

The Chronicle

March 21 Issue 413

Aston Abbots as it was - part 2

Thanks to Colin Higgs BEM, for much of the information in part 2 of 'Aston Abbots as it was.'

The Medieval village of Burston.

As explained last month, southwest of the village, left of Lines Hill, is Lower Burston Farm, the site of Burston. This photo shows the mounds that remain.



Historic England Archive: 20183_027

Methodist chapel dating from 1862.



The Primitive Methodist magazine for 1863 contains an account by S Turner Junior of the opening of the chapel. (Above). "A chaste, comfortable, and substantial sanctuary. It is, in the clear, 28 by 20 feet, 13 feet high, and lighted by 6 windows. The door and the 2 front windows are circular headed, with neat projecting arches of white bricks. The inside pews and rostrum are stained, and the building is an ornament to the village.

Aston Abbots School



The school was originally on The Green along with 5 small cottages which were rent free for the poor. In 1875 plans were drawn up for a new school on Cublington Road (Above). This building would include bucket toilets and had about 60 pupils.



During WW2, the number rose to 110 due to the influx of child evacuees from the towns and cities. In 1946 a further class, a canteen and new toilets were added. By 1975, numbers had declined so much that the school closed in its 100th year.

Osborn's. The Village Shop.

Originally the shop was run by Horace Osborn and his wife Edith from 1925. Mr Osborn also delivered to the village and farms on his bike. Later Bernard, their son, took over the running of the shop until 2005 when Bernard retired and the shutters went up. He died in 2014 aged 87.



The Bull & Butcher Pub



The Bull & Butcher was not just a pub. It also had a bakery attached. On Christmas Day villagers would take their turkeys and other fowl to be baked in the large oven for a small fee.

Mrs Humphrey's, Percy's mother would prepare delicious teas for the home game cricket matches. The pub also had an excellent dart team.

1971 New airport at Cublington & Wing threatened our village. The Roskill Report. Fifty years ago the inhabitants of Aston Abbots and many villages in the Aylesbury Vale became embroiled in a battle for the survival of their communities in the face of a proposal to build the third London airport at Wing.



Had the airport been built it would have meant the destruction of nearby villages including Stewkley and Cublington; changing the character of the Vale and altering the lives of hundreds of people forever. The brilliant campaign paid off and the Roskill Report, recommending the new airport, was scrapped.

Caroline says, Check out youtube of a Wing/Cublington airport campaign in the 1970s. An online presentation given by John Flewin of Stewkley to a local history group. It lasts about an hour.

There is a lot of old footage locally and from national news. Vic Scott appears at about 43 minutes in.

Local history group meeting recording, YouTube link open for 10 days, lasts about an hour. About the Wing resistance to London's third airport. Presented by John Flewin of Stewkley, available for about a week. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_00e21LPGc&feature=youtu.be

Last month we stated that Oxley Farm was a listed building. We got it wrong and do apologise. Although it is dated 18th century, Oxley Farm is not listed. Ed.

From the Editor

On behalf of the village I must say thank you to Simon Guy who was noticed cutting back the path opposite the allotments and the lady clearing the litter that someone had thrown from their car previously on Wingrave Road. We appreciate the efforts.

Again I thank everyone for the feedback on the recent Chronicles. It's encouraging to know the articles are of interest and informative.

This month, apart from our regular features, there is a piece on our

hometown's women's prison, The Aldbury Murders, Bucks places to visit following lockdown, Things you may not know about Bucks, the 'no holds barred' James Henderson Column, Aston Abbots as it was p2 and the latest mouth watering chicken recipe.

Please remember, Sun 28 02.00 British summer time starts.

Until next time, stay safe. Pete Lucas



Isobel Hall - 3rd

Andy Bystra - 8th

Paul Williams - 9th

Andrew Dutton - 10th

Sophi White - 13th

Lydia Smith - 15th

Ann Goodman - 15th

Abby Bowden - 16th

Tracy Fletcher - 17th

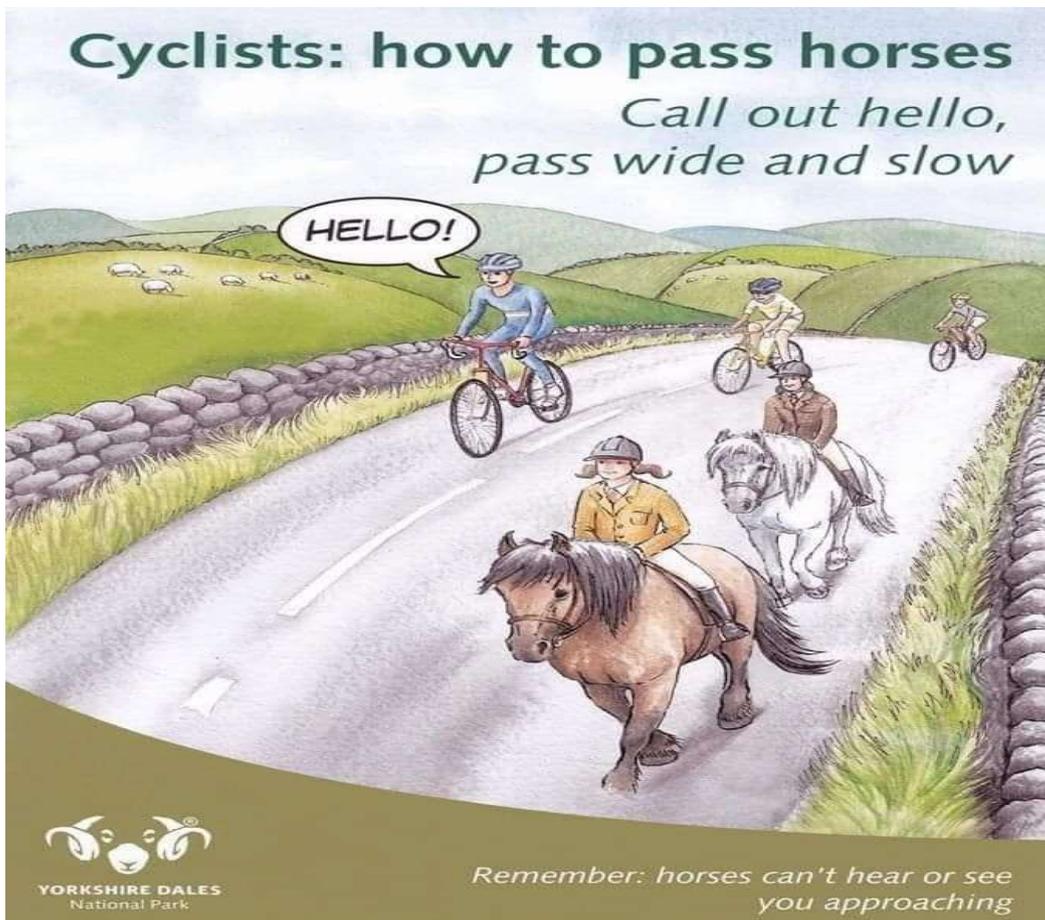
Francesca Bean - 19th

Val Rothero - 20th

Mary Rust - 28th

Bob Bean - 30th

*And to all Mums. Happy
Mothers Day on Sunday 14th*



News From in and around Aston Abbotts



The Hole – Part 2 - Trevor Hall

And now for Part 2. This was planned to be the final part of this series but, due to public demand, Part 3 is already in production!

