

The Chronicle

July 20. Issue 406

Our Village Pub & Restaurant Reopens



Two-metre rule reduced as pubs and restaurants in England are given the green light to reopen from 4 July. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, the "national hibernation" is coming to an end and "life is returning to our streets. People will be required to keep "one-metre plus" distance from others, while also taking measures to mitigate the risk of transmitting COVID-19.

Teri Moulton of the Royal Oak, which has been providing takeaway food since lockdown told the Chronicle, "This is good news and we hope everyone will support their local. However new rules must be abided by so as to keep everyone safe. We will be open from 12 midday on Saturday 4th July until late.

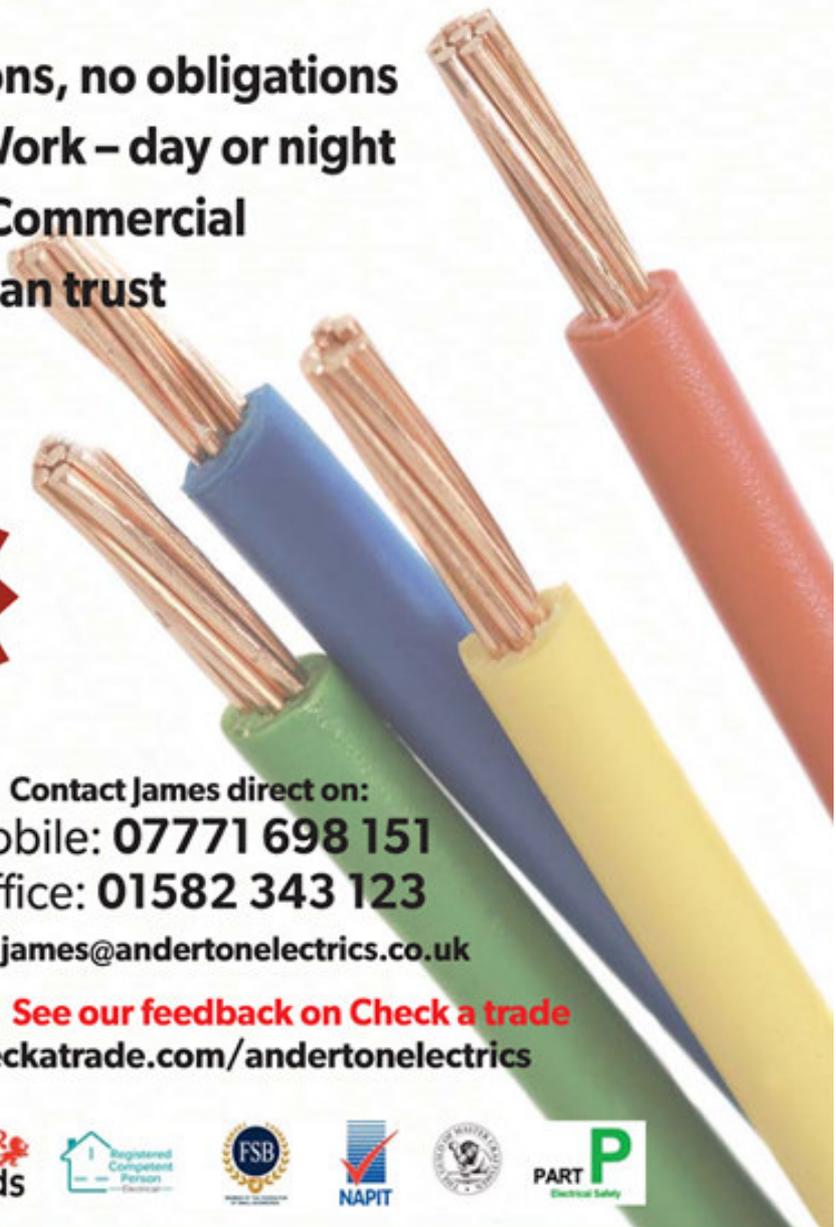


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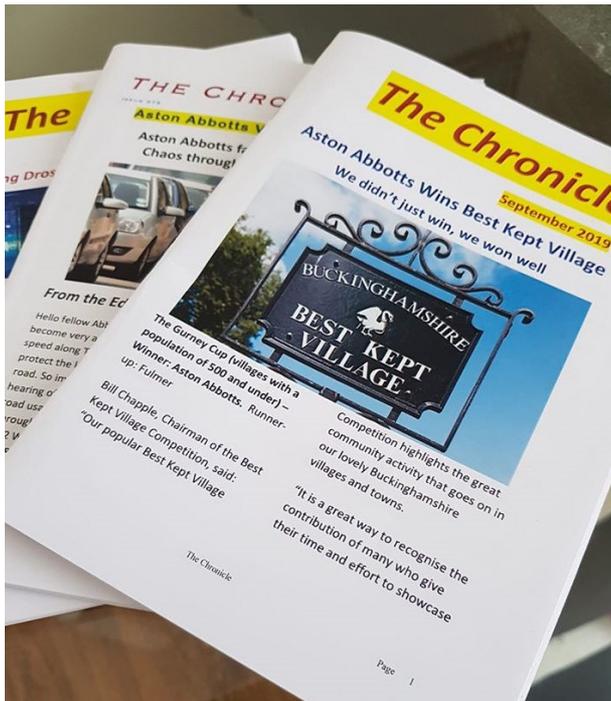


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From the Editor

Hello fellow residents, I'm not going to go on about what the last 3 months have been like as an introduction, as we all know.

