

The Chronicle February 403

Our Celebrity soon to be given the British Empire Medal for services to the community. Colin Higgs here with the Czech Ambassador.



Editor's Comments, News, Letters, What's on Guide, Interview with Colin , Andy's Spitfire and more...



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From the Editor

Too late for the last issue but, on 27 December I once again saw the regular voluntary litter pickers out clearing the village. I could not stop to thank them this time and do not know their names but they know who they are. I just want to thank them on behalf of the village. Your efforts are superb.

However, as our litter pickers were walking south the **council bin men** were passing, going north and leaving a trail of trash behind them. They could not have missed what was going on but still continued with their sloppy work. I was furious and gave them a piece of my experience verbally and I have formally complained to AVDC.

In reply AVDC said that briefings have taken place to prevent such an incident happening again in the future. We will see.

Another topic that raises anger is the **Heavy Goods Vehicles** that thunder through the village and

tufting up the grass verges by cutting corners and passing oncoming traffic.

Also a fellow villager narrowly missed being mowed down by a motorist at the corner of the Royal Oak at 7pm on 15th January. If nothing else this blind corner should have a 20MPH sign.

BEM to Colin Higgs. It was great to hear the news that Cllr Colin Higgs was included in the New Year's Honours List with the **British Empire Medal for services to the community** including endeavouring 50 years on the Parish Council representing village interests. Inside this magazine is an interview with Colin regarding aspects of his life and that of the village through his eyes.

Michael Harris and David Watts

Sad to report the deaths of villagers Michael Harrison who leaves his wife and three children. Also David Watts, who leaves his wife and three children. Michael and David were both from Wingrave Road Aston Abbots.

The Countryside Alliance have warned residents about the dangers of 'sky lanterns' after a horrendous zoo fire in Germany saw dozens of animals die.

A real threat to wildlife?

The Countryside Alliance said the 'sky lanterns' are a menace for landowners who report sheep, cattle and horses being injured or dying from eating their metal frames.

Sarah Lee, Head of Policy at the Countryside Alliance said: "While Sky lanterns are used to create a spectacle in the sky, they are also a serious danger to the countryside, livestock and wildlife. "The horrendous news of the Zoo fire in Germany, should remind us all of the very real threat they pose."

Sky lanterns, also known as Chinese lanterns, consist of a paper-covered wire or bamboo frame and an open flame heat source, which lifts the lantern into

the air where it can float for miles from the point of release. Once extinguished the lantern falls back to earth. Sarah continued: "They are also a serious source of litter in the countryside. We urge people to think twice before letting them off and to consider the impact of them after they have left their hands. An estimated 200,000 sky lanterns are sold and released each year in the UK



Sky lanterns also have an open flame to help them fly, which is a fire hazard to wildlife and can damage their habitats and the environment. During the dry summer months, this risk is increased as it's easier for grass and countryside to catch fire. There have been reports of animals becoming entangled in these lanterns and becoming injured trying to free themselves, which will cause extreme stress and suffering.

News from in and around the village

Cllr Colin Higgs BEM

Mr Aston Abbotts, Cllr Colin Higgs, becomes the recipient of the British Empire Medal for his services to the community in the New Year's Honours.

Colin has served as a Parish Councillor for 50 years, and was involved in campaigns to preserve valuable and inclusive village services, most notably the local buses and the mobile library. He also serves as deputy church warden at St James and in the past he has also enjoyed roles as a bell ringer and chorister.

Colin said: "Well I feel a bit shocked really. It was a big surprise. I got a letter at the end of October and you are sworn to secrecy. "I don't receive it [the BEM] until later in the year; the Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire will hold a presentation, and then in June we will go to Buckingham Palace for a garden party."

Colin has lived in Aston Abbotts all his life. He regularly weeds areas of pavement and organises communal litter picking sessions.

He ensures village and countryside paths are maintained.

