

Aston Abbotts Chronicle

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News From in and around Aston Abbotts

Josie Knight, 24, born in Aston Abbotts wins Silver at the Tokyo Olympics. *Peter Knight*



I write in trepidation because I've been asked to do so. I feel being seen as a doting grandfather praising the achievements of his beloved granddaughter. Nevertheless, Josie did win a silver medal at the Olympics cycling for Team GB in the team pursuit.

I well remember the day she was born in 57 The Green. The suspense, the joy. Two years later, her father, my son David, and Camilla decided to move to Dingle in Ireland to enjoy the rural life and bring up a family of three boys and Josie.

David made a living shearing sheep and mending things. The Family hobby became cycling, and the children's aim was to overtake their father. They took up competition cycling at an early age and Josie and her brother were soon spotted by

the Irish cycling team. Josie made the Irish team.

Josie was successful for Ireland but realised if she wanted to reach the very top, she should join Team GB. My first surge of real pride was when she became a professional rider for Team GB.

Josie's long term aim was to cycle in the Paris Olympics in three years time. The delay in the Tokyo games was greatly in her favour.

The great news was when Josie was selected for the Olympic team three years ahead of expectations. The rest of the story should be known – The youngest member of a team of four winning silver in the team pursuit event.

Two days after landing at Heathrow, Josie was at 59 The Green to see her grandfather and Alex and show us her medal. What a story.

What next for Josie? Well hopefully, avoiding accidents, the World Championships are coming up and then the Olympics in Paris. 'I hold my breath' and find it all rather difficult to believe.

Wing care home closes after damning safety report

Letter reveals the home is 'unfortunately no longer viable'

More than 60 extremely vulnerable people will have to be rehoused after a care home dramatically announced it

was closing its doors at the end of the month.

Carey Lodge, in Wing, was subject to a snap Care Quality Commission visit over safety concerns raised by staff. It had previously been the subject of a damning CQC report last year following an unannounced visit in October 2020.

The home, which cares for those with dementia and end of life care, is owned by the Fremantle Trust.



In a letter to staff seen by the LBO, the company said: "Following a recent inspection by the CQC there were several concerns about the quality of care and support at the home. It is therefore with great sadness that we have taken the decision to close Carey Lodge care home. As a charitable organisation the home is unfortunately no longer viable."

A member of staff told us they had been unhappy with the way residents had been cared for.

They said: "They're trying to find emergency placements for the residents currently residing there. Staff may be able to transfer within the company to another role or take redundancy or seek alternative employment."

They said they had seen one incident where a patient on end of life care but aware of their situation, wanted to go to the toilet but was told to go in the bed, and they would be cleaned up later.

"No turning of bedridden patients was taking place," the source said. "Quite a lot of people had pressure sores."

There are around 40 members of staff but the home was often short of staff, they said, with around 15 residents to one staff member at times. "There was hardly any time to hold their hand," they said. "There was no dignity or quality of care for the patients."

They added: "I can sleep easy knowing that I blew the whistle and have safeguarded these vulnerable adults. I hope another care home can take this over and keep it as a care home."

Buckinghamshire Council initiated a safeguarding inquiry last week.

In a statement it said: "A dedicated team of Buckinghamshire Council social care staff is now based in Carey Lodge. This team will speak to all Buckinghamshire residents and their family members to ensure they are fully involved in any decisions that are made with regards to reviewing their support needs and identifying somewhere else to live and receive care.

"The council acknowledges this situation is a distressing time for people who live at Carey Lodge and their family. If you or your family member have any concerns that you would like to discuss, please speak to the council's Adult Social Care staff based at Carey Lodge."

In a CQC report in December 2020, inspectors noted there had been previous concerns about management and care of patients at the home.

It found residents were not routinely and consistently protected from risks associated with their medical conditions and staff were not always aware of patients' medical conditions. Note keeping was poor and often out of date,

The report stated: "We found no evidence that people had been harmed, however systems were either not in place or robust enough to demonstrate that governance of the service was effectively managed. This placed people at risk of receiving unsafe or ineffective care".

The Fremantle Trust is a registered not-for-profit organisation which has care sites in Bucks, Beds, Milton Keynes and Berks, as well as Herts. It was approached for comment last week but has not yet responded.

Habitat heroes help create hedgerow havens, ponds and meadows in Aylesbury Vale including Weedon

Funding from local housing development has been used to improve habitats for wildlife at sites across the region

A Hedgerow Havens project in Buckinghamshire has created and restored more than 5km of hedgerows and other vital habitats for wildlife .

The project has seen 4.2-hectare wildflower meadow created on the banks of the River Ray in Quainton, plus

12 new wildlife ponds, and has helped improve eight hectares of land in and around Aylesbury for mammals such as badgers, insects including butterflies and farmland birds including kestrels, bunting and linnets.

The project worked with more than 100 volunteers and supporters from 11 different parishes, helped set up six new wildlife groups and worked with 19 landowners, including farmers, homeowners, charities and estates.

In the village of Weedon, the team recruited the parish council and residents to the project. They have since transformed a plot of land for wildlife by creating a meadow area, two ponds, 260m of new hedgerow and a hectare of scrubby area important for farmland birds, badgers, brown hare and barn owl.

The villagers have also this year created their own Wild Weedon conservation and wildlife group, putting on walks and talks and running practical conservation events.

From the Editor

Happy Autumn.

The village has been hit with separate crimes over the last month. These stem from egg throwing at cars and houses from a small red car, to the theft of caravans and tools. Wingrave Church was also badly damaged by kids. We all need to keep our eyes and ears open to catch these *%>@#/s.

Concern was raised by many readers as to the future of the village pub and the impact its closure will have on the village.

Forgive me, I have not included any further messages in this edition as they voice much the same as last month with some being more critical as to why the business failed.

However, concern has continued throughout September, including the plan to cut the licensed pub in half and make one half a residential home. It was said that this should have sounded alarm bells to the residents and the PCC but the plan seemed to have been plain sailing.

If this leaves just half, it's difficult to vision a future pub or restaurant being successful. Further Royal Oak Plans which mainly deal with landscaping of the said residential plan can be viewed at:
<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications>

Come on folks, is it not time to arrange a popup pub in the village hall? These have been highly successful events in other villages without an established pub. Theme nights:

We love the 60s, 70s and 80s, Film nights, Country Music night,

Rock Revival, Queen's Diamond Jubilee evening, Dinner and Dance, Tribute acts, Comedy Club.

The ideas are endless.

So come forward if you are interested in arranging any such popup pub events.

Check out the Parish Council Meeting summary further on in the magazine regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

What's happening with our own cancel culture regarding the clock chimes? It's all gone silent.

Remember clocks go back in the small hours of Sunday 31st October.