Future of the Chronicle.



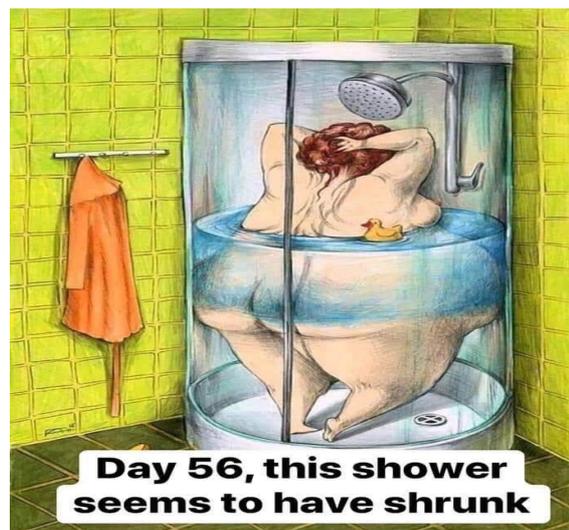
With no fete this year and only limited advertising to finance the free Chronicle, the village magazine is about to run out of money. We have asked the Parish Council to assist for this year. They have agreed a three month grant, so we will be looking at some kind of fundraiser to ensure the magazine continues. This may take the form of a raffle similar to the one we have for the fete. *Let's see.*

Your support would be very welcome indeed.

It's good to see the Royal Oak will be opening again for controlled gatherings from the 4th July 12 midday. The pub has also taken a hammering during lockdown, so we need to show our support more than ever so as to keep it open for the future.

Has anyone noticed that the **amalgamation of 5 councils into 1 super Buckinghamshire council** as a wonderful way of being more efficient and saving so much money has made its first decision? To increase council tax? I could express my thoughts on this but it's a family magazine.

Take Care. Pete



News in & around the village

Thieves hit allotment again.

At the end of May Simon Guy had two trays of plants and two bags of compost stolen from his allotment. The thieves also uprooted a couple of raspberry canes, and at first he thought they had stolen his wheelbarrow,; but it turned out the thieves had used it to take their booty away from the allotments, and then discarded it near New Zealand Cottages.

The low life thieves have been at it again. Last week they removed guttering from a shed and yesterday they returned and took more guttering and downpipe from another shed. Are they doing gardening jobs or stealing for their own use? Any information and help in catching this thief will be appreciated. It is depressing that anyone in a rural community like ours is prepared to indulge in such petty crime.

Village Fete 2020 CANCELLED

The Village Fete had been planned for Saturday 25th July this year. I waited as long as I could to make a decision as to whether to hold it this year depending on the government instructions on living with the Coronavirus.

The Fete is always a great occasion for meeting friends and family but even if the lockdown rules were eased, I did not think people would have the confidence to make it the usual happy social occasion this year.

After discussion with various parties I therefore decided, reluctantly, to cancel this year's Fete. My thanks to all those who have been involved in the early planning and hope I can have your support in preparations for the 2021 Village Fete next year. ***David Gray. Fete Coordinator***

Roads in Aylesbury Vale have had more than 100 deaths since 2014.

The A41 (223 deaths), A413 (199 deaths) and the A418 (116 deaths) were the most dangerous roads in Aylesbury Vale, according to new figures.

A421 ranked fourth with 78 deaths since 2014. A4146 had over 50 deaths, (64), as did the A422 (56).



In the five years from January 1 2014 to December 31 2018, there were more than 670,000 accidents causing injury or death on Britain's roads. The number of accidents causing injury or death fell by a sixth (16%) between 2014 and 2018.

Recycling centres 'new normal'



All four of Buckinghamshire's recycling centres have now reopened

Household recycling centres welcomed 70,000 visitors in May, and residents are adapting to the 'new normal' when they visit: being patient when queuing, for respecting staff and for maintaining social distancing when at the site.

As this is how the sites will be operating for the foreseeable future, it's best to avoid times when queues build up and might cause inconvenience. We publish current waiting times for each site on the AVDC website.

Village Hall news



The turret has been repaired! Otherwise the hall has been sadly quiet. But we **might** be able to open in July for limited events and numbers. A government announcement is expected on 4 July. Please watch out for the Postbox email and notices outside the hall.

Meanwhile we are working through detailed guidelines for village halls from Community Impact Bucks. These set out what we need to do to prepare for re-opening and what changes we should make (e.g. distancing, cleaning) to comply with health and safety rules during and between bookings.

