

The Chronicle

February 2024 Issue 445

Aston Abbots St James in the morning. (Thanks Neil)



Wingrave St Peter & St Paul church in the evening.



As per demand, Aston Abbotts



Village Hall Saturday 16th March 7.30pm

Table Reservations in advance please

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Bring your own booze - Snacks on tables.

£4 per person to include interval game

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News & Views

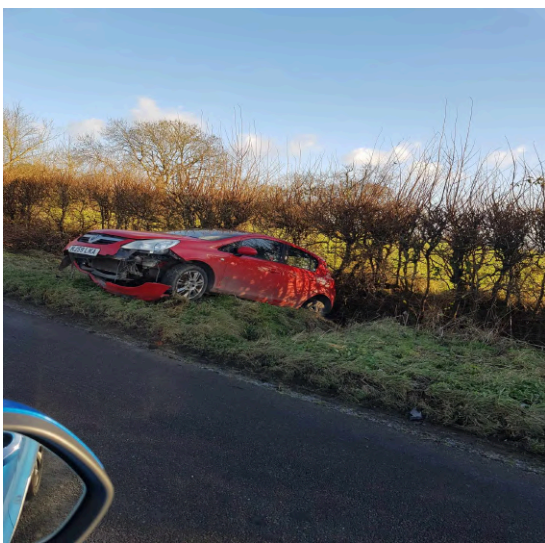
Campaign to rid villages of HGVs

A plan to get HGVs off country lanes has been proposed by Bucks Council.

Diana Blamires (Conservative Councillor for Aston Abbots) has joined the campaign and supported 'Anti Truck' signage at each end of the village.

We have done much by protesting to the truck companies to stop their drivers using Aston Abbots as a cut through. With the Councillor, the Parish Council and villagers working together we will improve the reality of reducing heavy trucks through our village.

Cars lost control on Weedon Road



Two cars lost control in icy conditions on 10th January just outside Aston Abbots. One

(pictured) in a ditch on Weedon Hill and left abandoned. The other, just past the gate on Lines Hill. It's believed no one was seriously hurt.

A vehicle was seized from Whitchurch after police discovered it was being driven by a male who had not yet passed his driving test.

A blue Land Rover is being held by Thames Valley Police. Further enquiries revealed that the driver had not insured the vehicle either.

Thames Valley Police says officers spotted the vehicle being driven suspiciously in Whitchurch on 17 January. This led officers to stop the vehicle, and apprehend the driver.



At this point officers discovered the vehicle was being driven

illegally. The vehicle was seized by officers yesterday

The driver has been charged and will be tried in court on suspicion of driving without a licence and insurance. Thames Valley Police also announced the car is being held at a police station with a “hefty” release fee. It will only be released to the driver once he can prove he is legally eligible to drive the car.

Parking and funeral price rises proposed by Bucks Council

A hike in parking charges, funeral costs and sports pitch hire fees have been proposed by Buckinghamshire Council.

The unitary authority has put forward the measures as part of its budget for 2024/2025, which will be finalised in February.

Charges generally align with inflation each year and help the council recover its costs and maintain services.

Hikes in on and off-street parking, and at council-run car parks are among the rises in this year’s budget.

For example, the council has proposed to increase on-street parking at many spots across

Aylesbury for the upcoming financial year, from £1.20 to £1.40.

The council is also proposing increases to fees and charges for cemeteries, cremations and memorial services.

If approved, an adult’s cremation would go from £790 to £890, a five-line inscription in the book of remembrance from £97.80 to £118 and an ashes scattering in the garden of remembrance – where cremation has taken place elsewhere – from £43.60 to £60.

Meanwhile, the cost of burial in an earthen grave plot (one or two full burials) would rise from £992 to £1,061, a plaque on a communal bench from £404.48 to £480 and a children’s butterfly plaque in a garden from £412.57 to £490.

For a full list of the council’s proposed fees and charges, see here:

<https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s69726/Appendix%20%20Schedule%20of%20Fees%20Charges%202024-25.pdf>

It gets me how funerals go up due to the cost of living! Ed!

Aston Abbotts February 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
Men's 6.30 Club (Andy Bystra 01296681690)	Saturdays 6.30pm
Whist Club (Colin Higgs 01296 681343)	Thursday 1st & 15th & 29th. 7.30pm. Village Hall
Bingo (Pam Dixon 01296 681626)	Thursday 8th 7.30pm. Village Hall
Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)	Tuesday 13th
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday 14th
St Valentine's Day	Wednesday 14th

Notes for March.

Due to March 15 being Good Friday, the March Bus Trip is rescheduled to Friday 23rd March, 09.00 bus to Leighton Buzzard. Contact Colin 01296 681343

Village Quiz Night Saturday March 16. Please arrange your teams and order your table in advance to avoid disappointment. Contact Pete 01296 681387 or 07544227991

Emails and Posts

Hi all, it might be nothing but a guy rang our doorbell today at about 1pm saying he was 'doing some tree work in the area' and he asked me if I wanted him to cut down/trim a tree in our front garden. I said no and he went on his way but I just got a gut feeling about him and I noticed that he was looking around the front of the house and I'm pretty sure he looked up to where our house alarm is before he walked away. He didn't appear to have a branded van or a logo on his clothing or anything. So just a heads up really!

Claire x

Hi all, if you have any concerns or a gut feeling about anyone knocking at your door - please report it to the police as well, via 101 or online, if they are up to no good, it helps build a picture with any info or video door cam footage. As a business owner who has experienced burglary and loss several times, your vigilance with these types of encounters are invaluable.