Your emails

Dear Pete

It was with sadness that I read of the passing of Percy Humphreys recently. Having lived in the village 50 years I have some happy memories of the time when Percy and his dad Tom ran the bakery at the back of the Bull & Butcher. My late mother in law, Kathleen Ford, told me that on Christmas morning villagers would take their Christmas poultry to the bake house at the Bull & Butcher where Tom would cook them in the bread oven. At Easter time on Good Friday morning you would come down to breakfast and find a brown paper bag by the back door with 6 fresh-made Hot Cross Buns still warm from the oven.

I also remember going to the bake house on a Thursday afternoon after Ladies Club to buy half a dozen fresh-made cakes including cream doughnuts for tea that day. Happy memories. Percy was a good villager to this community.

Shirley Ford

Dear Editor

Concern of planned increase in heavy goods vehicles through our villages.

I enclose a copy of my submission to the BCC Planning Dept. which I have not been able to send you by email.

Residents on the Wing airfield are all affected by the noise of the crushers, it is not a substantially commercial location.

I send you my comments in order that your residents can be advised of the planning ref. The more objectors the better will be the chance of stopping the ridiculous proposed increase in heavy lorries on the narrow roads your residents will use.

The local points of interest concern the huge lorries on our narrow roads that are used by all residents in all local villages.

Readers may need the Ref. No, on the BCC. planning portal – CM/0066/20 –

Please ask all residents to try and submit an objection however brief as every one counts, last time there were 90, it would be great if we could get a couple of hundred!

Kind regards

Concerned Resident

I am against permission being given due to the proven damage caused to local roads by huge lorries during the operation of the concrete crushers,

also the 3 local villages already suffer with congestion and damage to parked cars. The lorries are far too huge to be on these roads and the reckless, speedy and aggressive manner in which they are driven will cause accidents. The road edges are eroded and safety is jeopardised. The limits shown are lorries over 3.5 tonnes unladen, this surely should be *not* exceeding? The application in spring of this year to increase lorry numbers was rejected by over 90 residents so why is the same request being considered when it is patently obvious the road system and condition thereof is totally unsuitable.

The 30 residents on the airfield are all affected by the noise of the crushers, it is not a substantially commercial location as you state. 12 of the residents were given planning permission on the basis of their need for peace and quiet! The wellbeing of all 30 residents will be adversely affected.

The 18 foot high wall proposed will not be in harmony with the area and will resemble a prison wall seen from many aspects including the Cublington Road. It is unlikely the wall will reduce the sound to an acceptable level. The proposed saplings will take 30 years to screen the wall and even if this works the leaves will drop each Winter losing any ability to screen vision and sound.

The ecology of the area will be adversely affected by the site and this is in opposition to Government policy and the County Authorities mission. Actions speak louder than words!

This latest planning application suggests that previous proposals from the applicant were inaccurate, therefore the current one is in doubt.

I conclude this area is completely unsuited for concrete crushing and the associated lorry size and movement and thus reject the complete application.



shared by Silversurfers.com

Adult Abuse.

'See Something,

Say Something,

Do Something'

I want to mention an important subject we're raising awareness about at the moment here at the

Council, that of 'Adult Abuse'. A difficult topic but a really important one; it's not just children who sadly might be at risk of exploitation or abuse but adults can also suffer too.

It's largely spotted and reported by professionals like doctors, police officers or social workers, but we can all play a part in being alert to when something doesn't feel quite right – and knowing where and how to raise concerns.

Abuse of adults can take a number of forms: physical or financial abuse or exploitation, neglect or mental and psychological abuse – and it can happen to anyone over the age of 18. So please, if for example you work with people and something doesn't feel quite right, make sure you know what to do if you want to raise a concern, which can, of course, be done totally anonymously. Please remember you aren't interfering.

You can find out more on our website about what to do if you are worried about someone you know or see regularly.

<https://careadvice.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/Report-a-concern-about-abuse-or-neglect>

directly. Funding for local community projects up for grabs. For a full set of minutes from each Parish Council meeting please visit the website

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

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

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



Parrott Brothers Butchers Whitchurch.

Local Quality Butchers

Beechmoor Farm, Whitchurch, Aylesbury HP22 4LG

Opens 7AM Tuesday to Saturday

Phone: 01296 641207

What's on in Aston Abbotts October (VH = Village Hall)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Rambling club. Marsworth 14.00
3	4	5	6 VH 16:30 Yoga 18:00 Yoga 7.30 Whist	7 VH 10:00 Coffee morning 19:30 Whist	8	9
10	11	12	13VH 16:30 Yoga 18:00 Yoga	14 VH 10:00 Coffee morning 19:00 Bingo	15	16
17	18	19 VH 19:00 Village Orchard meeting	20 VH 16:30 Yoga 18:00 Yoga 19.30 Whist	21 VH 10:00 Coffee morning 19:30 Whist	22 BUS TRIP. 10.00 bus to Aylesbury 19:30 PCC Quiz. VH	23 17:00 Private Party. VH
24 09:30 Private Party. VH	25	26 VH 19:00 Parish Council	27 VH 16:30 Yoga 18:00 Yoga	28 VH 10:00 Coffee morning	29	30 Clocks go back
31 Village Footpath walk. The Green 14.00						

VIC SCOTT MEMORIAL ORCHARD



**VILLAGE MEETING Tuesday 19
OCTOBER 7.30 p.m. Village Hall**

We now have over 130 trees planted in our village orchard. We look forward to welcoming all interested villagers to a meeting to discuss and celebrate progress. In

particular, we would be interested to hear ideas about how the orchard might be more widely used. With this in mind we would love to hear from anyone who might like to consider taking on the role of an events organizer for the orchard. If anyone would be interested to talk about this before the meeting, please contact me at gordon.smith53@btinternet.com

Wine and nibbles available!

Did you know it's Apple Day

21st Oct 2021. An annual celebration of apples and orchards which was started in 1990 by Common Ground.

Horticultural Show

Report. Colin Higgs BEM

It was disappointing there were no children entries and a poor ladies section but good exhibits elsewhere.

1st. Simon Guy (Cup Winner)

2nd. Sophie Philps

3rd. Alex Radbourne

4th. Caroline Able Smith

Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group Report.

Colin Higgs BEM Chairman

2 New timetables requested for the Wingrave Rd AA bus stops & Cublington Road cross roads.

I raised concern about the number of new bus services using Aylesbury Bus Station with many not being able to use the correct departure bays and

asked if all Town Services could be relocated to outside stops.

I will be surveying bus service usage for BCC so please use your bus services so as to keep them.

A SIGHTSEEING WALK FOR MS 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Sally Palmer

I signed up with my daughter and granddaughter to complete a 20km walk in London in support of research into Multiple Sclerosis. We raised £300 through Justgiving and I raised a further £90 in cash sponsorship so a big thanks for all those who sponsored me.