Regarding his time as a Parish councillor, Colin said: "I enjoyed it because we were getting things done, like repairing potholes. Then there were also decisions on planning applications. "I also conducted surveys for Bucks County Council to make sure the bus services were well used to keep them going. The bus services are very important. Otherwise you would have quite a lot of elderly people who would be isolated."

You can also find Colin organising village social events such as local guided walks and rambles.

Refuse Lorry overturns at Wing Roundabout. Monday 6th January Police were called to reports a large domestic refuse lorry that had turned on its side at the junction of the A4146 on Wing Road, at around 3.45pm, after it attempted to go around the roundabout. A spokesman for Bedfordshire Police said: "We have closed the Wing Road out of Linslade at the top of the

roundabout and the Wing Road/Bunkers Lane junction.



There were no injuries. A passer-by said that the lorry driver looked 'fine'. Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station assisted Bedfordshire Police at the scene.

Naturists Walk around Aston Abbotts. This was sent to me and apparently took place on 20th September 2019, around 12.30pm to 5.30pm.



The event was organised by British Naturism Eastern Region in association with the Milton Keynes Naturist Meet and Greet Group

and Naturist Ramblers (England and Wales).

The walk was described as mainly flat with some low level hills passing through grassland, agricultural fields and open countryside. The circular route follows a network of public footpaths through part of the Vale of Aylesbury before heading back to the starting point across more open countryside.

The Czech Ambassador to the UK at the Bus Stop given to the village by the wartime exiled Czech President, Edvard Benes.



Church Roof lead stolen St Michael's Church in Edgcott had its roof lead stolen. Theft from/damage to listed buildings is classed as heritage crime. 18.7% of all listed buildings fall victim to heritage crime each year?

What's going on at the A418 just outside Bierton?



I have been asked to comment on the Eastern Link Road development at Bierton. I can only use what I found online.

Aylesbury's Eastern Link Road started in September with preparations for creating a junction on the A418 just outside Bierton. The 1.3 mile northern section, with a budget of around £5 million, will be paid for and built by developers Barratt, as part of its new Kingsbrook estate. It will connect Aylesbury Road, Bierton (A418) with a roundabout at the new Bellingham Way, and is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2021.

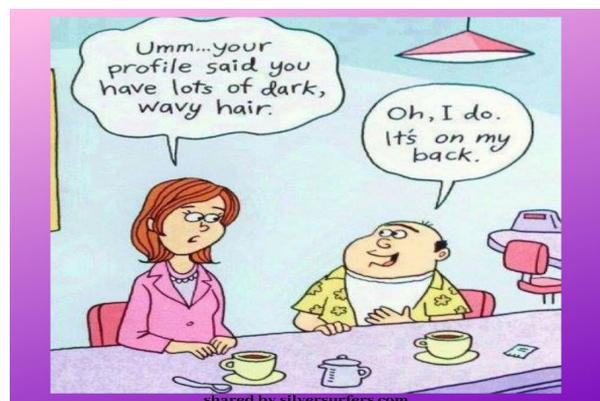
It will mean four months of temporary traffic lights on the A418.

The work will happen just north of Bierton, as construction moves ahead with the Eastern Link Road through Kingsbrook.

This is to build the new junction, but will soon mean the use of manually-controlled lights between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

When complete, this section will allow traffic to and from Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes to reach Aylesbury's inner ring road more directly, via the Stocklake link roads.

The Eastern Link Road will form another section of Buckinghamshire County Council's planned Orbital Route, a way to create more capacity for traffic as Aylesbury grows, linking the town's main radial routes, and drawing traffic away from the town centre.



Your Messages

Dear Ed, Would you be kind enough to put a note in the Chronicle for me.

Colin Higgs will be giving a talk on local history on Thursday 20th February for the Ladies Club at the Village Hall in Aston Abbotts.

I am sure that many people will be interested, including some of the chaps so please ladies come and join us and bring your other halves. It will make Colin feel better if there's a lot of men around I am sure. Many thanks. **April.**

Dear friends, Just a brief note to you to say thank you very much for your kind gifts and warm messages to myself and Joy at my farewell service on 5th January celebrating the feast of the Epiphany at All Saints Soulbury.

