

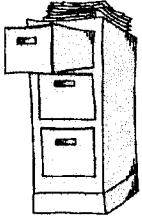
The Chronicle



Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine

Issue No. 168 May 1998

[Archive note: Publication error - duplicate issue number]



**Editorial-----Mon. 27th
April 1998.**

My thanks to all our contributors who's efforts have enabled me to put together a varied and interesting issue this month. I should also like to particularly thank Andy Stefancyk from Nash's Farm who so generously donated a sum to cover the allocation usually made to The Chronicle by the Fete. As a result, the equivalent amount will now be given by the fete committee to the hall development fund. Thanks Andy.

Saturday the 18th of April - A salutatory reminder to us all that there are always likely to be thieves about. Some time during that particular Saturday night an attempt was made to break into the shop. The would-be robbers smashed a small window in the front door and managed to get a hand inside and undo one of the door bolts. Thwarted by Bernard's remaining and substantial fortifications however, they then attempted to 'jemmy' the door. What with all the security paraphernalia and the stoutness of the oak door and frame; they didn't have a chance. Of course Bernard does not leave money in the till, but he suspects they were after cigarettes. Clearly they were not local, otherwise they would have known there would be none of these in the shop.

Well done to the 'lads and lasses of the 630 club who organised such a successful St. George's dinner at the Bull. Also a big thank you to Frank and Louise who agreed to it being held in the pub. The arrangements seemed to be going on for months ahead of the event but on the day (Sat. the 25th) it all came together. A flag was borrowed from the vicar. The hired tables, crockery, cutlery and even gilt chairs arrived on time and members pitched in to set it all up in 'the back bar'. When it was finished the room with tables laid and decorated with flowers looked extremely grand. Hopefully a few photos' will be available for our next issue of The Chronicle.

Some 60 lbs of beef took a deal of cooking but under the watchful eyes of both Louises was ready in time. The 40 diners arrived for the sherry reception and after the beef was ritually sung in, sat down to a sumptuous meal. Finishing off with the traditional cheese

(a whole stilton) and port, the M/C (Ray Wilkinson) introduced the various speakers. From the village were John Brancker, John Whyte and Ray Coates and the guest speaker was John Watts who's speech was 'In praise of English beef'

The formal part of the evening ended with the singing of a medley of popular patriotic songs accompanied by Nigel and Jack on the keyboard. Many thank to all those who worked so hard to make this a very pleasant evening.

And finally!! I make no apologies for putting the reminder for the next Fete meeting on both this and page 17. Please come along and give the benefit of your views, fresh ideas to make the Fete even better than before and of course if you would like to help on the day - so much the better.



FETE MEETING

The second 'Fete meeting'

is to be held at

'The Old House'

commencing at

8.00pm.

on

Wed. 20th May.

*Anyone who is interested
in helping to organise this year's Fete,*

or

*who has ideas for the Fete
will be made very welcome.*

This year's Fete is to be held on Saturday 25th July

Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all households in Aston Abbotts

Please note that copy date for the June. issue will be

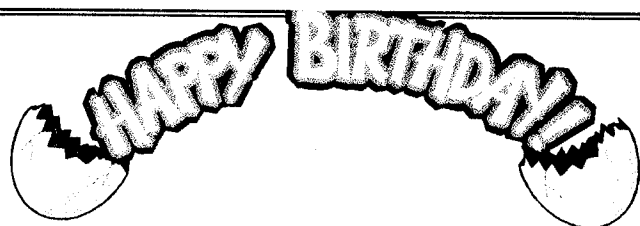
Fri. the 22nd of May 1998 All items for publication will need to reach me

(Andy Bystra. 31 The Green, (Tel 681 690 or 688 125) by this date please.

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RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE



Very many happy returns to all of you having birthdays during May, especially:-

- Mervyn King 2nd May
- Perce Rickard 11th May
- Hannah Brandon 12th
- Tom Manning 22nd
- Benjamin King 22nd
- Milani Drysdale 23rd
- Neil Chesher 26th



DRY???
 Is anyone out there getting withdrawal symptoms from lack of wine since the Chronicle Cabaret night? We have a chrome and white bottle opener in our keeping. If you feel it's yours please contact Andy or Rita.


BABYSITTING
 Hayley and Sarah reliable babysitters, please ring
 Hayley on 688597
 or
 Sarah on 681740

NEW HOME
 Congratulations to Dolly Hinds on moving into her nice new home. Well done also to all the 'lads and lasses' who have worked so hard to ensure it was finished on time.




FREE!
 Long
 metal
 ladder,
 free
 to
 collector
 Interested?
 Then
 please
 ring
 George
 Fox
 on
 01296
 682 024

Congratulations



Congratulations to Liz & Ivan from Nash's Farm who are getting married on the 2nd of May. We would all like to wish you a very Happy wedding Day and all the very best for your future together.



Watching

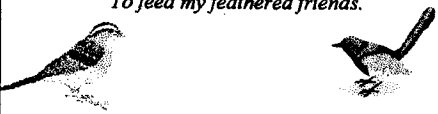
*My little friends are waiting,
 Watching patiently,
 From tree and roof and chimney pot
 I can feel their eyes on me.*

*When I start to walk away
 Down from above they swoop:
 Sparrows, blackbird and robin,
 Starlings in a group.*

*The noise is quite tumultuous,
 For they squawk and squabble so,
 It's a fight for their survival
 In the bitter frost and snow.*

*They gather at the fish pool,
 To drink, sometimes to bath,
 But best of all they like to play
 In the dust on the garden path.*

*I watch their daily antics,
 My reward, it seems, depends,
 On just how many scraps I have
 To feed my feathered friends.*



'Borrowed' from Rita's Womens Weekly - Ed.