We are contacting our regular hirers to explain the new conditions and get their views. Social distancing (whatever the distance is – at the time of writing it is 2 metres) and government rules will restrict the kind of events we can have at first. But if you want to pencil in a booking for the future please call Liz Barlow or Nigel Palmer for a chat, or email the village hall address.

Please look up next time you pass the hall – the turret slats have been replaced, and the ironwork on the top repainted. Also, there will be flowers outside soon (thanks Sally!).

Any questions, please email: astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com Or call: 01296 682605/07976 671701 (Liz Barlow) 01296 681152 (Nigel Palmer) 01296 681373 (Caroline Lane)

Caroline Lane – Aston Abbotts Village Hall

Aylesbury library 'Request and Collect' service!

Aylesbury main Library has launched its new temporary 'Request and Collect' service, enabling library customers to borrow books for the first time since late March, in a safe, contactless way.

Customers can [fill in an online form](#) to tell library staff which books they'd like, which library they want them from, and how many. Then library staff will handpick a selection of books to match each customer and will phone to arrange a date and time to collect them. If you have no internet access you can place a request over the phone by calling 01296 382 415.

You can also now return borrowed books to most libraries. Library staff will 'quarantine' all returns in line with public health guidelines, before they're returned to the shelves. And customers won't need to worry about late fines as all library loans have been automatically extended until Friday 31 July.

Please [check the Buckinghamshire Council website](#) to find out when each library will be able to take in returns.

Notes from the Parish Council – July 2020

Parish Council Meeting



Coverage by Carolyn Roy, Carolyn@natchitochestimes.com, 318-352-0618 ext. 219

Normal Parish Council meetings in the Village Hall have been suspended during lockdown, but a virtual meeting via Zoom took place on the 21st May.

The Parish Council are planning a council website, separate from the village website, which will contain all PC information and documents. This site will also comply with the accessibility requirements that come fully into force later this year. A specification has been created and circulated to web developers.

The threat of part of The Green being ‘chopped off’ to avoid lorry damage has rescinded due to diligent work by councillor Curry and also District Councillor Peter Cooper’s intervention with Transport for Bucks. We are awaiting an alternative proposal from TfB.

The PC decided not to investigate further the idea of installing pavement around the inner Green after advice from Transport for Bucks that it would be very expensive and restrict access.

The PC are investigating the possibility of installing a village history board on The Green. This would provide information about Aston Abbots to walkers, cyclists and other visitors.

A parishioner request to provide hard core at the allotment gateway was considered, but it was noted that this is not a PC matter and it should be dealt with by the Highways department.

The next Parish Council meeting is 23rd June and will again be held via Zoom. The public Annual Parish Meeting has been deferred until coronavirus restrictions are lifted sufficiently for it to go ahead.

This is an informal note of some matters discussed by Aston Abbots Parish Council. To read the official meeting minutes please go to <http://www.aston-abbotts.co.uk/pcdocuments.htm>. You can contact the Parish Council by emailing clerk@astonabbottspc.org.

Care home residents accounted for nearly half of all covid-19 related deaths in Aylesbury Vale

Office for National Statistics data shows that in Aylesbury Vale, 122 deaths involving Covid-19 were provisionally registered up to May 30. Of those, 63 occurred outside hospital – including 58 in care homes and one at a private home. A further four deaths occurred in hospices, other community establishments or elsewhere.

It means care homes accounted for 48% of all Covid-19 fatalities up to May 30. ONS data is based on where Covid-19 is mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.

On the whole for Bucks

JPI Media has compiled a list of hotspots based on the total number of cases per 100,000 of population.

In the top spot is Ashford in the South East, and in Buckinghamshire Milton Keynes is

the only area that makes the list ranked at 295.

In Milton Keynes the population is 269457, on May 23 there had been 508 cases and this had risen to 512 by June 6. This means that in every 100,000 people 1.5 is developing coronavirus.

In Buckinghamshire (which includes the MK authority) there have been 1,028 confirmed cases out of a local population of 543,973 up until June 10.

There have been 365 coronavirus-related deaths registered as of May 29.

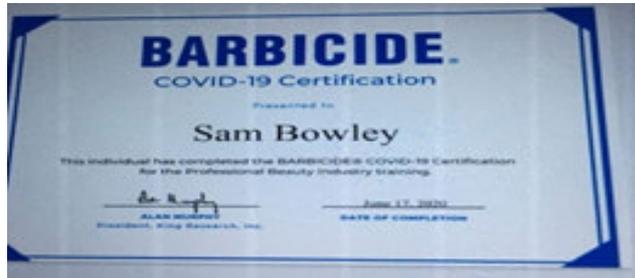
24% of all deaths in Buckinghamshire involved coronavirus between February 29 and May 29.