Epiphany is a great Christian celebration recalling the revealing of Jesus to the whole world, irrespective of our gender or ethnicity.

It has been a privilege to serve in the Cottesloe Team since 2011 and meet many hundreds of lovely people here and throughout my 45 years of ministry.

I shall pray for you as you transition into the next stage as I ask you to pray for us as we look to a different life called 'retirement'!!! **God Bless,**

Revd Philip.

Dear Ed, On behalf of my family I would like to say a sincere thank you for the many sympathy cards, kind messages, thoughts, love and flowers which we received on the very sad loss of my Daughter Maxine. It's been a very hard blow to us all, especially at a time of year when it should have been so happy.

Our brave, lovely, caring Maxine will be sorely missed by so many, but as is said, 'time heals' and we will always have happy memories of her life with us. Thank you all once again.

Rita and Andy

Dear Pete, Will you please mention the dog mess around the village including on verges, at the bus stop on The Green, the Abbey field path and on the Recreational ground. This is totally unacceptable.

There are many dog owners and walkers in the village who are responsible who bag it and bin it in the appropriate bins. The one or two who are not responsible; you know who you are. To them, please take note, we are watching.

The Astonians

Trouble at the Brocklebank-Fowlers (The rich couple at Aston Estate)

I don't know if I feel sorry for Rory Brocklebank-Fowler or not.

So I'm told, when the burglar broke into Rory's house that afternoon before Christmas, he tied the woman up and told Rory to hand over all the jewellery and money. Rory started crying and said, "You can take anything you want or even beat me up. But please untie and free her."

The burglar said, "You must really love your wife!"

And Rory replied "Not particularly, but she will be home soon".

And that is how the divorce proceedings started.

A rare look back at Colin Higgs as a child in Aston Abbots.

At 84 Colin Higgs is about to receive his British Empire Medal for services to Aston Abbots. This gave me a perfect opportunity to

ask him about some aspects of his earlier life in the village.

Colin started telling me of when he was 4 years old and his introduction to school while the war was on. It was 1940.



One Monday morning, his mother took him to school in the village. On his return he was asked how his day had gone and his reply was mainly positive. On Tuesday, Colin flatly refused to go to school. He said, "It had already been done." He had already been on Monday. "No need for a return until he was 5". A war of words between mum and son continued until, in the end, the young Colin laid down in the road kicking and screaming and refused to go to school.

Workman were working on the road nearby and asked why Colin was acting in such a way. They pointed out that he would enjoy school if he carried on trying it. That simple comment struck a

chord with the young Higgs who got up and continued on his way to school.

“School WAS good," he said. “It was strict though and had 3 female teachers. No males as the men had gone to war.” He continued, “The school had 110 children which included many evacuees from the towns and cities.”

At 7 years old he joined the choir in Church. He went on to ring the bells and eventually became Church Secretary and Warden.



He said, “Dad was head gardener at the Abbey and mum was a nursery nurse for the Abbey’s children. Families were bigger back then. But over the years, we have lost the school, 2 Chapels, a village shop, a sweet shop, a pub, a bakery, a Butcher and even a Cobbler on Moat Lane.”

Colin was our own Hovis boy, delivering bread on a bike up until he was 16.

Later on in life Colin was strongly encouraged to become a District Councillor and then asked to set up a petition to establish a Parish Council. He has served on the council for 50 years.

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Notes from the Parish Council – February 2020

Not too much to report this month as there has been no Parish Council meeting since the last Chronicle.

Our MVAS (Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign) has now been delivered and we have installed it initially in Wingrave Road, facing incoming traffic.