We set off from Leighton Buzzard at 7.50am. We arrived at the start in Victoria Embankment Gardens and enjoyed a coffee while waiting for the 10am start in these lovely gardens and had time to inspect the statue of Robbie Burns and monument to the men of the Camel Corp that died in WW1. I remember that my own grandfather served a brief spell in Palestine and always

swore camels were bad-tempered animals.

At 10 we set off armed with a map and quiz sheet. We headed East past St Paul's Cathedral (noting the gilded pineapples on top of its 2 clock towers). Stopping to remove clothes as it had come out unexpectedly hot and sunny, we continued via All Hallows Church (the oldest in London) dating from 675AD, round the Tower of London heading for St Katherine's Dock where we saw the Royal Barge Glorianna. We stopped to applaud a transatlantic rower who had just arrived from New York and then crossed Tower Bridge. From Tower Bridge we headed back East along the south side of the river pausing at Hays Galleria, site of the largest wharf in 19th Century London that unloaded over 80% of London's dry produce and was known as the Larder of London. On by Blackfriars Bridge passing the restored Golden Hind that Francis Drake sailed to be the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world.

Continuing along the Embankment noting the various sights- Tate Modern, The Globe Theatre and London Eye to name a few of many. At Westminster Bridge we crossed back to the north side and decided grand- daughter needed an injection of energy from McDonalds. The first one however had no milkshakes (shock horror) so we went on through Belgravia where it started to spit with rain and within 10 minutes the rain was torrential. Umbrellas up

and waterproofs on we made it round to Harrods and in South Kensington found another MacDonalds that did have milkshakes and was amazingly not too crowded. Fortunately, the rain eased up while we were refuelling and we continued through Kensington up Exhibition Road passing the various museums and stopping at the entrance to the Royal College of Music where my son studied on Saturdays at the Junior Department for several years. We took a photo there to send to him before heading across the road to the Albert Hall and the Albert Memorial. Turning East we walked

along beside the park heading towards Buckingham Palace then on along the Mall and finally back to our start point. It has taken us 5 and a half hours in total. We received our medals and took a few more photos before heading off home. On the train home we introduced grand daughter to the card game of whist and finished the day with a hearty venison casserole made by the resident chef followed by chocolate birthday cake made by my daughter the previous day.

Five great indoor attractions in Bucks to keep the family entertained on rainy days

It's hard to predict the weather at the moment. It's also frustrating when you have planned an outdoor activity for the heavens to open and ruin it. Therefore, we have pulled together five activities for when the sun just won't come out.

The attractions are across Buckinghamshire, in Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Great Missenden, and High Wycombe.

Pixel Bunker & arcade at the National Film and Sci-Fi Museum

Milton Keynes



The Pixel Bunker is the perfect place to hide from a rainy day and is also a new attraction to Milton Keynes. It is part of the National Film & Sci-Fi Museum and has retro arcade games spanning generations from Pacman and Aliens to original Star Wars consoles, and more modern games too.

A three-hour time slot costs £13.50 for adults, £9.50 for children, £35.00

for a family of four, and £12.00 for students.

Snozone, Milton Keynes. The site has sloped for all abilities from complete beginners to freestyle pros so there should be something to suit everyone.

There are also school holiday camps if your child is really keen to learn how to ski or snowboard.

You can hire lift passes from one to three hours or book a lesson - prices vary.

Roald Dahl Museum, Great Missenden British children's author Roald Dahl (1916 - 1995)

The [Roald Dahl Museum](#) has been closed for most of the year due to Covid so it's a great time to return and enjoy the magic of one of the most popular children's authors.

Throughout the summer there was a Fantastic Mr Fox exhibition to celebrate 50 years since the book was published.

It costs £7.40 for adults and £4.90 for children and concessions. It is currently open from Tuesday - Sunday.

Funky Cinema, Aylesbury The new cinema will be at Walton Parish Hall. A trip to Funky Cinema is a great excuse to support one of Aylesbury's newest independent ventures.

The cinema screens a whole range of films from newer flicks to

much-loved classics - upcoming family-friendly options include the Tom & Jerry film and The Addams Family.

It's also a budget-friendly option with tickets £4.50 for adults and £3.50 for children, students and seniors. You will need to book online before you go.

<https://www.funky-cinema.co.uk/>

Rush UK Trampoline Park, High Wycombe is a fantastic place to spend the afternoon with a family and has a whole range of activities to keep the kids entertained.

This includes the main trampoline area, tumble lanes (to practice those flips), foam pits, an extreme dodgeball court and trampoline-sprung basketball lanes.

It costs £17 per person for a two-hour open jump and £11.50 for one-hour providing you book online within 24 hours in advance.

Where did our Wetherspoon Pubs get their names?

Certainly when I think of Wetherspoons I don't think of culture or history. However take a look at this little article about how our hometown Wetherspoons got their names.

The White Hart, Aylesbury



This pub is named after an older inn which stood nearby in Tudor times, according to the Wetherspoons website – but it is likely that an even older pub once stood there.

A hart is a male red deer and the white hart was the personal badge of Richard II. In 1393, King Richard passed a law requiring all pubs to be clearly signposted as such. Many adopted the monarch's personal badge and the White Hart is now the fourth most popular pub name in Britain (after the Red Lion, the Crown and the Royal Oak).

The original White Hart pub was rebuilt on the same site in 1814. There it survived for five decades, until it was demolished to make way for the Corn Exchange.

During the 1860s a cattle market was built in Aylesbury town centre. This was closed in 1987 and demolished the following year, and it was on this land that the current White Hart was built.

The Bell Hotel, Aylesbury



Located within a Grade II-listed building with an early or mid-19th century façade, recent renovations at this pub uncovered internal beams dating from medieval times.

The Bell was mentioned in the 15th century when Market Square had several taverns. These served buyers and sellers trading produce outside each Saturday. They also hosted drinkers from around the county, who would travel to Aylesbury twice a year for huge market fairs and six times a year for horse fairs, both held in the square.

Exactly where the pub's name comes from remains unclear, but bells were commonly used to announce the time – such as church services evening curfew – in the Middle Ages.

Landlords would also hang distinctive items like ploughs, kettles, boots or bells outside their inns as landmarks for would-be customers, most of whom could not read at that time. Names like the Bell or the Angel could also have indicated that the venue was once located close to a church, although these names became less common after Henry VIII's Reformation.

7 further items of historical interest regarding our Home Town

Aylesbury dates back to at least the Iron Age - meaning it has a rich history with lots to learn about.

The market town is packed full of interesting people and places so it's not short of interesting facts.

Excavations found a fourth-century hill fort. In 1985, excavations in the market town found an Iron Age hill fort that dated back to the fourth century BC.

Aylesbury was a key area of the country for ancient Britons as it was one of their strongholds. However, it was eventually captured from them by Cutwulph, brother of Ceawlin, King of the West Saxons, in 571.