Actually, “due to public demand” isn’t quite true. It’s more a result of circumstance – it’s the hole that just keeps on giving!

When Part 1 was written, Anglian water was about to start a third attempt to find the broken sewer pipe and there was great anticipation that the whole job would be completed by the time this issue of the Chronicle hit the doormats. The optimism for the third attempt was high since they were moving the hole slightly sideways and were confident that they would be in the right place to find the pipe. (Not surprisingly, they were originally excavating directly below the point where the tarmac had

collapsed into the sinkhole which, unsportingly, was not directly above the broken pipe.)

So, what has happened in the last four weeks? Well, apart from us welcoming the second Beast from the East, it was eventually confirmed that the third attempt did indeed find the pipe.

Alas, it soon became clear that the damage to the pipe extended beyond the confines of the hole and it was necessary to enlarge it to twice its original length. It was now three weeks into the works and it was obvious that those hardy workmen had become accustomed to Aston Abbotts quirky geology - they managed to double the size of the hole in just two days.

Such progress meant spirits were high. However, the high spirits seemed to

be confined to our household and we soon realised that they were misplaced. Progress on repairing the now exposed pipe was thwarted by the water that was continually flooding the hole. The small (it's all relative) single pump was not up to the job, so it was replaced by two bigger pumps, an intriguing array of pipework and a huge tank to filter out sediment.

After the pumps had been running continuously for three days, the water had receded enough to allow them to replace all the visible broken pipework. This was done and it appeared that the end was in sight (which made me think – I wonder what a sewer worker's equivalent is for “a light at the end of the tunnel”).

Our optimistic mood was dashed after they undertook a final inspection of the pipework. The word “visible” in the previous paragraph is the giveaway since they discovered more broken pipe just beyond the confines of the hole. This has now meant increasing the hole in the other direction. The hole, or more accurately trench, is now about 10m long and 2m wide (to put that into context, the size of hole is now approximately one billionth the size of Wales). The hole also has an impressive array of steel shuttering and framework which is preventing the neat rectangular hole from becoming an untidy crater and swallowing up the surrounding area.

So where are we with the forecast completion date? Each hole enlargement has resulted in the date

being pushed back (or is that pushed forward – discuss). The first forecast date of 9th Feb came and went and was replaced with 26th Feb. With the need to enlarge the hole again, this has now been revised to 19th March. Hopefully, this means that this series will not merit a Part 4.

One thing I would like to add; I'd just like to thank all those who have made such lovely comments about my regular posts for the AA Postbox. It's very much appreciated and it has spurred me on to continue with the updates. Mind you, if this goes on beyond the 19th of March then I might need to start sharing with another, similarly abbreviated, AA group! To be continued...

Wingrave shop Awarded



Wingrave Shop has been awarded ‘Top Regional Performer’. Deva, Owner said, “Thank you for all your lovely comments, they are all greatly appreciated. We have both really enjoyed being part of the community here in Wingrave. We look forward to many more years serving you all through our shop and Post Office.

Covid Rates In HP224LX area.

People tested positive by specimen date, Seven days to 17 February=7
Rate per 100k resident population:
78.5. Slightly below National Average

Book a test if you're going to work or volunteer

We now have rapid testing sites in Aylesbury and High Wycombe for people who are leaving their homes to go to work or to volunteer to get tested for COVID-19 if they don't have symptoms. These rapid lateral flow tests will help detect infections in people who don't have symptoms.

These rapid tests are not for people who do have symptoms of COVID-19. If you feel unwell or even have very mild symptoms and suspect you might have COVID then [please book a test](#) via the national system online or by calling 119. It's essential that you and everyone you live with isolates immediately. If you are on a low income and can't work from home while you're isolating you might qualify for a [self-isolation payment](#) of £500.

From the Police. We have received reports of a male wearing a hi-viz jacket going to multiple addresses in the Aylesbury Vale area claiming to be there for a meter reading. This male had no form of identification or meter reading equipment with him. If anyone arrives at your address to do work on your property that you are not expecting, please ask for identification and do not let them

into your property. You can report suspicious individuals via 101.

Two people arrested in February on suspicion of catalytic convertor thefts - following a proactive stop. We are continuing to increase our patrols of the rural community. Please remember to report suspicious incidents to us.

Following thefts from farms across Aylesbury Vale, we're appealing for witnesses and information, particularly in relation this vehicle that we believe is involved in these offences.



We have been having discussions with farmers during the (very wet) winter about the number of people trying to avoid walking along muddy footpaths by skirting around the edge on planted crops, the result being paths getting wider and wider.



Some farmers have reported losing acres of crops to this, which will have

a significant impact on their yields when it comes to harvest time.

If you have any information about this vehicle, then please call 101.



A Middle Eastern man with poor English driving it, asking about scrap but quickly started asking about animals for sale. Wanted to buy calves. Also VERY interested in buying 'baby lamb'.

Aylesbury named one of the worst places to live in the UK -

Aylesbury was ranked 18th in the top 50 list. The list was published by ILiveHere, a website where people living in towns can vent their frustrations and share what it is about their hometown that they think makes it so terrible.

One article on the site said: "As you enter Aylesbury, you find yourself in a traffic jam because someone

decided to put a bunch of traffic lights everywhere. Being stuck in the traffic allows you to observe the magnificent beauty of all the 'trashy citizens' that live there."

The ILivehere reviewer went on to list seven ways you can tell if someone is from Aylesbury. The list includes:

"3 fingers covering their face on their social media profile picture. Hands below their trouser line. Uses the '100', gun, money emojis. Shows defiance using terms such as '**** the police' in their bio. Wears anything predominantly Nike or Adidas. Generally obnoxious. Lives near Southcourt or Elmhurst"

To conclude, the begrudging Aylesbury-native says: "If you're a middle to upper class family or individual looking to move to Aylesbury, then ensure you employ 4 full time security guards, a dog and some barbed wire around your house.

"Another tip, don't retreat into McDonald's, because it's there where they all hang out."

Personally, although mildly humorous in part, and the fact that I agree regarding the traffic lights, I think this reviewer should take a look at many other towns and the reviewer themself. Ed!

Your Emails

Flooding on The Green.

I served on the Parish Council for many years. Approximately five years ago, via Netta Glover, I arranged to meet a Highways representative from AVDC (as it was) to discuss the inefficiency of the drains in question. By the time the meeting was scheduled it was a hot summer day with not a puddle to be seen. Two men arrived, one with a clipboard and the other man took a photo of the inlet and stated that they would report back to AVDC.