THE CHRONICLE

Advertising rates for 1996
All rates quoted are per annum

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EIGHTH PAGE	Back	£9
	Inside	£7
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Please send copy and cheque
(made payable to "The Chronicle")
to:- John Whyte, 14 Brickstock,
Aston Abbotts,
Aylesbury, Bucks.
Tel 01296 681685

HELP LINE

(Driving you to the doctor, picking up
prescriptions and so on)

JOHN WHYTE

14 Brickstock, 681685

GEORGE FOX

1 Church Row, 682024

TONY HINDS

6 The Green, 681454

If you would like to join
the help line
tel. Andy Bystra on 681690

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

TOM MANNING (Chairman)
682115

SHONA MACGREGOR (Parish Clerk)
3 Nash's Farm 682381

GWEN KEMPSTER

53 The Green, 681310

MARGARET KENT

6 The Green, 681454

LINDA SUTTON

Sadlers Farm, 681413

JOHN SANSOME

Longmore Farm, 681010

District Councillor

BRYAN ROUND

11 Nup End, Wingrave, 681621

County Councillor

BRENDA JENNINGS

2 Cotes Way, Wing 681065

LOCAL RECYCLING COLLECTION POINTS AVAILABLE AT THE MACINTYRE HOME WINGRAVE & THE BULL & BUTCHER ASTON ABBOTTS.

GLASS Please separate green, brown and clear
glass

CANS All types of cans including steel and
aluminium food and drink cans
(Please crush cans if possible)

PAPER All newspaper and magazine wastes
(No large amounts of cardboard please)

THE MACINTYRE CENTRE can also take
textiles (All old clothes, rags, blankets etc) and is
open 8.30am to 6.30pm MONDAY to
SATURDAY

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL 98

Sun. 2nd. Rambling Club members meet at Quainton Green 2.00 pm.

Tues. 5th Mobile library calling at The Green, Wingrave Rd., Oxley Farm.

Thurs. 7th. Whist drive Church Room 7.30 pm.

Thurs. 14th. Bingo Church Room 7.30 pm.

Sun. 17th Village footpath walk The Green 2.00 pm.

Tues. 19th Mobile library calling at The Green, Wingrave Rd.
Please use this facility or lose it!

Thurs. 21st. Whist drive Church Room 7.30 pm.

Sun. 24th Rambling club annual 'spider walk' and teas in the church room. 3.00 - 5pm. pm.

Mon. 25th May (Bank Holiday) Coach trip to Syon Park
Departs Bull & Butcher 12.50pm. - price £6.50 - book with Colin

Thurs. 28th. Bingo Church Room 7.30 pm.

Sat. 30th. Coffee morning - Church Room 10.30 - 12.00
(In aid of the Church Room improvements).

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES :-

'The Fete' is to be held on
Sat. & Sun. the 25th & 26th of July 98.

Village Skip

Bull and Butcher car park.

Delivery Date	Collection Date
11 th May 1998	14 th May 1998
16 th November 1998	19 th November 1998



BABYSITTING

Hayley and Sarah reliable babysitters, please
ring
Hayley on 688597
or
Sarah on 681740

COFFEE MORNING

*A Coffee morning to help the
St James church fund is to be held
on:-*

Sat. the 30th May
between
10.30am. and 12 noon.

*Coffee & biscuits will be served and there will also be :-
cake and Bric-a brac stalls and a raffle.
Please come along and support us.*



Saturday 30th May 1998

Arts & Craft Stands, Rare Breeds,
Sheep Dog Trials,
Sheep Shearing and Milking
Demonstrations
and much more.....

**Quarrenden House Farm,
Bicester Road, Aylesbury**

The ROYAL OAK

**Real ales*

** Pool Table*

** Darts*

** Good home cooked food 7 days a week*

** Kid's Drinks; buy one and get the refills free*

Special events



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for more details*

Enclosed gardens & play area, children welcome.

WINGRAVE GARAGE

Terry Bracey Wright & Michael Mitchell
Telephone 681543

YOUR NEW LOCAL MOT CENTRE

By Appointment 8.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday.
(Saturday mornings by arrangement)

PLUS all the usual services;-

Petrol Sales

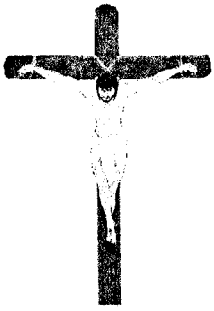
Servicing and Repairs

Free Courtesy Car

We are happy to give you an estimate even for the smallest job!

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RECTOR'S REPORT - MAY 1998

A week or so ago I was working with some of the other local clergy on a project which we are hoping will begin next year. There was a particular phrase which was used that caused me to wonder what exactly it meant. It was "Growing the Fringe". It made sense in the context but seemed to have other possibilities.

"Growing the Fringe" could be seen in the context of the Alpha course which has just finished in Cublington. People studying the Christian faith and being led to a greater understanding of what it means. It was a good course and my impression is that everyone who took part, myself included, learnt something more about being a Christian. Alpha is not, of course, an end in itself, rather it encourages people to go on learning and we are now setting up groups to enable that to happen.

But it is possible to think of "Growing the Fringe" in terms of simply increasing the number of people who are loosely associated with the church. Let's have more people who come to church occasionally! This is a valid argument because the church is there for everyone. Yet this understanding has been rejected by some as being an encouragement of "Folk-Religion". Let us find excuses for events in the church to which people can come and not feel threatened. I am not sure that this is quite what was being planned.

Nearly all the ways of "Growing the Fringe" seem to me to focus on getting more people involved in one way or another with the church. It appears to be a very one-way exercise with more and more people becoming part of the church set up; linking people up so that there is a degree of dependence on what the church has to offer them, and, without putting too fine a point on it, there also seems to be an expectation that "Growing the Fringe" might help with the church finances a bit.

But "Growing the Fringe" is not about getting "bottoms on seats" or "pounds on the plate". For me, "Growing the Fringe" is more about enabling ordinary people to be more aware of the context in which they live their lives. Wherever we are - whether we are on the margins of church life or at the centre, we need to relate the

Christian faith and culture to the needs of the society in which we live at the end of the twentieth century.