Jane Copping

For anyone who is with or thinking of joining ecom as their Internet

provider you might want to take into consideration the issues we have been experiencing for quite a while now which they are not willing to resolve as you can't contact anyone out of office hours or during the day after leaving numerous messages.

We have no heating or hot water as they have suspended the Internet connection because I have asked for someone to contact me regarding my issues.

John White Wingrave

If you are going to Central MK think about using the 100 Bus, hourly from the crossroads. It takes 37 minutes (not much more than driving) and drops you at The Point. £2 single fare, and no parking charges. I recommend it

Jan

FABRIC/REPAIRS TEAM STILL 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.

Caroline Abel Smith,
churchwarden (01296 681001,
cbjlas@talk21.com)

Caroline Lane, PCC secretary
(01296 681373,
carolinelane@btinternet.com)

PCC members: Lesley Clough, Ro Knight, Annie Pettie; Tatiana Butler and Francesca Bean (finance); Andy Bystra, consultant on fabric

Aston Abbots Parish Council January 2024

The Parish Council meets again on 6th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Happy New Year to all our residents.

At the first Parish Council meeting of 2024 our Unitary Councillors provided us with an update on the Buckinghamshire Councils proposed Budget cuts. These will include reduced opening hours at the Household Waste & Recycling centres, a reduction in the management of weed killing and siding out and an increase in Car Parking fees. Buckinghamshire Council is however confident that the proposed sale of council owned property (the Amersham offices and the Tower in Aylesbury) will certainly improve the situation.

Budget cuts aside, we have been told that the failed road surface along Lines Hill will be repaired at the end of January 2024.

Road and Pavement Repairs

The Parish Council continues to lobby hard for much needed repairs to the pavement alongside the bus stop on The Green and for our gullies to be jet blasted. We

are lobbying hard for a share of reduced resources but we remain hopeful that if we keep the dialogue going we will eventually see some results.

Gym Equipment Questionnaire & Playground Equipment

A huge thank you to those who did respond to our questions relating to the idea of investing in some adult gym equipment for the village. We received 15 replies of which only 50% were positive. Based on that result for now we will hold back on the idea. We will of course revisit this in the future if there is sufficient interest.

A few of the responses suggested that the investment was instead focused on playground equipment for the children of the village to enjoy. The Parish Council is currently obtaining proposals and quotations to replace and enhance the Playground Area. This is a mid-term project which will require careful budgeting and Fund sourcing. We will provide updates along the way and of course welcome your ideas and comments to clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk

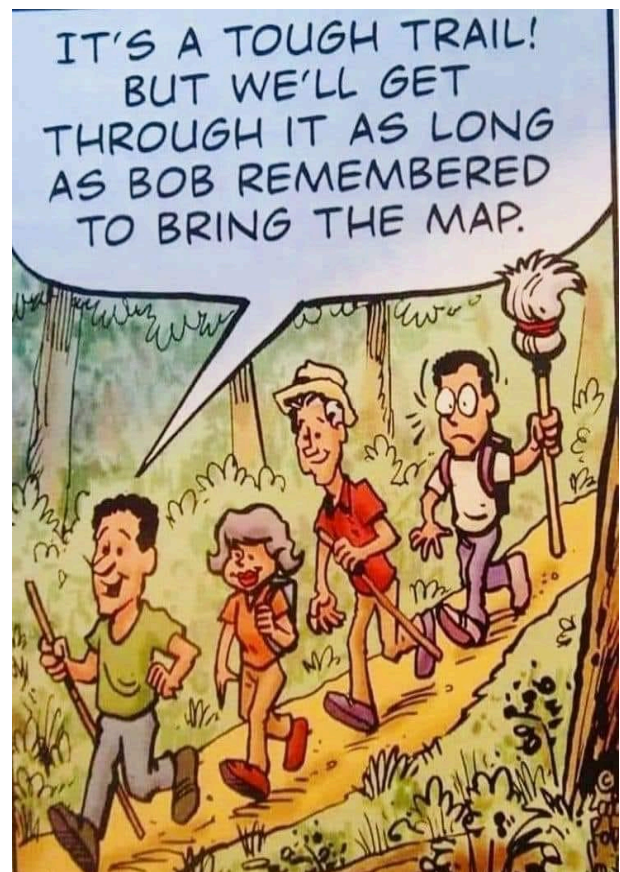
Councillor vacancy

We do still have a vacancy for a councillor to join the Parish Council – this is a great opportunity for you to have a say in how the village is maintained. We would love to hear from anyone who may be interested.

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

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

And if you would like to contact us please do so through the Clerk clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk





Why You need the Parish Council - and why the Parish Council needs You!

Within our community lies a cornerstone that often goes unnoticed but plays a vital role in acting on our behalf - the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and makes decisions on behalf of the residents of Aston Abbotts. It provides comments on planning applications and other proposals that may impact the parish.

The Parish Council is responsible for services and facilities in Aston Abbotts including the recreation ground, play area, street cleaning and lighting, bus shelters, etc.

Equally significant is the role the Parish Council plays as an intermediary with Bucks Council (BC) regarding services beyond its direct control, such as road and footpath maintenance.

The Parish Council engages directly with departments within BC pursuing issues relating to services provided by BC. Representatives of BC attend our Parish Council meetings at which unresolved issues are openly discussed.