The deadline for Chronicle contributions is 24th August for September edition. Please Send to articles to:

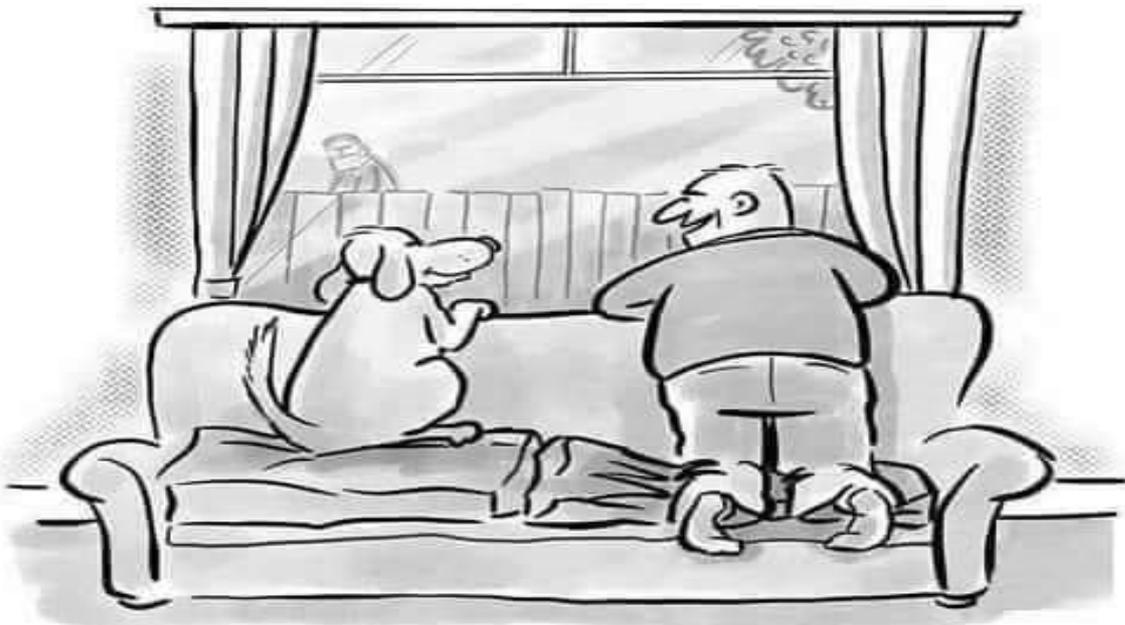
editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Aston Abbotts Mobile Hairdresser

COVID-19 SAFE



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



“Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house.”

Merged councils into one Buckinghamshire local authority cost taxpayers almost £10 million last year. But this is an Underspend



Making Bucks County Council and the district councils in Wycombe, South Bucks, Chiltern and

Aylesbury Vale defunct and implementing Buckinghamshire Council cost £9.939 million altogether in 2019/20.

However, this is an underspend of £2.9 million against the council's original budget. The underspend largely came from savings in two departments and in one of these, the council underspent on branding by more than £500,000.

Spending over the two years is anticipated to leave Buckinghamshire Council's unitary reserve with £2.67 million remaining. At the end of this financial year, it is recommended this left-over cash is then moved to a separate reserve.

ARE YOU SELF-ISOLATING?

An Aston Abbots volunteer group will fetch essential food items, fresh milk and bread, and medical prescriptions for anybody forced to self-isolate and stay indoors due to the coronavirus.

If you need medical assistance you should telephone 111, but our village volunteers can ensure that you do not run out of food.

So if you have been told to stay at home and you need food items, even if it is just a fresh pint of milk, you can contact the team using these details:

By email: CV19@aston-abbotts.co.uk

By telephone or text: Phil on 07490 093 834 or Jane on 07770 774 515

This is a worrying time, especially for the elderly in our community, but be assured that there are well over thirty village volunteers ready to provide food assistance.



Your Emails

Dear Pete, Is the Chronicle still being published? I haven't had one since February. It's a good read and I miss it. Kind regards, **John Hawkes**

John, Our printers stopped producing during the Lockdown. Thanks for your comment. Ed.

Dear Pete, Village History Display Board. The Parish Council has been discussing the possibility of commissioning a village history display board. These boards are usually sited centrally for example on the village Green and provides some information and images that briefly tells the story of the Village and highlights historical events.

If you have a view on this or would like to contribute to this please contact me on my council email below, speak to me directly or to Cllr Colin Higgs BEM.

It might be a fitting thing to do when we were unable to celebrate VE in the way we planned.

Kind Regards, **Cllr Jane Plested**
jane.plested@astonabbottspc.org

We had a lovely walk around the village orchard and we were delighted to see a 'Bloody Ploughman' apple tree similar to our own. The variety originates from Scotland but our own tree has a history closer to home.

We took a trip on the Chinnor and Princess Risborough railway during Apple Day a few years back and rode the line with a local historian and apple expert. A number of trees have grown along the line and these are from discarded apple cores thrown from passing train windows. Our Bloody Ploughman grew from a cutting taken from one of these trees. It's lovely to think that we have a link to the days of steam in Buckinghamshire, here in our very own orchard. **Martin Clarke**

I wish I could include the pic's in colour but budget dictates. (See Orchard Report further on) Ed

The Royal Oak will be opening its doors at 12pm on Saturday 4th July ! More information to follow! Remember to use the local facility that's not been available since our last customer left on Friday 20th March! We have missed you guys I hope you've missed our beautiful pub 😊 **Teri**

A Lockdown message from Cllr Colin Higgs BEM. Dear Peter, During our period of lock down, it's been great to see our community spirit. People checking on our seniors, shopping, collecting medical supplies or just a wave. Our Post and milk are still being delivered, dustbins emptied and teaching children at home.