William the Conqueror always received a great royal welcome. The first Norman monarch of England, William the Conqueror, is best known for defeating Harold Godwinson at the 1066 Battle of Hastings.

A slightly less well known fact is that the conquering monarch owned lands in Aylesbury.

When he visited the town the people who lived there were always expected to provide the best for him.

This included straw for his bed and sweet herbs for his chamber, as well as

three eels and two green geese to feast on.

Shots taken for A Clockwork Orange did not make the final cut. Scenes for the dystopian classic A Clockwork Orange were filmed in Friars Square in Aylesbury, however did not make the final cut.



The film was made at Pinewood Studios at Iver Heath in Buckinghamshire and scenes were shot around the South East of England.

The film went on to be banned in the UK at the request of director Stanley Kubrick after concerns that copycat crimes were occurring.

The largest dairy in the UK is just outside of Aylesbury. Arla Aylesbury is just east of the town and is the largest dairy in the UK - when it was first built it was the biggest in the world. The dairy processes and packages up to one billion litres of milk a year from British farms.

The site was opened in 2014 by the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP.

Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre was opened by Cilla Black. Legendary entertainer Cilla Black opened the Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre in 2010.



There was a live event hosted by Jonathan Wilkes and Suzanne Shaw and a bunch of high-profile guests including David Suchet, Simon Callow and Ruby Wax.

The project cost £47 million and took four years to build after the theatre gained permission from the council in 2006.

A Saint who allegedly rose from the dead was born in the town. St Osgyth was born in Quarrendon on the outskirts of Aylesbury in the 7th century. One of the legends about her starts when she is told to deliver a book to a nunnery, however has to cross a stream by a bridge in order to get there.

But there has been a storm so the river is high and the winds are blustery and she falls in the water.

She is lost for three days before the abbesses search for her and find her body on the banks of the stream.

They command her to come back to life and she does.

James Bond & The London Underground to Aylesbury

Once upon a time the Metropolitan line didn't stop at Chesham or Amersham. It ran all the way out to Aylesbury and beyond in the wilds of Buckinghamshire.

From here a line went north to Verney Junction where it joined the Buckinghamshire Railway's line from Oxford to Bletchley.

It was on the stretch between Aylesbury and Verney Junction that Granborough



The station was opened by the Aylesbury and Buckingham Railway in 1868, but by 1891 the line was in such a bad financial state it was absorbed by the Metropolitan Railway.

Because this company ran services all the way down through Aylesbury into London Baker Street, Granborough Road and the little branch line technically became part of the London Underground.

Actually the station was originally called Grandborough Road after the village it served but this was changed to Granborough Road on 6 October

1920. The village name also changed.

When the Met took over the A&BR in July 1891 the track was re-laid and the station was entirely rebuilt with a longer platform. The line was doubled, and a down platform was built on the site of the former siding.

A single-storey rectangular brick station building with a pitched slate roof was provided on the up platform. This included the booking hall, booking office, waiting rooms and toilets. The original gate keeper's cottage was replaced with a new larger house with its own well.

The down platform was provided with a timber waiting shelter with a curved roof. The two platforms were spanned by a lattice footbridge supported on brick towers which included two small stores.

The trains here brought and delivered parcels as well as passengers and in later years cattle were loaded onto trains here to be taken to market.

In 1936 though when the London Passenger Transport Board had taken over the Metropolitan Railway, it withdrew local passenger services to save money and the route closed completely in 1947.

The whole stretch of line from Aylesbury to Verney Junction went out of existence.

These days you'd hardly know there was a station at Granborough Road at all. It lies under farmers' field, although a little bit of platform does remain.

The track beds have been used to lay electricity pylons in the area.

Bond finds a station when he decodes clue.

Amazingly though, the station made an incredible revival when in 2012, its name was decoded by James Bond as part of a clue he was trying to crack.

The villain in the film, Silva has escaped from MI6's underground reserve headquarters into subterranean London.

Bond sees a CGI map of subterranean London extracted from Silva's laptop and realises that the key to decode it is Granborough Road.

Quite how Bond would have known about this long lost station unless he was a massive rail enthusiast is not of course made clear!

These days though you can visit the brilliant heritage railway at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre to get an idea of what the old steam trains were like on these routes. This is located at the restored Quainton Road station which was on the same line as Granborough Road.

Market Square



Market Square of the 1890s was a wide open place where you could see right to the top without much getting in the way. Today it is very different as many trees have been planted and one has grown so big that it now blocks the Clock Tower. The statue of Lord Chesham was added in 1910. In the 1960s great changes were underway all over the town and Market Square had many of its old buildings demolished. Over on the left Friars Square shopping centre was built where centuries old streets and alleyways once were and since then it has been modernised.



Hairspray. *Reviewed for Theatre Ambassadors & The Chronicle, by Pete Lucas 07/09/2021.*

The Beautiful Aylesbury Waterside Theatre exploded into life last night for the first time following the long boring hiatus caused by the Covid pandemic.



Staring Alex Bourne, (Edna Turnblad) Brenda Edwards, (Motormouth Maybelle) Norman Pace (Wilbur Turnblad) Katie Brace (Tracy Turnblad) and Akeem Ellis-Hyman, (Seaweed) and Directed by Paul Kerryson, Hairspray burst onto the stage with instant energy with 'Good Morning Baltimore' and never stopped the beat until the curtain came down with 'You can't stop the beat'.

The story of love, bigoted hatred, and segregation in the 60s Baltimore USA, Hairspray gives another version of how racism and inequality was much reduced by new ideas of young and old for the new TV audience.

Stocky Tracy Turnblad's dream of being a star was nearly snuffed out by narrow minded, dated ideas of what the US public should see on TV. There was no

room for black or fat people until Tracy and Seaweed got together to sing and dance for the TV competition, with the help of Tracy's parents, food loving Edna and joke shop Entrepreneur, Wilbur (who were a great comedic double act instantly loved by the audience) and the wise opinionated Maybelle, beating the staid and crooner type production of the past.

Hairspray is serious, funny and fun loving. It has it all and more. The energy and power of the dancers, singers and the trendy orchestra was second to none. Choreographer Drew McOnie should be smiling today following a wonderful performance from the whole cast. Absolute talent. It brought the 60s sounds back to life with the passion and greatness of black Gospel thrown into the mix by the mighty Brenda Edwards who blew the audience away with her powerful vocals.



I loved it and when the last curtain descended, everyone cheered for more. Oh God it was good to be back at the Waterside. The atmosphere was electric. Being among the celebrities, Broadcasters and Theatre royalty at the gala was undaunting as we were all there for the same thing, to be entertained by the cast of HAIRSPRAY. The whole audience was gleaming with satisfaction as they left the auditorium

Pub & Restaurant Reviews.

Thanks to Janet Walker, The Chronicle has a new series of reader reviews for local pubs & restaurants. Please join us and help others choose or avoid local establishments.