About a year later, by chance, I met a third highways engineer by the said drain. As we both stood in about six inches of water he stated that the drain was BLOCKED!! I did ask him what he would propose to rectify this but, with no disrespect, I may just as well have asked a Mongolian Yak! **Richard Clarke**

Dear Editor

With the first lambs now appearing on farms across Aylesbury Vale, we see far too many incidents of sheep worrying by dogs, with several ewes and lambs suffering horrific injuries and death as a result. Farmers work tirelessly to look after their animals and it is very upsetting for them to come across their animals injured or killed in this way (not to mention the financial loss) **TVP**

Hi Pete, here is an update on my bands activities during these difficult times for everyone. I hope they may bring a little bit of musical cheer to everyone.

Many of you may remember sometime ago last year, the charity band that I play for (Cantilena Winds) appeared in an article in this paper/magazine/etc. together with a link to their 'isolation' or 'lock-down' video. Well, we've been busy again, and once more it has had to be from the comfort of our individual homes, we have put together another piece which we hope you all will enjoy. It's called African Symphony by Van McCoy. It isn't a symphony as Beethoven or Mozart would have known, but a modern piece with driving rhythms and stunning instrumental lines.

Should you wish to have a listen, the link is shown below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7YKswWgdpk>.

We hope you will enjoy the piece and that it will help in some small way to give you a lift in these difficult times.



Stay safe, **Annie**. Publicity Officer

Dear neighbours, you may not know but you have two radio presenters here in Aston Abbotts.

Why not join us for some great Traditional Country and Bluegrass music on local radio station Wycombe Sound 106.6 from 6pm. You can listen online via the station web site www.wycombesound.org.uk



Best wishes, **Martin & Heather**

Dear Pete, Like so many chaps, I'm really missing having my hair cut. It's beginning to become an obsession and I've started to wonder how Malcolm at 'Justins' might cope with social distancing and the 'onslaught' of customers when the rules of lockdown are relaxed.

Below is what he might see as a possible solution!!!!

A barber's semi automatic solution to high volume hairdressing in times of social distancing!

Best regards, **Andre Bystra**



Focus On Series

The history of Aylesbury Women's Prison

Formerly a local prison (Aylesbury County gaol and House of Correction, Aylesbury Prison was first occupied by male convicts sent to convert the establishment into a prison for female convicts. The work was completed in late 1895 and the first female prisoners received in November that year. The male prisoners were redistributed among other prisons.



Former women's prison at Aylesbury

Tatler magazine in 1903 carried a photo essay on the lives of women incarcerated in Aylesbury women's prison.

The photographs shown on the next page detail the work female prisoners were expected to undertake in the former county gaol, which had become a female institution in 1895. They worked in the infirmary, in the kitchens, bakehouse, laundry and sewing-room. As the photographs and captions clearly state, though, only men were allowed to work in the prison's tailors' shop

(despite women's involvement in such industries as dressmaking, millinery and drapery).

The 1901 census for the prison – so carried out two years prior to Tatler's story – shows that many of these women were used to hard work. Those incarcerated in 1901 included servants, barmaids, hawkers, and cotton spinners. Those women who had been laundresses (such as 25-year-old Londoner Mary Ann White, or Devon native Bessie James, 22) or housekeepers (Amy Douglas, 30, or Welsh woman Elizabeth Jane Thomas, 43) would have found the prison work rather familiar.

Several women were charwomen, too, or nurses, so the 'caring' occupations they were given in prison would have been ones they were qualified to do. However, the likes of Rose Clatworthy, 44, who had been a shirt machinist prior to her conviction, would have found themselves barred from the tailors' shop, and given more domestic work to do.

These women came from all over the country – and beyond – to serve their sentences in this Buckinghamshire prison. They were drawn from as far north as Cumbria and as far south as Hampshire. They were originally from Jersey, Ireland, and even France: their geographic origins varied, but they were predominantly working-class women who were used to undertaking hard jobs with long hours. The photographs show an ordered life – clean, simple, but with familiar routines.

LIFE IN A WOMEN'S PRISON

Female Convicts at Work in Aylesbury Gaol.



IN THE INFIRMARY



THE TAILORING SHOP, WHERE ONLY MEN ARE EMPLOYED



IN THE KITCHEN



IN THE BAKEHOUSE



THE PRINCIPAL COOK



THE SEWING-ROOM



AT WORK IN THE LAUNDRY

Copyright © 1902

In 1843 a Gaol Building Committee approached the architect Joshua Jebb for advice regarding the building of a new gaol in Aylesbury. Jebb submitted a design to accommodate 300 prisoners (235 adult males, 25 females, 20 juveniles and 20 debtors). He also recommended James Peirce as architect. In April 1844, the committee requested that Peirce's plan be altered before being sent to the Secretary of State for approval, these included the addition of day rooms.

The Reverend Whitworth Russell, an Inspector of Prisons was prepared to give the prison its certificate in April 1847. It opened in spring 1847, although not completed until

November, providing accommodation for 285 inmates.

As stated before, In 1895-6 Aylesbury became a female convict prison, remaining so until 1918. During the militant campaign for women's suffrage which began in 1905, around 1085 women served time for the cause in prisons such as Aylesbury. They carried out such as arson and window-smashing to draw attention to the campaign which, along with mass demonstrations, could lead to their arrest. Following the outbreak of the First World War, all suffragette prisoners were released, having been granted an amnesty by the government. In 1929 the prison was a prison & borstal. In 1960 the borstal closed. It now holds young offenders.

The Buckinghamshire Tourist - Places to visit after lockdown

The Chalfonts:



Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles and Little Chalfont together make up one distinctive area.

The Chalfonts are nestled between Amersham, Chorleywood and Gerrard's Cross. Quiet, genteel and considered a gateway to the verdant Chiltern Hills, they've been favoured by film legends, rock stars and politicians for decades.

Chalfont St Giles, which was once named one of the poshest places in the UK, is home to Chiltern Open Air Museum and Milton's cottage, both of which offer historical insight into the area.

These sleepy villages are a good place to get a cup of tea and put your feet up after a long country walk. [The Ivy House](#) in Chalfont St Giles is an old flint and brick inn that serves high quality pub food. The newly renovated [Metropolitan](#) in Little Chalfont is a decent choice just outside Chalfont & Latimer Station. For more family fare, [The Bread House](#) in Chalfont St Peter

is popular for breakfast or lunch as it [Crumbs Coffee](#), something of a community institution. [Efes Wine & Tapas](#) in Little Chalfont allows you to sit out front (close your eyes on a hot day and you just could be in Greece).

SHOPS. There are a few very local gems. [Fired Works](#) is an independent gallery in Chalfont St Peter showing the fused glass creations of local artist Marie Cavanagh, and is a great destination for unique gifts and homeware. In Little Chalfont, [Bojangles Creative Café](#) is often packed with families creating their own dinner set or Christmas tree baubles.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS. [Odds Farm Park](#), famed for its petting zoo and crazy golf and ability to amuse children and Adults. For something more refined, the Elizabethan [Chenies Manor](#) House and Gardens (once graced by Henry VIII) usually opens on Wednesday and Thursdays throughout the summer.

BEST KEPT SECRET

Beel House in Little Chalfont was built for the Duke of Buckingham and was later owned by Sir Dirk Bogarde and Ozzy Osbourne (not at the same time obviously; though wouldn't that be fun?).



