

The Chronicle

November 20 Issue 409

Remember them Today & Always



Inside - Local Covid concerns, News, Unsolved murder, Village Soldiers remembered, Having your say, Trials at Aylesbury Court and so much more.....

A new walk-through coronavirus testing site at Council's Gateway building car park in Aylesbury for the foreseeable future.

[By Thomas Bamford](#)



First picture of new walk-through Covid-19 testing site in Aylesbury

This site is open for use by anyone who has coronavirus symptoms, and appointments must be booked first – it is not a 'drop-in' site.

However, with cases rising, anyone with even mild symptoms is being encouraged to arrange a test to help stop the spread of the virus. Symptoms include a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste. Anyone with one or more of these symptoms should

book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

The site is accessible on foot and bicycle, and these are the recommended ways to get there. People using the site are encouraged not to drive there if at all possible.

Anyone attending an appointment at the walk-through site will be given guidance on getting to and from the test site safely, with extra support for vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.

“We know cases are on the rise here, as they are in the rest of the country, so it is vital we remain as vigilant as possible to protect the people around us and keep the virus under control. So please follow the guidance – hands, face, space, and the ‘rule of six’ if you are meeting anyone. And, if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace, please do follow the advice you are given – it will help to save lives.”

For more information about walk-through testing sites, you can watch this video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcRw92bO8xg&t=50s>.

Since 28 September, you could be fined if you do not stay at home and self-isolate following a positive test result for COVID-19 or if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and instructed to self-isolate. You can read the full guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection on the government website - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

From the Editor

It is so encouraging to read the positive feedback regarding the Chronicle, particularly the local 'FOCUS ON' articles. FOCUS ON this month concentrates on the unsolved murder of Rita Ellis 53 years ago. This horrific crime was featured on a recent Crimewatch programme. There's also a second on historic trials at Aylesbury

MOT & pick up and drop off service - Tony Hinds

Bottle of Proseco - Michael Clarke

Jim Beam Bourbon - Cliff Armstrong

Cabernet Sauvignon - Phil' Spooner

Haircut and finish - Francesca Bean

Window Clean - Colin Higgs

Congratulations to the winners. Please call John Whyte on 01296681685 to arrange collection or delivery of your prize. My thanks to John Whyte and Teri Moulton for all their help and to the contributors. Of course our thanks to

Court. With very little occurring in the village at this time I've taken the opportunity to include these items.

Dark evenings have drawn in so if you are walking, scootering or cycling, please wear reflective clothing.

I'm happy to announce the winners of the Chronicle Fund Raising Box Raffle. A prize ticket were drawn and then a box raffle ticket. The winners are:

Malbec - Jack Copping

Band of Brothers presentation set - Jane Baylis

Fan - P + Anne

Royal Oak Sunday Dinner for 2 - Dave Clarke

Vodka - Lucinda

everyone who supported the Chronicle's future especially Liz & Ivan for their generous donation. Total raised £468. Wonderful result.

Bus Timetables from the Green

Transport for Buckinghamshire

buses from here

Aston Abbots, The Green
Departures From 04 January 2016

165 Aylesbury - Leighton Buzzard Z & S Buses

Mondays to Fridays

Dep	Code	Serv	Destination	Dep	Code	Serv	Destination
09:08	165	Leighton Buzzard	14:53	165	Wing		
11:08	165	Leighton Buzzard	16:33	165	Leighton Buzzard		
13:08	165	Leighton Buzzard					

Saturdays

Dep	Code	Serv	Destination	Dep	Code	Serv	Destination
09:08	165	Leighton Buzzard	13:08	165	Leighton Buzzard		
11:08	165	Leighton Buzzard	15:08	165	Leighton Buzzard		

Sundays: no service

txt 84268
www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

Traveline text busdwtxt to 84268
For information on the next 4 scheduled
Text busdwtxt followed by a service number
to get the next 4 departures for that service

Texts cost 25p plus normal message charge

Buses from the opposite side of the road

Aston Abbots, The Green
Departures From 04 January 2016

165 Leighton Buzzard - Aylesbury Z & S Buses

Mondays to Fridays

Dep	Code	Serv	Destination	Dep	Code	Serv	Destination
07:41	165	Schools Coach Park	14:01	165	Aylesbury		
10:01	165	Aylesbury	17:31	165	Aylesbury		
12:01	165	Aylesbury					

Saturdays

Dep	Code	Serv	Destination	Dep	Code	Serv	Destination
10:01	165	Aylesbury	14:01	165	Aylesbury		
12:01	165	Aylesbury	17:01	165	Aylesbury		

Sundays: no service

txt 84268
www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

Traveline text busdwtxt to 84268
For information on the next 4 scheduled
Text busdwtxt followed by a service number
to get the next 4 departures for that service

News From In and around the Village

COVID – Fears of Tier 2. We need to act now

Martin Letts

We know from elsewhere how quickly things can change and with rates remaining high and more people going into hospital locally with COVID-19, we must all do what it takes to bring the virus under control here whilst it is still mainly confined to younger people. With the government currently pursuing a localised approach to restrictions we have the power here in Buckinghamshire to determine our own fate. I desperately want us to avoid being moved into 'Tier 2', the so called 'High' infection category. This would mean tighter restrictions that will harm our local businesses, endanger jobs and stop us doing the things that help make life enjoyable like meeting our friends and loved ones in a safe way.

What we are asking you to do

I am writing with a big, but vital ask to stop us moving into Tier 2. The evidence is that the virus is being spread in Buckinghamshire between groups we don't live with, such as friends, particularly in people's homes. Being indoors with the windows closed is one of the worst environments for spreading the disease.

So, we are asking everyone to recommit to observing the current rules in place and, if possible, to voluntarily go a bit further, and especially to consider avoiding meeting people in our homes who we don't live with. This isn't currently a legal requirement but more of us choosing to meet people outside

or in a COVID safe environment instead could and should make a real difference.



Please do the following, which includes and slightly expands on the current Tier 1 'Medium risk' guidance that applies in Bucks at the moment:

Don't socialise with other households at home - meet up outside instead or in a COVID safe environment

- Observe the rule of six indoors and outdoors
- Always stay 2 metres (6 feet) apart
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often
- Wear a face covering where required (unless you're exempt)
- Stay at home and [book a test](#) if you have symptoms

It's vital that if you develop symptoms, no matter how mild, that you book a test and isolate immediately. Anyone else you live with must isolate too. With the current levels of coronavirus transmission, the council is strongly

discouraging holding or attending any events that physically bring large numbers of people close together at this time. Even though it's lawful, gathering people together simply carries more risk at this precarious time in the pandemic locally.

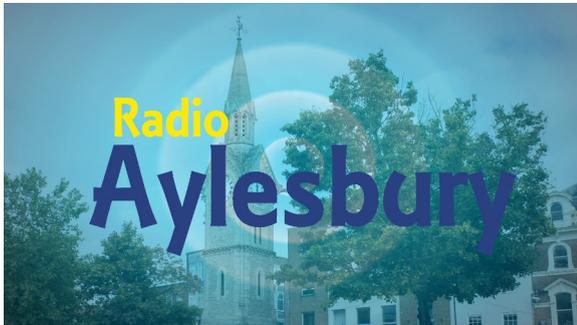
Needless to say, activities like trick or treating or bonfire parties just can't happen in the same way this year. It's not all doom and gloom though - there are lots of other ways to mark these occasions in a safe way.

Looking after ourselves and each other
If we do the right thing now, we can turn this around and stay out of Tier 2 - that's what we all want.

We want to safeguard our jobs, our health and our freedoms so please, let's pull together and do all it takes to stop the spread of the virus in Buckinghamshire.

Stay safe and protect Bucks,
Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council



Radio Aylesbury

Let me introduce you to "Radio Aylesbury", our very own new LOCAL radio station for the Aylesbury Vale.

Local broadcaster Richard Carr is launching a much needed local community resource to help fill the recent gap made by Mix96. Our station will be on air in the

New Year with local news, travel and traffic and events and a playlist of music from the 60's right through to the present day. Plus a top line up of professional presenters some of which have broadcast over the local air waves during the last twenty six years including Nathan Cooper. *Aylesbury's very own LOCAL radio station. Online.... Mobile App Smart Speaker.*

Local businesses are invited to get in touch to discuss sponsorship packages and advertising:

sales@radioaylesbury.co.uk

The nights are drawing in earlier. The Wing Neighbourhood Police Team have been out looking for houses which have been left in darkness and popping a reminder letter through the door of any that they saw. Burglars do the same. They patrol, just like we do. Except they wouldn't leave you a polite reminder letter on your doormat.

