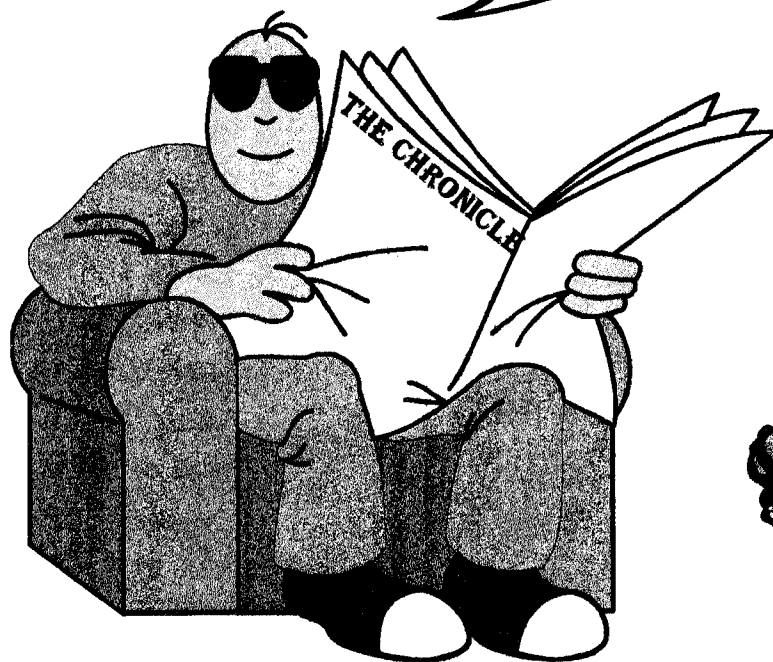
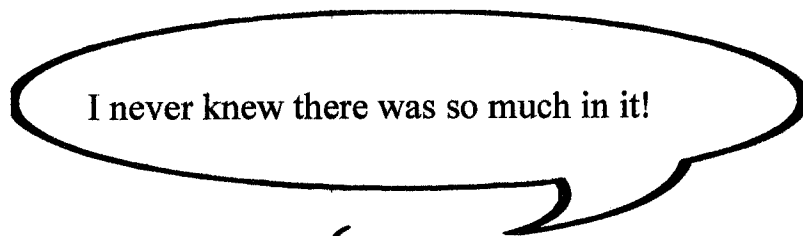


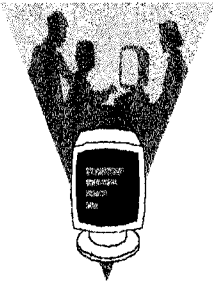
THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE



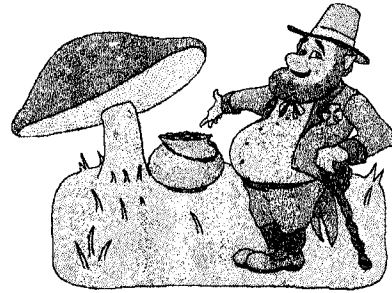
ISSUE 177 - MARCH 1999

SPRING ISSUE



Editorial -

Friday 26th February 1999



A prosperous St.Patrick's Day to you all

It seems that just about everybody in the village has contributed something to this month's **CHRONICLE** - we'll be competing with a certain well known Sunday newspaper soon and causing mayhem for the delivery team (not to mention a few back problems)! But seriously, your efforts are hugely appreciated by everybody in the village, so please keep the articles coming.

Last month's topic was about having your say - in fact, this month you have the biggest opportunity of the year to air your views at the annual Parish Meeting (see What's On and Gordon's article).

This month sees your chance to sign -up for some forthcoming events, take part in a new village activity (AAH!!), or (and) volunteer to help in the millennium effort. So you see, YOU really can make a difference.

Talking of volunteering, plans are already afoot for this year's Aston Abbots festival weekend, more of which next month. In the meantime, please give some thought as to how you might help this hugely successful village event. There is always room for extra helpers before, during, and after the weekend, and for people to man stalls, collect prizes, and so on. And if you have any new ideas for the fete we will want to hear about them - watch this space for further details.