A further role of the Parish Council is to identify and procure new

facilities that benefit the community. Recent procurements have included the aerial runway on the recreation ground, history boards on the green, and vehicle activated speed signs. Future projects include replacing the children's play area equipment.

Funded primarily through an annual precept (an additional council tax imposed on local taxpayers) the Parish Council assumes the vital responsibility of being the guardian of the finances, ensuring your money is well spent. As part of this duty, they continually seek additional funding for specific projects, primarily through grants or similar.

Above all, the Parish Council seeks to preserve our local heritage and advocate for the preservation of our natural resources.

So that's the "Why you need the Parish Council" -- now for the "Why the Parish Council needs you" ...

...the Parish Council is actively seeking a dedicated volunteer to fill a vacant position as a Councillor. This position has been vacant for some time and the existing councillors would welcome another pair of hands.

If you wish to play a part in Aston Abbotts' future, please apply. See next page for details.

Join Our Parish Council and Make a Difference!

Do you care about Aston Abbots and its community? Do you want to play a role in shaping its future?

Become a Parish Councillor

Our small friendly parish council is seeking a new parish councillor to join our team and contribute to the well-being of the parish.

Why Join?

- **Make an Impact:** Your ideas and decisions will directly influence local policies and projects.
- **Community Connection:** Connect with fellow residents and actively participate in local initiatives.
- **Be the Change:** Be part of positive change in our community and make a difference.



What's Involved?

- **Monthly Meetings:** Attend a 2-hour evening meeting approximately once a month to discuss and make decisions on local matters.
- **Flexibility:** Additional involvement is optional. You decide how much time and effort you want to contribute.
- **Fresh Perspectives:** Bring new ideas and perspectives to the table. Your voice matters!

Who Are We Looking For?

- **Diversity:** We welcome individuals of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Passion for Community:** If you care about our community's well-being, you're the person we're looking for!
- **No Experience Necessary:** You don't need prior experience – just enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute.

How to Apply: Please contact the clerk, Liz van Hullen, at clerk@astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk by the 1st March 2024

Find out more by visiting: <https://astonabbotts-pc.gov.uk/casual-vacancy/>

Join us in making a difference!

ASTON ABBOTTS

BOOK CLUB REVIEW

We finished the year with a lovely meal provided by Brigitte and Juan (who is not a member of our group but a very good cook)

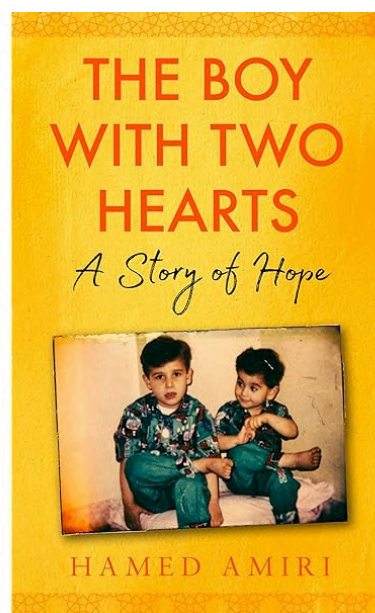
Our numbers have reduced this year due to the sad passing of Anita who was a member of our club from its beginning and always made interesting contributions to our discussions, we will all miss her.

We have not done too many reviews this year so here is a brief summary of what we read this year.

January **Still Life by Sarah Winman** This was a very popular book about the life of a young Londoner who tastes a different life briefly during WW11 in Italy. Returning to war ravished London he eventually has the chance to return to Italy where he makes a new life for himself. Definitely a feel- good book

February **The Boy with 2 Hearts by Hamed Amin** this was Anita's last choice of book. A true story about a family escaping Afghanistan and journeying across Europe to escape the Taliban and

find treatment for their son who has a complex heart condition.



March **Another Life by Jodie Chapman** A love story complicated by the fact that the woman has been brought up as a Jehovah Witness. Will love overcome the barriers of a strict upbringing and religious expectations?

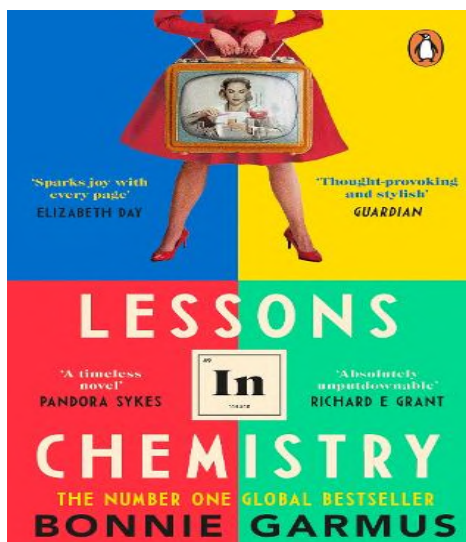
April **Grey Bees by Andrey Kurkov** A book set in the no man's land of the front lines in Ukraine (before the current war began) It tells the story of one of only 2 residents left in a small village. He decides to take his bees out of the village to find a good place for the summer. This is a quirky, funny and thought provoking read.

May **The Murder of Roger Ackroyd By Agatha Christie** need I say more. Classic Poirot.

June **The Narrow Road to the Deep North by Richard Flanagan.** Tells the story of a young Australian doctor who ends up the senior officer in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp building the Death Railway in Burma. Interesting and difficult to read at times. The author's father was a Japanese POW.

July **Mrs Harris Goes to Paris** by Paul Gallio. A short, easy and fun read.