Those who are on the fringe of the church may feel happier if there are more of them, because they will feel the security of greater numbers. The church will feel happier if it is engaging more with those who are on the fringe, and even happier if it can draw some of those on the fringe into its core membership. But all our attempts at "Growing the Fringe" will fail unless we apply the Christian faith to our daily lives, and that means looking Outwards rather than Inwards.

Bob Willmott

ST JAMES' CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rev, R Willmott	Tel; 681623
Shirley Ford	" 681865
Christine Fox	" 682024
Michael Hasler	" 681877
Hilary Hasler	" "
Ann Goodman	" 681763
Gordon Kemp	" " "

Church Flowers for May/June.

W/E;-

2nd/3rd. Mr Belgrove

9th/10th Mrs Ford

16th/17th Mrs Loader

23rd/24th Mrs Bellingham

31st/1st June Mrs Hartnett

6th/7th June Mrs Hasler



Matinee Movies

Due to public demand, Leighton Buzzard Theatre is delighted to introduce the new Matinee Movie programme. This includes our usual children's holiday films plus extra daytime showings of other major releases especially for those customers who prefer to come to the cinema during the day.

Weds 8th & Thurs 9th April
GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE
(U)

Friday 22nd May
THE WOODLANDERS (PG)

Weds 15th & Thurs 16th April
THE BORROWERS (U)

Weds 27th & Thurs 28th May
FLUBBER (U)

Sat 18th April
TITANIC (12)

Saturday 25th July
MRS DALLOWAY (PG)

Friday 24th April
THE WINGS OF THE DOVE
(15)

All matinee films start at 2pm.
Tickets: £3.50
(£2.50 concessions)

For further information on any of the above films, please call the Box Office or see the Review brochure.

Leighton Buzzard Theatre
24hr Booking Line
01525 378310



CHURCH SERVICES

ASTON ABBOTTS

3rd May 98	11.15	Morning Service
10th May 98	11.15	Parish Communion
17th May 98	11.15	Parish Communion
24th May 98	11.15	Parish Communion
31st May 98	11.15	Parish Communion
7th June 98	11.15	Morning Service

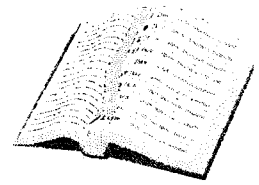
WINGRAVE

3rd May 98	10.00	Parish Communion
10th May 98	10.00	Parish Communion
17th May 98	10.00	Parish Communion
24th May 98	10.00	Parish Communion
31st May 98	10.00	Parish Communion
	18.00	Pentecost Praise (WCT)
7th June 98	10.00	Parish Communion

CUBLINGTON

3rd May 98	10.00	Family Service
	18.00	Evensong
6th May 98	10.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
10th May 98	08.45	Parish Communion
17th May 98	08.45	Parish Communion
24th May 98	08.45	Parish Communion
3rd June 98	10.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
7th June 98	10.00	Family Service
	18.00	Evensong

SUNDAY READINGS



3rd May 98
4 of Easter(W)
Rev. 7, 9-17; John 10, 22-30

10th May 98
5 of Easter
Rev. 21, 1-6; John 13, 31-35

17th May 98
6 of Easter
Rev. 21, 10, 22-22.5; John 14, 23-29

24th May 98
7 of Easter
Rev. 22, 12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17, 20-26

31st May 98
Pentecost (R)
Acts 2, 1-21; John 14, 8-17, 25-27

7th June 98
Trinity (W)
Roms. 5, 1-5; John 16, 12-15



COFFEE MORNING
A Coffee morning to help the St James church fund is to be held on;-

Sat. the 30th May
between

10.30am. and 12 noon.

*Coffee & biscuits will be served and there will also be ;-
cake and Bric-a brac stalls and a raffle.
Please come along and support us.*

(Skilled Friendly Service)

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

Unofficial notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1st April 1998

Dogs

Complaints about dogs fouling footpaths and private boundaries. Signs warning of possible £500 fine have been displayed. A Springer spaniel has frequently been seen loose. Councillors expressed the hope that the owner would exercise better control of the animal in future.

Highways

Noted that kerbs around The Green need repairs and sign on Moat Lane needs replacing.

Highways department to be approached regarding the possibility of signs discouraging heavy goods vehicles travelling through the village.

There is suspected drain damage under roads due to the heavy weight of traffic. Anglian Water are to be asked to conduct a survey.

Church Room

A good response for the Church Room improvements was noted and a subcommittee should be formed shortly.

Mowing of The Green

Peter Knight will be asked to continue to mow The Green for the forthcoming year for the very reasonable sum of two old pennies.

Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and will be held on Wednesday 13th May 1998 at 8:00pm in the Church Room.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We all enjoy living in such a nice village but it does take a little effort to keep it looking so nice. At the present time volunteers are being sought to mow the churchyard grass. The entire job takes about 3 hours with the new motor mower provided. If you are interested in 'taking a turn' (Just once a year would be a tremendous help) please contact me or Mike Hasler on 681877



Here are draft minutes for the recent Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting was well attended. Discussion was lengthy and sometimes complex. I hope the following is an accurate record. If, however, in the interests of attempting to combine accuracy and brevity I have misrepresented anyone, or not included something that should be in, I would be glad to know. Please call me (Gordon Smith) if this is the case, on 681373.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 1998

The Church Room, Aston Abbots, Wednesday 24 March 1998, 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT Chairman of the Parish Council (Tom Manning), Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting (Gordon Smith), 21 members of the Parish, Mr Bryan Round (District Councillor). Apologies received from Jean Barnett, P.C. Griggs, Sgt Blackall and the Rev Bob Willmott.

MINUTE 1 Minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman.

MINUTE 2 Matters arising - none.

MINUTE 3 Village fete 1997

Barbara Bellingham reported that despite dreadful weather the fete had been a financial success, with many stalls breaking records and a total surplus of £1,663. This had been divided as follows: St James' Church £582; Church Room £498; Recreation Ground £249; Chronicle £249; Toddlers Group £83.