The Unicorn, Cublington.



Whilst exploring our neighbourhood, it did not take us long to discover the Unicorn in the neighbouring village of Cublington. In fact we drove past it on our very first visit to Aston Abbotts.

We have continued to frequent the Unicorn and the food, service and ambience has been consistently good. We would particularly recommend the mid-week (Tuesday/Wednesday) special offer at lunch-time.

We have been surprised at the quality of the food which is more akin to a restaurant than a pub. We have also had a few Sunday lunches too, and they have been excellent,

with generous portions whilst retaining the quality.

We have always been made very welcome, and my "Loyalty Card" is now stamped up! So £10 off the next meal – yippee! Can't wait.

Janet Walker.

Shoulder of Mutton, Wendover



I used to take the family to this Restaurant frequently 15 to 20 years ago. We loved it. The Shoulder of Mutton is now a chain pub/restaurant (Chef & Brewer). I'm no fan of chains.

I visited the restaurant on the 8th of September for dinner and had drinks first outside on an idyllic warm evening for the market town of Wendover.

The pub/restaurant is clean, well lit and welcoming with young, friendly staff, and being an ale man I was easily satisfied with the selection they had on tap.

However, it was time to take our table and immediately was informed by a young waiter, who had a BO problem, that the 1st and main courses we were about to order

were now off the menu as were others. No Moules Marinière or Sea Bass. So Creamy Garlic Mushrooms sourdough crumpet, cheese & mustard straw for 1st course. Bland to say the least. We both opted for steak for the main and received Bog standard steak and triple cooked chips. I'll be the judge of that! (Frozen) What is it with these places that they can't use fresh potatoes for their chips? Really not impressed.

It wasn't a busy evening so the waiter was keen to serve us as quickly as he could so, it seemed to us, to appease the chef to achieve an early kitchen closure.

Pete Lucas

The murder of 'Noble Edden' and his ghost that haunts a Bucks road

Noble's ghost is now said to haunt a Buckinghamshire road warning motorists of the dangers ahead



A market gardener named William Edden, and known to his friends as

Noble, was walking home from market one night in 1828 when he was murdered. His body was later found in Haddenham Field, on the turnpike road between Aylesbury and Thame.

Two men, Solomon Sewell, 32, and Benjamin Tyler, 19, were tried for his killing the following year. In a remarkable trial, Noble's wife gave evidence of a strangely supernatural sort.

Mrs Edden claimed to have seen her 69-year-old husband – or perhaps his ghost – at the moment of his death. While ironing at their home, she claimed to have heard his voice and turned to see him, wounded and bleeding.

She then ran out of the house, shouting, "Oh dear God! My husband is murdered and his ribs are broken," a transcript of the trial records.

She told her neighbours that Noble would not return home that night, as his body lay in a ditch, his skull smashed. Furthermore, she claimed, she had also seen the face of his killer – and she knew him to be Tyler.

In the days following her husband's death, Mrs Edden (whose first name appears to be lost to history) called for Tyler to visit her home.

She wanted him to touch the body, believing that the killer's touch

would cause it to bleed as if freshly wounded.

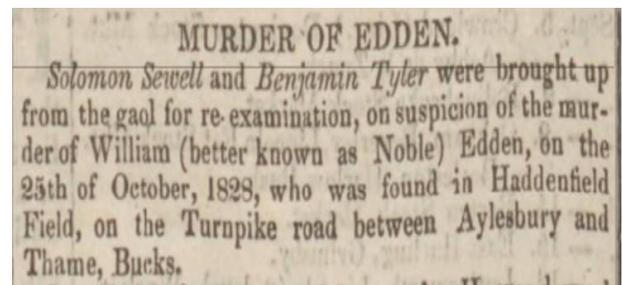
Nobody in court ridiculed Mrs Edden for these claims of clairvoyance. Tyler had refused to touch the corpse – a fact which might have helped to convict him, in those superstitious times.

Moreover, two men identified as Sewell and Tyler had been seen washing their hands in a stream near the village church, on the night of Noble's murder, a witness reported.

And on a night soon after the murder, Noble's son was stopped on the road by two men who threatened to do to him what they had done to his father. The young man knew by their voices that this was Sewell and Tyler.

Nonetheless, the pair were acquitted of murder in court. Sewell was known to be a "simpleton", as his own mother testified, and the judge could not be sure that he was not living in a fantasy world.

But Sewell was soon arrested again, this time for stealing poultry, and was sentenced to transportation. He tried to have this sentence reduced by confessing to Noble's killing and shopping Tyler. His reward was the death sentence, for him and his friend.



Sewell had admitted his guilt before he faced the hangman, whereas Tyler always maintained his innocence. But why did they do it?

The folklorist Horace Harman recorded the tale in his 1934 book *Sketches of the Bucks Countryside*. The teller, whose grandfather had known Noble, said the gardener had seen Sewell and Tyler stealing sheep from a neighbour.

Noble told no-one, but would often bait the two men by saying, "Baa" whenever he saw them. To shut him up, the story goes, the two men murdered him with a hammer.

Now Noble's ghost is said to appear to motorists on Ford Road, at the corner where he was murdered, as a warning of encroaching danger.

How much of this you believe is a matter for you, reader. But ghosts or no ghosts, it remains a curious if sorry tale of Buckinghamshire gone by.

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LOCAL NEWS: WILD RAVEN CELEBRATES THEIR FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Have you visited Wild Raven in Rowsham yet? Wild Raven is built on the shoulders of 170 years of family greengrocers and this October they are celebrating their one year anniversary as a farm shop and tea room.

The barn was converted by owner and proprietor Jaime, with a vision to bring the very best in fruit and veg to the local community. This is a family business with a desire to offer great service and quality, locally sourced food products.



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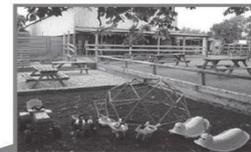
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ALLOTMENT DIARY



Regular readers may remember that last autumn, my allotment neighbour Brian helped me by weed-killing the enormous crop of gallant soldier weeds that had grown on part of my patch. I am very happy to say that the exercise has been successful, and while I am not totally free of this pernicious weed, the number of these weeds growing is now a fraction of what it was last year, and of manageable proportions.

I am sorry to say that Brian has suffered the misfortune this year of having a very bad back, so that he has been unable to tend his allotment, and is even struggling to harvest his crops. I hope he makes a full recovery in due course.

Another of my allotment neighbours, who I will not name, since he has already suffered enough mickey-taking, has had the embarrassment of planting a crop of leeks, only to discover when they appeared above the surface, that they were onions! The fault was that

of the seed company from whom he bought the packet of seeds: it was clearly labelled “leeks”. However, while he is going to be leek-less this year, he is now very well off for onions!