August. **Lessons In Chemistry by Bonnis Garmus.** A very entertaining bestseller about a woman chemist who has to suffer prejudice in a male dominated world. She marries a fellow Chemist who is brilliant but sadly dies leaving her as a single parent. Losing her job she ends up on a daytime TV cooking course where she introduces science into the programme and becomes hugely popular.



September. **Mrs Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce** is another popular book. A completely bonkers tale of a staid unmarried lady who decides to go on an expedition to find the golden beetle of New Caledonia that her father showed her a picture of before he commits suicide. Funny and touching.

October. **Transcription by Kate Atkinson** Not her best book and rather long. Set mainly in WW2 and the 1980s. A young woman is recruited into M15 and finds herself transcribing recorded conversations between a British Spy posing as a 5th Columnist and his fellow conspirators. After the war she is approached again for another spy operation.

November. **Small Island by Andre Levy** the story of Jamaican immigrants to the UK after WW1!. Another popular book with lots of humour.

We look forward to more great books next year starting with Night Garden by Kirsten Hannah

Sally Palmer

The Village Book Club is full so if anyone is interested in starting another, please call Sally Palmer for advice. 01296 681152

Latest Edition of the Putnam family routes in Aston Abbotts & Salem Massachusetts

Major General Israel Putnam (1718-1790): The Man, Soldier, & Myth



For the descendants of the Salem Village John Putnam, it is common to relate ourselves to this famous ancestor who:

Was born in Salem Village into a large nuclear and extended family where his great grandfather, John, had settled in 1640; Moved to Pomfret, Connecticut as a young man looking to establish himself with a large farm because as the youngest son he was unlikely to get a large portion of his father Joseph's estate; Became known as a good militia officer in his adopted state and a very loyal British subject who fought in several of the colonial wars primarily in

the Canadian theater during the French & Indian War (also known as the Seven Years War) and also a brief deployment to fight the Spanish in Cuba; and Was primarily remembered for the roles in which the American Revolution.

Although Israel is my seventh great uncle, my paternal grandmother and father started telling stories about him to me at a very young age and he was a frequent topic at extended Putnam family reunions. My interest in Israel has continued throughout my life and has been augmented by more formal historical research done on him especially related to his military career. This article will share more of the stories passed down to his heirs and will provide a couple internet links at the conclusion of this article so readers can acquaint themselves more fully with other aspects of his life.

Most biographies do not dwell on his childhood and how it might have impacted his later life. Perhaps, two elements of his childhood environment played into his adult life. First, his father, Joseph, was a large landowner and was a community leader in Salem Village along with the many other extended Putnam kin so Israel would have seen how leaders led even though not in a military context.

Note: Joseph Putnam opposed the Salem Witchcraft trials so vehemently that legend suggests he kept his horse saddled so he could make a fast getaway if the Constable came looking

to arrest him. But that is a whole different story except that his mother made sure that Joseph inherited her wealth and that of Thomas Putnam and he married Elizabeth Porter from another upper-class Salem Village family.

Secondly, as the youngest son in a family of thirteen with only one younger sister, it is likely he learned how to navigate and survive in this environment as well as develop a “can do” mindset. When he married Hannah Pope, they elected to leave Salem Village to settle in the northeastern frontier town of Pomfret, Connecticut where they could purchase large acreage to establish a farm. In this era, farming was the major occupation for most families which required large families for labour and good practices to survive. The establishment of a farm would have taken a lot of work i.e. clearing land, building the homestead and farm buildings, enclosing pastures, etc. in an area that was either not occupied before by European farmers or was not densely populated yet. Wild animals posed a risk too, so this is my first story about Uncle Izzy or Old Put. Wolves roamed freely and attacked vulnerable farm animals. According to the story, there was a “she-wolf” in the vicinity of Pomfret that was killing primarily sheep but perhaps some cattle too. Despite many attempts to kill this predator, this animal continued to raise havoc on the Pomfret townspeople. Israel decided to take this problem into his own hands after discovering that this wolf had killed many of his sheep and goats. He organised a posse to track this animal to her den which covered many miles until they found the den. No dogs or

people wanted to go into the cave to eliminate the wolf so Israel volunteered to enter the cave. On his first foray, he took a torch into the cave and confirmed the existence of the world, hoping to lure it outside the den. When that did not work, he entered a second time with the torch and a loaded gun which he fired to kill the animal. Today, the place of this event is remembered as a small state park in Connecticut to which I have been several times starting when I was seven years old.

Like many of his contemporary militia, Israel was almost continually engaged from 1755-1763 with fighting in the forests of Northern New England and New York to defeat the French and Indian threat to English colonies as well as the Pontiac uprising and capture of Havana. During his tenure with fighting these battles, he was a member of the Robert Rogers Rangers, a noted colonial military group that specialised in a type of guerilla warfare. In addition, he knew many of the English regular officers including General Jeffrey Amherst, who considered him as one of the best colonial provisional officers. His involvement in these wars further enhanced his reputation and legend as an incident in 1758 near present day Glens Falls, New York will attest.

After the failure of General Abercrombie’s mission to defeat General Moncalm at Fort Ticonderoga, Israel was leading a single file column when they were ambushed by the French Native American allies. When Israel’s gun failed to fire, he was captured and taken to their camp where he was stripped and tied to a tree where the Native Americans planned to burn him alive. Israel had

two strokes of luck that day: the first fire was extinguished by an afternoon shower; and a French officer discovered his plight and set him free. After a lecture by the French officer, the Native Americans chased Israel who was able to elude them and make it back to the British camp through this largely uncharted American wilderness.