The James Henderson Column

He holds no punches where the countryside matters

Another badger sett has been discovered near Macintyre Schools driveway. Well as the crow flies, this is less than a few hundred yards from the sett in the corner of one of my fields near Leighton Road. This Sett has been active for quite a few years now, and unfortunately badgers have been run over by cars for years.

Badgers have this mystical heir, of being romantic animals, always portrayed as cuddly and gentle, in films and children's books and innocent folk feeding them in their gardens with sausage rolls! Well good for the Badgers, but reality is something slightly different. They have huge bottom incisor teeth and are the only predator carnivore in this country able to open up and eat live hedgehogs apparently, according to shepherds and gamekeepers. If you have ever heard hedgehog death screams, you shall never forget it. And no, a fox or dog cannot do this.

According to a shepherd I have known for many years, think nothing of killing and eating vulnerable newborn lambs and until dealt with, they will continue to find them a delicacy and carry on. They destroy all ground nesting birds nests including Lapwings, Curlew, rare English Partridge, pheasants and the odd hen house or two and not just for the eggs.

I am sorry to give you a dose of reality, that the eminent Mr Packhman misses out on his popular and informative programme. There is nothing like listening and learning from the people on the ground over many years experience, who have to deal with the damage caused by badgers, for generations in fact.



That my friends, is why in this part of Southern England, Hedgehogs, in the countryside and farms, are rapidly becoming a scarce species. Many years ago, when I was on school holidays, we would have a visit from 'The Man from the Ministry', and I was dispatched with him around the farm to listen and learn something, and to watch him gas the badger setts which was a legal requirement in those days and had to be carried out by the livestock farmer on an annual basis or when overrun. That is when there were an estimated 100 thousand badgers in the UK. Now there are an estimated 1 million. Hardly surprising that the awful Bovine TB is still active in the countryside and horrendous in the South West. It is not only dreadful for cattle, 32,000 were shot in 2019 and 28,000 in 2020 alone, on Dairy and Beef farms, It is also pretty terrible for the badger population that die in pain, sett by sett from this horrible disease. The main cause is, cattle eating grass

and silage that has been urinated on by infected Badgers. The cost for the last 10 years was £100 million. From the outcome Badgers were controlled but not exterminated under Government legislation. This is why in the most seriously affected areas, badgers have been shot. I now understand that a moratorium in a couple of years is coming in to stop this cull and hopefully a vaccination shall be found by then to stop this awful disease. To be fair to DEFRA, they have been trying for years to find a vaccination for this dreadful virus, but the one injected to cattle, is impossible to distinguish between the animal having the vaccine and having the TB infection, therefore making the animal unsaleable. Furthermore catching and injecting Badgers with an anti-virus vaccine is pretty damned difficult to say the least.

Hopefully now our wonderful scientists that have discovered a cure for COVID-19 virus can come up with a cure for Bovine TB. Could you imagine having spent your life rearing a Pedigree Dairy herd, a life's work, not buying in other animals from other herds, for many years and having a 'closed herd' and only using semen bought in from other top of the range Pedigree Bulls, to carry out Artificial Insemination, to improve your herds breeding program, then contracting this awful disease and watching your herd shot before your eyes? Hardly surprising that Farming has one of the highest suicide rates of any group in the country!

On another note, I am sick to the teeth with these ill-informed people who spout their nonsense about Factory Farms and bad treatment of livestock. None of them have actually done their apprenticeship on livestock and pig farms like I did before being sent to Agricultural College, and lucky enough to be able to start a small breeding herd on my own.

I remember being given a Pedigree Landrace gilt from my herd owner, where I did my apprenticeship for a 21st present!! What a brilliant surprise that was, appearing out of a 40 gallon drum!!

In all walks of life, whether Farming, Engineering, Building and the other important trades, you don't learn these trades from being a keyboard warrior on Facebook!

Recently I wonder if any of you have noticed the Male Blackbirds squaring up to each other and fighting for territory and the Cock pheasants going through their ritual the same? And the large flocks of Fieldfare migrating over from harder weather in Scandinavia and the continent, to feed on our arable and grass fields?

Going back to the Winterwatch with Mr Packham and co. Why does he not mention the downside of the Grey Squirrel which carries the Squirrel Parapox that kills the Red squirrel and they eat more green acorns so shall reduce the food available before the Reds get theirs. Reds cannot digest mature acorns. Their numbers now reduced to approx 140,000 in the Uk. These grey squirrels need a serious

continual cull to stop them driving the reds to very endangered levels.



Farmers and gamekeepers have known this for years and try to control the Grey numbers, never mind the serious damage they inflict on young trees.

Why does Mr Packman and his wild justice chums try, through the Courts, to stop the control of large numbers of rooks (seen daily in the village) crows, Jays and Magpies all prolific takers of garden birds eggs, chicks and nests in the spring and damage to farmers crops and fields, pecking eyes out of lambs whilst being born.

Also Jackdaws need controlling as per the thatched house in Wing next to the Queens Head in the High Street. The straw evidence lies on the pavement. Why not leave these problem vermin species to the country Folk and gamekeepers to sort out, which has been done for centuries. These folk need leaving without interference.

Lastly I saw a mink, another vermin species, run over on the Wing Park road, one less rampant killer of wildlife, let out of captivity by well meaning folk without a clue as to the damage these alien species can do to the countryside Wildlife.

14 things you may not know about Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire & The Chilterns is an area of outstanding natural beauty but there's even more to it than meets the eye.

1. Buckinghamshire has more [National Trust](#) properties than any other county in the United Kingdom.
2. In Buckinghamshire you can find Chequers. A mansion estate owned by the government/Tax Payer, which has been the country retreat for Prime Ministers since 1921.



3. We are also known as '[Midsomer County](#)' because of the amount of filming locations that have been used in the hit TV series, Midsomer Murders.
4. The first pineapple ever grown in the UK (possibly also the last) was

cultivated at Buckinghamshire's Dorney Court for Charles II.

5. [Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway](#) is the only vintage steam train to have a platform which directly connects to London.

6. There is also a 'Bucks County' in Pennsylvania, in the USA, which some confuse us with. And the name for 'Pennsylvania' orientated from the village Penn, in Buckinghamshire.

7. Roald Dahl lived in the Buckinghamshire village of Great Missenden for 35 years. The surrounding woodland and area inspired some of his most famous books. You can visit the very popular [Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre](#) in Great Missenden village.

8. Stoke Mandeville is the [birthplace of the Paralympics](#). The first Stoke Mandeville Games, precursor to the Paralympic Games, were held here in 1948.

9. [The Waterside Theatre](#) in Aylesbury is the only theatre in England that has been built in the last 10 years.



10. Buckinghamshire has been home to the most prime-ministers, including Disraeli whose county retreat was [Hughenden Manor](#).

11. You can find the world's oldest model village, [Bekonscot](#) in Beaconsfield, and it has been here since 1929.

12. Hypnos which is based in Princes Risborough is the only active bed supplier to the Royal family.

13. Buckinghamshire is [the most filmed county in England!](#) Including famous films like, Star Wars, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and James Bond and TV shows such as Bridgerton, Killing Eve and Midsomer Murders.