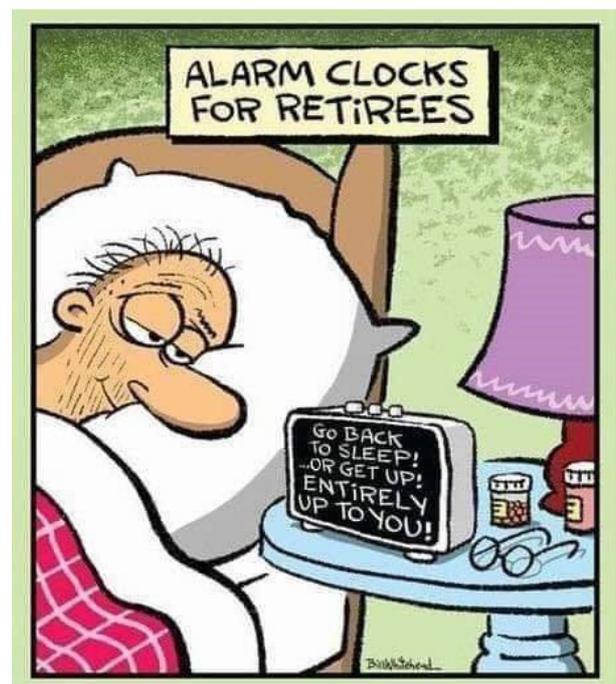
We have three locations for the sign, one on each of the approach roads to the village. The sign can be rotated to face either the incoming traffic or the outgoing traffic. The three locations were chosen by Transport for Bucks who are the only people who can authorise placement locations. We will either rotate the sign to face the other way or move it between the three locations at intervals of 2-4 weeks.

In addition to acting as a speed reminder and deterrent the sign collects data on the volume and speed of vehicles passing it. The original MVAS sign that you will have seen occasionally was shared between five villages, which is why it kept disappearing. This new MVAS sign was purchased by the Parish

Council, with a 50% grant from the Local Area Forum, and it is for the exclusive use of Aston Abbotts.

Speeding, traffic volumes, damage to kerbing and verges, and inappropriately large vehicles are a problem in Aston Abbotts, as in many local villages. It is unfortunate that the Aston Abbotts Speed Group seemed to fall apart even more quickly than it was formed. In the meantime the Parish Council will continue to look at combating the problems, within the constraints of what is legally allowed and what can be afforded within our budget.

The next Parish Council meetings are: 28th January, 25th February, & 7th April. The public Annual Parish Meeting is Wednesday 22nd April.



Aston Abbotts What's on Guide

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date & Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Village Quiz Night</i>	<i>Sunday 2nd. 19.30</i>	<i>Royal Oak</i>
<i>Rambling Club party & AGM</i>	<i>Saturday 8th 19.30</i>	<i>13 Moorlands Wing</i>
<i>Alpha Course</i>	<i>Every Monday 19.00</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<i>Pilates</i>	<i>Every Tuesday 19.30</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<i>Yoga</i>	<i>Every Wed's. 18.00</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<i>Fish & Chip Van</i>	<i>Every Wed's 20.15</i>	<i>Various</i>
<i>Morning Cafe</i>	<i>Every Thur' 10.00</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<i>Whist Drive</i>	<i>Thu 6th & 20th</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<i>Bingo</i>	<i>Thursday 13th 19.30</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<i>Valentines Dinner</i>	<i>Fri 14th. From 19.00</i>	<i>Royal Oak</i>
<i>Ladies Club Village Historical Talk</i>	<i>Friday 20st 14.30</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>
<i>Bus Trip</i>	<i>Friday 21st 09.08</i>	<i>Bus stop to L/Buzzard</i>
<i>Parish Council</i>	<i>Tuesday 25th 19.30</i>	<i>Village Hall</i>

The Quiz Night for March will be held on March 15th. Not March 1st

Royal Oak Pub



Sunday 2nd Feb' 7.30pm

Full Cash Prize

Free draw dinner for 2

Hot Food available

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First Sunday of every month

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Valentines Dinner at the Royal Oak

Friday 14th February from 7pm

Romantic Fire, Luscious food for lovers, Fine Wines, real ales & Gin menu

Roasted Camembert for sharing, with Cranberry bread.