BEFORE YOU GO QUEUING AROUND THE BLOCK FOR STARBUCKS, COSTA, GREGGS, BURGER KING, KFC AND MCDONALDS, REMEMBER THESE HUGE FAST FOOD COMPANIES WILL BE FINE AFTER LOCKDOWN.. SPEND YOUR MONEY WITH LOCAL CAFÉS & TAKEAWAYS WHO ARE FIGHTING TO STAY IN BUSINESS EVERY SINGLE DAY! SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY BY SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

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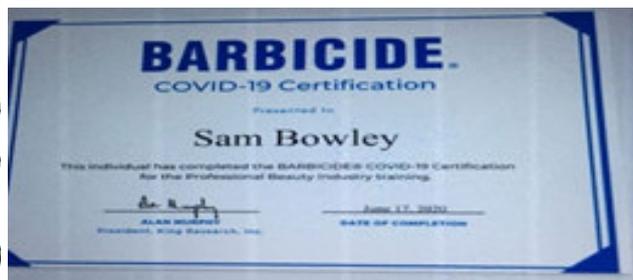
ajwcarpentry2@gmail.com

Aston Abbotts Mobile Hairdresser

COVID-19 SAFE



MOBILE HAIR DRESSER



Hi, I'm Sam and have lived in the village for 5 years. I am a freelance hairdresser (He & She) and have been in the business for over 20 years. If you are looking for a change or can't get to a salon, please contact me on 07800743856 or email:

bowleysamanthat@gmail.com

Your Emails

Pete, I must tell you of the positive response I've had about the Chronicle from residents including some from Wing and Wingrave who told me that their magazines are not a patch on the Chronicle.

Colin

Hi Pete, I've just dropped £77 to John from donations for some of our "stuff" sold and donated to the Chronicle upkeep. So about £143.50 in total. One person left to donate. I had hoped it would be more but it will be a help

Take care. **Liz and Ivan**

Many thanks Liz and Ivan for your generosity. All the best for the future in your new home. Pete

Dear Pete

I very much enjoyed the piece in the last issue about the Czechs in Aston Abbots, thank you.

Caroline

Dear readers, Have you tried the new Farm and Coffee shop at Rowsham. The fruit and veg' are top quality as is their meat, eggs, chutney and cakes. Open Wednesday to Sundays. Well worth a visit and to shop locally.

Colin Higgs

Would the person who let their large dog dump a pile of poo on the path at the edge of my drive without clearing it up like to drop their address into me so I can return it to its rightful owner? It will be unbagged and through your letterbox.

YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF! **Pete Newens**

I agree with Pete I had poo left outside my drive last week for me to clear up. I too would like to return it to its rightful owner. Be responsible we live in a small village and this should not be happening.

Karen Nicol

Hi Pete, As an ex-editor's wife I know that most comments from readers are usually negative or by way of complaint! So I would just like to say on behalf of us both how good we thought the last two Chronicles were, great photos and interesting articles, so keep up the good work!

Carol and Phil

Hi Pete

Thank you very much for the last excellent edition of The Chronicle, it was a really good read with lots of interesting content. **Deidre**

Thanks for the positive comments. I will work to continue with articles that have a broad interest. Ed.

CHURCH CLOCK TO CHIME AGAIN??



Following on from Martin Clarke's article in last month's Chronicle, further progress has been made in so far as the clock is now working and keeping good time. On Mon 16th Oct a very jovial and helpful fitter (Barry) arrived from Gillett & Johnston with the repaired motor/weight unit. Several of the original weights had been removed as I'd requested and as soon as it was fitted to the clock it ticked away serenely as it ought.

I'd stopped the clock earlier in the year and removed some weights since the pendulum had for a long time been 'over swinging' and striking a support timber. This introduced a secondary impulse to it's otherwise smooth swing, making it impossible to regulate accurately. Afterwards, and following many attempts, I just couldn't get the motor to restart!!

Barry continued his routine inspection, focusing, at our request, on why the clock's chimes were not working. This eventually showed that the motor/weight unit for the chimes was no longer functioning and at some time, the main strike hammer had been

severely bent by the wheel of the bell it's supposed to strike. He advised that the weight motor might be repairable at no great expense. However, the strike hammer and arm are a single unit made from cast iron. This material is notoriously brittle but might respond to straightening if heated to a high temperature. There's considerable risk however in that it may break, probably requiring a new casting to be made. Both the hammer and weight motor would need to be removed and repaired at the works.

Several villagers and PCC members have expressed the view that it would indeed be nice to hear this historic clock chime the hours and quarters as it used to do. The PCC has now received a quotation from Gillett & Johnston indicating the final cost is likely to be well in excess of £1,000. A further consideration is that although the chimes are not particularly loud, there may be folks living in the close vicinity of the church who may have views on this.

Therefore, before the PCC commit to what is likely to for them is a significant expenditure, may I on their behalf seek the views of our readership as to whether they wish the church clock to chime, or not?

Responses are required before Saturday 14th November

Andy Bystra

0798 501 9431

01296 681 690

UNSOLVED! Rita Ellis murder on Crimewatch programme

In this month's 'FOCUS ON' series, I've selected the unsolved murder of a young Airforce woman, Rita Ellis, at Wendover Airforce Base 53 years ago. This case is back in the spotlight due to it's Crimewatch feature in September.

By Hayley O'Keeffe & Pete Lucas

The 1967 murder of young aircraftswoman Rita Ellis shocked the Aylesbury Vale, and police have not stopped working on trying to solve the crime to gain closure and justice for Rita's family.

And on September 14, a special episode of BBC Crimewatch featured Thames Valley Police's head of cold case investigations Peter Beirne, as he makes a re-appeal for information which could lead to the capture of her killer once and for all.

19-year-old Rita Ellis, who was from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, was murdered at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire on Saturday 11 November 1967.

At 10.30am on Sunday 12 November Rita's body was found on the camp by a dog walker near a disused railway at the old coal yard about 250 yards from the main road from Wendover to Tring. Rita's body had been covered by leaves and foliage.



Rita, who was stationed at the camp, had been sexually assaulted and strangled by a ligature made out of her underwear.

At the time of the murder, Thames Valley Police did not exist, the local police force was Buckinghamshire Constabulary, however it was New Scotland Yard that led the investigation.

The police have a full DNA of the offender, so anyone under suspicion can be swabbed. Mr Beirne said: "There will be people out there who have suspicions about who murdered Rita Ellis and we want to hear from them. "Just give us the name of who you suspect, we don't need any of your personal details. Call 101 or email helprita@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk with the name of the person or persons you suspect.

"The person responsible for Rita's murder will have had this horrific act on their conscience for 53 years, and there has to be a possibility that they have confided in someone during this time. If you have any information, even if you think the information is insignificant, please come forward.

“In the time that has passed allegiances may have changed or perhaps you couldn’t come forward at the time for whatever reason but now you can. “

Rita was the eldest of four siblings. Rita’s sister, Tina, was 10-years-old at the time of the murder. Rita’s two younger brothers were 17 and 13-years-old at the time. Rita’s parents, who have since died, lived in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

On 28 April 1967 Rita joined the RAF, initially training at Spittlegate RAF in Grantham, Lincolnshire, and was then drafted to RAF Halton on 21 June of the same year. She was a trade assistant and was obtaining extra qualifications as part of her training with the RAF. Rita lived in building 314 of block 7 in the Women’s Royal Airforce accommodation.

For nearly two years Bucks Herald editor Hayley O’Keeffe has also been investigating the murder and gathering information in a bid to sensitively and confidentially assist the police investigation in any way that we can.

Rita’s sister Tina Streeter spoke about the aftermath of her beloved older sister’s death, and why it is still just as important to hold her killer to account.

Tina said: “I will always remember that day. “Someone came to the door on that morning, it must have been a detective and I was ushered out of the way. I didn’t see my mum again for ages. Then I was told that she wasn’t coming home, my brothers were the second eldest so they were saying things to me to try and lessen it, I was the youngest. “My school was told but I

wasn’t allowed to go to the funeral.” She added: “She was trusting, but she was always a very strong person and she was tall. “I’ve always thought how could one person overpower her? She really wasn’t a mouse.” And understandably for the Ellis family it was very hard to move on with their lives, particularly for Rita’s mother who suffered from a number of disabilities, and died on 11 November 1994, the anniversary of Rita’s death.

“It was almost like we had to lose her on that day for her to join Rita, I’ve always thought of it like that.” And losing her sister had a lasting and profound impact on Tina’s life too.

“I would like to thank everyone who has thought about Rita and cared about Rita for all of this time. I would also like to thank Thames Valley Police’s cold case team. I look forward to the perpetrator being caught and paying penance for what he has done. He didn’t just take Rita’s life, he wrecked a whole family’s lives and he robbed us all. “Please do get in touch if you know anything, no matter how insignificant you think it may be.”

She added: “I’m hoping that Rita and Mum will be watching.”

The Crimewatch episode aired at 9.15am on September 14.





Chronicle Question

The Chronicle readers question was a bit late in but reads:

Is the BBC fit for purpose? Explain your reason and have your say. T.

This question is not to cause division in the village but purely for constructive interest and diversity of views. It is for these reasons that I will not be including names with individual comments.

Comments:

It used to be and is very much missed as today. It has spread itself into fields it has no right to be in as a public finance broadcaster. It is also full of brainwashing techniques to get it's viewers to accept it's left agenda. They don't represent the vast majority of their viewers anymore.

R.

I love the BBC and have the radio on in the background almost all the time for current affairs, information, drama, comedy, and some music.