14. The Chilterns Conservation Board reintroduced red kites to the Oxfordshire-Buckinghamshire border on 1 August 1989. It was one of the UK's most successful conservation projects.

Aston Abbotts Parish Council Meeting February

Budget and Setting of the Precept.

Our precept bid has been submitted.

Traffic Calming The shared project with Cublington is in the hands of the local Community Board to move forward. Meanwhile the Parish Council is considering other traffic calming measures within the village.

Parish Council Vacancy. We are delighted to say that 4 interested parties have stepped forward and will give the role further consideration. Elections will be held on 6th May and details will be posted in due course. If you have an interest in your local council it is not too late – contact the clerk for information.

Playground & Aerial Runway. The Parish Council has approved the use of one of the 3 suppliers invited to quote. We have also unanimously agreed to fund up to 50% of the net cost, however if we are able to secure more than 50% of grant funding then all the better. We are in the process of bidding for funds from the BCC led Local Community Board and the FCC Community Action Fund. This process is by no means exclusive and we will welcome ideas of other possible grants - please contact the Clerk with your ideas.

On the subject of the Playground, we have secured a date for the Play Around the Parish 2021 – Tuesday 27th July. We are obviously hopeful that this event will go ahead again this year -

watch this space for details as plans unfold.

Flooding around The Green. Our Clerk has established an open dialogue with the Local Area Technician. He assures us that he is on the case, but is as resource poor as ever. The plan is to clear foliage and overgrowth away from the drain ends, then investigate the drain itself. We really do appreciate the efforts that some of you have put in with your own direct communications to TfB, this really is a case of the more pressure the better. We will continue to chase and sincerely hope for a resolve before another bout of wet weather.

Hedge line along the Wingrave Road & Overhanging trees around The Green. We have been in contact with the land owner and are delighted to say that this has now been cut back. We have also had some minor work carried out to the trees on The Green to keep them from overhanging, such that tall vehicles can pass. Whilst we are reluctant to encourage high sided vehicles through the village we do respect that residents and local farmers need clear access..

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

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

And if you could like to contact us please do so through the Clerk clerk@astonabbottspc.org

The next full parish council meeting is scheduled for 2nd March and you are welcome to join us.

The Aldbury Murders

Murders of William PUDDEPHATT & Joseph CRAWLEY, Aldbury 1891.

By Simon Ward & Pete Lucas.

Not far from Aston Abbots, the Aldbury morning of Sunday 13 December 1891 was wet. Rain had fallen overnight and Martin's Field behind the Stocks Estate, Aldbury was thick with mud. By a scrubby bunch of beeches, in a pool of blood, lay the body of Joseph Crawley. A hundred yards away lay William Puddephatt. Crawley's Inverness coat was by the wood, and Puddephatt's great coat lay some forty yards further up the hill. Near Crawley was a dented gun barrel; by Puddephatt lay two pieces of broken gun stock and two sticks. There were signs of a struggle, and the footprints of three men making off in the direction of Ivinghoe.

It was at about 11.00 am that the two men were found by the head keeper James Double and his helper, Charles Willmore. Double had arranged to meet Puddephatt at 10.30 that morning and he became anxious when he did not turn up; it was unusual for Puddephatt to be late. Double walked through Howlett's Wood, finding to his surprise that the corn bins for the pheasant feed had not been touched – Puddephatt always fed the birds.

Looking down across the field, he saw what he thought at first was a log, when he saw a second form, he began to fear the worst. He checked Crawley first. The man was clearly dead. He lay on his front with his hands raised to his face. Puddephatt was on his back, partially turned to one side, with one

arm outstretched. Double took his hand. It was cold.

Having established that the two men were dead. Double sent Willmore to contact the police at Tring, while he himself went to give information to Police Constable Best at Aldbury. Best had only been in the village for a month, but he knew what had to be done. He sent his wife to the Reverend Wood, to ask him to let the victims wives know what had happened before they heard it by rumour; whilst he, Double and several other men returned to the scene of the killings. They arranged for the bodies to be taken to the Greyhound Pub in the centre of Aldbury, where the inquest was to be held the following evening.

William Puddephatt was a professional gamekeeper of many years. He was 37, married with 5 children. He was of muscular build and known as a determined and courageous man. Joseph Crawley was five years older than Puddephatt. He was employed as a night-watchman, a job he had held for only ten months. Before that, he had been a farm labourer. He left a wife and seven children in the village of Aldbury.



It was believed that Puddephatt and Crawley had come upon three

poachers, and in the ensuing struggle, both of the men had been killed. Double had already told the police that only a week earlier, shots had been heard coming from the direction of the Stocks Estate. Alfred Pike, a coachman, had volunteered to accompany Puddephatt and Crawley on their rounds. Unfortunately, his coach duties intervened, and they had gone without him. Double was able to confirm to police that the two men had been carrying sticks, but no firearms.

The police already had their suspicions as to who they were looking for. Their names were; Walter Smith, Frederick Eggleton and Charles Rayner. They were known poachers, and at about 10.00pm on the night in question they had been seen drinking at Bulbourne in the Grand Junction Arms pub not far from the Stocks Estate. Constable Best searched Rayner's home on Sunday 13 December, but he was not there, however, Best found a pair of wet, bloodstained trousers. The following day, Best found two hats and two powder flasks near the scene of the crime.

The flasks indicated that at least one, and possibly both of the poachers guns was muzzle-loading, rather than using cartridges. This may explain why Crawley and Puddephatt were not shot. Muzzle-loading guns are susceptible to wet weather, and on a night like the 12 December, they might not have fired. Though such guns were obsolete by 1891, their use continued in rural areas well into the 20th century.

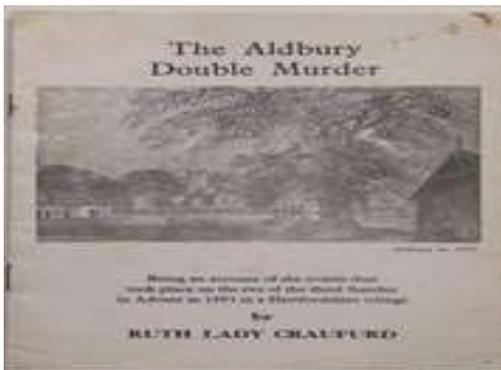
On Monday 14 December Walter Smith was arrested on suspicion, but the other two men were still missing from their homes in Tring. On the same

Monday evening the inquest was held at the Greyhound. Double told of the discovery of the bodies, and their removal to the Greyhound, and a surgeon, Mr. Edward Le Queen, who had examined the bodies at the scene gave medical evidence, describing the injuries the two men had suffered.