Smoked Salmon & Cream Cheese Terrine.

Roasted Red Pepper Soup with Crusty Bread.

Ribeye Steak served with all the trimmings.

*Chicken Breast stuffed with Mozzarella & Cranberry wrapped in smoked
Pancetta.*

Wild Mushroom Stroganoff served with Garlic Rice.

Strawberry Cheesecake served with Clotted Cream.

Chocolate Cherry Brownie served with Ice Cream.

Selection of soft & hard Cheese with dry biscuits.

Valentines Menu £29.95 pp (£10 dep' pp when booking)

To Book, call 01296 681262

Andy Bystra takes us on a journey aboard the 'Envy of the Enemy' The Spitfire

Reflecting on 2019, one of the highlights for me was the opportunity to fly a Spitfire. It happened that some time in Feb. I spotted an advert in a magazine, and having spent virtually all my working life in various defence jobs and the last twenty or so on aero engines, I was rather keen to have a go! It was pretty expensive, but the more I thought about it, the more it became a 'Why not'!! decision.

I phoned Biggin Hill who told me the basic flight was about 30 minutes but other options were available. I really wanted to fly past the RAF memorial on the cliffs above Dover but was told this was out of bounds due to security at the port. However, I could fly the length of the cliffs at Beachy Head. A date was set for Sat 31st Aug. and flight plan agreed; including at my request, a barrel roll!!

I was restricted to the number of guests I could take so settled on Rita, my Sister Trixi who has a PPL. and Chris Stovold (ex Lucas Aerospace) and his wife Olwen.

A hotel was booked close to Biggin for us all and we met for a meal on the Friday. evening. My flight was scheduled for 2.00 the following day but we had to be there half an hour earlier for the 'briefing'.

This was mainly outlining the risks associated in flying a 75 year old plane as well as instructions on parachuting out should the need arise, and how to leave the plane should it crash land and/or be on fire. The only part of this I remembered was that whatever happened to exit 'bloody quickly'!!!!

While I was being briefed, Chris spotted a 'utility' aircraft outside the hanger and established we could hire it so our party could take aerial pictures of me and the 'Spit'.



Kitted up in what I hoped was fireproof flying kit, I was introduced to my pilot Anna Woods who asked whether I had any experience in flying. On letting her know I'd flown a few light aircraft from the right hand seat, suggested I might like to take a

turn at the controls. I didn't need asking twice!!!!

Duly strapped in and checks done, Anna fired up that beautiful Merlin. I'd been quite controlled until then, but as soon as the prop (which from the rear seat looked almost as big as the wing span), started to turn and the engine fired, I was in 'some sort of seventh heaven'!!



The other aircraft with our 'party' on board taxied out first and we followed at a respectful distance, having to pause a while halfway round the perimeter track while a fuel bowser crossed our path. We caught up with it at the beginning of the runway, now slightly askew so our party could photograph the 'Spit's' approach. No sooner had we stopped however, it turned and took off; leaving us to follow a few minutes later.

Our take off was effortless and silky smooth as we climbed gently to around 2,000 feet, quickly catching up with and joining the others and flying quite tightly port

and starboard to allow those on board to take photos and video of the Spitfire. After some five minutes or so. Anna rolled the aircraft down and away, which looks spectacular on the video!

Levelling at about a 1,000 feet, Anna announced I had control, and would I climb back to 2,000 and head for the coast.

We crossed it a mile or two west of Newhaven and she suggested I turn eastwards and just follow the coastline, keeping above 1,000 feet and at least 400 yards away from the cliffs to avoid birds using the up-currents.

This was pure joy, the aircraft seemingly responding to thoughts rather than physical input. Passing over Beachy Head lighthouse, the beauty of the sea, cliffs and fields was stunning and in a fit of patriotism I couldn't help feeling perhaps we really should cut out ties with Europe and signalled this to the French coast in 'time-honoured' fashion!!!