Another story from this time is the story of an arrogant British officer challenging him to a duel due to some slight the officer felt Israel had made about him. Israel refused to accept the duel but offered another challenge – to see how long each would sit by a lighted keg of gunpowder. The officer agreed and two chairs were set by the gunpowder in a tent and a fuse was lit. Unbeknownst to the officer, the keg was filled with onions which would not explode but he did not know this fact. As the fused neared the keg, the British officer jumped up and conceded the challenge of who was the bravest, at which time Israel informed him of the keg's contents. According to the story, this officer was jeered by his fellow officers for letting a "Yankee" outwit him; and Putnam was seen as a person who did not put up with petty issues which just added to his myth.

After leading a group of Connecticut militia to Havana in 1763, Israel returned to his farm in Connecticut where he became increasingly radicalised by the unfair British colonial taxes and joined the evolving Patriot cause that would lead to the American Revolutionary War. In the intervening years, he began to actively recruit and train his Connecticut neighbours into the militia in the event hostilities broke out, which we know they eventually did in Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts in April 1775. According to the story, Israel learned of this skirmish the day after it occurred; dropped his plough mid furrow; collected his local militia group; and headed to the Boston area. While he missed the opening battle, he was very involved with the Battle of Bunker Hill and the Siege of Boston for the next year. Once George Washington was selected as the General of the Continental Armies, Israel was appointed as a Major General representing the state of Connecticut. After the British evacuated Boston in March 1776, Israel was sent to the New York City area where the next major battle was expected.

As we know, the patriot army under the leadership of Washington, Putnam, and others suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Long Island. Starting in August 1776 and continuing to December, the Patriot forces lost a series of battles in the New York City area and needed to escape across New Jersey to prevent total defeat. Washington ordered Israel to secure the Hudson River north of present-day New York City which led to further defeats. In April 1777, Israel commanded the Connecticut Militia in the New York area whose mission was

to confine the British to New York City and to deny them their needed supplies in the surrounding countryside. In this mission, he was successful including defeating the British troops attempting a foraging resupply mission to the Danbury, Connecticut area. This military expedition led to another story. Obviously, he was a major target of the British troops who thought they had him cornered near Ridgefield, Connecticut. When Israel realised this vulnerability to capture, he spurred his horse and rode down a series of stairs on his force at a rapid speed and left his potential captors amazed that he could ride out of danger.



When the focus of the Revolutionary War headed south, Israel continued to make sure that the Hudson River north of New York City and the surrounding areas were secure against further British incursions. His military career ended in 1779 when he suffered a stroke which partially paralyzed him and he returned to his Connecticut farm to live the remainder of his life.

How has his reputation survived over the past almost 250 years both within the Putnam Family and in the United

States? As mentioned, he is remembered as a hero among his extended Putnam descendants and his story is continually being told. In his lifetime, many family members were named Israel recognizing his heroism, bravery, and patriotism. In addition, a town was named for him in Connecticut and nine United States counties have been named for him outside New England. In my adult years, I have learned that Israel was human too – despite his heroism, he did have faults and failures.

Regardless, he made the decision to participate in two military campaigns which influenced the history of his time: defeating the French on the North American continent; and assisting in the founding of the United States which still impacts us today. It is also likely that many of his virtues were learned from his Putnam ancestors who immigrated from Aston Abbots about 80 years before he was born. For these reasons, I continue to share his story with my sons and grandchildren just as my father and grandmother did so many years ago.

As mentioned at the outset of this article, here are a couple links to websites providing more details on this famous Putnam ancestor:

[Israel Putnam · George Washington's Mount Vernon](#)

[Israel Putnam - Wikipedia](#)

Let me know if you have questions at jeputnam@aol.com

With Six Nations about to begin, thanks to Neil Redding for this ditty.

Ah, look at all the rugby people
Ah, look at all the rugby people

Eleanor Rugby
Picks up the ball in the field where
the all blacks have been
Lives in a dream
Waits at the window
Wearing the shirt that she keeps in a
bar by the door
Who is it for?

All the rugby people
Where do they all come from?
All the rugby people
Where do they all belong?

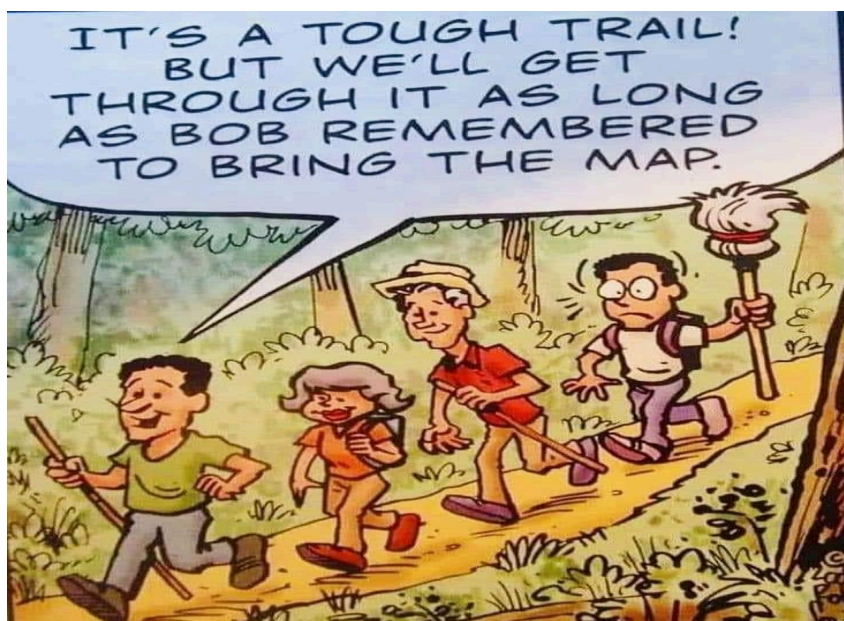
David Campese
Writing the words of a ranting that
no one will hear
No one comes near
Look at him working
Darning his socks in the night when
there's nobody there
Nobody cares?