We have seen a big increase in walkers, joggers and cyclists, so it is important that we ensure our hedges and trimmed back so they do not restrict footways.

Many people are walking footpaths and dog walkers using field footpaths so it's important we keep to the official footpath routes and ensure dog mess is picked up bagged and binned; not hung on hedges or low tree branches. Dog walkers must keep their dogs on leads wherever animals/livestock are.

At the moment I cannot give a date as to when our monthly village footpath walks, Bus Trips or Whist Drives will recommence.

As we continue to fight this virus, keep social distancing.

STAY ALERT-STAY SAFE-SAVE LIVES

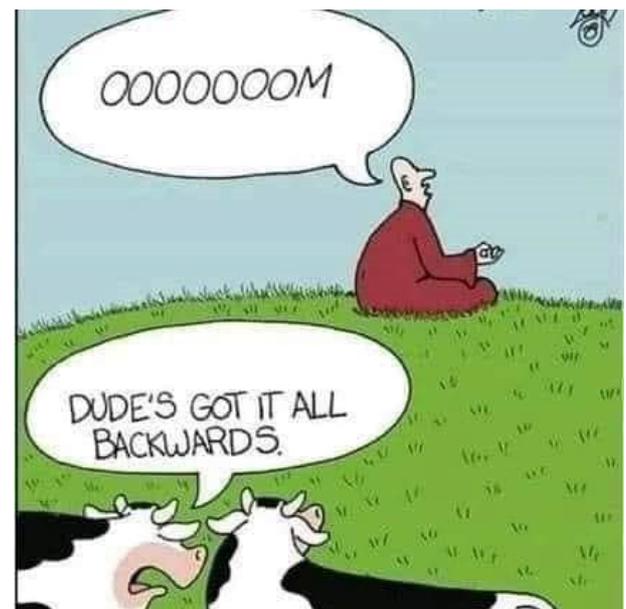


The tennis courts at Cublington are open again

New members welcome. Singles and doubles play allowed. Online booking system, two hard courts. Low annual membership rates – Free floodlights

Orchard Ground, Stewkley Road, Cublington. More information from Caroline Lane, 681373

carolinelane@btinternet.com



NHS Test and Trace scams:



The NHS Test and Trace service plays an important role in the fight against coronavirus and it's vital the public have confidence and trust in the service. However, we understand the concerns people have about the opportunity for criminals to commit scams. What you need to know:

Contact tracers will only call you from the number 0300 013 5000. Anyone who does not wish to talk over the phone can request the NHS Test and Trace service to send an email or text instead, inviting them to log into the web-based service. All text or emails sent by NHS Test and Trace will ask people to sign into the contact tracing website and will provide you with a unique reference number. We would advise people to type the web address <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk> directly into their browser,

followed by the unique reference number given to you, rather than clicking on any link provided in the message. **The NHS Test and Trace service will never:**

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product or any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account
- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling 0300 123 2040

Cyprus Living with COVID-19



Diana Shillingford.

How Cyprus has and is dealing with the Coronavirus

As soon as it became obvious this was an extremely serious situation the Cyprus President Nicos Anistadiados immediately put Cyprus in lockdown without delay.

I had hip replacement surgery at the end of January so couldn't drive for 8 weeks so I had some practice with self-isolation!!!

A curfew was in place each night between 9pm and 6am. Anyone caught violating this was fined 300 euros. We could only leave the house after texting a number to ask for permission to go out. The only things you could go out for was to see a doctor, visit a pharmacy and essential food shopping. Again if stopped by police and you had not

sent the required text a fine of 300 euros. As with everywhere social distancing, hand gel, masks and gloves were in place.



Taverna deserted

We all agree here in Cyprus that the President has and is doing a great job. We understand it is a small country so easier to control.

Towards the end of May some bars and restaurants began to open, provided they had outdoor seating. More shops opened as did hairdressers thankfully!

At time of writing this, 18th June, more shops have opened, malls etc. But of course Cyprus relies heavily on the UK and Russia for tourists and we pray that flights can resume soon once safe. My job relies on the tourism industry so I stay hopeful we can salvage some of the season. It's pretty sad to see everywhere so much quieter. Cyprus is a positive little island and is confident that normal life will resume very soon. See you in November. In the meantime stay safe and keep well.

VILLAGE ORCHARD

We had hoped to have a Village Orchard meeting this spring, along the lines of last year's successful gathering. As this has not been possible, and particularly bearing in mind that there may be people new to the village who are not aware of the orchard, I thought I would circulate some brief notes.