A few miles east of Eastbourne, Anna took control, climbing through quite dense cloud as we progressed inland. At about 3,500 she indulged me by 'playing' in the clouds; at one stage pointing out our shadow with a 'rainbow' halo around it in the cloud below.

Finding a 'hole' in the fairly continuous cloud, Anna asked if I was ready to do the 'barrel roll'! I answered in the affirmative, but to my utter surprise, she then immediately put us into a steep dive; only pulling out when things on the ground started to look quite large. Then, pulling up sharply, we climbed back up into the cloud, the aircraft rolling rapidly through 360 degrees. It was certainly exciting, but I felt rather as though I'd left my stomach behind in the fields below!!. Settling back down to about 1500 feet and just below the cloud, Anna once more handed control to me with instructions to maintain our heading until joining the circuit at Biggin Hill, at which point she would take control.



The landing was uneventful and as silky smooth as the take off. I rather enjoyed the following debrief with Anna and the inevitable lengthy 'photo call' since it enabled my stomach to regain its composure and my legs

to stop feeling they were made of jelly. It made you realise just a little of how those lads who did it for real must have felt!!! Anyway, what a fabulous experience; wouldn't have missed for anything.

Back at the hotel, there was just time to shower before the taxi was due to take us all for a celebration meal at The Grumpy Mole.

A leisurely breakfast on Sunday and we went on our separate ways; Chris & Olwen to Brighton for the day, my sister back to the airfield to meet an old 'aviation' chum and us back home to 'swap cases' before driving to North Wales for a week to play with several narrow gauge/heritage railways.

Postscript;- I sent the above notes of my flight to one of my ex MOD colleagues, Bill, who responded, reminding me that some time in the 1990's, we were involved in the certification by Dowty (the original manufacturer of Spitfire propellers} of replacement blades for the aging Spitfires made by Hoffman. This reminded me that as we were doing so, an article appeared in a Sunday paper stating we were fitting Spitfires with propellers made by an offshoot of Messerschmitt and at a cost greater than that of a complete Spitfire!!!!



**Waterside Theatre Aylesbury.
Review by Pete Lucas**

One of the best shows this theatre has put on.

(Story Brief) The show is loosely based on the Biblical story of Joseph, found in Genesis, where he was sold into slavery by his brothers who were jealous of his prophetic abilities to analyse dreams and of his being their fathers' favourite.

Following a traumatic time for Joseph, he found favour with the Pharaoh due to his God given ability to explain dreams. Because of famine in the land from where he came, a series of events finally ended with Joseph re-unifying with his family.

Turning one of the most powerful and at times tragic stories from the Bible into a satirical musical has never sat fully comfortable with me. However, I must admit that the power in this adaptation of the

Joseph story is its simplicity. Simplifying a complex story and interjecting light hearted humour and strong music into the blend makes for this explosive, colourful, 'get going from the start' and feel good production at the Waterside Theatre.

I first saw 'Joseph' some 30 years ago in London and had reservations whether this production still under the Directorship of Bill Kenwright could match the London version. I honestly think it is superior to the former.

Starring Britain's Got Talent finalist Mark McMullan as Joseph, the show has lost none of its musical power. McMullan can act, sing and sing with great strength. Pharaoh, the King exploded onto the scene adapted as Elvis the king in a jumpsuit.

The whole production fitted so well together in voice and choreography. They were finely supported by a full orchestra and a choir of some 40 children.

The set was mesmerising especially with the actors and dancers using every inch of it.

As for the audience; well they didn't want it to end. Great for the whole family, this splendid colourful action packed feel good spectacular should not be missed.

New Buckinghamshire Council goes Live on 1st April



With less than three months to go, preparations are well underway to create the new Buckinghamshire Council that will launch on 1 April this year.

What does the new council mean for me?