All the rugby people
Where have they all come from?
All the rugby people
What is their anthem song?

Ah, look at all the rugby people
Ah, look at all the rugby people

Eleanor Rugby
Lived in the bar and was loved along
with the game
Everyone came
Teams play in a frenzy
Wiping the dirt from their hands as
they walk from the stage
It's good rugby they craved

All the rugby people (ah, look at all
the rugby people)
Where do they all come from?
All the rugby people (ah, look at all
the rugby people)
Where have they all now gone?



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E-Scooters

Under current legislation, the riding of **privately** owned e-scooters is illegal on roads, pavements, cycle ways and any other public area - this is defined under the road traffic act 1988. E-scooters are also covered by the same legislation as motor vehicles and therefore subject to the same requirements of MOT, tax, licensing and specific construction regulations. It is not currently possible to get insurance to ride privately owned E-scooters in public, meaning there is currently no way it can be legal.

Privately owned e-scooters can be legally used on private land provided the land owner has given permission.

As you are likely aware, in some areas of the UK there is a trial of government owned e-scooters, these e-scooters are legal to ride on roads and cycle paths, however you do still need a full provisional licence to ride these. In the Bucks area, one of the government owned E-scooters brands is 'Zipp' and you can find them in various different places across the towns, these can be ridden legally.

If you use an e-scooter illegally:

- ⊘ You could face a fine
- ⊘ You could get penalty points on your licence
- ⊘ The e-scooter could be seized

We understand that many people are not fully aware of the legislation surrounding e-scooters, so Thames Valley Police will be looking to educate people found on private scooters used anywhere other than private land. Persistent offenders are likely to receive the same punishment as a driver of a vehicle would for no insurance, which is 6 points on licence, a fine and the scooter seized.

Please see attached material and following links for more information:

[Powered transporters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Advice on e-scooter usage | Thames Valley Police](#)

[Zipp Mobility](#)



And now to Protect your Bikes

We all hope that the weather will improve as we move towards the spring months so please see below a few hints and tips on keeping your bicycle safe and secure when you go out and about.

Fit a good bike lock, such as one with a Sold Secure rating, and attach your bike to something secure Always lock your bicycle, even if you are leaving it for a couple of minutes

If you have quick-release wheels or parts that are easy to remove, lock them up as well or take them with you Have your bike's frame security-marked or etched Keep your bike in a secure garage or shed when at home Register your bike with schemes such as Immobilise If your bike has been stolen, report it to the police on 101 or use the online reporting tool.

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

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Useful Numbers

Service		Village Contacts		
Age UK Aylesbury	01296 431911	Chronicle Editor	Pete Lucas	07544227991
Anglian Water	0345 791 9155	Chronicle Advertising	John Whyte	07988001843
Baby Toddler Group		Chronicle Distribution	Sally Palmer/Jill Wenble	681152/681877
Buckinghamshire Council	01296395000	Parish Council Chair	Jane Prouting	681042
Citizens Advice Aylesbury	0808 278 7938	Councillor	Heather Langdon	688946
Cottesloe School	01296 688264	Councillor	Marisa Abel Smith	681411
NHS Direct	111	Councillor	Sally Palmer	681152
Police Emergency	999	Councillor	Richard Lakin	
Police Non Emergency	101	Councillor	Jane Plested	681740
Post Office & Shop Wingrave	01296 682964	Councillor	Trevor Hall	682078
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296 315000	County Councillor	Peter Cooper	
Ashcroft Surgery Wing	01296 688201	Councillor	Diana Balimers	07748937484
Whitchurch Surgery	01296 641203	Vicar	Rev' Howard Robson	01296 688593
Wing Surgery	01296 688949	Church Warden	Caroline Abel Smith	681001

Fish & Chip Van	07712624467	Church Secretary	Caroline Lane	681373
		PCC Members: Lesley Clough, Ro Knight, Ann Goodman, Annie Pettie, Andy Bystra		
		Quiz Night Function	Pete Lucas	07544227991
		Pop Up Pub	Heather Langdon	688946
		Book Club	Sally Palmer	681152
		Village Hall Hire	Nigel Palmer	681152
		Men's 630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
		Women's Gnomes Club	Carol Spooner	681544
		Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
		Whist Drive	Colin Higgs BEM	681343
		Rambling Club	Colin Higgs BEM	681343
		100 Lottery	David Gray	681952
		Orchard Functions	Gordon Smith	681373



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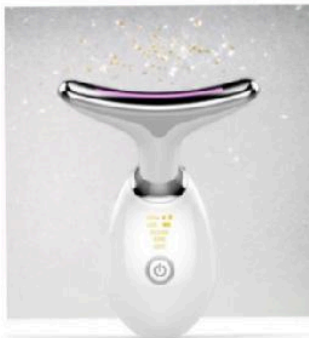
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How to rid your garden paths of Moss

Step away from the pressure washer as Sophie Harris and Gemma Strong have found cheap household products that can do the job.