The Victor Scott Memorial Orchard, to give its full name, lies behind the allotments on Wingrave Road, and can be reached by going through two field gates. The first planting took place in 2011, and there are now 123 trees, including 46 Apples, 25 Pears, and an assortment of Cherry, Plum, Gage, Quince, Medlar, Mulberry, and Walnut. The orchard is dependent on tree sponsorship, with individuals or families sponsoring trees, currently at £35 for each tree. A complete record of the trees that have been planted, sponsors, and in some cases comment on personal or family memories of the village is kept, and a copy can be found in the shed in the corner of the orchard. We have made a point of planting some rare varieties, alongside more familiar names. There has been a

wonderful amount of blossom this spring and some of the apples in particular are still in flower.



Anyone from the village is welcome in the orchard, and if you are looking for some variety in your daily exercise it is well worth a visit, and is a good place for a picnic. We ask that visitors if at all possible do not take vehicles in, respect the allotments as you pass through, and of course follow all current guidelines on distancing. For those who are already sponsors, this is a good time to clear the square around your tree so that roots get the maximum benefit from spring rain. Anyone wishing to know more, or wanting to order a tree, can contact me or Peter Knight (681478). **Gordon Smith**

gordon.smith53@btinternet.com

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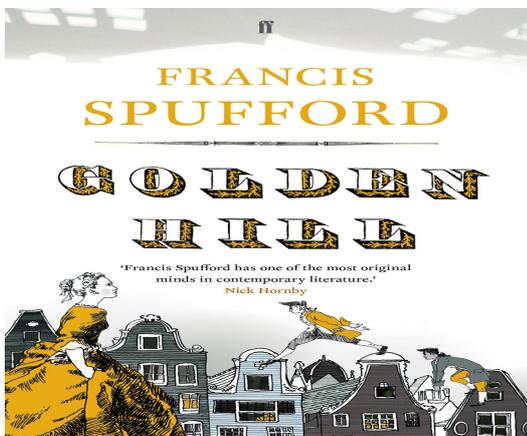


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Book club



Members of the village book club held a Zoom meeting at the end of May to discuss *Golden Hill* by Frances Spufford. The novel is set in the very early days of New York City and tells the somewhat amusing tale of an Englishman who arrives in the city with some mysterious secrets.

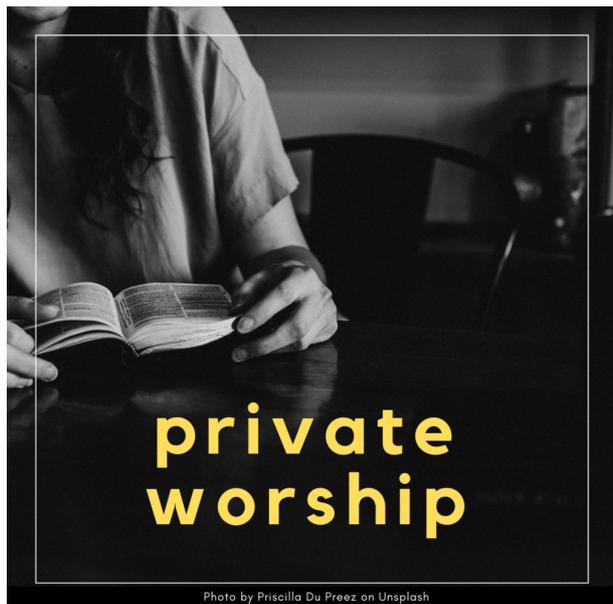
Most of us found it reasonably interesting though the vocabulary

was sometimes difficult. Although the book contained some humour and one or two exciting scenes the general consensus was that the we wouldn't rush to read another novel by this author.

Sadly no wine was consumed at our meeting and this explains why it ended after the free 40 minute period. All members did at least manage to contribute and technical problems (which had plagued our first Zoom meeting) were absent. We're all awaiting the return of our normal meetings filled with booze, news and gossip. Until then, there are no doubt several copies of the book available (after suitable quarantine of course) if the above hasn't put you off too much!

Deirdre Whyte

CHURCH OPENING BY APPOINTMENT



The church will remain open for private prayer and quiet reflection in July. Various measures have been put in place. If you wish to visit please contact Caroline Lane on 01296 681373 who will happily give you access at any time. A notice has also been placed on the Church Notice Board at the gate.

Meanwhile, the churchyard is always open to visit, spend time in and look at the wild area.

CHURCH SERVICES ONLINE

As many parishioners are probably aware, there are numerous services available on line during this time of lockdown while they are still not allowed to be held in any church. Locally, the Revd Andrew Krauss at Cheddington puts out a weekly service. Please email Churchwarden Lin Knappitt at lin.k22@btinternet.com to receive the weekly link. The Diocese also releases a service every Sunday with the

Bishop of Oxford and other participants from across the Diocese. This can be reached via the Diocesan website www.oxford.anglican.org as can other online services in parishes throughout the Diocese. Churches are being very innovative in how they make worship available to all, do explore the various sites if interested.