- For most people there will be no change to the day-to-day services you use. This includes bin collections, social care, libraries and parking.
- Getting in touch will be simpler. From 1 April you will only need to contact one council for all services currently provided by the county and district councils.
- Face-to-face support in your community. You will be able to access information, advice and

support through a network of 17 local Council Access Points. These will be based at the heart of the local community – usually in a library or a council office in one of the county’s main towns.

- Strong links between the council and local communities. Through Community Boards, Buckinghamshire Council councillors will work closely with local people and community organisations to understand and respond to the key issues affecting their local area.

Who will be my local councillor on the new council?

Elections for the new council will take place on 7 May 2020. Until these newly elected councillors take up their posts, the current elected members from the five existing councils will continue serving their communities.

How can I find out more?

In the run up to the start of the Buckinghamshire Council there will be regular news and updates, including on **Twitter and Facebook and on the Shadow Authority website.**



Services at Saint James Church February 2020

2 nd February	06.00am	Evensong	Revd. Ian Ogilvie
9 th February	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Peter Binns
16 th January	9.30am	Breakfast in the Village Hall, followed by a short service	
23 rd February	10.00am	Team Communion at Wing	Bishop Alan

HELP US TO FIND A NEW VICAR.
As many villagers probably know, our rector the Revd Philip Derbyshire retired at the beginning of the year which means that Wing, Wingrave, Soulbury, Cublington and Aston Abbots are currently all without a vicar.

An advertisement for his successor has been placed in appropriate church media. Please

see the link below:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/buckingham/buckingham-area-vacancies/>

If anyone has any contacts who might be interested in the position do please forward it to them. Thank you.

Caroline Abel Smith,
Churchwarden, St James the Great
Aston Abbots

100 Club Draw. January 2020

1st prize, £50 Juan Gutierrez

2nd prize, £10 Ivan Greenaway

Church Duties January

Date	Cleaning	Flowers
1st	Colin & David	Donated
8th	Caroline & Ann	Donated
15th	Alex & Anita	Colin
22nd	Colin & Gay	Colin
29th	David	TBA



Church Matters The diary of St. James's

All Saints Church in Soulbury was full for our farewell service with Revd. Philip Derbyshire on 5th January. He is not moving far so we shall certainly be seeing him in the Parish in future. In the mean-time he and Joy can enjoy the luxury of a lie-in every Sunday morning.

Our first Family Service of the new year on the third Sunday, started with a breakfast of pancakes and pan-au-chocolate. In our informal services we are following the story of the apostles as they established the early church. The first episode depicted Saul of Tarsus, initially an enemy of all Christians but he saw a vision and was temporarily blinded and thus became an apostle himself. The kids had great fun 'blinding' Saul with torchlight from the pulpit.

David Gray



Cycling Club Christmas Breakfast



The Church Farm Cycling Club was started in late 2010 by a group of villagers who all shared a common interest in cycling to The Unicorn to eat a full English breakfast on a Saturday morning. Sadly this friendly group soon deteriorated into a small rather serious bunch of lycra-clad enthusiasts who just wanted to pedal furiously for 25-30km then consume nothing more than de-ionised water and chia seeds.

Despite this setback, the tradition of having a Christmas breakfast at The Unicorn once a year continued. This year, with The Unicorn closed for food, the group approached Teri at The Royal Oak and she very kindly agreed to

open up especially for the group and cook us breakfast.

And boy, did Teri do us proud! A delicious and huge breakfast washed down with copious coffee and Bucks Fizz was thoroughly enjoyed by the regular cyclists. A few absent members were replaced by a couple of us honorary members, included more for our capacity for eating breakfast rather than any expertise on two wheels.

A very big Thank You to Teri for making us so welcome and looking after us so well. **Phil Spooner**

PS. The informal cycling group usually meet for a ride on a Saturday morning if weather allows. All are welcome and if you would like to come along, send an email to phils@cix.co.uk and I will put you in touch with the group.