MINUTE 4 Village fete 1998

This would be held on 25 July. Allocation of profits was deferred until later in the meeting when, following the generous offer of a private donation by Andy Stefancyk to cover the allocation usually made to The Chronicle, the following division was agreed: St James' Church 35%; Church Room 30%; Recreation Ground 30%; Toddlers Group 5%.

Barbara Bellingham further said that she would be glad to hear from any volunteer willing to take over the running of the Fete from 1999.

MINUTE 5 Police/Neighbourhood Watch

Gordon Smith reported that P.C. Griggs and Sgt Blackall were unable to attend but had visited him to ask if there were particular problems of which they should be aware. P.C. Griggs had reported that he was now covering 30 villages in an area stretching to the Milton Keynes boundary; that Aston Abbots continued to be one of the most trouble free of these villages; that he had received no further complaints during the year of vandalism in the Bricstock area.

Gs had raised two traffic problems: speeding through the villages and the significant increase in the number of heavy vehicles coming through the village or attempting to turn round in the village following the closure to heavy traffic of the bridge outside Wing on the road leading to Stewkley. Much discussion followed on these topics.

Speeding

Bryan Round commented that all local villages suffered from this problem and that many of the culprits were in fact local people. GS said that the police felt that Aston Abbots posed particular problems for the policing of speeding vehicles because of its geographical layout. It was suggested that the 'Police Speed Check' signs, partly owned by the Parish Council should be displayed more frequently, and that an appeal should be made for local people at least to observe speed limits.

Heavy traffic

Concern was expressed about the growth of heavy traffic damage to buildings nearest to the road damage to drains and sewers damage to The Green caused by lorries turning Tom Manning said that the Parish Council would investigate the possibility of putting up signs on access roads indicating weight limits and 'no turning' [subsequent the meeting the Parish Council has written to the County Council to ask how this might be done]; also that Cllr Sansome was urging the County Council to give priority to the strengthening of the relevant bridge. It was urged that villagers write to the County Councillor, Mrs Brenda Jennings, to support his efforts.

MINUTE 5 Church Room

Tom Manning provided an outline of developments in respect of Church Room extension work and the plan to transfer the Room to Parish Council ownership. He reported that an architect had been invited to draw up plans, with reference to those provided by Andy Bystra, and in consultation with the Planning Officer at AVDC. The priority was to get this work, which was funded by private donation, done, so that fundraising could move forward. Discussion on fundraising was deferred until after the Recreation Ground item.

MINUTE 6 Recreation Ground

Caroline Lane reported. She said that the Rec. Ctte was currently without a Chair, but consisted of Parish Councillors and volunteers. The current Committee was Tom Manning, Gwen Kempster, Margaret Kent, Linda Sutton (all members of the PC), Shona McGregor, Victor Scott, John Whyte, Ivan Greenaway, Caroline Lane (who indicated that she was resigning). Tom Manning said that he thought a volunteer to chair the committee had recently come forward, but this needed to be confirmed.

Caroline Lane continued: a very successful bonfire night had been held, and thanks were due to the organizers, a seat had had been donated by the Ford family, and a tree by the Kent family - again, thanks were due. Meetings had been held, including one at the Rec., and in addition to the known necessity of making safe current equipment there had been expressed a strong view that a hard surface should be provided.

MINUTE 8 Fundraising

Lengthy discussion followed about fundraising for the Church Room and Rec. projects. As Chair, Tom Manning was adamant that both projects would require extensive support throughout the village, and the investment of very considerable amounts of time and money. Above all, the village should avoid any sense of rivalry between the two projects. To this end, he suggested the setting up of a central fund, to be administered by one body, for which Cllr Sansome proposed the name Community Fundraising and Development Committee. This was approved, subject to the working out of details of accountability

and banking arrangements, and investigation of the effect of having a single body on grant applications.

For the Rec., Tom said that the priority was to do the 'bare minimum' to bring current equipment to safety standards, then to examine quotes for a hard surface. For the Church Room, priorities could only be established after approval of architect's plans. He further said that volunteers would be needed to champion and run each project under the aegis of the central committee. Some volunteers came forward; others were needed. Tom would coordinate names, and report on progress via 'The Chronicle'.

MINUTE 9 Chronicle

Andy Bystra reported that the Chronicle was in improved financial health due to a donation from the Parish Council, private donations, and fundraising events. As always more contributions would be welcome. The average length of each issue had been reduced in order to cut costs. Andy reminded the meeting that he would be retiring after the July/August issue, and that while he would continue to write for the Chronicle, a volunteer was needed to take over the Editor. A vote of thanks to Andy for his excellent work on 'The Chronicle' was proposed by Tom Manning, and enthusiastically endorsed by the meeting.

MINUTE 10 Any other business

Concern was expressed about the settlement in the village of an ex-offender, who had subsequently been imprisoned for a further offence. Cllr Round reported that he understood that AVDC had applied for eviction of this offender.

The meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

Gordon Smith



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 1998

This was held on 24 March, and was constructive and encouraging. Draft minutes appear elsewhere in this issue. The following are points that particularly need bringing out.

Heavy vehicles

We are suffering from an increase in very large lorries coming through the village, sometimes apparently lost. This is partly due to the weight restrictions on the bridge just outside Wing, on the road leading to Stewkley. Damage is being done to the central parts of the Green, as these lorries attempt to turn round, and there is real danger of damage to those buildings closest to the road, to road surfaces and verges, drains and sewers. Please write to your County Councillor (Mrs Brenda Jennings, 2 Cotes Way, Wing) to urge her to press for the relevant bridge to be strengthened. At present, it seems to be a very low priority.

Fundraising

Please see the minutes for developments about the Church Room and Recreation Ground. A huge effort is going to be needed here but there is now enthusiasm and momentum. Please give your name to Tom Manning (682115) if you want to give your time to support either project.

Chronicle

Do you want 'The Chronicle' to continue? After the July/August issue the Chronicle will be without an Editor. Andy has done a great job! If you are interested and would like to know more, do contact Andy.

Speeding

It seems very difficult to curtail speeding through the village. It is often said that many offenders are in fact people who live locally (you're not invisible behind those tinted screens!) Please respect speed limits in Aston Abbots and in neighbouring villages.



