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**CELEBRATING
21 YEARS AT
WYE VALLEY**

School special - Page 31



**PIGEON
CULL PLAN
APPROVED**

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**WASPS
FIXTURES
RELEASED**

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Ex-Blues player is charged with rape of girl, 12

**FORMER Wycombe Wanderers player
Nathan Wesley Ashton has been
charged with raping a 12-year-old girl.**

The 23-year-old, of Hatters Lane, High Wycombe, appeared in Aylesbury Crown Court for a preliminary hearing

By Rebecca Cain

yesterday. The footballer, who signed for Wanderers in 2008 but left last year, was granted conditional bail before his next appearance.

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NEW SHOCK FOR OUR HOSPITAL



INDEPENDENCE PLEA: MP Steve Baker wants maternity to become a public service co-operative giving midwives more control of the services. The birthing pool installed at Wycombe in 2007 is pictured above

MP calls for dramatic shake-up as birth centre faces months of closure

WYCOMBE MP Steve Baker has called for a 'radical rethink' into healthcare in south Bucks – after health bosses revealed Wycombe Hospital's birthing centre could close temporarily.

Mr Baker is urging clinical professionals to 'think outside the box' and hopes public sector workers will push for the unit to become an independent 'co-operative' centre when new government reforms come in to place in the autumn.

The rallying cry comes after Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust confirmed the midwife-led unit may close for around three months due to "extreme staff shortages".

But a midwife and soon-to-be first time dad fear the unit may not be reopened if shut, despite reassurances from health chiefs.

Full story - PAGE 4,
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Former Wanderers player is charged with raping girl

A FORMER Wycombe Wanderers player has been charged with raping a girl.

Nathan Wesley Ashton, 23, of Hatters Lane, High Wycombe, was arrested on June 16 on suspicion of raping a 12-year-old girl on April 2.

He was signed for Wycombe Wanderers in July 2008 under a two year deal but left in May 2009 with his contract cancelled

by mutual consent.

Ashton, a left back, has played for the England Under-20 Squad and will attend trials next week for Crawley Town Football Club who play in the Conference league.

Ashton appeared at Aylesbury Crown Court yesterday and was granted conditional bail and must reside at his mother's house in Essex.

A condition of his bail is that he must wear an electronic tag on his leg.

The tag will be attached to his right leg, whereas Ashton is left footed.

He is due to reappear at Aylesbury Crown Court on August 26.

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