I mentioned in my last article that my tomato plants had been struck down by tomato blight, as had those of a number of other local gardeners; and the Sunday Times last week had a big article detailing how blight has been a big problem in the South of England this year, because of the humid cloudy weather we have experienced for much of the summer. I suspect that the other side of the coin is that some plants have done spectacularly well – in particular cucumbers and courgettes. Before last year I always grew a couple of cucumber plants in my greenhouse, and would get between 5 and 10 cucumbers a year. Last year I grew the plants outside for the first time, and probably harvested between 30 and 40 cucumbers. This year I have been picking between 15 and 20 cucumbers a week from 2 plants!

The recent weather has also been responsible for the proliferation of another species: unhappily, not a plant, but an animal – the so-called Spanish slug. (I say “so-called” since the slug is not especially common in Spain, and does not occur south of Catalonia. The name arose from the fact that it is thought this slug first came to the UK in boxes of fruit and vegetables from Spain. It is more

common in Central Europe). I doubt that any of you will not have come across this pest, but in case any of you have not done so, the Spanish slug is orange in colour, and grows to become much bigger than the original British variety. It also lays far more eggs (so that it breeds faster), and is a cannibal, eating other types of slug, and even smaller varieties of its own species – as well, of course, as noshing on your vegetables and plants.



When you discover this pest, I urge you to kill it – either by cutting it in half with a spade or hoe, or by putting caught slugs in hot or soapy water. It is no good throwing the slugs in a water butt, as I used to do: they can survive under water, and simply crawl out. And it is short-sighted to throw the slugs into a field or hedge: those you throw may not be able to crawl back to your garden or allotment, but they will breed, and their progeny may well end up there. One can also buy slug pellets, but these kill indiscriminately, and can also kill birds which eat poisoned slugs, and any pets which are unlucky enough to consume the pellets. I have never

used them myself, but my internet research indicates that the best way to get rid of slugs is to use nematodes, which are microscopic worms which seek out and kill slugs. If you have a serious Spanish slug infestation, you may like to give them a try. There are a number of sites on the internet advertising them for sale.

Finally, I'd like to share with you an extraordinary thing that has happened. When I discovered that my tomato plants had blight, I picked all the tomatoes that were fully grown but green, and brought them into the house, hoping that, removed from the source of the blight, they would ripen. Without exception, they all turned brown and inedible, rather than ripening normally. I threw them away, and therefore abandoned my tomato plants, and stopped watering them. When I went to the greenhouse today, I discovered that all the green tomatoes that I had left on the plants had ripened, and were a beautiful red colour!

Whether this is because the blight had died off naturally; or if I killed it off by not watering the plants I do not know. Knowing that blight is caused by wet weather, I suspect the latter. Whatever the reason, if like me you have abandoned your blighted tomato plants, you may care to have another look at them!

Peter Shorrocks

Inside a mobile speed van

GARETH THOMAS EXPLAINS HOW A SPEED CAMERA VAN OPERATES

Spotting a speed van and not knowing whether you've been caught out is something many of us are likely to have experienced.

So let's attempt to separate fact from fiction and dispel any myths. Interview with Gareth Thomas was in Wales. It is unlikely that variations occur UK wide.

"The aim of cameras is to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads.

Is it true that speed vans have to be visible at all times? No. There are no laws about visibility, so there is nothing stopping an officer operating in the dark. But they don't often choose to do this and maintain that being visible acts as a deterrent. It's all about being fair, education and preventing an accident.

Can officers only catch motorists travelling in one direction? No. Any car that passes a Go Safe van is recorded on the officer's camera.

Does the 10 percent rule exist? Yes. You will not get a ticket provided your speed does not exceed the limit by more than 10 per cent. For example, travelling at 34mph or above in a 30mph zone will be recorded as a speeding offence. However, Go Safe says thresholds vary and can change without notice. Officially, any speeding offence occurs at 1mph above the limit, but most forces will allow a variance.



Are officers a revenue collector for the Government? No. "We're not here to get figures or to make money. We're just here to catch the people who are speeding. "If I get a day where I don't get any drivers speeding, then I know I've done my job.

Can I get caught speeding more than once on the same day by the same camera? The current position with Go Safe is that if you are caught twice in 20 minutes, it will be treated as one offence. In theory, a driver with a previously clean licence could be caught several times on the same day - and as a result be at risk of disqualification under the totting-up system. Where offences are deemed to have been committed "on the same occasion", the court has discretion to impose only the one set of points for two or more offences. So if for example the offences were committed within a few minutes of each other, it may be possible to persuade the court to impose only one set of points. Every case will depend on its facts.

Is it illegal to obstruct a vans view of the road? Yes. Obstructing a GoSafe vans field of view during its operational duties is an offence and you can be prosecuted for it.

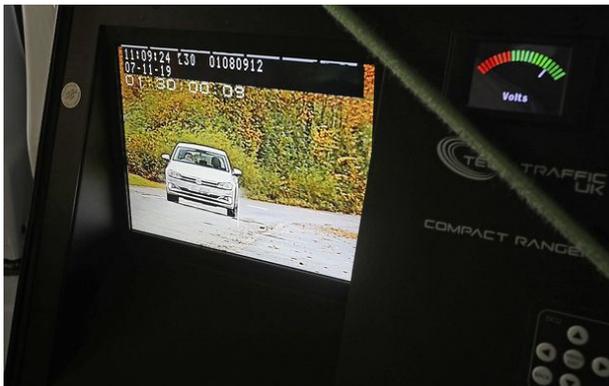
Do officers enforce anything other than speeding? Yes. Officers are there to make sure you are wearing a seatbelt

and are not using your mobile phone behind the wheel.

This is the reason why you sometimes see a GoSafe speed van in an area where there are already permanent speed cameras.

Is it illegal to eat behind the wheel?

No. However, if you get distracted while snacking behind the wheel, the police could prosecute you for careless driving. I had one lady in view once and she was looking in the mirror and putting lipstick on. "She was riding on the cat's eyes in the centre of the road and veering. I recommended that she was prosecuted for driving without due care and attention."



Is it illegal to flash your headlights to alert motorists of a GoSafe speed van?

Under section 89 of the Police Act 1997 it is an offence to "wilfully obstruct a constable in the execution of his/her duty". However, Gareth says while it is an offence,

What happens if I am caught speeding? The minimum penalty for being caught speeding on the UK's roads is a £100 fine.