There are programmes on both radio and television that are not to my taste - but feel there is an attempt to cater for different people.

My main criticism is that some BBC staff are paid too much e.g. Gary Lineker, Zoe Ball, Graham Norton. Some salaries are ridiculous, given that the money comes from the public. Why does anyone need more than the salary paid to the prime minister?

E.

Village Fireworks Night



The Soldier Lads of Aston Abbotts



The German army invaded Belgium on August 3rd 1914. The next day, August 4th, Britain declared war on Germany.

The village of Aston Abbotts sent 51 of its men to fight in the Great War. Only 39 survived.

The following describes those men from Aston Abbotts who fought and died for our country in both world wars.

In Flanders' Fields-John McCrae, 1915

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place: and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved,

and now we lie In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;

To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high,

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

War Memorial

Alfred Castle

George Alfred Castle was born in 1897 in Wasperton, Warwickshire.

He was 1 of 7 children living in the 3 room property at the time.

Aged 13, Alfred was listed as a Poultry Feeder & Errand boy.

His elder brother, Thomas Henry Castle, also served in WW1 firstly in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment then in the Army Veterinary Corps.

He enlisted in Aylesbury as Private 266612, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, 2nd/1st Bucks Battalion.

The first major action in which the Division was engaged turned out to be an unmitigated disaster. An attack was made on 19 July 1916 at Fromelles, a subsidiary action to the much larger battle taking place further south on the Somme. The Division suffered very heavy casualties for no significant gain and no enemy reserves were diverted from the Somme. Such was the damage to the Division and its reputation that it was not used again other than for holding trench lines until 1917.

Alfred was killed in action on the 19 July 1916. He was 19 years old.

His body was never found and he is remembered with honour at the Loos Memorial. Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 83 to 85.

William George Clarke

William George Clarke was born in Thornborough, Bucks on the

The census of 1901 lists him as living in Aston Abbots the eldest son (of two) of Newman George and Lucy Clarke (nee Kent – they were married in 1897 – Albert T. Kent and William Clarke were in fact 2nd cousins). Newman was a cattleman working for one of the local farms and lived with his family in Church Row, Aston Abbots.

In 1901 Church Row consisted of 6 houses – ‘all 2 up 2 down’.

According to the Census the Clarke family lived in Village House no 7. In the 1960’s houses no 7 & 8 were merged to form 3 Church Row.

Private William George Clarke, 67295 enlisted in Aylesbury and joined the 1/5th (P.O.W.) Battalion (Territorials), Devonshire regiment sometime in late 1915 or early 1916.

William Clark was killed in action on the 8th day of the Battle of the Tardenois 28th July 1918 when he was only 19 years of age.

He is remembered with honour and buried in the Chambrecy British Cemetery, 16 miles south west of Reims, France.

Grave Ref: IV. B. 2.



Ernest H. Harrison



The 1901 census shows Ernest Harrison living in Newington, Southwark. His Father, Robert Birch Harrison, is listed as being a clergyman (born in Liverpool in 1860). Ernest was born in 1892 and his birthplace is listed as Mildenhall, Suffolk but this has replaced a previous entry which reads “Florence, Italy (British Subject)”

Alice Adelaide Parteger was born in 1893 in Dunton. In 1901 she was living with her father & mother - Thomas A & Alice M Parteger and her 2 brothers William & Thomas at Burston Hill Farm. (Along with their governess Ellen Plant)

Alice Parteger married Ernest H Harrison on the 3rd April 1917 in St James Church.

He had enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment in 1916 as a

Commissioned Officer (2nd Lieutenant) and at sometime transferred over to the 8th Battalion, probably due to their heavy losses during the Battle of the Somme. He entered the war, in France, on 5th December 1916. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 7th July 1917 and on 24th Sept 1917 was made a temporary Captain whilst employed as a "Brig. Bombing Officer. This temporary arrangement came to an end on 26th Feb 1918. He was finally promoted to full Captain on the 16th September 1918. Two days later, on the 18th September 1918 Captain E H Harrison was killed in action on the first day of The Battle of Épehy.

He is buried in the PERONNE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION. Grave/Memorial Reference: V. K. 1.

Copy of the notice from The Times 28th September 1918:

HARRISON – Killed in action on the 18th Sept.

CAPTAIN ERNEST HESKETH HARRISON, East Surrey Regt., younger son of Rev. R.B. and Mrs. Harrison. Purton, Wilts. And dearly loved husband of Alice A. Harrison, Burston Aylesbury, aged 26

There is a brief mention of him in the History of the East Surrey Regiment, Vol III 1917-19, page 199.

"During the heavy fighting of the previous week the Battalion had suffered the loss of Captains H. S. Todd, M.C. (4th Battn, attd.) and E.H. Harrison (5th Battn. attd).

It therefore seems that he was a 1/5th Battalion officer attached to the 8th Battalion."

Frank Humphreys Frank Humphreys was born on the 10th April 1894 in Aston Abbotts and baptised on the 6th May 1894, in St James.

Frank was the 3rd eldest of 6 children (4 brothers, 1 sister). He was born to John & Emma Humphreys, brother to Ralph (born 1889), Thomas (1891), William (1898) & Albert (1899) who also served in WW1.

Their Father was the Bread maker and Innkeeper of the Bull & Butcher Inn (now Humphreys Close). John Humphreys was born in Wingrave about 1855, his wife Emma Eliza Humphreys was born in 1857 in Islington, London.

The census of 1911 has Frank still living in the Bull & Butcher and his occupation is listed as a 'Journeyman Baker'.

Frank enlisted in Stratford, Essex (he was living in Leytonstone, Essex at the time). He joined the Bedfordshire regiment as a Private – No 18946 possibly into the 8th (Service) Battalion although at the time of his death he is listed as serving in the 6th Battalion.

Frank was awarded the 1914 -1915 star as his battalion was sent to fight in France in October 1915. In April 1917 Frank's battalion was heavily involved in the second phase of the Arras offensive – The second Battle of the Scarpe which ran from April 23rd to April 24th 1917.

Frank died on the 23rd April 1917 two months short of his 23rd birthday. His body was never found and he is remembered with honour at the Arras memorial his name carved in stone in Bay 5.

Stanley William Jeffs

Stanley William Jeffs was born in December 1888, in Rowsham. The census of 1891 has him living in Aston Abbots next door to the Blacksmiths in what is now called Horseshoe Cottage, the eldest child of

Herbert (Agricultural Labourer, born Wingrave 1866) & Mary Jeffs (born Rowsham 1867). By 1901 the family (by now extended to 6 children) had moved to New Zealand Cottages. Herbert Jeffs is listed as a Carter on a farm. Stanley's Grandfather, John Jeffs (born 1831), lived two doors away. His brother, Arthur James Jeffs, also joined up and survived, he died in April 1989 a month short of his 102nd birthday.

Stanley was joined by 4 brothers and sisters including Arthur Jeffs who also served. The 1911 census lists the family living in New Zealand Cottages with Stanley's occupation described as 'Horseman on Farm' the census also states that he was one of 10 children. Like Alfred Castle, Stanley enlisted in Aylesbury in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, 2nd/1st Battalion. His Medal Index Card (MIC) shows that he did not receive the 1914-1915 star (the medal was awarded for services rendered in the war between the 5th August, 1914 and the 31st December, 1915, both dates inclusive) Therefore he must have joined in early 1916. It's quite possible that Stanley, his brother Arthur and Alfred Castle joined up together.

Unfortunately for Private 4219 Stanley Jeffs he didn't survive the war. He died from wounds received on 24th July 1916 (5 days after Alfred Castle was killed in action at the Battle of

Fromelles) in a casualty clearing hospital in Boulogne Sur Mer.

He is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference VIII.A.143

Albert ('Bertie') Thomas Kent

Albert Thomas Kent (known as Bertie) was born on the 2nd December 1882, Aston Abbots. He was baptised on the 28th March 1888 in the Methodist Chapel.

In the 1891 census he is listed as living in Aston Abbots, (aged 8) probably in what was one of the cottages belonging to 'The Firs' (now converted offices), with his Grandfather James Kent (aged 60 – Agricultural labourer – incapacitated) and his mother – Emily Jane Kent (aged 34 – Charwoman). She was previously listed as a 'Straw Plaiter' aged 14 in the 1871 census living in Aston Abbots and as a servant aged 24 in 1881 for William Manning a farmer of 362 acres, West Park Farm, Wing) No father is mentioned or listed.

The Kent family had long been established in Aston Abbots. Albert's Great Great Great Grandfather, Thomas Elliot, was born in the village on March 9th 1712.–

By 1901 Albert, now aged 18 and an 'Ordinary Labourer on Farm', is listed as living with his Grandmother Maria Kent (a widow aged 69) in a small village house, '2 up 2 down' (no 54) just before the first of the Temperance Cottages which you can still see today. His Grandfather, James had died in January 1893. He enlisted in Aylesbury initially as Private 4217, 1/4th Bn., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. The four figure

number denoting the fact that he was in a Territorial Battalion. Albert became Private 266613.

