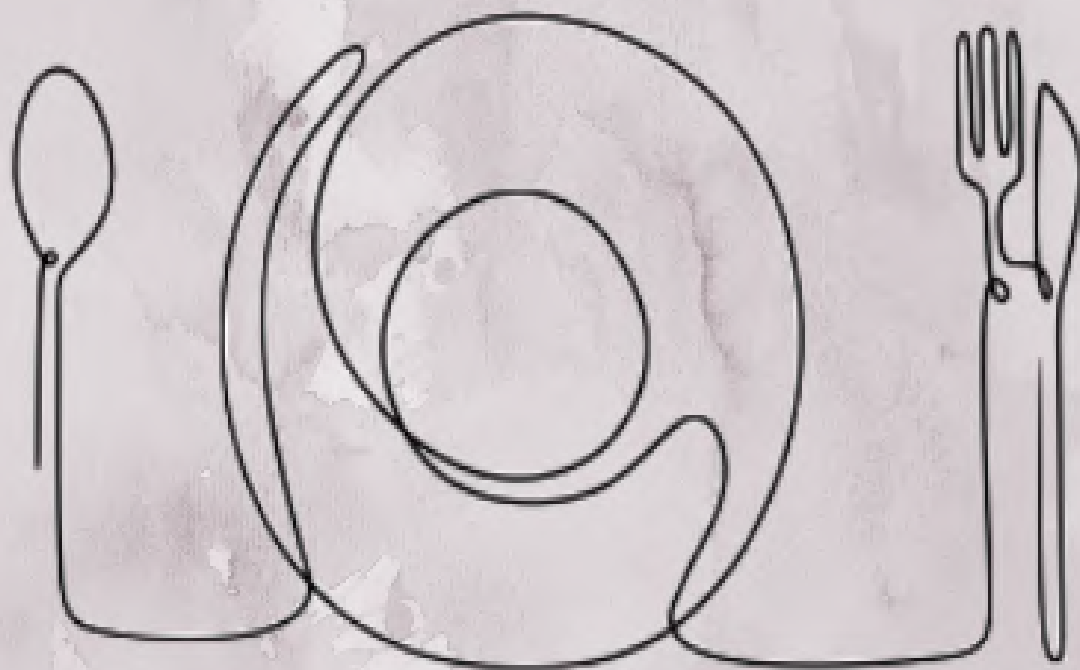


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WINGRAVE & ROWSHAM DIARY JANUARY 2024

Wed 3 1000 WI: Tales from Woburn Auction Room, inc 'Guess The Value' Methodist Church

Thu 4 School term begins

Fri 5 2000 Wingrave Ramblers' AGM Community Centre

Sun 7 1400 Swingrave dance Community Centre

Mon 8 1500 Friendship Group Baldway House, Leighton Rd

Fri 12 1930 Family Bingo Community Centre

Sat 13 0845 Men's breakfast talk: USA: State of the Union via Zoom

Fri 19 1800 Thai Night social evening Community Centre

Wed 24 1200 Over 60s lunch club Wingrave Park

Fri 26 1930 WwRHA AGM & talk: Ford End Watermill Community Centre

Sat 27 1930 Twinning Quiz Community Centre



Emails Continued

Lovely Christingle service - the joys of village life. A small church full of big hearts and big singing voices. Thank you Aston Abbots ♡

Kate Boyer



What a great way to start Christmas!!! Carol's at the Five Elms; orchestrated by the Prof. and a choir of local 'lads and lasses.

Great music, good friends and delightful food and 'ale'. Well done to all concerned; wouldn't have missed it for anything! **Andy Bystra**





Until Next time.....