For any further information about anything to do with church at this difficult time, please contact Caroline Abel Smith on 681001 or email her at: cbjlas@talk21.com

Church Matters

The diary of St. James's



We live in interesting times and we know that all of you have lots of worries for family, friends and the wider community. In the meantime, the graveyard is very well maintained but the Church is locked. However, if you would like to spend time in the Church for quiet prayer and contemplation please ring Caroline Lane on 681373.

As St James Church, along with all churches across the country is in 'lockdown', not only does this give us issues with how to keep worship and support alive in our Parish, it is also giving cause for concern over the state of our finances in the near future. The annual cost of keeping our church open, paying the bills and Parish Share (clergy costs) amounts to around £12,000. This is a large amount of money which many villagers have in the past generously funded through weekly collections, standing orders and support to fund-raising activities.

Sadly, we have had to cancel the 2020 Village Fete and have also decided to suspend the 100 Club for the coming year. This leaves us with a problem, because our usual weekly collections and fundraising has 'dried up'. We estimate that we will lose approximately £5,000 income from these sources this year and it is important that we do our best to maintain the Church and pay our Parish Share, especially as we have a new Team Rector joining us in a few weeks' time.

We are therefore asking if you would be prepared to make a donation to help us through this difficult time by setting up a standing order via your bank

(please email our Treasurer for details) or, if you would prefer, then you could raise a cheque to 'PCC Aston Abbotts' and post or deliver it to our Treasurer at the address below (*).

It is not easy to ask you to continue your giving at this time, but if you could help then this would be so much appreciated.

If you have any queries about this then please feel free to call David Gray on 01296 681952 or email ukdavidgray@gmail.com

With best wishes to you all. On behalf of the PCC Aston Abbotts.
David (PCC Treasurer)

(*) please send/deliver to: Church Farm House, Cublington Road, Aston Abbotts, HP22 4NB.

SOME GOOD NEWS - OUR NEW TEAM RECTOR ARRIVES. We are really pleased to report that our new Team Rector, the Revd Howard Robson, has now moved into Wing Vicarage with his wife, Joanna, and is to be licensed privately, because of the Coronavirus, by the Bishop of Buckingham, on 23rd June. He officially takes up his

responsibilities following his licensing. Although it is an extremely strange situation for him, we know that he is looking forward to getting to know everyone in all the parishes. He will, of course, be given a proper welcome by us all as soon as this is permissible. He is a keen runner so we might even catch a glimpse of him running through the village!



Caroline Abel Smith.

100 Club Recent winners were as follows:

Prize	April	May	June
1 st prize (£50)	Heather Langdon	Nigel Palmer	June Cox
2 nd prize (£10)	Caroline Lane	Jacky White	Brigitte Gutierrez

I would normally have circulated membership forms and collected 100 Club subscriptions in June. However, we understand that many people will be concerned about their finances and I did not want to be delivering forms or knocking on doors whilst the social distancing rules were in place. Therefore, the PCC has decided to suspend the 100

Club for the next year (July 2020 to June 2021). A big thank you to all who have supported us in the past. If you feel you would still like to support the Church with a donation then please see the Church Diary input to this issue of the Chronicle for details. **David Gray**

The Astonaians

Mincey Bumgardner and the potting shed. © astonpete.

On the allotment the other day potting some plants in my rickety shed, I tripped and accidentally collapsed the shed. The wreck of wooden bits was all over everything underneath.

Mincey Bumgardner, who lives in the house at the back of the allotment heard the noise and called out: "Are you okay, what's your name?" "It's Pete and I'm okay thanks," I replied as I pulled myself out of the twisted pile.

Pete, "she said, wearing her white silky robe, "fCome to my house, have a rest." "That's very nice of you," I answered, "but I don't think my wife would like it."

"Oh, come on now "Mincey insisted.

"Well okay," I finally agreed but thought to myself, "My wife won't like it."

After a couple of restorative Jack Daniels, I thanked Mincey. "I feel a lot better now but I know my wife is going to be really upset. So I'd best go now."

"Don't be silly!" Mincey said, letting her robe fall open. "She won't know anything. She's at home thinking you are at the allotment. I said, "No she isn't, she's still under the shed".



Tensions are high in the produce section as no one dares to lick their fingers

Turns out it was a marble in the ashtray 🤔🤔





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ALLOTMENT DIARY



A lot has happened since I last wrote. The rain and floods of March were succeeded by a warm dry April, and then a record-breaking sunny May.

Conditions would have been perfect for gardeners, save that in early May we had two frosts in quick succession: the first a very savage one. Simon Guy, who has been allotment gardening for many more years than me, says that he cannot remember such a heavy frost so late in the year. Certainly I cannot in the 15-odd years I have been doing it. The effect was mixed. For some plants it was catastrophic: I lost 9 of the 12 French bean plants I had planted (and this the day after I had been going around giving away my surplus bean plants!) Other gardeners reported that their bean plants had also suffered badly. Fortunately my neighbouring

allotmenteer, Brian, had not planted his French beans out, and was able to let me have some of his spare plants to replenish my stock.