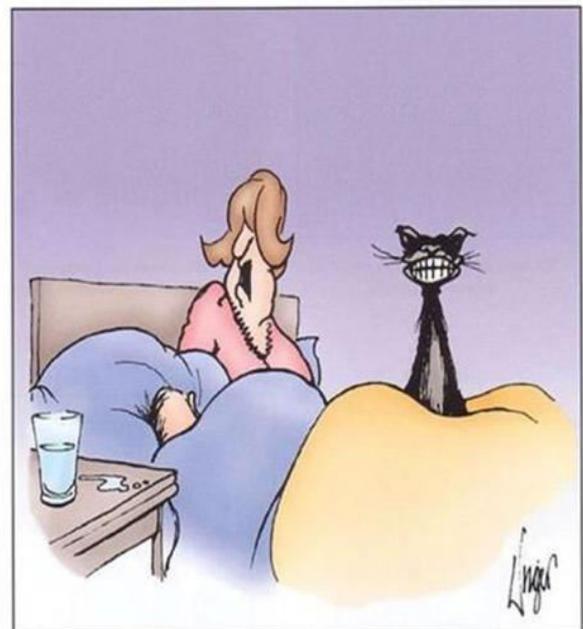
In some circumstances, police can offer the option of attending a speed awareness course - an alternative to a fine and penalty points. "An accredited

course is far more likely to improve driver behaviour and consequently make our roads safer.

"Courses are available to drivers who respond quickly to the 'notices' and who were driving at no more than 10 per cent, plus 9 mph above the posted speed limit." Anyone travelling over 86mph on a motorway would not be offered the awareness course.

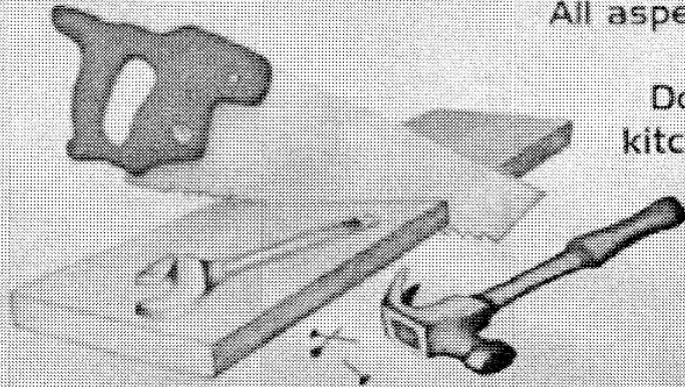
Those who don't have a clean licence at the time of the offence, or if you have been on the course in the last three years, it is unlikely you will be offered the awareness course as an option.

Also take this as you will but I'm informed by someone who has attended a 'Speed Awareness' course. The facilitator told the group that only 30% of speed cameras operate fully, BUT all cameras that protect roadside workers are fully functional. Ed!



"Wake up. The cat's got your teeth."

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Harvest, Waste & Sustainability

“Strictly” is back on the telly so it must be autumn and harvest celebrations! With our 24/7 world, we may feel we’ve lost touch with the seasons and whilst that is likely true, I guess our forebears would see that as a small price to pay for no longer worrying whether the food stocks would last the winter. Plus, the Harvest Festival, whilst celebrated across our churches, can so easily be seen as merely a wistful glance back to an England long gone.

We expect to have strawberries the whole year round and many children do not make the connection between cuddly animals and the shrink wrapped meat products in the shops. However, we have woken up to the fact that we do have responsibilities for the Creation. That food miles, sustainability and choice (which creates massive food waste) are huge issues and may just mean that we should revert to, for example, strawberries only in June. Maybe.

I suggest that we neglect Harvest at our peril. Biblically, the harvest reminds us of our stewardship of the earth’s resources and also asks of us, “what is the harvest of your life?”. It’s there at the start of the bible, pops up throughout and is

fundamental to the book of Revelation. And as we have become more aware of the need to curate the earth, those biblical principles won’t go away. Curious that.

So, a big thumbs up to crusty bread and oversized marrows; but a bigger thumbs up to the crossover points between empirical observation and a theology of Creation. With every blessing,

Rev’d Howard Robson.

Church Matters. The diary of St James’s

Percy Humphreys’ funeral was well attended, and his nephew carried the processional cross donated in 1945 by villagers in memory of his brother John.

Thank you to all who supported my Ride & Stride effort for Bucks Historic Churches Trust on 11 September. The total was just over £200, of which half will go to St James’s.

There was something different for harvest this year, with DIY corn dollies made by the crafty or just the brave, a breakfast and an informal service in church. Produce went to a local foodbank.

The clock: the Parochial Church Council has ordered a mechanism to turn off the strike at night. When this is fitted we will have the hours

ringing during the day from 7am to 10pm. PCC members were all happy that a compromise had been reached, we will hear the clock again, and thank all who made it happen. If you have any questions, please contact our Team Rector: Howard Robson, email therevhowward@outlook.com

On to October: please come to the Quiz evening on Friday 22nd – see details elsewhere in the Chronicle or ring/email me for tickets. Hot supper, questions set by our team vicar Andrew – let's see if we can do better than the last village!

The clergy team is planning a monthly Community Prayer sheet. If you are housebound, or just don't get to church much but feel you would like to be more involved or offer your own thoughts, this is for you. Please speak to any member of the PCC and we will deliver one to you.

Caroline Lane (sec), PCC Aston Abbots (tel. 01296 681373/carolinelane@btinternet.com)



7pm, Friday 22 October, Village Hall

In aid of St James's Church. Quiz set by Andrew Krauss, Team Vicar

Hot supper, quiz and raffle. Book your table (max 6) or make up a table on the night. Tickets on sale soon - contact Caroline Lane, 01296 681373, email carolinelane@btinternet.com or from any member of the Parochial Church Council



Services at St James's Church Aston Abbotts October

3rd	18.00	Said Evening Prayer
10th	10.30	Parish Communion
17th	09.30	All Age Service. 09.30 Breakfast in Village Hall with short service at 10.00
24th	10.30	Parish Communion
31st		No service at Aston Abbotts. 09.30 Eucharist at Wingrave. 11.30 Eucharist at Soulbury