Albert was killed in action on the last day of the battle - 22nd June 1918 in Asiago Vicenza, Veneto, Italy. He was 35 years old. He is buried with honour in the Boscon British Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: Plot 3. Row B. Grave 12.



Albert Kent (standing) with his half brother Frederick W Kent (born Aston Abbots 1878). Fred survived the war.

Amos Paxton

Born December 1892, Aston Abbots, Baptised 18 December 1892 St James' In 1901 Amos Jnr. was living with his 7 siblings. According to the 1901 census they resided in Aston Abbots 'Cottage no 9' (The census did not list the houses by number and street name; rather they started at one end of the village and followed the same route each time a census was collected) Today this house is now 10 Wingrave

Road, a house which is a combination of what was then house no's 9 & 10.

At the outbreak of the war Amos Paxton was in the Grenadier Guards, 2nd Battalion, having enlisted in Bristol.

Rank: Guardsman. Number 15268

Amos Paxton was killed in action on 1st November 1914 in the first battle of Ypres. He was 22 years of age. His body was never found and as such he is commemorated on the YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL.

Memorial Ref: Panel 9 and 11.

Edward John Paxton

Edward John Paxton was born on the 15th November 1897 in Aston Abbots. He was baptised in St James on Christmas Day 25th December 1897.

Edward was the 10th Child of Amos (Gardener b. Tingewick about 1858) & Harriet Paxton (Nee Mansfield b. Cottisford, Oxon abt 1857). He resided in Aston Abbots 'Cottage no 9' between 'The Firs' and the village shop. Today this house is now 10 Wingrave Road, a house which is a combination of what was then house no's 9 & 10.

Of the six sons that Amos & Harriet had seen go to war, Edward was the 3rd to be killed. The three other brothers Harry, Albert G and William A also served King and Country and remarkably survived. One can only imagine the tremendous strain, stress and worry that Edward's mother & father must have gone through knowing that all 6 of their sons were fighting in the trenches of World War 1.

Edward joined up in Aylesbury sometime in late 1915, early 1916. He was enlisted as Private 80011 E J Paxton of the 1st Battalion Notts & Derby Regiment also known as the 'Sherwood Foresters'. In 1918 Edward and the 1st Sherwoods were involved in regular actions at St. Quentin, Rosieres, Villers-Bretonneux and the Aisne.

Edward was killed in action on the 25th August 1918. He was 20 years of age. He died on the day before the start of the Battle of the Scarpe.

Buried La Targette British Cemetery, Neuville-St. Vaast

Grave Ref: III. B. 12.

Walter Paxton

Walter Paxton was the elder brother of Amos Paxton who had died in November 1914. Walter was born on 28th October 1888, the 5th child of Amos & Harriet Paxton.

According to the 1891 census they resided in Aston Abbots 'Cottage no 7' this was between 'The Firs' and the then village shop.

In 1901 the family had grown to include 8 children residing with their parents. His elder brother Harry (born 1884 Hethe, Oxon) was by now working as a Groom in a coach-house near Frimley. His elder sister Ellen (born 1886 in Hethe) was a housemaid at the Vicarage, Aston Abbots. Walter enlisted in Bude, Cornwall into the 1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He lived in a village called Stratton which was a few miles inland from Bude having married a local Cornish girl, Ellen Woodley in 1912.

Their first child, William A Paxton, was born in 1913 with the second, Edward S Y Paxton, in February 1915 but he unfortunately died soon after. Their third child Edward L Paxton was born about December 1915

Corporal WALTER PAXTON 19352, 1st Bn., Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, was killed in action 7 months later on 23rd July 1916. He was 28 years of age. His regiment at that time was taking part in the second phase of the notorious Battle of the Somme. His body was never found and he is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial. Memorial Ref: Pier and Face 6 B.

William 'Wille' Smith

William Walter Smith was born on 12 February, 1895, Aston Abbots. He was baptised on the 20 March 1895 in the Methodist Chapel.

He was the youngest son (3 brothers, 6 sisters) of Joseph & Eliza Smith (his brothers Ernest & Sydney Smith also served in the Great War). Joseph Smith was born in Wingrave about 1856. Joseph is listed as a cattleman on a farm, living at cottage no 13 (3 houses past the old shop in what is now No. 9, The Green) 7 children were listed as living in Aston Abbots in 1901. An elder sister, Daisy Annie Smith, is listed as being a servant aged 21 for Baron J Gates a farmer in Aston Abbots.

Private 22264 'Willie' Smith enlisted in the 6th Battalion, Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry which was part of 60th Brigade, 20th (Light) Division.

20th September 1917 Willie was killed in action. He was 22.

He is buried in the Poelcapelle British Cemetery which is situated just north of Ypres, Belgium.

Grave Ref: XLVIII. A. 14.

Percy Thompson

Percy John Thompson was born in 1891 in Tring. He was the 4th Child of 6 (4 boys, 2 girls) living in Tring in 1901. He was the son of Samuel Carter & Adelaide Evangeline Thompson (nee Denchfield) they married in 1880. Samuel was listed as a Carpenter & Joiner with his eldest son Harry. At some point between 1901 & 1911 the family had moved to Aston Abbots.

In the 1911 census Percy is living with his family in Aston Abbots, his occupation was described as a Horse Dealer.

Adelaide Thompson died on the 2 Sep 1921 in Aston Abbots. He enlisted in Aylesbury sometime in 1916 initially as Private 5088, 1/1st Bn., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, Territorial Battalion. When the battalion was renumbered he became Private 5267017. The regiment was in the same division, 48th (South Midland), as the 1/4th Ox & Bucks in which Albert Kent was fighting. Albert had died in June 1918 in the Battle of Asiago.

During the long pause in serious operations, between the two battles, the French and British Allies carried out sustained raiding and patrol activity. It was during one of these operations on the 18th October 1918 (17 days before the armistice was signed) that Percy Thompson was killed in action.

He was 26 years of age and is buried in the Barenthal Military Cemetery, Italy.

Grave Ref: Plot 2. Row C. Grave 1.
Individual Graves in St James Churchyard

John Richard Higgs

Born December 1881, Aston Abbots. John was the 2nd eldest of 9 children, son of John & Sarah A Higgs. His father John, a coal merchant, was born in Aston Abbots about 1851. His mother Sarah was born in Rowsham in 1851. The eldest child, Sarah A Higgs (b 1873) was by now a servant in Willesden aged 18 listed as a 'Cook/Domestic Servant'.

In 1901 John R Higgs was still living at home in what is now 27, The Green and is listed as a 'Groom/Domestic' quite possibly working at either 'The Firs' or 'The Abbey'. By this time his eldest sister had married Joseph Ernest Simmons (b 1871 Aston Abbots) and was living in St Giles, Berkshire. They had a son, Cyril J Simmons, who fought & survived World War 1.

John married Nancy Louisa Crocker in Kintbury, Berkshire in 1905. The 1911 census has them living in Kintbury with 2 children. John is listed as a domestic chauffeur for the local Denford Park Estate.

Private J R HIGGS

M2/148126, Royal Army Service Corps

Died aged 38, 8 October 1919, Aston Abbots. Buried Aston Abbots (St. James) Churchyard

John Humphreys

Born May 1920, Aston Abbots

Lance Sergeant JOHN WILLIAM HUMPHREYS. 5384450, 7th Bn., Parachute Regiment, A.A.C. Son of

Thomas and Christina Humphreys, of Aston Abbotts.

Buried Aston Abbotts (St. James) Churchyard.

John's Father, Thomas Humphreys, was born in Wingrave in Dec 1890 the son of John & Emma Humphreys and elder brother to Frank Humphreys (1894 – 1917) whose name appears on the War Memorial having died in WW1. (Frank was John's Uncle), Lance-Sergeant: appointment originally given to corporals acting in the rank of sergeant

He died on 29 June 1945 aged 25 years of age and is buried in the Churchyard at St James.

With thanks to the East Surrey Museum for permission to use the photo of E H Harrison.

**Researched & written by Simon Guy.
Compiled & printed by Richard Clarke**

Aston Abbotts 2014



November is the month of Remembrance.

Remembrance Service Sunday 8th November 10.30 by the Memorial.

This year all of our villages' Acts of Remembrance will take place outside and there will not be any Remembrance Church Services. Thus, we can all remember without having to impose restrictions. That said, we do need to remember and our symbol is the poppy.

As the years go by though, there are fewer who recall the second world war, never mind the first and some will ban wearing the poppy and call for the event itself to be scaled down. This is not correct. To not remember what happens when the world takes a wrong turn is to become sloppy, open the door to relativism and truth becomes a moveable feast; remembering is the corrective to that. And to ban the display of remembering is the root of all tyranny. The poppy calls us to remember.

We do know of course why the poppy grew when it did; the business of war churned up the earth in which poppy seeds had laid dormant.

Received wisdom says that they stay dormant until disturbed and the right time to grow – ironic really that they then grew when they did; it was exactly the right time. The poppy prompts us to wonder because it is particularly arresting to realise that in the destruction of so much, the vegetation, the weapons of war themselves and so many, many human beings, amidst all that the poppy seed was not destroyed. Life found a way to coin a certain dinosaur movie. I don't mean to be glib; it should prompt us to wonder.