PUB POEM COMPETITION

I am delighted to announce the prize of a beer from the Editor for the best (and only printable) Pub Poem goes to my old friend, Andy Bystra - I'll award the prize at The Bull soon. Two runners-up prizes of a half of beer go to the anonymous authors of the only other poems received; each was excellent but neither made it past the censor without vetting. Only you two know who you are

PRODUCTION TEAM CONTACTS

Editorial / General Andi Swain 2 Nash's Farm - 01296 682651
Distribution Andy Bystra 31 The Green - 01296 681690
Advertising Ivan Greenaway 1 Nash's Farm - 01296 682605

Well, as this is a particularly bumper issue of The Chronicle I'll let you get on and read it - make sure you submit lots of articles again next month (if possible, please submit pieces well before the deadline to help the editor!).

Enough of my ranting - enjoy!

Andi Swain

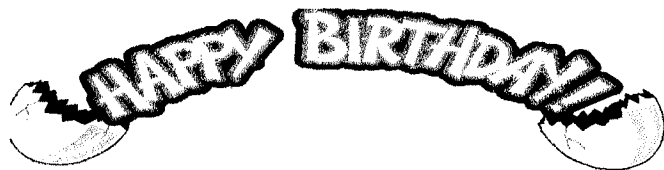
AND IN THIS BUMPER ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- In the Village - lots of local matters
- AAH!
- Richard 'Dicky' Chapman
- Sports galore
- Everybody's favourite builder
- Old farmhouse
- Crossword & Word search Competitions
- What's on in the village this month
- Millennium Party Update
- The search begins for the 1999 Parish Volunteer
- All of our regular sections and more !
- Oh, and Mr.Bystra's mishap

A note to all would be advertisers - more than 150 households receive **THE CHRONICLE** 11 times a year and with rates from just £7 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines!)
can you afford not to be in?

Copy date for April issue is March 23rd - please pass items to Andi Swain at 2 Nash's Farm or to a member of the Production Team. Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbots.

RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE

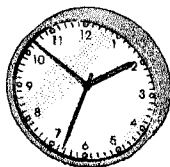
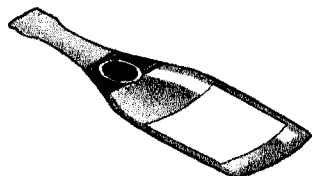


Aston Abbotts wishes a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
to everybody celebrating in **March**, especially



**Wednesday 10th March is
National No Smoking Day!**

Claire Biddle	8th	Ann Goodman	15th
Andy Bystra	8th	Tracey Fletcher	17th
Andrew Dutton	10th	Ray Coates	22nd
Ross Macgregor	13th	George Brandon	31st
Lydia Smith	15th		



Don't forget - the clocks
go forward one hour
during the night of
Saturday March 27th

Have your say...

The annual Parish meeting will be held at The Church Room on Wednesday 24th March at 8.00pm. Come along and have your say over what happens in the village this year.



IN MEMORIAM

It is with great regret that we record the death of Richard (Dicky) Chapman. In his younger days he was a great athlete, particularly so far as running was concerned.

It only seems a few years ago that he was busily working around his farm and driving his huge lorry and crane through the village. He enjoyed a pint or two down at The Bull in those days and could often be seen around the local countryside felling and lopping trees. In recent years he chose to spend his time concentrating on training and racing his greyhounds.

Dicky was certainly one of Aston Abbotts' characters and will be missed by many.

Our deepest sympathies go out to June and the rest of his family.