Gordon Smith

Chronicle Cabaret

It started off quietly enough; in fact there seemed little outward sign that a 'Cabaret' would actually take place. An initial meeting however, indicated that something might eventually happen although even this was considerably blurred by alcohol. I recollect the meeting was so enervating that someone who shall remain nameless in case it proves detrimental to his television repair business fell asleep and was only wakened up when John and Dee started to cook breakfast the following morning

Some two weeks before the proposed date for the Cabaret I was informed that it's a village tradition for the editor to 'compere' the show. Oh well! I suppose traditions have to start somewhere! Anyway, I attended a rehearsal which took place the week before the show was due to go on and all of a sudden it became clear to me that a tremendous amount of work had been taking place behind the scenes, resulting in a wide variety of quite polished acts seemingly appearing out of the blue.

Total panic on the actual day since un-beknown to us there was to be a jumble sale in the church room at the time we envisaged we should be laying tables, setting up the stage, instruments, sound systems and lights etc. However, such is the experience of those involved that in the three or four hours available all was ready to go.

The evening was organised somewhat differently to previous Cabarets in that there was to be no candlelight supper; instead the audience was greeted with canapés and champagne (the real stuff). There was time to 'mingle, order wine and

generally soak up what proved to be a very convivial atmosphere.

A good old favourite from a previous Cabaret 'Everybody loves Saturday night' 'kick started' the show. This was an audience participation in which several chorus's were sung in each of six languages (including Chinese). It certainly warmed up the audience and 'thespians' alike. There followed a further 14 acts ranging across comedy sketches, songs from West-end shows and a 'stand up comic. Spoof 50's style male and female groups aptly named 'The Easybits' and the 'Danglybits' (I'll leave you to sort out which was which) were tremendous favourites and there was no way the 'girls' were going to get off stage without an encore.

One bonus arising from that initial meeting was that Dave Lewis volunteered whilst 'under the influence' to do a stand-up comedy spot. Nobody knew what he was going to do until he got on stage but in the event, he had the audience (well most of them) rocking in their seats with some very 'adult humour'!

The evening ended with another re-vamp of an earlier Cabaret act when Arthur Doggett's played favourites from the Last Night of the Prom's. It was excellent then and accompanied this time by Nigel on the keyboard, the audience, who had been given song sheets and flags, lead by the 'actors' did their best to 'raise the roof'.

In most people's opinion this was certainly the best Cabaret yet. The revised 'dining' arrangements allowed more people to attend which was rather nice since tickets for this event are always sold out within a few days of being advertised. This year was no exception, but at least we were able to fit in a few more to enjoy this very popular event.

Despite the increase in numbers of tickets sold less money was made owing to having to pay professional caterers. Non the less a very creditable and much appreciated £150.00 was finally deposited in The Chronicle account.

Many thanks go to Neil who despite all protestation bore the brunt of organising the musical parts of the event, 're-writing' songs, and overall musical direction. Also of course thanks go to John Whyte who took on the less glamorous but vital responsibility for organising the food, finance and much of the so essential organisational activity. Then of course there was the totally brilliant 'cast of thousands'!

Sharon Bridget Anne (Songs and sketches)
John Brancker, John Whyte (Songs and sketches)
Neil (Musical arrangements and sketches)
Nigel (Keyboard)
Dave (Comedy and lighting)!

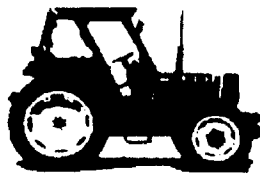
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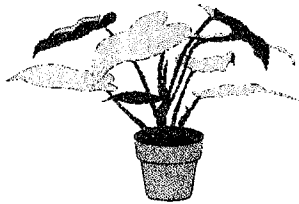
LADIES CLUB PROGRAMME FOR MAY

May 7th

Miss Joyce Whipps will be giving a talk on
"A teacher's ABC."

May 21st

Mrs Margaret Kent will be sharing her recent
experiences in a talk called
"New Zealand re-visited"



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BACK ONCE MORE TO NEW ZEALAND

Tony and I set off for New Zealand on Jan 21st. We changed planes at Kuala Lumpur and reached Auckland 24 hrs after leaving Heathrow. The next day we explored a bit of the city going up the Spy Tower where you get magnificent views of the surrounding area. It's an amazing building where you can also walk on glass panels in the floor and look down at the traffic far below. We picked up our hired car and went to Browns Bay to visit some friends we had met in England 3 years ago. Travelling up to the Bay of Islands we stopped at a Devon cream tea place called the Shearing Shed. We then travelled to Te Puke to stay with Mel and Mary Hadcroft and their three boys who used to live in Aston Abbots. They made us very welcome and it was lovely to see them again. Mel and Mary took us on a 3 day 900 mile trip visiting Rotorua, L. Taupe New Zealand's largest lake, the active volcano Mt. Ruapaku and the most easterly city in the world Gisborne, which will see in the millennium first. Returning to Te Puke we spent the remaining time taking the boys to the beach, visiting Mary's family and having parties and barbeques. After a week we said goodbye, drove back to Auckland then flew down to Christchurch to see my sister Frances and her husband Bob. On the Sunday there was a big get together with my five nieces, their husbands and my nine great nieces and nephews.

The next day we picked up another hire car and set off down the east coast to Dunedin in the south then up to Queenstown I booked my bungy jump for the following day which proved to be even more exciting than last time I did it. We were taken by Land Rover up an unmade road through mountains and gorges with sheer drops on one side and hair pin bends. The drive took an hour before we reached Skippers Canyon, then over the Shotover river to where we were to do the jump. Ten of us made the trip but only six actually jumped. The others were on lookers (Tony being one of them). I was the third to jump and yes it did look a long way down. You inch your way to the edge of the platform with your ankles shackled to what looks like a large rubber band, then off you go, bouncing up and down several times like a yo-yo before being hauled into a boat. Well worth it though.