There is increasing evidence that those who pursue destruction and who celebrate terror are often trained in maths and the sciences. It seems that STEM subjects can foster the mindset which believes the world can be ordered, however violently, into a perfect system. Yet actually the history of scientific and mathematical advances is full of open ended questions stuffed with awe and wonder. Over a century ago, out of wholesale destruction came not nothing, but the poppy with organic symmetry. So, the poppy should cause us to wonder and therefore challenge the forces of destruction.

And finally, the poppy leads us to hope. The Christian gospel is

founded on hope rooted in the belief that we have seen enough in this life to call us to believe that there's more than just what we can see. The massive concepts of Peace, Justice and Truth call us to think beyond ourselves which, for the Christian, points us to God. But that is not to say that the poppies carpeting the fields of death "came from God" because then the gospel would be simply convenient and trite; we must be more rigorous. And we can be. When Christ's followers saw him first die and then alive once more, they put their hope in him and it is the same hope which fills Christ's followers today. The hope that death is not the final word, that life is greater. The challenge from the Christian gospel is not "to believe that which we can't see"; the challenge is "to not disbelieve that which we can".

As the human race muddles and lurches its way from one catastrophe to another, the poppy calls us to remember; it calls us to awe and wonder and then to hope in the Christ who does not give up, who even yet will do a new thing, however unexpected.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Howard Robson.

Services at St James the Great Church November

**1st November 6.00pm
Evening Prayer**

**8th November 10.55am
Remembrance Service at the
War Memorial**

**15th November 10.00am
Short Lay Led Service**

**22nd November 10.30am
Parish Communion**

**29th November Benefice
Services: 9.30am Wingrave**

10.00am Stewkley

10.30am Cheddington

11.00am Wing

6.00pm Wingrave Advent Carols

Church Duties

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
7th	David	Caroline A/S
14th	Colin /David	Remembrance Poppies
21st	Ann /Carolin L	"" ""
28th	Colin/Gay	No Flowers in Advent

CHURCH MATTERS

The Annual Church Meeting, chaired by the Revd Howard Robson, was held in the Village Hall on Monday 12th October when Caroline Abel Smith was re-elected Churchwarden. Ro Knight and Annie Pettie were welcomed as newly elected members of the Parochial Church Council joining existing members, Lesley Clough, Ann Goodman, Caroline Lane and Anita Parker with David Gray to be co-opted as Treasurer.

Harvest was celebrated on Sunday 18th October when the Revd Howard Robson opened the service and used two apples to demonstrate how we might reflect on the fruit of our own lives. He also referred to the global harvest of which we are all participants. Ro Knight and Caroline Abel Smith led the rest of the service continuing the 'Fruit of the Spirit' theme. Although we were unable to actually sing, Nigel Palmer played two familiar harvest hymns on the organ which we enjoyed humming to. The church had been beautifully decorated by Francesca Bean, Colin Higgs and Heather Langdon – a big thank you to them. A wheelbarrow full of donated non-perishable goods was taken to the Vineyard Foodbank in Aylesbury who were extremely grateful.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service will be held outside at the War Memorial just inside the church gate

on Sunday 8th November commencing at 10.55am. LLM Annie Cooper will lead the Act of Remembrance with her husband Cllr Peter Cooper playing the Last Post and Reveille. Social distancing will need to be observed. As it stands, we are currently able to hold a Service because our War Memorial is on Church property. These arrangements are, of course, subject to government regulations and may have to change.

The Church Clock is working again- hoorah! Hopefully it will be chiming again very soon as well. Do read Andy Bystra's article elsewhere in the Chronicle with lots of information as to the problems and solutions.

Churchyard Tidy up



If anyone could spare 1 hour to help with the Leaf Sweep at the Church on Saturday 7th November 10am, it will be much appreciated.

The Satnav ~ by Pam Ayres

I have a little Satnav, It sits there in my car
A Satnav is a driver's friend, it tells you where you are.
I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life
It's better than the normal ones, My Satnav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions, Especially how to drive
"It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five".
It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never, ever, safe to overtake.

It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene.
It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.

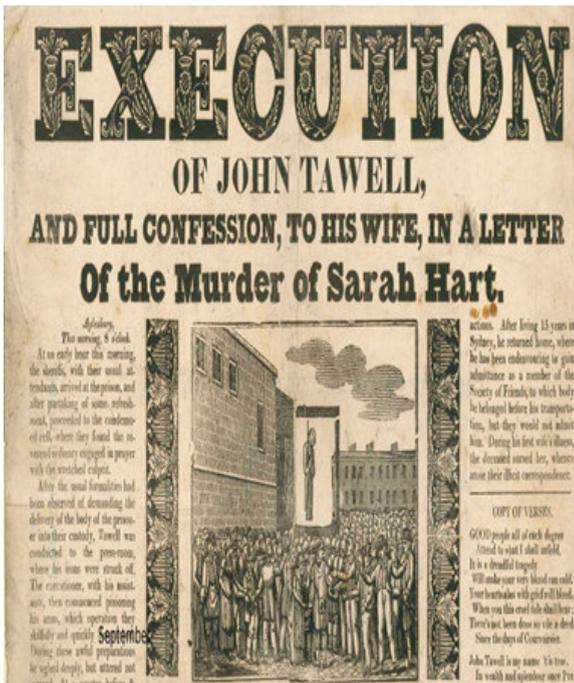
I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice.
It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house; makes sure I'm properly fed
It washes all my shirts and things and keeps me warm in bed!
Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff,
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the bugger off.

Focus On

Trials at Aylesbury Court

Another historical strand for the Focus On series is Trials at Aylesbury Court. This month concentrates on a man who was sentenced to death twice in his life. His final trial and subsequent execution was held at Aylesbury.



[Murder of Sarah Hart by John Tawell.](#)

The 'telegraph' (Telegram wire) was only eight years old when, in 1845, it played a crucial role in helping railway police arrest John Tawell for the murder of his former lover Sarah Hart. It was the first arrest ever made using technology.

John Tawell was first sentenced to death in 1814. He had been found guilty of forging a £10 note, a capital offence. His victims, Smith's Bank, were a Quaker company and opposed the death penalty. At their request, his sentence was downgraded, and instead

he was transported to Australia, where he worked his sentence on coal ships before being moved to work in a convict hospital.

He later found work as a clerk, and was pardoned in 1820 after his employers successfully petitioned on his behalf. As a free man, Tawell married and had two children. He enjoyed success as a shop owner selling pharmaceuticals.

In 1831 the family returned to London but their health suffered in the bad atmosphere of the world's largest city. The younger son, William, died in 1833 followed by their elder son, John, in 1838. Heartbroken, Tawell's wife Mary also became ill and he employed a young nurse, Sarah, to care for her. Mary died in 1838 and Tawell began an affair with Sarah which resulted in the birth of two children.

Three years later Tawell met and married a Quaker widow, Mrs Cutforth. He moved his potentially troublesome former lover, Sarah Hart, into a cottage at Salt Hill near Slough, making regular visits to her to pay a weekly allowance of £1 in child maintenance.

By 1843 Tawell was experiencing financial difficulties. He needed to reduce his financial burdens and decided that the best way to do that was to murder Sarah Hart.

[The murder.](#) On 1 January 1845, Tawell purchased two bottles of Steele's Acid, a preparation used for the treatment of

varicose veins containing the poison prussic acid. He caught the train to Slough and went to see Sarah.

During his visit, Tawell must have distracted Sarah long enough to tip the acid into her beer. A short time later her next door neighbour, Mrs Ashley, heard loud groans through the party wall. Mrs Ashley saw Tawell leave the house and went to see if Sarah was alright. She found her writhing on the floor, frothing from her mouth. Mrs Ashley raised the alarm but Sarah died before a doctor could attend.

Reverend E. T. Champnes was among the first people to respond to Mrs Ashley's call for help. The quick thinking cleric took a description of Tawell and raced to the train station. He got there just in time to see the suspect board the departing 7.42pm service. He was too late to stop the train.

Tawell may have thought he had got away with murder. At most other locations, that might have been the case but Slough was equipped with the telegraph. The vicar consulted the station master, Mr Howell, who arranged for a message to be sent to Paddington. It read:

"A murder has just been committed at Salt Hill and the suspected murderer was seen to take a first class ticket to London by the train that left Slough at 7.42pm. He is in the garb of a Kwaker [sic] with a brown great coat on which

reaches his feet. He is in the last compartment of the second first-class carriage."

The telegraph did not have the letter 'Q' hence the odd spelling of the word 'Quaker'.

At Paddington, the message was passed to the duty Sergeant, William Williams. He "put a plain coat over his police dress" and met the train as it entered the station. A few minutes later, Slough received a message from the capital:

"The up train has arrived and a person answering in every respect the description given by the telegraph came out of the compartment mentioned. The man got into a New Road omnibus and Sergeant Williams into the same."