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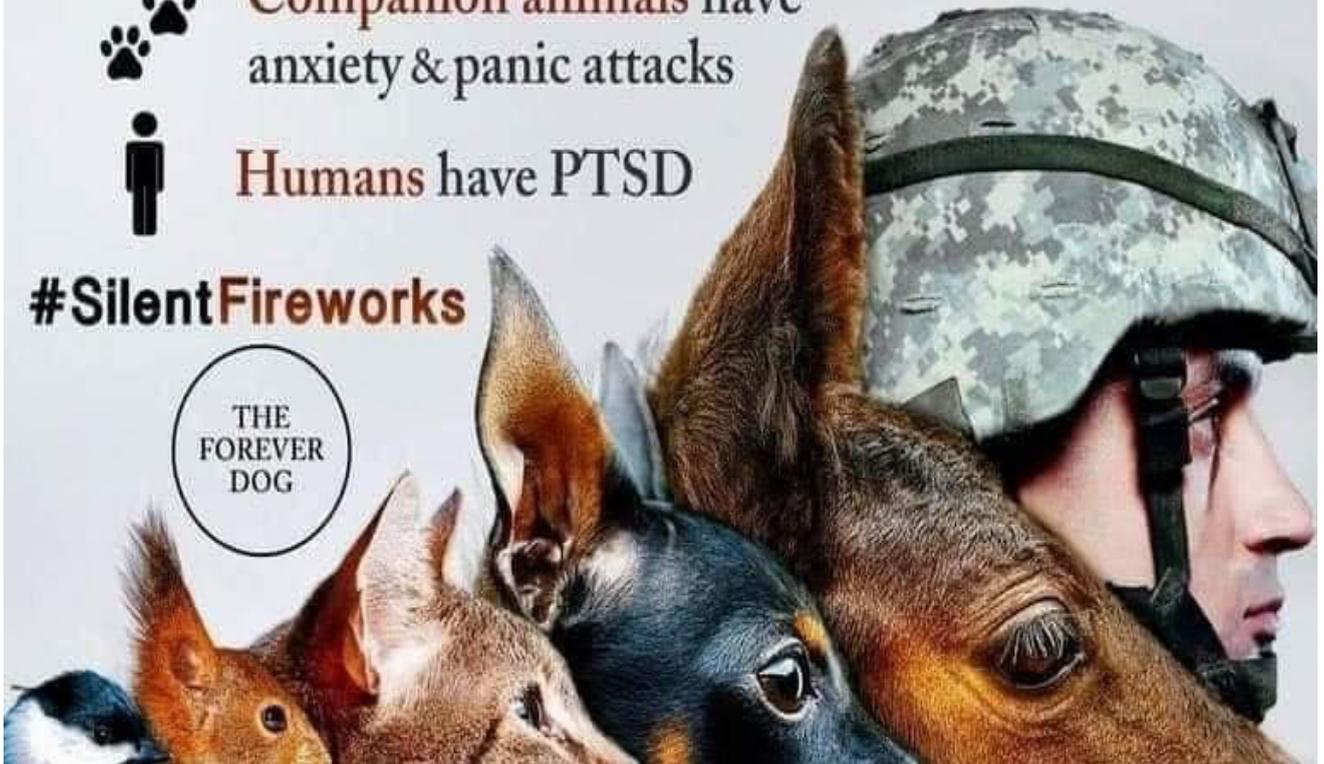
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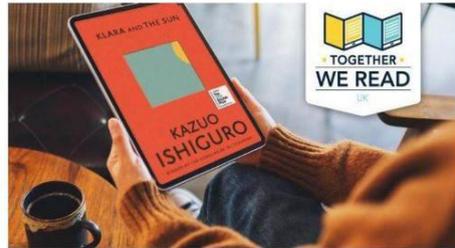
Wednesday 1000 - 1200

Friday 1400 - 1600

Saturday 1000 - 1200

Our Fines Amnesty has now ended

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**Deadline for Chronicle contributions is the 24th of each
month. Please send articles to: editor@aachronicle.co.uk**

Wingrave & Rowsham Diary OCTOBER

Sat 2 1900 Harvest Supper Methodist
Church

Sun 3 0930 Wingrave Churches
Together Harvest Festival Parish Church

Tue 5 WWRHA visit to a Hat Factory in
Luton

Tue 5 1930 Art Club Methodist Church

Wed 6 WI meeting

Fri 8 2000 Friday Night Social Evening
Community Centre

Sat 9 0845 Men's Breakfast Talk:
Methodist Church

Mon 11 0930 Weekday Walking Group
The Green

Tue 12 1930 Art Club Methodist Church

Fri 15 2000 Friday Night Social Evening
Community Centre

Sun 17 0930 Local ramble Nup End LN

Tue 19 1930 Art Club Methodist Church

Wed 20 1200 Last of the Summer
Ukuleles Rose & Crown

Fri 22 1930 WWRHA talk: An Emigration
Story Community Centre

Fri 22 2000 Friday Night Social Evening
Community Centre

Mon 25 School half term holiday

Mon 25 0930 Weekday Walking Group
The Green

Tue 26 1930 Art Club Methodist Church

Fri 29 2000 Friday Night Social Evening
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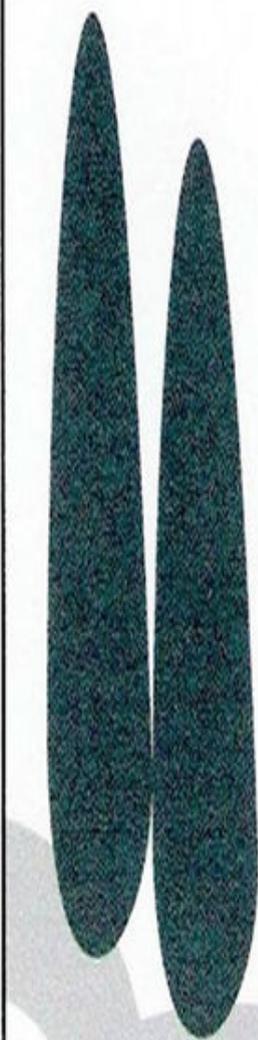
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Sun Rise, Sun Set over Aston Abbotts



Thanks to James Dell & Emma Thomlinson



Visit Buckinghamshire

Autumn gardens

Autumn is officially here which means it is time for beautiful colours to change in nature. The leaves, trees and bushes all turn golden and rich in colour as we head towards the temperature getting cooler. It is the perfect time to enjoy a walk and embrace the kaleidoscope of autumnal colour.

Here are a number of places in Buckinghamshire to enjoy a breath of fresh air in Autumn:

Coombe Hill - Chilterns Countryside A gentle circular stroll offers picturesque views across the Aylesbury Vale and Beacon Hill. Take in the yellows, golds and reds of autumn from the cherry, beech and oak trees.



Take a breath of fresh air in the golden sun on a walk under the fiery-coloured leaves.

Low Scrubs - Chilterns Countryside. Part of a common woodland dating back to Anglo-Saxon times, this walk back in time features unusual trees and curious ironwork partially embedded in a tree.

Waddesdon Manor - Aylesbury. The beautiful grounds and gardens surround the French chateau created in the 19th century. Follow the variety of paths and trails to embrace nature full of wonder.

Hartwell House - Aylesbury. With over 90 acres of gardens and parkland, it is the ideal place to explore in Autumn. Bring a packed lunch and hot chocolate to spend as long as you can there.

Black Park - Wexham



The country park covers over 500 acres of woodland, heathland and open space. The gorgeous woodland tracks and trails will be quite the site to see.

Woodcock Wood - Hughenden. For those who can't or don't want to walk too much, this leisurely 1.2 mile walk is great to see the woodland on the Hughenden Estate. Look at the trees as they start to blaze with red, orange and gold.

Stowe - Buckingham. Watch the colours evolve in the garden from September until November.

The garden and park at Stowe is also used for producing food - autumn is an important time for harvest.