Our next stop was Fox Glacier where we were able to walk within yards of this huge expanse of ice which is currently moving forward a metre a day! Then to Franz Josef glacier where we took a helicopter ride over the glaciers and soaring up to land on the snow a 6,000 ft just under Mt. Tasman which at 11,000 ft is New Zealand's second highest mountain. The sky was brilliant blue and even on the snow the sun was hot. We circled round huge rock faces and crevasses and could see people glacier walking far below. It really was a thrilling experience. We continued up the west coast and over Arthur's Pass which runs from the west to the east coast. This road passes through spectacular mountains many of which still had snow on although the ground temp. was around 90 degrees F. On the east coast we went to Kiakora to go whale watching.

This we did in a small plane and about 6 miles out to see we saw two sperm whales which are the largest whales in the world weighing 36,000 kgs and about 20 yards long! Next day we drove over the mountains to a little French style town Akaroa where we took a boat trip to see the dolphins. We also saw seal colonies and the tiny blue penguins, the smallest in the world.

Next day, back at my sisters, the three of us climbed Mt. Herbert (3,114 ft). The path starts not far from my sisters house. It was extremely hot 94 degrees F but we did it. Another place we went to was Hammer springs where you can relax in the hot mineral waters of the thermal springs which are channelled into attractive rocky pools.

Frances and Bob's house is on a hill overlooking Churteris Bay and about 100 yds from the beach. About 2 miles across the Bay is Lyttleton Harbour where the QE2 came in one day, also the Marco Polo with Sir Edmund Hillary on board. One day a Russian training sailing ship came in which we were able to board and look round.

Its about 45 mins drive to Christchurch which is a very English type city with a river where you can go punting. It also has some lovely botanical gardens and parks.

The whole of New Zealand is about the size of the British Isles with about 2 million people in North Island and about 1 million in South Island. You can drive for mile after mile without seeing another car and people think nothing of driving for 3 hours or so to visit friends for the evening.

The whole time we were there it was extremely hot mainly in the nineties and several times over 100 degrees F. Apparently it has been the hottest driest summer this century. The fields were really brown and wide rivers reduced to about a quarter of their width. Fine for us holiday makers but rather serious for farmers and the wild life.

Tony returned home on Feb. 13th while I had another three weeks, spent walking, cycling and swimming and really enjoying the company of my sister and her family. Tony and I both hope to return to New Zealand in the not to distant future for some more adventures.

Margaret Kent.



OXFORD - WINSLOW - BLETCHLEY RAILWAY

The Oxford to Bletchley railway was opened in 1844 and served little country stations such as ISLIP, WENDLEBURY, Bicester, Marsh Gibbon, The Claydons, Winslow, Swanbourne and Bletchley.

Bicester although in Oxfordshire was the most attractive of station buildings and the most important.

Marsh Gibbon and its neighbouring village POUNDON received distinction on being the last station to be opened the line in 1880, and although some distance from the nearest community it did a brisk trade.

Claydon had a road crossing, and served both Steeple and Middle Claydon and Claydon House home of the Verney family and a retreat for Florence Nightingale.

Winslow similarly regarded as important to Bicester, but in some respects more so, because in the early days of its opening, trains for Buckingham and Brackley were split here Swanbourne station was on slightly elevated land in an isolated position, but trade was good as Horwood House (home of the DAUNCY family) whose farms produced butter for the empyrean Queen Victoria would dispatch this by the 8.30am train which also carried a supply of goods from other farms nearby.

Bletchley on arrival here connections were made to Birmingham and Euston. Workings from Bletchley to Oxford were quite nimble for these days one express the 11.30 was allowed 45 minutes while 63 minutes was allowed for an all stop trains.

WINSLOW - VERNEY JUNCTION - BUCKINGHAM BRACKLEY.

Verney Junction was the result of a joint enterprise of Sir Harry Verney (Claydon House) and the Duke of Buckingham to create a branch line from the Buckinghamshire system at Aylesbury the station also served as a connection point between Winslow - Oxford - Winslow - Buckingham trains, but trains ran from Aldgate through to Verney Junction.

The section from Verney continued to Padbury then Buckingham, Westbury Halt and Brackley, but alas is no more, the service was withdrawn in 1964 under the Beeching Axe, so when the last train left in the December gloom it left behind memories of wonderful little stations full of character and that once had platforms bustling with passengers.

Colin

The 650 Club.

Would all would be members please note that owing to the popularity of this club, membership has now reached it's maximum. It is therefore regretted that no new members will be admitted until the demise or resignation of the other member!!!

Membership secretary.

FETE MEETING

The second 'Fete meeting'

is to be held at

'The Old House'

commencing at

8.00pm.

on

Wed. 20th May.

*Anyone who is interested
in helping to organise this year's Fete,*

or

*who has ideas for the Fete
will be made very welcome.*

This year's Fete is to be held on Saturday 25th July



TONY'S SPORTS COLUMN

Since I last wrote, the Pool team have drawn 2, won 2 and lost only one match. the best result was beating the league champions The Swan & Castle 5 - 3. This pushes us up the league to 4th place with 25 points; three places above The Royal Oak who have 19. With only two games left to play we hope to maintain this position. Congratulations to Dean Wiggett on winning 'The Bull's' singles knockout but the highest praise goes to Dean and Lawrence Hinds for winning the pairs championship against the pair from The Swan Crendon Underwood. It was a very tense final with Lol. and Dean losing the first leg but with The Swan only needing to pot the black in the second leg they missed and Dean cleared the table to make it one all. They both continued to play extremely well in the third leg to win and take the title. well done.