The frost also damaged a number of my potato plants: the first time I can ever remember this happening. But it was very strange: the potato plants belonging to Brian and Caroline Lane, whose allotments are next to mine were not damaged at all. Their plants were within 20 yards of mine, but closer to the side hedge: and this clearly protected them from the frost. Simon's plants which were even closer to the middle of the allotments were as badly damaged as mine, and I suspect the same was true of other allotmentees. A handful of my sweet-corn plants were killed, but the mortality rate was much better than I had expected. Other sweet-corn plants had leaves that turned brown, but they then produced new green leaves.

Some of the affected potato plants are only just recovering as I write this, at the beginning of the second week in June: and even those that were least affected have clearly suffered. Some of the second early and main-crop plants are already displaying larger and healthier haulms (the green bit of the plant

above ground) than the frost damaged first earlies. It will be a few weeks before I can harvest my first crop.

So far as my other vegetables are concerned, I have had some successes and some failures. My carrot crop is likely to be my best ever, and the plants were not troubled by the frost. Ditto my onions grown from sets – although the onion seed has not done well. In the greenhouses my tomatoes - courtesy of Simon, who gave me some of his spare plants, since I was not able to go to World's End to buy plants due to the lock-down – are thriving, as are my leeks. However only one of the 60-odd parsnip seeds I planted on my

allotment has germinated! I do not know what it is about me and parsnips: I never seem to be able to grow them! My mange-tout crop is very small, and the beetroots are only so-so. Most years I grow at least three courgette plants, but for some reason, this year I could only get one seed to germinate. However my younger son has let me have a couple of plants, and Brian has let me have one of his, so that I should be OK for courgettes again.

You will have read elsewhere about the theft from Simoin's allotment. It is depressing.

Peter Shorrock



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The Development of Wing Community Library



Esther Morris

Since the implementation of austerity in 2010, Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) decided it had to look for alternative, low cost ways to deliver library services. On 9 November 2010 they launched a consultation on proposals for a 'county and community' model. 'County' would be the nine largest libraries serving the areas of highest population. Wing was one of the 14 branch libraries that could be involved in a community partnership – and one of the smallest. Local people were consulted to find a low cost, sustainable solution in their area. The alternative was closure.

A meeting in Wing was held on 13 December 2010. The basic message was that costs had to be cut, and the biggest cost was for staff. Local people had to find a way to achieve the required savings. At the end of the meeting a number of people expressed an interest in finding a way to keep the library going; but ultimately librarians were likely to be redeployed or made redundant.

An informal meeting of eight people was held on the 16th. Of those people, four are still involved with the running of the library – Ginny Hollas, Pat Manlow, Esther Morris and Lynn Stuart. The topics included what libraries do, village demographics, financing, and the

running of the library. A further meeting on 21 February to share and develop ideas involved 26 villagers and two representatives from BCC. It was reiterated that the library could not continue as it was, but there would be a two-year process to introduce changes.

A Workshop was held on 1 March 2011 with representatives of the county library service, who said BCC would provide IT, books, pay rent and give a resource grant. The next stage was to draw up a Business Plan. The village had a number of people with expertise in working with the council, working with volunteers, and finance. By May a Steering Group had been formed with eight core members (the previous four plus Sally Chapman, Val Perkins, Bryony Mallows and Sarah Harris). At least a dozen other meetings were held before a Business Plan was formulated and submitted to BCC in the November.

The Plan was strongly endorsed by BCC and through 2012 more meetings were held. A project plan was drawn up, fundraising started, a bank account opened, other libraries visited, volunteer policies devised, questionnaires distributed and analysed, a logo design selected, new library cards and signage produced, a website set up, volunteers recruited, rotas planned, and training commenced. In the September volunteers started working alongside, and learning from, the librarians Louise Downie and Carol Patience. A grand launch event was held on 10 November, which also marked the 10th anniversary of the opening of Wing Library in the purpose built annexe to Wing Hall.

In January 2013 Wing Community Library held its first AGM and registered as a charity. Over the years we have had around 40 volunteers in various roles. BCC handed us the keys for the volunteers to go it alone on 9 April 2014. Six years on, with 20 active volunteers the library has become a welcoming Hub in the village, offering a range of services including craft events for children, Wednesday morning Parish Council

drop-ins, WI knitting group, a Lego Club and Author events.

Unfortunately we still have no date for when we will be able to open our doors again but hope many of you are able to access the online resources available with your library membership. We look forward to one day greeting you in person and provide the full much loved library service.



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**Wing Library is run by volunteers.
We look forward to welcoming you back**

Check for updates on <https://www.facebook.com/wing.community.library/>
and: https://twitter.com/wing_library
where we share news, stories, videos, crafts and local interest items



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Word Play

BEAUTY PARLOR

A place where women curl up and dye.

CHICKENS

The only animal you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

EGOTIST

Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF

Cold Storage

.

INFLATION

Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO

An insect that makes you like flies better.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

A doctrine fostered by a delusional, illogical minority.

SECRET

A story you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON

A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE

The pain that drives you to extraction.

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