Sgt Williams sat in the conductor's seat of the bus and Tawell mistook him for the conductor. When he alighted at Prince's Street he handed the Sergeant his fare. Tawell was followed by Sergeant Williams along the streets of London, as he went to a sweet shop in Cornhill and then on to the Jerusalem Coffee House.

The Sergeant continued to follow him along Birchin Lane and into his lodging house in Scott's Yard, before returning to Paddington. Here, Sergeant Williams visited a colleague, Inspector Wiggins of the Metropolitan Police at Paddington Green Police Station and

the next morning the pair went in search of the murderer.

They found him back at the Jerusalem Coffee House, and arrested him for the murder of Sarah Hart. Tawell protested saying: "I wasn't at Slough yesterday," but Sergeant Williams replied: "Yes you were sir, you got out of the train and got onto an omnibus and gave me sixpence."

An apple pip defence. The trial opened at Aylesbury County Court on 12 March 1845 presided over by Judge Baron Parke. The court heard how a post mortem had revealed that the cause of death for Sarah Hart was "poisoning by prussic acid".

Other witnesses were called including Sergeant Williams, who gave a full account of his actions which led to the arrest. Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Tawell's lawyer opened his defence simply by saying: "apple pips."

He explained that prussic acid occurred naturally in apple pips and that Sarah Hart's death could be explained by her eating a large amount of fruit over the festive season. His arguments were not enough to sway the jury who found Tawell guilty. For the second time in his life, Tawell was sentenced to death.

While awaiting execution Tawell apparently made a full confession to a priest and at 8am on Friday 28 March 1845 he was hanged outside the court. Around 10,000 people came to watch

the gruesome spectacle. A print showing the execution is on display at Slough Museum.

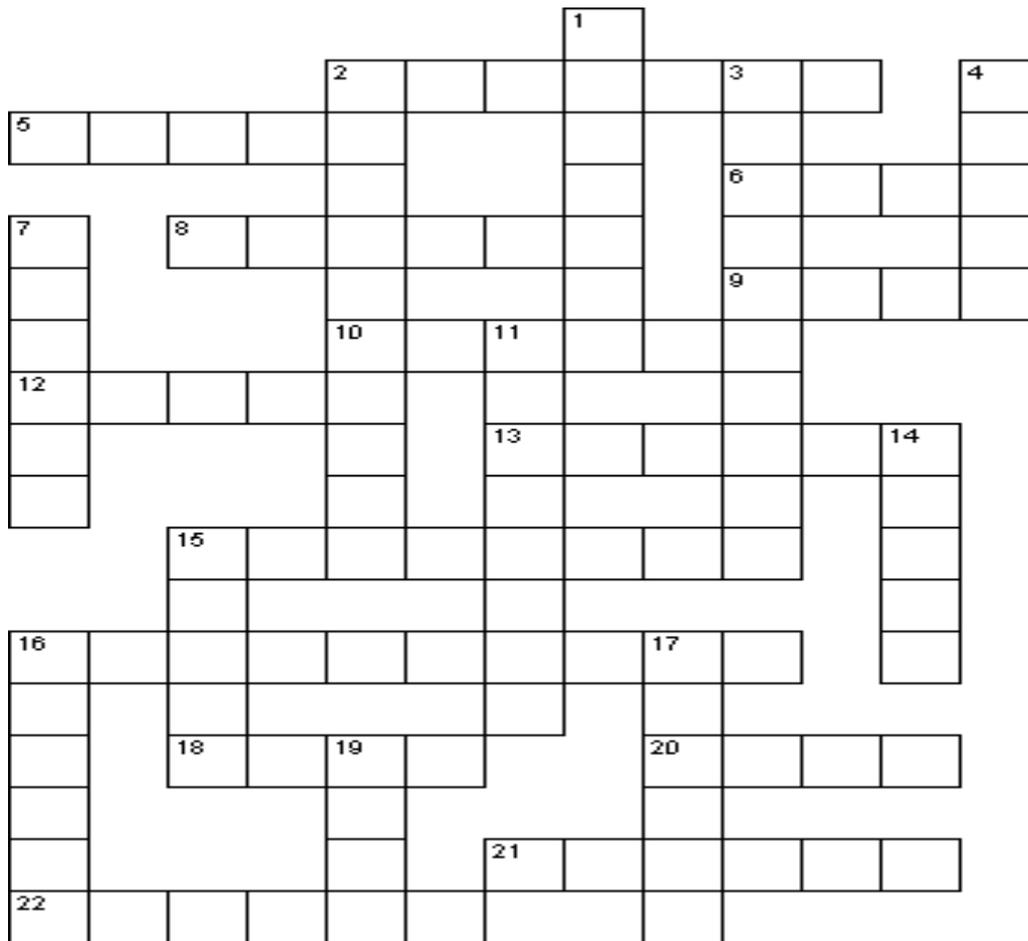
Consequences. Tawell's defence lawyer obtained the nickname of 'apple pip' Kelly because of his unusual defence and it is said that because of this the sale of apples in England dropped considerably.

The telegraph received a massive amount of positive publicity. The Times declared: "Had it not been for the efficient aid of the electric telegraph, both at Slough and Paddington, the greatest difficulty, as well as delay, would have occurred in the apprehension [of Tawell]."

Sgt Williams. One may wonder why the Sergeant did not arrest Tawell as soon as he stepped from the train but it is reasonable that he did not apprehend the man until he had received confirmation from an official source; the telegraph after all did call the man a "suspected" murderer. And why did he seek the assistance of Inspector Wiggins of the Metropolitan Police to arrest the man? "Because," said Sergeant Williams, recalling the arrest, "I am no officer off the station."

This would not be a problem for today's British Transport Police officer who has full jurisdiction anywhere.

Capitals Crossword



Across

- 2. Venezuela (7)
- 5. Ecuador (5)
- 6. Qatar (4)
- 8. Austria (6)
- 9. Fiji (4)
- 10. Cuba (6)
- 12. Bulgaria (5)
- 13. Zambia (6)
- 15. Australia (8)
- 16. Barbados (10)
- 18. Norway (4)
- 20. Italy (4)
- 21. Angola (6)
- 22. Iran (6)

Down

- 1. Uganda (7)
- 2. Denmark (10)
- 3. Ethiopia (5,5)
- 4. Cape Verde (5)
- 7. Bahamas (6)
- 11. Malta (8)
- 14. Ghana (5)
- 15. Egypt (5)
- 16. Lebanon (6)
- 17. Poland (6)
- 19. Peru (4)

Solution further on



George Page Scything 1931

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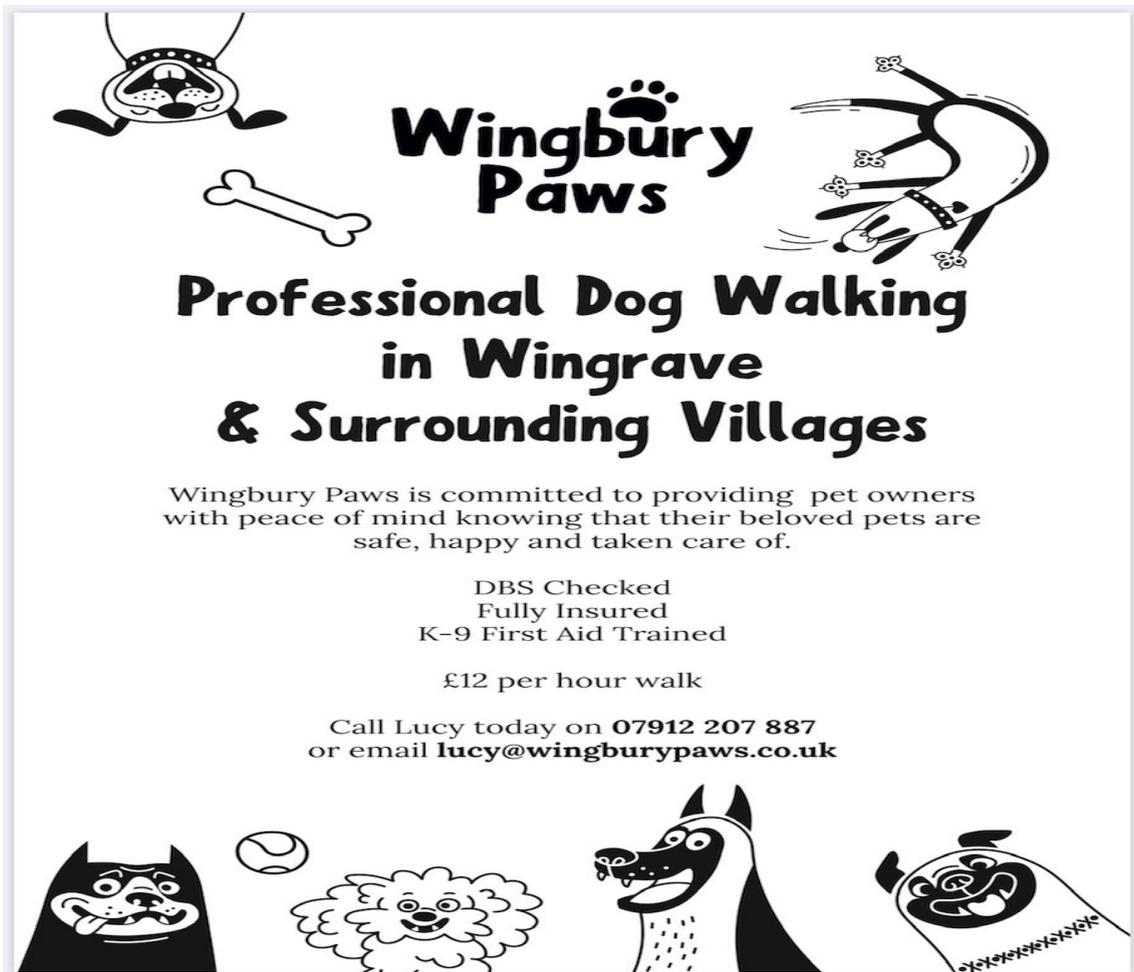
All proceeds from this printing to The Village Hall