Tony

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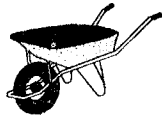
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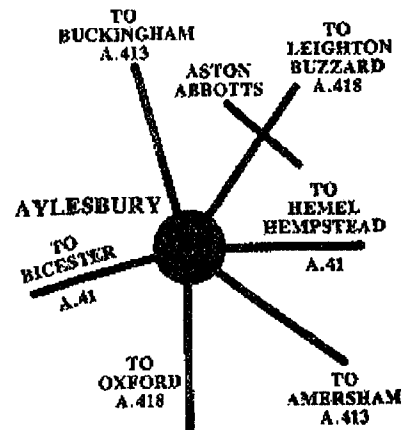
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ACROSS

- 1&9. Local town (5 & 9)
- 5. To urge forward (4)
- 9. See 1 across
- 11. A plant (4)
- 12. Stiff sharp point on plant (5)
- 13. SNUB (anag. 4)
- 15. Indefinite article (2)
- 16. Also; too (3)
- 17. A good card (3)
- 18. Not hers (3)
- 19. Every (4)
- 21. Used in cooking (4)
- 22. BEAD (anag 4)
- 24. Linger (4)
- 26. Indefinite article (2)
- 27. Harvests (5)
- 28. Surgeons perform this job (abb. 2)
- 29. Depart t2)
- 30. Turn to next page (31)
- 32. Atom, molecule (3)
- 34. Doleful (7)
- 37. Vigorous campaigner (8)

DOWN

- 2. Removed errors (7)
- 3.& graces t4)
- 4. A Bank (initials 3)
- 5. A jewel (3)
- 6. Burden of proof (4)
- 7. Military attendant to royalty (3)
- 8. Come off rails (6)
- 10. Continuous (7)
- 11. Asiatic invader (3)
- 13. Cruel, inhuman (8)
- 14. CHAWS (amag 5)
- 17. -- /DC
- 18. Head cover (3)
- 20. A chocolate (4)
- 21. Relative (6)
- 23. Same as 26 Ncr. (2)
- 25. Fruit (S)
- 29. Ammal 13)
- 31. Concerning (preposition 2)
- 33. Else 12)
- 34. A degree (2)
- 35. Short advert (2)
- 36. Aloft (2)

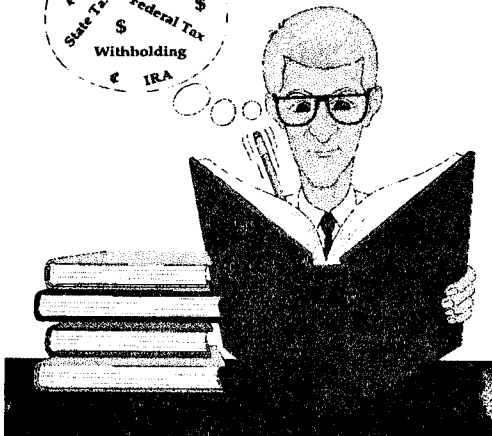
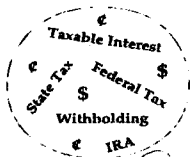
Answers to April's crossword:-

ACROSS:-

1 Apparatus 9. Urinal 10. Era 11. Sect 12 At. 13 Two. 14 Read. 16 NB. 17 Ratting. 19 Sea. 20 Areas. 21 Asset. 23 Erks. 25 Oral 27 Sinapis. 32 BA. 33 Tod.. 3i Tod. 35 Appearances.

DOWN:-

1 Australasia 2 Prewar. 3 Picotte. 4 Ant. 5 RA. 6 Alien. 7 Set. 8 Sabbaticals. 12 Ad. 14 Risk 15 Aga 16 Nee. 18 Tar. 19 SS. 22 Season. 24 SOS. 26 Rita. 28 Imp. Z9 Nap. 30 Age. 31 Pea



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SUPPORT AYLESBURY VALE'S ENVIRONMENT WEEK (SAVE) 16TH-25TH MAY 1998

The following list is not exhaustive and is based on a request for information on activities planned in the Vale during SAVE Week. This list will be updated as the Council is informed of more events nearer the week:

1. The Schools' Recycled Clothes Show at the Civic Centre, Aylesbury - 21st May

Now in its sixth year the show will be the focus of the Support Aylesbury Vale's Environment (SAVE) Week. The show will be held in the Reg. Maxwell Hall and consisted last year of over one hundred contestants from twelve local primary and secondary schools, with over 300 parents and local people in the audience. The show will be held on 21st May starting at 7.00 pm. Competitors and spectators are welcome. There will be a one pound entrance fee for spectators with proceeds going to Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio.

2. Local Spring Clean Campaigns

These events are held by many schools during the Spring Term. During two periods the Council will be providing basic litter picking equipment (gloves, bags, litter picking sticks) and offering free litter collection. The two periods will be National Spring Clean 17th-26th April 1998 (in association with the Tidy Britain Group) and Support Aylesbury Vale's Environment (SAVE) Week 16th-25th May 1998. Hardwick Parish Council have confirmed involvement during SAVE Week.

3. "What a Waste" - an Educational Show with Bozo & Zizi the Clowns - provisionally booked for 18th - 22nd May

The show, aimed at 7-11 year olds, will tour local schools dealing with the issue of recycling household waste and pays close attention to the requirements of the National Curriculum (both clowns were teachers before succumbing to the attractions of clowning!).

The clowns require a performance area of 15' x 12' x 9' (preferred minimum) and the show lasts for about 45 minutes.

4. Aluminium Foil Collection Competition (To be confirmed)

First and Middle schools are invited to take part in a schools' aluminium foil collection competition. The event will be organised by the Aluminium Foil Recycling Campaign with the support of Aylesbury Vale District Council with prizes awarded to winning entries. The competition will be judged locally. All schools should have received details from the Aluminium Foil Recycling Campaign of the collection competition.

5 "Out of the Bin" Exhibition and Prize Awards 4 pm - 6 pm 19 May 1998. Aston Hall. Civic Centre

Schools development education project funded by the European Union examining reuse and design for recycling ideas from local and international schools

6. Schools' Nature Trail. Oak Farm Rare Breeds Centre - (Date to be confirmed)

The trail will have an environmental education theme and is aimed at 5-11 year olds. Children will have an opportunity to visit the rare breed exhibits. The Council will cover the admission costs and organise limited assistance with transport to the centre.