He found Puddephatt lying on his back with his right arm outstretched. There was a large wound across the nose and beyond the left orbit, smashing the bones of the upper jaw. The left eye was ruptured, and there was a wound 2 and a half inches above the right eye. There was a star wound with a small depressed fracture of the skull. The whole of the left side of the skull had been smashed by repeated blows, and the right arm broken. At least some of the blows to head had been struck as Puddephatt lay on the ground. In Le Queen's opinion, the victim had been stunned, then beaten to death as he lay helpless. The wounds could have been inflicted with a gun barrel, the small projection of the head fore sight of which might have caused the star-shaped indentation, to the left side of the skull, from which the brain protruded. Detached portions of the skull adhered to the scalp. There had been more than one blow, and there were two other large wounds to the base of the skull. Le Queen concluded that Crawley had been struck from behind, and he too had received further blows as he lay on the ground. The inquest was adjourned until Monday 18 January.

On the night following the murders, Eggleton and Rayner had been seen by a boatman throwing something into the canal at Bulbourne. The canal was

dragged and the stock of a gun was found. They went on the run and were eventually arrested by Oxfordshire police near Denham on 21 December. All three men appeared at the Magistrates' court at Ivinghoe and were remanded in custody. On 23 January 1892, the inquest reconvened. After some minor point of clarification, the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against; Walter Smith, Frederick Eggleton and Charles Rayner.



The trial took place on 23 February 1892 at the Assizes at Aylesbury. All three men admitted being in the woods for the purpose of poaching, but claimed that they had been attacked by Puddephatt and Crawley. It did them no good. Eggleton and Rayner were found guilty of murder and sentenced to death; Smith was found guilty of manslaughter, and given twenty years penal servitude. The execution date was set for Tuesday 17 March, to be carried out at Oxford Gaol.

The mood of much of the public, now swayed in their favour. Pleas for mercy appeared in the newspapers variously claiming that the fight had taken place when passions on both sides were aroused, the keepers had struck the first blows, the poachers were acting at least partially in self-defence, no one but those concerned could know what really happened. Finally, it was argued

that it would be unfair upon the wives and children of the condemned men to taint them with the gallows stigma for the rest of their lives.

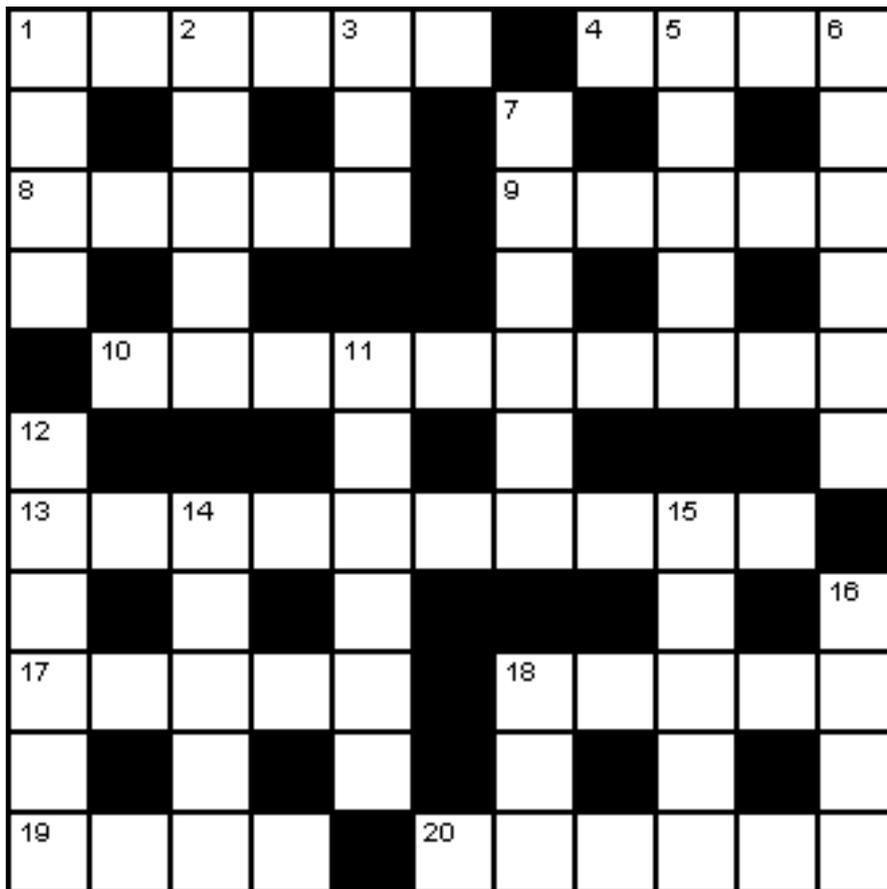
A petition for their reprieve was sent to the Home Secretary. In the meantime, they continued to assert that the deaths of Puddephatt and Crawley had been an unfortunate result of the fight between the poachers and gamekeepers. There had, they maintained, been no intention to kill!

One of the jurors wrote to the Home Secretary, saying that he and some of the others had wanted to return a verdict of manslaughter but the majority had thought otherwise. After some argument, the supporters of the lesser verdict had capitulated on the grounds that they were out voted.

The Home Secretary came under pressure in the House of Commons, but stood firm. The gamekeepers had been brutally murdered and the medical evidence was that they were struck from behind or as they lay helpless upon the ground. The conclusion must be that there had been a deliberate intention to either seriously injure or to kill Crawley and Puddephatt as they were defenceless. The guilty men would hang.

Between them the three offenders had three wives and fifteen children. The murdered men's dependents numbered two wives and twelve children. The total; four men dead and thirty-two people unprovided for, and all for the sake of a few pheasants, none of which belonged to the people whose lives were devastated by the events of that tragic December night.