(Thanks to authors Aston Abbots History Group)

Contact Caroline Lane on 681373 for your copy, or email

astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com

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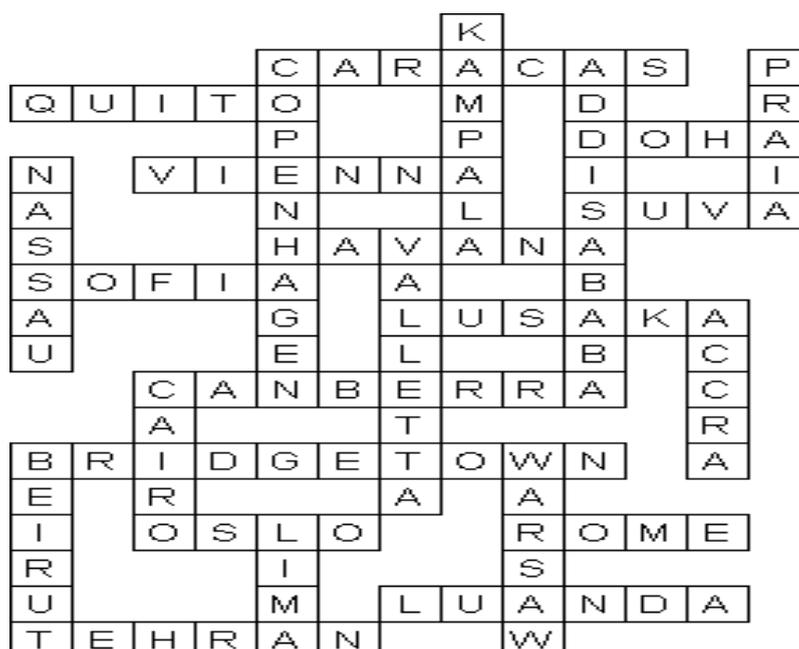
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Reminder of deadline for Chronicle contributions. Deadline is the 24th of each month for the following month unless otherwise stated. Send to articles to: editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Crossword Solution



An Obituary Ian Armstrong

Thanks to Richard & Sally for this piece

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair; and
- Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Affection, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepsons;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone.

RIP and pray for a resurrection.

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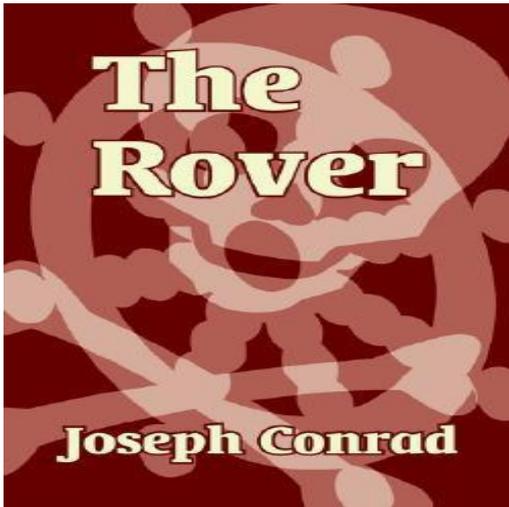
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BOOK CLUB REPORT

APRIL- AUGUST



The book club has been continuing during the last few months. In April we met on Zoom to discuss Joseph Conrad's *The Rover* set in post-revolutionary France. An old sailor decides to give up his roving life at sea and lodges in a farmhouse near the French port of Toulouse because this is the area he lived as a child before he ran from his mother's deathbed and was taken into the navy. The inhabitants include an ex revolutionary who has participated in the murder of Royalists during the Revolution and the daughter of the previous owners who has witnessed their slaughter and continues to be affected by the experience. In the seas beyond the farmhouse the English navy continue to patrol. It is not going to be a peaceful retirement.

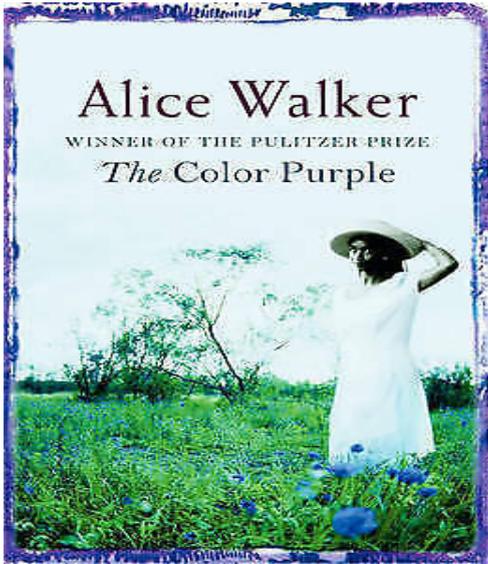
In May we discussed *Golden Hill* by Francis Spufford that Deirdre reviewed in the June Chronicle.

In June we were able to meet in the Orchard to discuss *Fools and Mortals* by Bernard Cromwell, an interesting historical fiction based around the emerging theatre in Elizabethan London. The story revolves around William Shakespeare and his actor brother trying compete with other writers and theatre companies with new plays. It was a well-researched book and we all learned a lot about the development of what we call The Theatre today.

In July we again met outside to discuss *Water Like chocolate* by Mexican writer Laura Esquivel. This was an extremely quirky read telling the story of the all-female De Graza family ruled by the fearsome Elena. Tita is not allowed to marry because tradition says she must look after her mother when she is old. Tita loves Pedro but unable to marry she transfers her emotions into the food she cooks with some interesting results. This proved a very popular book with the group and certainly one of the most unusual. Francesca sent a review to last month's Chronicle.

In August we met to discuss a mystery by Peter May called *Coffin Road*. Set in the Scottish Island of Harris it begins with a man struggling ashore but unable to remember who he is or what he is doing there. This again was a popular book involving the clash of big business and science.

THE COLOUR PURPLE BOOK REVIEW



For our September meeting we were unfortunately back to Zoom to discuss this Pulitzer prize winning American novel by Alice Walker. Set in the Deep South of America and starting in 1909 it traces the history of African American Celie's life from the age of 14 through a series of diary type entries and letters addressed to God and her beloved sister Nettie. The story is a powerful one and the book is interesting and good but perhaps not "enjoyable" to read. Those who had seen the film (starring Whoopi Goldberg) felt it concentrated on some aspects, such as the domestic abuse Celie suffers at the expense of other ideas and themes. This is a very nuanced portrayal of a black family in America at the time and pulls no punches in its portrayal of Celie's life of servitude within her own family. We follow Celie and her wider family through a number of years during

which she finds love, grows in confidence and ultimately finds happiness. As well as being a good story it also explores several ideas particularly the idea of God. Celie starts with a Christian church view of God but eventually comes to see God in a more Pagan/African light as embedded in nature.

Some of our group found the style of the writing, which was that of a poorly educated black woman writing as she would have spoken, difficult to follow. However the majority agreed this was a book worth reading.

Sally Palmer

***Apart from Wednesday evenings,
the Fish & Chip Van now Visits
ASTON ABBOTTS Saturday
afternoons around 12***



Aston Abbotts Village Hall news – Nov



VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL MEETING –
Wednesday 11 November, 7.30pm,
Village Hall

All welcome (please bring a face covering). It will help us manage numbers safely if you could let us know if you are planning to attend – please speak to one of us or use the email below. Do ask if you have any questions/comments and aren't able to attend.

The hall complies with government COVID-secure guidelines, and as required by law we now have an NHS QR code for Test and Trace on display in the window and inside the hall. If you have the NHS app on your mobile, you can scan the code. This is voluntary, but hirers must still keep a record of who attends events.

New booking administrator: Many thanks to Sally Palmer who is now helping Nigel. Please ask if you need advice about a booking. email: astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com

Or call:

01296 681152 (Nigel and Sally Palmer)

Mobile: 07918-928897 (Sally) Mobile:
07547-604072 (Nigel)

The Astonians (Tamed)

Well it was an awful day at Sarah Lipton's wedding to Rory Brocklebank-Fowler last Saturday. With all the restrictions, the added drama was unwelcome.