Let RITA know about your news, birthdays, or forthcoming event...phone Rita on 681690

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Driving you to the Doctor, picking up
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6 The Green - tel. 681454

If you would like to join the Help Line
please call Andy Bystra on 681690

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682115

KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane 681137

GWEN KEMPSTER
53 The Green 681310

MARGARET KENT
6 The Green 681454

LINDA SUTTON
Sadlers Farm 681413

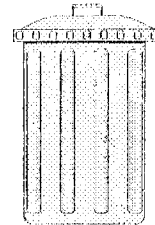
JOHN SANSOME
Longmore Farm 681010

District Councillor
BRYAN ROUND
11 Nup End, Wingrave 681621

County Councillor
BRENDA JENNINGS
2 Cotes Way, Wing 681065

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Collection points are available at
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GLASS - Please sort into green, brown, and clear glass

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food and drink cans (please crush cans)

PAPER - All Newspaper, magazine, and junk mail
(no cardboard or yellow pages)

The Macintyre Centre can also take textiles
(clothes, rags, blankets, sheets etc)
Open 8.30am - 6.30pm Monday to Saturday

IN THE VILLAGE 1.

HINDSY SAYS NO TO ENGLAND JOB

From the Aston Abbotts Argos - 4th February

Lol "Hindsy" Hinds today joined Kevin Keegan and Bryan Robson in announcing that he wasn't interested in the England Football Manager's job left vacant when Glen Hoddle was sacked yesterday.

Lol, player-manager of the Aston Abbotts Occasionals, said today "I feel that there is more I want to achieve at Village football level. We have our sights set on getting through the pre-qualifying, qualifying, southern section of the FA (fairly average) Cup and are hoping to field a full team for our next match on Boxing Day."

Elsewhere, Jack Rennie, John Whyte, and Pat Donovan have all been ruled out because of the "Englishman" rule, as has Ray "Howard" Wilkinson who is bi-lingual. Neil Chesher was unavailable for comment.

Duggie Dribble



"Hindsy" in action last week sporting his new "Kevin Keegan" perm

COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS 1999 CAMPAIGN

Tesco stores are again issuing vouchers for schools to spend on computer equipment such as PCs and the Internet. They will give one voucher for every £10 spent at their stores between now and April 11th this year.

I'm sure many of us are busy "squirreling away" the vouchers waiting to find out which local schools are taking part, so....

APPEAL TO SCHOOLS

If you know of a local school taking part (or one of the pre-school groups, if included in the scheme) please let me know before March 23rd and I will publish details in the next issue of **THE CHRONICLE**.

APPEAL TO VILLAGERS

I will be happy to pass on any vouchers so put them to one side until next month and see **THE CHRONICLE** for details.

Andi Swain / Ed.

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

On February 11th Mr. Tony Wells showed us more slides of Old Aylesbury, which were very interesting, and showed us how much the town has changed. We had two gentlemen guests who had asked to come to see pictures of Aylesbury as it was.

Our booked speaker for February 25th had cancelled but we were very lucky in getting Victor and Christine Scott, who stepped into the breach at short notice to talk on "Summertime in the Pyrenees". At the time of writing, we are all looking forward to this very much.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR MARCH IS AS FOLLOWS:

March 11 th	Our Spring Lunch
March 18 th	Luncheon with Jean Biss at her home in Buckingham. There will also be a raffle.
March 25 th	Talk by Mr. Hugh Grainger on "Our Ancestors' Superstitions".

APOLOGIES FROM THE EDITOR

Due to an editorial error (I blame the millennium bug!) last month's Ladies Club news was omitted - my deepest apologies to Ruth and the Ladies.

At the first meeting of the year, Jean Archer and her friend, Meg, gave a very enjoyable talk entitled "More hidden Bucks". Jean has written many books about Buckinghamshire. Mrs June Brown gave a talk on "Parchment Craft" on January 28th.

Ed.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH 1999
8.00pm AT THE CHURCH ROOM

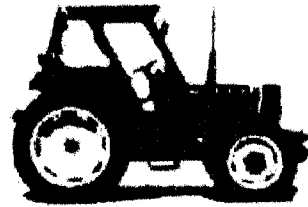
Please come along to the Annual Aston Abbotts Parish Meeting - this is **your** chance to air your enthusiasms, worries, gripes, and also (*please!*) to offer your support to future village activities.