Crafty Chronicle Crossword

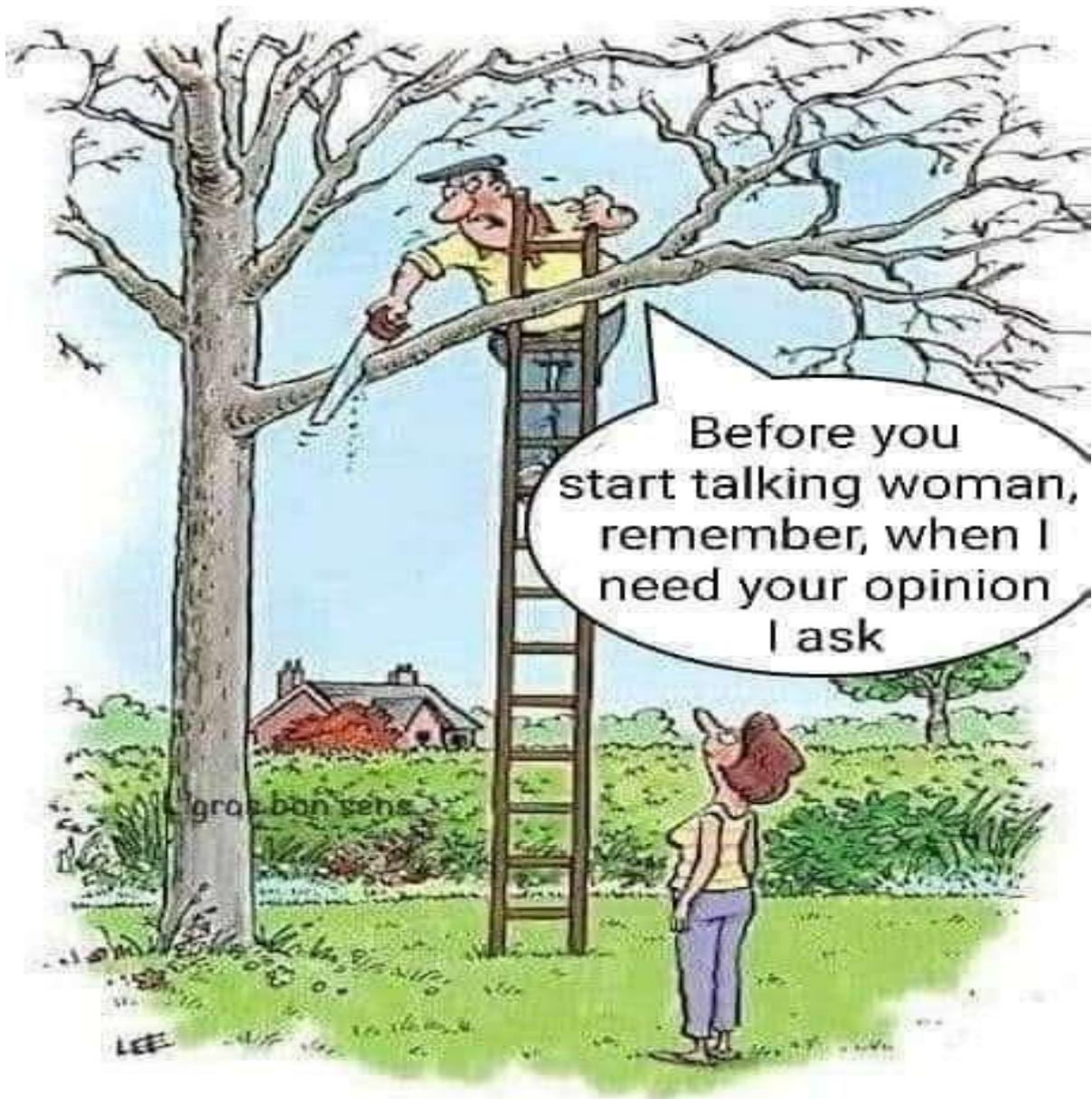


Down

1. Mentor (4)
2. Evade (5)
3. Point (3)
5. Breed of dog (5)
6. Answer (6)
7. Outcome (6)
11. Mystery (6)
12. Collector's item (6)
14. Motionless (5)
15. Oversight (5)
16. Portable shelter (4)
18. Atmosphere (3)

Across

1. Constant (6)
4. Evidence of past injury (4)
8. Haggard (5)
9. Fiends (5)
10. Salutary (10)
13. Clearly (10)
17. Dialect (5)
18. Copious (5)
19. Part of an egg (4)
20. Pressing (6)



Chronicle Crafty Crossword Solution

S	T	E	A	D	Y		S	C	A	R
A		L		O		Z		O		E
G	A	U	N	T		O	G	R	E	S
E		D				D		G		U
	B	E	N	E	F	I	C	I	A	L
O				N		A				T
D	I	S	T	I	N	C	T	L	Y	
D		T		G			A			T
I	D	I	O	M		A	M	P	L	E
T		L		A		I		S		N
Y	O	L	K		U	R	G	E	N	T



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The diary of St. James's.

There are still no 'face-to-face' Church Services at St. James, or anywhere else, but there is a Benefice Zoom Service at 9.30am each Sunday (details on the Village Postbox).

Both Snowdrops and Daffodils are blooming in the churchyard and elsewhere in the village brightening the walks so many of you are taking to stay healthy in these restricted times.

Thanks to Allotment Holders who have all paid their 2021 rents. No doubt

Revd Dr Andrew Krauss

Greetings to everyone.

After nearly a year since the first lockdown started we have all heard the phrase 'new normal' several times by now, and it might feel like a cliché already. However, one of the things that has been made crystal clear over the last year is that this pandemic and its variants are not an isolated problem that can quickly be forgotten when it is over but are instead part of a longer-term global, ecological, economic and demographic challenge that humanity as a whole faces in the coming decades. It would be a drastic and irresponsible oversimplification to think that there was merely one problem (pandemic) and one solution (vaccination) and that was the end of it. We are

where you will be getting your exercise this year.

The Church can always be opened for anyone who wishes to enter for Private Prayer by making an appointment with Caroline Lane by phoning 681373 or email carolinelane@btinternet.com

Stay Safe. **David Gray**

PCC Aston Abbotts

realizing more and more that the background contexts to several

seemingly different problems are intensely connected with one another, which also offers the possibility of several problems being addressed at once with a more involved and carefully worked-out strategy.

I recently read a book by a professor of cognitive science who thinks one of the biggest dangers in our day is precisely the idea that problems can be isolated from each other and a unique solution found for each, not least because overly simplistic solutions potentially have unwanted side effects. He advocates instead the practice of searching for multiple solutions that not only abate the problem in question but also prevent both it and others from resurfacing – a necessary practice if we are to navigate our way through the coming years in the most responsible manner.



By March we will be well into the season of Lent, and it would equally be an oversimplification to see Lent as being all about giving something up or a willpower exercise. While there is an aspect of Lent that does encourage laying some things or habits aside in order to make room for more helpful ones, there are other aspects too. Traditionally it is a period of study and instruction, originally for those preparing for baptism at Easter, and there is an even wider sense in which it involves encouraging new life to flourish in order better to greet the 'new normal' of Eastertide. This newness took quite some re-acclimatization for the first disciples and indeed none of us can say that we fully inhabit it yet. We can however think about what sets of habits are and are not helpful for being able to see the newness of Easter for what it is. Lent challenges us to be aware of how different habits, attitudes, thoughts and deeds are connected to one another and to consider what this realization means in terms of helping life to flourish in its proper environment. As that seems to match up very well with the challenges posed in our present time, let us hope and pray that a well-informed discipline for the future may emerge and bear fruit for us and for all life. With all best wishes.

Andrew

Crisis appeal to save Florence Nightingale Hospice services from devastating impact of pandemic



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is launching a crisis appeal to help bridge a £1m shortfall in income due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is calling on Buckinghamshire residents to show the spirit of 31 years ago, when they raised the money to build the Hospice in the grounds of Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

The Charity needs to raise £2,740 each day to run services at the Hospice, but at the moment are raising less than a third of that, due to the enforced closure of their shops and cancellation of fundraising events.



Whilst care and support at the Hospice is continuing, this huge drop in income is putting the future of hospice services

in our local area at risk, the Charity's Chief Executive explains,

"The Hospice was funded and built over thirty years ago thanks to a huge local fundraising campaign, backed by The Bucks Herald, and it is thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters that we have been able to extend our services and increase the number of patients we can support over the years," says Jo Turner.

"We are asking our local community to get behind us again and donate whatever they can to help us preserve the future of hospice services in our area."

Vicky Benning's mother was cared for by the Hospice after she was diagnosed with terminal oesophageal cancer. After being admitted to the In-Patient Unit she battled on for six weeks and over that time Vicky and her siblings got to know the nurses and volunteers well.