Moss loves damp conditions and this winter will have provided the perfect conditions for it to thrive in our gardens. It loves to grow in poorly drained areas as well as in shady conditions, meaning you'll often find it on driveways, paths and patios.

While it might add charm to rustic walls, come winter, moss and algae can be a potential hazard, with the wet weather making it slick and slippery underfoot. Thankfully, help is at hand as an army of experts have shared low cost ways of getting rid of it.

Instead of reaching for the pressure washer or an expensive bottle of patio cleaner, they've suggested some "incredible" moss-killing recipes which use products that you'll probably have in your home already. Plus, they'll save your knees from an afternoon scrubbing.

Many of the responses recommended white vinegar, as long as it didn't touch any nearby plants. The acetic acid present will kill any moss within a matter of minutes – and a [5l litre container](#) will last for ages and has all manner of uses.

Angela's suggestions

White vinegar was also suggested by Angela Slater, a gardening expert at Hayes Garden World. Using chemicals can cause runoff which may damage plants, so she says an environmental solution is preferable.

In *The Express*, she recommended mixing equal parts of white vinegar and water into a spray bottle before targeting the moss. Then, you simply need to leave the solution for 15 minutes, and the moss should be easy to remove with a brush.

"Moss grows where no sunlight reaches the surfaces so if possible, either re-site the patio into a sunny spot or remove any overhanging branches which are causing the moss growth," she said. "If you have a gazebo or garden parasol permanently erect, remember to take it down occasionally on a sunny day to allow some sunlight to reach the patio surface."

She added that if the moss coverage isn't too severe, you can even use some trusty bicarbonate of soda, which costs pennies. "If the moss coverage is only light, sprinkle with baking soda, leave for 24 hours, then brush off."

SLIPPERY STEPS: Charmingly mossy but lethal to walk on



Joe's suggestion

The Mirror reported that washing up liquid can also be “an epic moss killer” according to lawn care expert Joe, founder of Joe's Lawn Care. It needs 24 hours to work, so he says it's important to check the weather forecast and make sure it's not going to rain.

Joe said: “I know this sounds odd, but mixing 60ml of dish soap into 4-and-a-half litres of water and then filling up a hand sprayer is one of the most incredible moss-killing recipes you could ever come across. Simply take your mixture outside and spray on any patches of moss you come across, holding your bottle just a couple of inches away as you drench the moss with your epic creation.”

He said you'll know if this solution has worked effectively the following day. The moss will have gone from a lush green to an 'orangey-brown' colour as it begins to dry up.

Ben's suggestion

Meanwhile gardening expert Ben Hilton, from The Yard and Garden, said washing powder is effective on moss, but only in moderation and only targeting the moss. Washing powder helps to break down the cell walls of moss, causing the plant to dehydrate and die.

But if pets and precious plants are your priority, the safest solution came from responses to the Facebook query. Mandi Marsh said: “Boiling water and a sweeping brush.” Talia Louise added: “This is what I do, it's great because I have a dog and need to be careful to keep chemicals away from him.”

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The Journey of Lent

With Easter being early this year Lent will be upon us already by the middle of February. The forty days of Lent are, of course, symbolic.

In the Hebraic idiom that permeates most of the biblical writings it simply means 'a long time' – a time long enough for something reasonably to be expected to change and develop within people embarking on a Lenten journey.

The journey of Lent specifically moves from the wilderness, where we famously hear of Christ resisting temptations of various types, to the city of Jerusalem where the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection would take place.

Clearly there is a big difference between wilderness and city, which itself points towards the need for change and development along our Lenten journeys now.

Unlike the more communal expectation of Advent, Lenten journeys may often seem rather more focused on individually set tasks, aims and disciplines that are specific to one person's choice. Perhaps this might involve their sense of what may need developing in their response to Christ's call, or distractions that might need avoiding. Whatever the reason, it is equally important to remember the

broader context in which Lent is embedded.

We have our own discipline and journey to focus on, certainly, but we also know that we often need the cooperation of others to empower and aid us along the way. Sometimes sharing in a Lenten commitment is a good way of emphasising this. It reminds us that our journeys are all intertwined with one another, especially if followed with the same ultimate hope in mind.

Many people express this aspect of Lent by meeting together more frequently during this period – the classic 'Lent group' for example, which often involves studying, discussing and praying together on a pre-agreed theme of common interest.

As in previous years we will be having a Benefice Lent Group for this purpose, which this year will focus specifically on the theme of journeying together, and wherever people feel that they are at on their own journey I wish you all the very best for this rich and often underestimated season – a season well worth inhabiting as fully and meaningfully as we feel able.

Prayers and best wishes to all

Andrew Krauss

St James' Services - February



4th	6.30pm	Evensong
11th	10.30am	Parish Communion
19th	9.30am 10.00am	Breakfast in village hall All Ages service
25th	10.30	Parish Communion

Church Duties February

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
2/3	David/Colin	Donated
9/10	Alex/Colin	Donated
16/17	Ann/ Caroline	No Flowers
23/24	Annie/Tatiana	In Lent

Church Matters

VISIT TO CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OXFORD

Back in October last year, 10 churchgoers from Aston Abbots went on a guided tour at Christ Church cathedral, Oxford. We had our own guide who chose six highlights of the cathedral to show us – the two I remember best are the new stained-glass window designed by John Reyntiens,

depicting St Francis, and the modern altar in a side aisle, made out of a single piece of wood; but there are many treasures to appreciate. We then had afternoon tea in the Great Hall and some of us stayed to Evensong.