Where did you get that caricature of me? (ed)

**Driver Carries No Cash
HE'S MARRIED**

VILLAGE FETE 25th July 2020

A date for your new 2020 diaries is the Village Fete on Saturday 25th July. I am holding a meeting on Wednesday 4th March (7.30pm in the Village Hall).

If you are interested in finding out more about what you could do to help with preparations or assisting

on the day then please come along.

If you are doing any spring cleaning in the next few weeks please put aside books, bottles and anything that might sell on our famous bric-a-brac stall. We will collect them in the week before the Fete as usual. Thanks.

David Gray

(ukdavidgray@gmail.com or 681952)



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TEA, CAKE and CHOIR AFTERNOON

***At Wingrave Parish Church SATURDAY MARCH
21st 3pm – 5pm***

***With special performances by Glee Choirs of Leighton Buzzard and
Tring and A Cappella vocal group Peculi8***

***All proceeds will be shared between Wingrave Church and The
Brain Tumour Charity***

We would love to see you there !

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

Village Hall Diary To book the village hall contact Liz Barlow.

682605

February 2020

Sun 26	Mon 27	Tue 28	Wed 29	Thu 30	Fri 31	Sat 1
	19 ALPHA COURSE	9:30 Pilates	17:45 Yoga	9 Coffee Morning 19:30 Whist		12:30 EM Farrell
2	3 19 ALPHA COURSE	4 9:30 Pilates	5 17:45 Yoga	6 9 Coffee Morning 19:30 Whist	7	8
9	10 19 ALPHA COURSE	11 9:30 Pilates	12 17:45 Yoga	13 9 Coffee Morning 19:30 BINGO	14	15
16	17	18 9:30 Pilates	19 17:45 Yoga	20 9 Coffee Morning 14 Ladies Club 19:30 Whist	21	22
23	24 19 ALPHA COURSE	25 9:30 Pilates 19:30 Parish Council	26 17:45 Yoga	27 9 Coffee Morning	28	29



ALLOTMENT DIARY

Nothing has happened on my allotment since I last wrote. However, in other news, I have just read in my paper that the Royal Horticultural Society is asking for volunteers to catch slugs, and sent them to the RHS in breathable boxes, so that they can see which species of slugs are most prolific. There are apparently over 40 species of slug in Britain (who knew?), of which more than 20 are foreign invaders – and some of which, like the giant Spanish slug, are major food pests. Unfortunate leaving the EU is not going to result in any diminution of these illegal immigrants!

Some slugs are actually useful, in that they just eat rotting plant materials, and so help break things down; and all slugs are an important food source for some animals, such as badgers, and, I was surprised to learn, foxes. (Nevertheless, faced with the choice of getting rid of slugs, or

keeping them so that a badger or fox might have one for lunch, I know what I would do!)

However, for most gardeners, slugs are something to be got rid of as soon as possible, and the Times helpfully published a list of ways in which to do this, some of which were more useful than others:

- **Use Nemaslug.** This slug killer infects them, with no harm to other animals
- **Search & Destroy.** Use a torch to find slugs in the evening. Then take them to a field far away. (The Times did not indicate what the owner of that field would think about having slugs deposited in his field, and as an erstwhile lawyer, I do have some concerns about following this advice! Certainly don't tip them over the fence into your neighbour's garden: that would be very un-neighbourly, and the

little buggers might find their way back into your garden!) Alternatively put them in a freezer to kill them, and then put the corpses on a compost heap.

- **Set traps.** Put a jar part-filled with beer or half an orange, cut side down, near vulnerable plants. Empty the jar every morning, and remove the slugs thus attracted (and presumably continue as in the last method, although the Times did not say so).

- **Rake your soil.** In winter this attracts birds to eat exposed slug eggs. (Again, who knew that slugs laid eggs?)

- **Introduce a predator.** Some hedgehogs, toads, slow-worms, birds and beetles eat slugs. (Quite how you catch your predator, and then persuade it to stay in your garden/on your allotment, I am not sure. You'll have to work that one out yourselves).

Peter Shorrock





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