The vicar asked if anyone had anything to say concerning the union of the bride and groom. He stressed that if someone had an issue it was their time to stand up and talk, or forever hold their peace. The moment of utter silence was broken by a beautiful young woman carrying a child. I didn't recognise her.

She stood up and started walking slowly towards the altar.

Everything quickly turned to chaos. Sarah threw the bouquet and burst out crying. Then slowly Rory's mother fainted.

The Best men started giving each other looks and wondering how best to help save the situation.

The Minister asked the woman, "Can you tell us why you came forward. What do you have to say?" There was absolute silence in the church.

The woman replied, "I just wanted to say that we can't hear at the back."



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philipians 4:13

Could you be a Governor at our school? *Well – we are all living through some very interesting times. The Covid-19 pandemic seems to have turned our whole world upside down. After months of being closed the Governing Body are really happy that the school is now open again and we can get back to some semblance of normality. Not that having all the children segregated into ‘bubbles’ can in any way be described as normal. All of our staff deserve enormous thanks for their efforts both during lockdown and in preparing for and implementing the reopening of the school. Their commitment, innovation and flexibility have been exemplary.*

The Governing Body is essential to the maintenance and growth of the school. They provide vision, ethos and both strategic and financial direction. They also hold the Head Teacher to account for the performance of the pupils and the management of staff. Being a governor is also very rewarding – it can enable you to impact on the school in a positive way. There are currently several vacancies for governors and it is essential they are filled as soon as possible for the continuing improvement of the school. We are particularly keen to recruit governors with Finance, Legal and HR Management skills. Please consider carefully the next new governor could be you, whether you're a parent at the school, a member of Wingrave Church or a public spirited member of the community. Don't assume that someone else will fill the role!

We hope that our returning children are now settled into the new academic year at Wingrave Church of England Combined School and we would have extended a particularly warm welcome to the parents of children who have joined the school for the first time this year. The Governing Body want the children to believe that they will achieve their full potential in our school and that they will enjoy their time with us. Our vision is embodied in our Learning Tree, which symbolises the growth the school has achieved and will continue to achieve. The tree echoes our Growth Mindset approach and it reflects our rural setting. This symbol has been developed collaboratively by the children, staff, parents and governors. We are also very proud that we were rated as ‘continuing to be a good school’ by Ofsted after their last inspection visit in November 2019. We particularly liked the opening comment in the report – ‘Pupils love coming to school’. Follow the link on our website to see the complete report.

Although the school is operating in a very different way this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Governing Body is committed to maintaining our Christian ethos. We will do all we can to protect the health and wellbeing of all of our pupils and staff. But we will need the support of both parents and governors to operate within the new procedures.

The Head Teacher, Mr Tomson, has also published a new virtual tour of the school on the website. This is intended mainly for parents of prospective new pupils, as we cannot allow school tours under the current restrictions, but you may also find it an interesting insight into how the school is operating.

We ask for your help to continue to improve the school. Becoming a governor can be very rewarding. The full Governing Body, and both of the subcommittees (Finance, Premises and Personnel FPP and Curriculum, Community and Pupil CCP) each meet once a term. And governors normally take on a particular subject area, e.g. Numeracy, Literacy, Pupil Premium, Special Educational Needs SEN, etc. in which they take a particular interest. If you would like to know more about being a governor, then please speak to Mr. Tomson, Head Teacher, in the first instance, or complete the nomination form on the web site. Maureen Lomas - Chair of Governing Body. 01296 681436 Twelve Leys, Wingrave, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4QG office@wingrave.school

Village Hall Diary November 2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2	3 20:00 Yoga	4 18:00 Yoga	5	6	7
8	9	10 20:00 Yoga	11 18:00 Yoga 19:30 Village Hall AGM	12	13	14
15	16 19:15 PCC meeting	17 20:00 Yoga	18 18:00 Yoga	19	20	21
22	23	24 20:00 Yoga	25 18:00 Yoga	26	27 18:00 Yoga Nidra	28
29	30					

Who's Who when you need them.

Chair Parish Council Jane Baylis 681042
Councillor Kate Curry 681137
Councillor & Street Lighting Highways & Transport Colin Higgs 681343
Councillor Recreation Ground Phil' Spooner 681544
Councillor Heather Langdon 688946
Councillor Jane Plested 681740
County Councillor Netta Glover 688357
Vicar Revd Howard Robson Tel: 01296 688593
Church Warden Caroline Abel-Smith 681001.
Church Secretary Caroline Lane 681373
100 Club Treasurer David Gray 681952
Bingo Pam Dixon 681626
Book Club Sally Palmer 681152
Chronicle Editor / Quiz Night Pete Lucas 681387
Chronicle Advertising Enquiries. John Whyte johnwhyte2311@gmail.com
Chronicle Distribution Sally Palmer/Jill Wenble 681152/681877
Village Hall Hire Nigel & Sally Palmer 681152
6.30 Club Andy Bystra 681690
Gnomes Carol Spooner 681544
Rambling Club & Whist Drive Colin Higgs 681343
Baby & Toddler Group Kim Gayler 681123
Royal Oak Pub & Restaurant Teri Moulton 681262
Milkman Alan 07791885612
NHS Direct 24hr Advice 111
Doctor Out of hours Surgeries 331511
Stoke Mandeville Hospital 315000
Police Non-Emergency 101
Buckinghamshire Council 01296 395000
Citizens Advice 08701264056
MP Greg Smith 01296 714 240
Refuse Collection 585510
Anglian Water 385995
Pre School Wingrave 681127
Post office & shop Wingrave 682964
Window Cleaner Ian 07572337832



****Book returns only? Drop off in blue box at the entrance****

We are open

Tuesday 1400-1600
Wednesday 1000-1200
Friday 1400-1600
Saturday 1000-1200



Children's Books

We are currently unable to allow young children to browse our kinder boxes, but we can make up bags of board books and picture books. Come and look at our displays.

You can call into the library or request by email:

wingcommunitylibrary@gmail.com

We will select up to 10 books and arrange collection date and time.

Books for older children have been relocated to the centre of the library – one child/family group at a time, or adults only please.

Search for titles to reserve here

<https://buckinghamshire.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

or call in to the library and we can order for you

Join the library here to access a wealth of FREE online services:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/library-membership/join-library/>

Check for updates at:

<https://www.facebook.com/wingcommunity.library/>

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COVID SAFE

Thursday

3rd December

7.30pm

Royal Oak

Cash Prize & Dinner for 2 free draw

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**And now it's over to the official
ALLOTMENT DIARY with Peter
Shorrock; who's showing off a bit...**

I am attaching some photos to this edition. I hope the first one will impress you: the wheelbarrow contains the produce from only 10 potato plants: I have put a tin of baked beans in the barrow for scale purposes. The second photo shows the three biggest potatoes, again with a baked bean tin for scale.



I can tell you the secret of getting a crop like this. You plant some raspberries, and leave them for about 20 years. When they have stopped producing fruit and/or are dying, you dig them up, together with the weeds that have grown between them, and cover the area with polythene over the winter. Come the spring, you remove the polythene, and dig any roots that remain, and then plant your potatoes. I planted two main crop varieties, Valor and King Edward. When autumn arrives, you should have a crop like mine!



In fact, in order to save time, you can probably dispense with growing raspberries for 20 years: I think the important thing is that the land has not been used for growing vegetables for many years. The soil will then contain all the nutrients which are needed to produce a bumper crop. I planted 2 rows of 10 potatoes each on the land where the raspberries had grown, and then more rows of the same varieties in rows on the main part of the allotment. The two rows on the old raspberry patch each produced a crop like the one photographed in

my wheelbarrow, with a large number of gigantic potatoes. However, the rows on the remainder of the allotment produced crops of potatoes on average about 50% smaller, both in size of the individual tubers and aggregate. This is despite the fact that I run a 3 year crop rotation on my allotment: for example, if I have grown potatoes on one section of the allotment, I will not use it for potatoes again until the 3rd year after. Clearly potatoes would prefer that I did not plant them in the same soil until the 4th or 5th year; but that is not practicable

The other photo shows part of the “crop” of the weed which I have been banging on about for some months – *Gallinsoga parviflora*, commonly called the gallant soldier. These are the gallant soldiers which have grown on the part of my allotment where we have uprooted our crop of sweetcorn, and, as you can see, they could not have grown more densely if I had planted them! But here's the funny thing: they only seem to afflict MY allotment! There does not seem to be a single gallant soldier on any of the 4 allotments surrounding mine! Why I am singled out in this way, I have no idea.



The only thing I can think of is that the weed is similar to nettles, in that it likes disturbed soil; and when the weed first arrived on my allotment some years ago, 3 of the 4 allotments surrounding mine were being neglected by their then owners, so that very little digging was going on to disturb the soil. However, that is no longer the case with the current owners, and why the gallant soldier does not try to take up residence on the adjoining allotments I cannot understand.

One of my neighbours on the allotments, Brian, has kindly sprayed the “crop” of gallant soldiers in the picture with weed-killer, and we are waiting to see if this kills the blighters off. If it doesn't, I will have to try to dig them all up – which, as you can imagine, will take some time. I hope I shall be able to report good news on the gallant soldier front in my next diary.