Because Aston Abbots parish is part of the Oxford diocese, parishioners can go into the cathedral for free any time it is open. For details check the website <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/> or pick

up a leaflet from the back of our church.

COMING UP

The next All Ages service is Sunday 18 February at 10am. Come along to breakfast at 9.30am in the village hall first.

FABRIC/REPAIRS TEAM STILL 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.

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 Diary FEBRUARY

Fri 2 18.00 Family spud night Community Centre

Wed 7 1000 WI: Stained Glass demo Methodist Church

Sat 10-11 Wingrave Singers at Gloucester Cathedral

Sat 10 0845 Men's breakfast talk: Do we need big infrastructure projects? Methodist Church

Sun 11 1600 Messy Church Methodist Church

Mon 12-19 School half term holiday

Mon 12 0915 Wingrave Monday Walking Group walk contact Jan: 07813 085211

Tue 13 1930 Parish Council meeting Community Centre

Wed 14 1800 Copy deadline for Communiqué

Fri 16 1930 Family Bingo Community Centre

Sat 17 0845 Men's breakfast talk: Big Infrastructure projects do we need them? Methodist Church

Sun 18 0930 Wingrave Ramblers' local ramble Nup End Lane

Fri 23 1930 WwRHA talk: John Hampden MP - Rebel or Patriot? Community Centre

Wed 28 1200 Over 60s lunch club Wingrave Park



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

10th February is the start of
the Chinese New Year - the
Year of the Wood Dragon.





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time for fresh starts.

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Starters

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Smoked Salmon & King Prawns Mousse, Baby Watercress, Pickled Walnuts & Cucumber Gel £10 (GF)
Pickled Golden Beetroot & Whipped Goats Cheese Bruschetta, Confit Tomatoes & Rocket (GFO) £8
Deep Fried Breaded Brie, Cranberry Chutney & Baby Watercress £8
Italian Meatballs, Arrabbiata Sauce, Toasted Sourdough, Fresh Parmesan & Micro Basil £9

Mains

Braised Ox Cheek, Horseradish & Chive Mash, Glazed Carrots, Balsamic Roasted Shallots &
A Red Wine Jus £20 (GF)
Pan Fried Seabass Fillet, Roasted Fennel, Jerusalem Artichoke Puree, Romanesco Broccoli & Puttanesca
sauce £22 (GF)
Confit Duck Leg, Spiced Red Cabbage, Crushed Mustard New Potatoes, Baby Carrots & Blackberry Jus £19
(GF)
Wild Mushroom & Vegetable Bourguignon, New Potatoes & Dumplings £18 (GFO)
Lemongrass Chicken Supreme, Thai Yellow Curry Sauce, Sticky Jasmin Rice & Asian Salad £18 (GF)
Sweet Potato, Spinach & Ricotta Filo Basket, Tarragon Fried New Potatoes, Green Beans & Sauteed Leeks
£16 (VE)
Gary's Pie Of The Week, peas, chunky chips & gravy £15
Classic haddock & chunky chips, homemade tartare sauce &
mushy peas £16

Burgers

The Classic- Beef Patty, Mayo, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, American Cheese & Gherkin
The Brunch Burger- Beef Patty, Bacon, Avocado, Honey Mustard Mayo, Swiss Cheese & Fried Egg
Both Served In a Brioche Bun With Fries £16

Desserts

Affogato - 2 scoops vanilla ice cream, shot of espresso, liquor of choice &
biscuits £11 (GFO)
Portuguese Custard Tart, Rhubarb Compote, Sour Apple Gel & Candied Orange £8
Black Forest Cheesecake, Cherry Gel & Vanilla Ice cream £8
White Chocolate & Cranberry Bread & Butter Pudding With Custard £8
Three Cheeses, Grapes, Chutney, Apple, Celery & Crackers £12

Sides

Seasonal veg £4
House salad £3.50
Chips £4
Cheesy chips £5

Horseradish & chive mash £3.50
Garlic sourdough £4
Cheesy garlic sourdough £5

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Coffee Mornings

The Thursday coffee morning in the Village Hall has become very popular since its inception around 2004. It runs from 10 am until 11.30 every Thursday.

Tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits and often bacon rolls are on offer - all at bargain prices.

The coffee mornings are particularly popular with older residents because younger villagers are usually at work. But all ages are welcome.

Ever think back and fancied a bit of what we used to have as kids? When things were not in abundance. Not the wartime rations but the 60's & 70's. As some call, Council Cuisine.

Birdseye fish mash & peas



Potato onion & tomato pie



Liver & onions



Ice cream and jelly



Arctic roll



Egg, Chips, Bread & Butter



Kippers



Tinned fruit & ice cream



1 For the adults, Cockles



Steak & kidney Pie, Mash



Bubble & Squeak



Stew & Dumpling



Sausage & Mash



Bread & Butter Pudding



British Fry up



Rice Pudding



Sponge & custard



Mince beef & Mash



Bananas & Custard



Cheese on toast



Prawn Cocktail



Can you add to this Council Cuisine? Send your pics to editor@aachronicle.co.uk I'd love to receive them. Until next time..