Topics for discussion will include

- ◆ Progress with The Church Room
- ◆ Developments at The Recreation Ground
- ◆ **THE CHRONICLE**
- ◆ The amazingly successful 1998 Fete
- ◆ The also amazingly successful 1999 Fete - but only if YOU, You, and You, all come forward to help!
- ◆ Neighbourhood Watch / Police

If you would like to propose any other topics for discussion please contact Gordon Smith - Telephone 681373 - 2 Church Row

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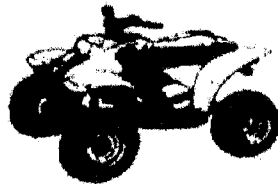
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IN THE VILLAGE 2.

WELL FANCY THAT

The rights stuff

A group of residents have proved that you can stand up against developers and win, says Mira Bar-Hillel



It was wonderful to win, says Mimi Harker, but she's stuck with houses overlooking hers

Thanks to Helen, who spotted this article in the press. Banner Homes has recently been the subject of a Management Buy Out. Perhaps previous practices - such as knocking down barns - will now cease!

By the way, does that roof line look high to you?????? Ed.

AN ARTICLE in Homes & Property made it possible for residents in Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire, to win a court case against local developers. A High Court judgment gave them £100,000 and their full costs, which could exceed £70,000.

Local resident Mimi Harker, who has two small children, moved into leafy Hollybush Lane on the Woodside Estate in July 1993. When Banner New Homes told her two years ago that they were proposing a new development behind her home, taking away part of her garden, she decided to lead the opposition.

When Banner got planning permission for 11 houses all looked lost. Then a neighbour remembered seeing an article about the Covenants Movement, and Mimi Harker rang Homes & Property and tracked down expert Victor Mishkin. A covenant from 1925 was found covering the area, stating clearly that "no more than one house shall be erected on the land" on each plot.

"Thank goodness we found you. After that, despair changed to hope," says Mrs Harker. They went to solicitor

Gerald Moran, of Dawson and Co, and the legal battle began. The developers kept on building in breach of the covenant as the residents fumed and desperately tried to raise the money to keep the legal case going.

Last May, a High Court judge rejected the builder's application to throw the case out. Judge Rich also criticised an "intimidatory" letter from Banner, threatening residents with huge legal bills.

In the end it was Banner who had to pay all the costs. After a High Court hearing last month, the builder was ordered to pay the residents £100,000 in damages for knowingly breaching the covenant, and their costs. The court also upheld their right to enforce the covenant.

"It was wonderful to win, especially as Banner were so arrogant, but we are still stuck with all those houses overlooking ours," Mimi Harker says. So is Banner New Homes. While the case was going on, the houses could not be sold. Now, another group of residents with covenant rights is getting together to start another action with the same solicitor, seeking a ruling to have them demolished.

MORE THINGS (AMERICAN) KIDS SAY

We asked *Is it better to be Single or married?*
 "It's better for girls to be single but not for boys.
 Boys need somebody to clean up after them."
 Anita, aged 9

How to make a marriage work

"If you want to last with your man, you should wear a lot of sexy clothes. Especially underwear that is red and maybe has a few diamonds on it."
 Lori, aged 8

When is it okay to kiss someone?