7. Croissant Neuf Circus (Dependant on external funding) 17th. 18th May

Britain's first and only wind and solar powered circus with clown shows, cabaret, Environmental theatre, full circus shows and circus skills workshops. It is hoped to have the Sunday open to the public followed by a day for local schools.

8. Home Composting Initiative

The District Council, working closely with and supported by Buckinghamshire County Council, will be offering reduced price home composting bins, and in addition to last year's offer will be offering reduced price Water Butts to local people to encourage household water conservation. The initiative forms part of the District Council's recycling strategy. This includes the encouragement of home composting as part of a Waste reduction programme which also includes the introduction of new wheeled bins and recycling baskets, to every suitable household in the district.

The Council will be seeking the involvement of local schools in raising awareness of composting as a method of waste management.

9. Mobile Environmental Awareness Displays (Times-dates and locations to be confirmed)

Events of the week will be supported by various small information displays and a mobile displays including a Eastern Electricity Energy Efficiency display (Aylesbury and

9. Mobile Environmental Awareness Displays (Time, dates and locations to be confirmed)

Events of the week will be supported by various small information displays and a mobile displays including a Eastern Electricity Energy Efficiency display (Aylesbury and Buckingham town centres) and a display trailer provided to the Council by Aylesford Newsprint Ltd to promote the household blue bag waste paper recycling system. The Council will also be working closely with the county providing information on home composting to support the launch of the second district-wide composting and water conservation initiative (it is hoped to involve the Thames Water Authority Water Conservation Display Vehicle.)

A mobile display will also be touring the vale to publicise issues associated with the Wheeled Bins and Recycling Service. Locations are yet to be finalised but will include a limited number of local schools, the Parishes of Wendover and Haddenham and the Towns of Aylesbury, Buckingham and Winslow.

A Village appraisal display will be located at the Friars Square Shopping Centre during the week, demonstrating the role of rural settlements in working towards sustainable environmental improvement.

10. School Participation in Local Wildlife Conservation

A focus on the Ashmead Combined School. (Dates to be confirmed).

It is hoped that pupils from Ashmead School will develop an Environment Play to be performed during the week.

Woodcarving exhibitions are also planned. Ashmead Middle School has developed a close working relationship with AVDC's Countryside Officers who have provided advice and guidance on Wildlife Conservation.

11. "Wildlife in Town" Countryside Fayre

AVDC Countryside Project Team working with BBONT planning a Countryside Fayre as part of SAVE Week. The Event is likely to be on Saturday 30th May. At the Sports Field off Narbeth Drive, Aylesbury, from 1 - 6 pm.

The event will include displays/activities by local conservation organisations i.e.; BTCV, RSPCA, RSPB, Bucks Bird Club, BBONT, ADEC, etc. There will be a strong environmental education theme with pond dipping, recycled art, making bird boxes, etc. Other activities will include Urban Safaris, competitions, wild life gardening and home composting exhibitions.

Contact Lesley Davies AVDC Countryside Project Team (01296) 427972.

12. Environmental Open Day at Redfields Community Centre A413 Winslow to Buckingham Road - Sunday 24th May 2 -5 pm.

Opportunity to see; historic buildings organic gardens, orchards and woodland animals straw buildings living willow structures information about sustainable communal living

13. "Sorted" - Floating Point Science, Youth Theatre Group, Civic Centre - Date and location to be confirmed

The show deals with all aspects of recycling and will be sponsored by SaVe-a-Carl. Suitable for 5-11 year olds, the group will use physical theatre, dance, mime and drama. The show is performed by science graduates and aims to explore and teach science, technology and Innovation. The show will be available during one day in SAVE WEEK at a central location in Aylesbury or Buckingham areas (depending on demand). Limited assistance with transport will be available on the day.

14. Schools Education Pod (Environment Agency)

The "Pod" is an inflatable igloo which will include a selection of hands-on" interactive models suitable for a

range of school children from the Primary to Secondary age groups.

Topics include pollution investigation, water usage, and things to be done in the home. The location and date will be finalised shortly, but will be for one day only in Wycombe.

Events planned but await confirmation include:-

Thornborough Wildlife Walk

Sustainable Woodland events at Community Woodland. Bucks County Council Countryside Section.

Butterfly Family Afternoon

Tuesday 26th May 1998, 1-3 pm

Join in with the great butterfly hunt in the beautiful surrounds of Stockgrove Country Park. Learn all about the habitat of one of Britain's most precious of creatures and who we can all help save them from disappearing from our countryside for ever.

Cost £1.00 per child. Adults and under 5's free. Ring 01525-237760 to book a place

Woodland Exploration Day

Wednesday 27th May 1998. 10.30 am - 4.00 pm

An exciting opportunity to explore the varied animal and plant life located in the unspoilt woodlands at Calvert Environment Centre located at the Shanks and McEwan landfill site. Workshops and story-telling will relate the discoveries of the day to the wider environment in which we live.

Cost £4.00. per child. Suitable for 6-14 years
Ring 01296 585215 for details

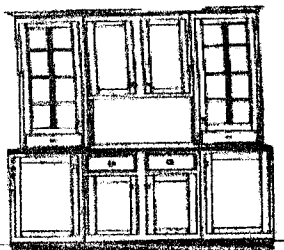
Opening of the Icknield Way

Thought to be the oldest track in Britain the Icknield Way runs along the chalk scarp from the Dorset Coast to East Anglia. The Ridgeway National Trail follows the line of the Icknield Way for 85 miles from Ivinghoe Beacon to Averbury in Wiltshire. Today the Buckinghamshire stretch of the Way will be "officially" opened and a new self-guided leaflet launched.

All these events will be provided free of charge - with the exception of an entrance fee to watch the Recycled Clothes Show. (charge to be decided).



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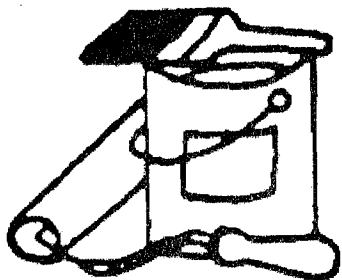
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