"The service and care we received from the nurses was absolutely wonderful. I will never ever be able to repay what the Hospice did for us, I simply couldn't imagine going through the experience without them. The team do it so well and it never felt like a charity, it just felt like an amazing place. Through my mum's experience I have found out just how much money they have to raise each year and it's just so important that they do it."

Buckinghamshire has a growing and aging population so it anticipated there will be an increased demand for hospice care in future. Visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/crisisappeal or call 01296 429975 to donate.

We are also looking for individuals or communities who would be willing to open their garden to the public for a day or two this summer to raise much needed funds for our Hospice. How does your garden grow? Would you like to be part of a fantastic & floral new fundraising initiative for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity?

Being confined to our homes for much of the last year, we know that lots of you have turned to your gardens as a lockdown project or haven of peace and safety away from Covid-19. With restrictions relaxing would you be willing to share and show off your hard work and help raise funds for the Hospice in our season of Open Gardens?

We are looking for individuals, streets and communities to open their gardens for a day or two between May and August this summer. So whether your garden is small or large, urban or rural, traditional or modern, please get in touch to find out more at fundraising@fnhospice.org.uk or call Claire on 01296 429975.

We will support you to ensure that all Open Gardens are Covid-19 secure and comply with any government restrictions in place at the time. Many thanks

**Bonnie Doe, Marketing & Communications Manager
Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity**

ALLOTMENT DIARY

Yet again, my allotment has been a hive of inactivity, and so let me tell you about something I read in my paper recently (in the hope that did not also appear in all the daily papers), which came as a complete surprise to me.

Dr. Alex Mayhew, a historian at the LSE has discovered that during WW1 there were hundreds of acres of allotments behind the Western Front! By 1917 the allotments were so widespread that the base camp near La Havre arranged a vegetable show similar in scope to pre-war shows in Britain.



The show was open to British and Belgian military units and French civilians (but curiously not to the French military, who did not participate, for reasons which are unclear.) There were prizes for the best garden, most intensive garden, for collections of vegetables, and individual produce, from potatoes to pumpkins. There were 650 entries from British units alone, and over

9,000 people attended the show. Admission fees raised over 3,000 francs, which was donated to British and French war funds. The following year the show was even bigger, with 830 British entries, and also competitors from the armies of New Zealand, Australia and Belgium; French civilians and German prisoner of war camps.

There was even a gardening periodical published called "Sport and Spuds". The military authorities encouraged the allotment gardening, reasoning, correctly, that it would be good for morale; and provided moments of peace for troops returning from the front. In addition, the allotments provided much-needed additional food – 4,200,000 lbs of vegetables were grown on 182.5 acres of land around La Havre alone in the 7 months up to 31st December 1918 – and a much needed source of protein for the troops.

Since I became an allotment gardener, I have regarded the Royal Horticultural Society (or RHS) as the pre-eminent authority on gardening matters. However, my faith in them is being shaken. A couple of weeks ago I read that the RHS had detected a trend for people to spend more time improving their front gardens: whereas my own observation was that the reverse was true, and that more and more people were covering their front gardens with hard surfaces, in order to provide parking for cars. Then, today, my

attention was drawn to a headline in my paper which read *“For a healthier garden, let hungry caterpillars feast”!* Reading the article, I discovered that one Andrew Salisbury, the chief entomologist to the RHS, had said that gardeners should let caterpillars live on cabbages and other brassicas to attract predatory insects to eat them, removing the need for human intervention.



He is quoted as saying *“Moths and butterflies do have caterpillars that feed on garden plants, so you need to tolerate a few nibbled plants to have a healthy ecosystem”.* From my own empirical experience, this is complete rubbish! (Only the fact that this magazine might fall into the hands of children prevented me from using a somewhat stronger word beginning with “B”). If you allow butterflies and moths to lay eggs on your brassicas, and do not remove them, you will find that, in a remarkably short time, the caterpillars which emerge will quickly reduce the leaves of the plants to a lace-like skeleton – and the plants then die. A few nibbled leaves I can

put up with: but the caterpillars do not stop until there are no more leaves for them to eat, and your crop is ruined. If pests do come and eat the caterpillars, they do not do so on my allotment nearly fast enough!

Finally, something which has nothing to do with allotments, but which I would like to share with you. Like, I suspect, many of us in the village, whenever I go to the church end of the village, I always make a point of going to look at the hole about which Trevor Hall has been so eloquently reporting on during the last few weeks. I was amused to discover that standing and looking at workmen working at holes in the ground is so prevalent in Italy – where, by the sound of it, retired men are told by their spouses to get out of the house after breakfast, and not come back till lunchtime – that the Italians have coined a word for a man who does this: an *“umerello”* or umerell. The standard Italian dictionary has now included it, with the following definition of *umerelli* or umerells

“Pensioners who gather, often with their hands behind their backs, at building sites, giving suggestions or criticising the activities”.

At one building site in Bologna, when works were coming to a close, the workers put up a sign addressed “to the Umerells”, telling them where they were going to be working next!

Peter Shorrocks

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WINGRAVE AND ROWSHAM DIARY

MARCH 2021

Wed 3 WI: via Zoom

Thu 4 2000 WCA Council meeting via Zoom

Fri 5 1930 Croquet AGM via Zoom

Mon 8 0930 Weekday Walking Group
The Green

Sat 13 0930 Men's Breakfast Talk: via
Zoom

Sun 21 0930 Local ramble Nup End
Lane

Mon 22 0930 Weekday Walking
Group The Green

Tue 23 1930 Parish Council planning
meeting via Zoom

Fri 26 1930 WWRHA talk: The Great
Train Robbery via Zoom



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Mushroom, Broccoli, and Cheese Stuffed Chicken

Chicken stuffed with a cheesy broccoli and mushroom filling. Serve with a salad and roasted potatoes for a complete and satisfying meal.



Ingredients

Original recipe yields 4 servings

Ingredient Checklist

2 cups finely chopped broccoli florets

2 tablespoons water

½ cup shredded pepperjack or cheddar cheese

¼ cup mayonnaise

Tablespoon of BBQ sauce

4 small button mushrooms, sliced

1 teaspoon garlic powder

4 large chicken breasts

1 teaspoon paprika

salt and ground black pepper to taste

Directions.

Step 1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil.

Step 2. Combine broccoli and water in a microwave-safe bowl. Cook in the

microwave on high power for 2 minutes. Drain.

Step 3. Combine cooked broccoli, pepperjack or cheddar cheese, mayonnaise, squirt of BBQ sauce, mushrooms, and garlic powder in a large bowl.

Step 4. Season both sides of each chicken breast with paprika, salt, and pepper. Use a sharp knife to cut a slice through the middle of each breast to create a deep pocket, making sure not to cut all the way through. Evenly stuff each breast with broccoli mixture and place on the prepared baking sheet.

Step 5. Bake in the preheated oven until chicken is no longer pink in the center and juices run clear, about 35 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C).

Nutrition Facts Per Serving:

580 calories; protein 43.2g; carbohydrates 18.8g; fat 36.6g; cholesterol 152.1mg; sodium 650.7mg. [Full Nutrition](#)