"The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that."
 Curt, aged 7

St. Patrick's Night

at the

BULL & BUTCHER

Aston Abbots - Tel: 01296 681520

in aid of the

Macmillan Cancer Fund

Saturday 20th March

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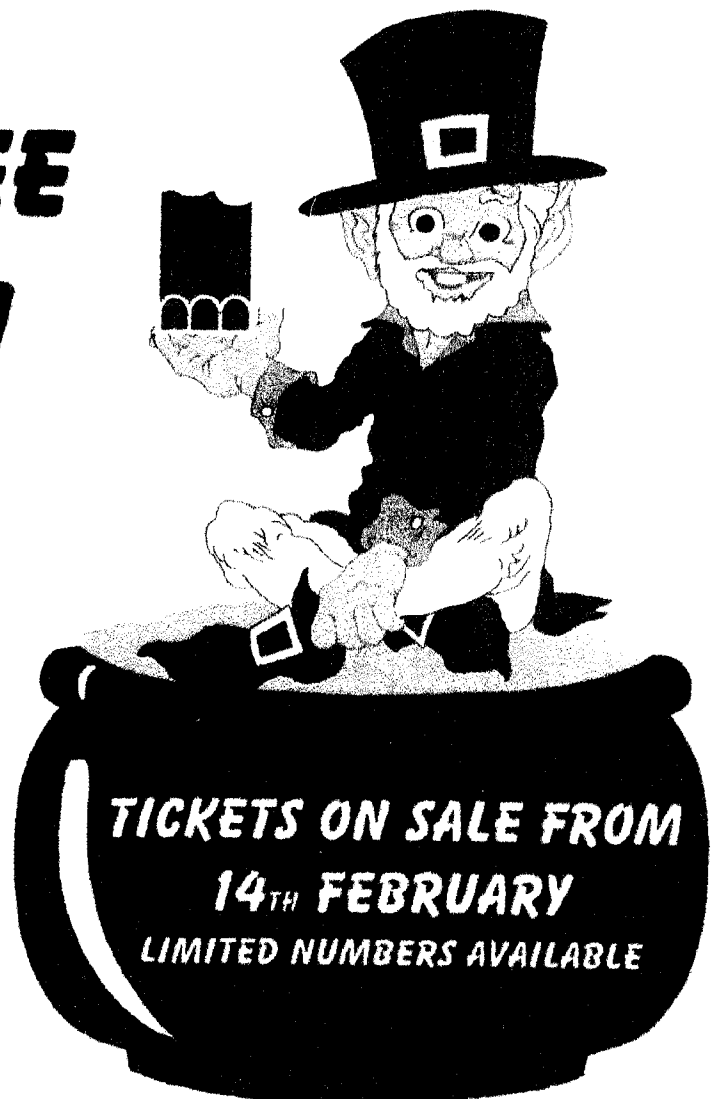
8PM 'TIL 1AM

ENTRY BY

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SMART DRESS

£15.00 EACH



IN THE VILLAGE 2A.

The Ups & Downs of Village Life!

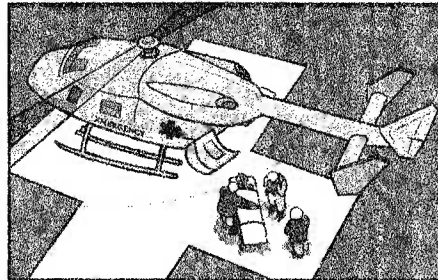
Thumbing through my aerospace journals this month I was amazed to read that Aston Abbots is now officially listed as having its own 'heli-pad'. My first thought was of the irony of so many of us having fought 'tooth and nail' to prevent the third London Airport being built in this 'neck of the woods' and yet here we are but a few years later with a ready made airfield in our midst. Perhaps Vic. should repaint the slogan on the end of his house and the 'anti airfield' committee' be resurrected.

But, hold on a minute! Where's the spirit of progress? We've embraced 'The Net'; shouldn't we now look forward to using this modern and useful facility as well? Flying is becoming increasingly more affordable so it should be the case that before long, guests to the Old Masters will need it since they are likely to be flying in for a meal.

Generous 'efficiency payments' introduced by that nice Mr. Blair should enable all the teachers in Aston Abbots to use 'the pad' to fly off on those field trips, attend conferences and still be home in time to catch up on the marking.

As we all know, Frank can afford to use helicopters already but with a heli-port so handy, he'll be able to dash around shooting everything that moves as well as interviewing prospective chefs up and down the land.

That well known cognisor of tinned salmon and fancy biscuits in Ross Road will be able to extend her horizons beyond the village shop and travel Europe in search of that 'something special' for George's tea.



New supplies of tinned salmon for Bernard's shop, arriving at the heli-pad

Of course, the nouveau riche in 'Nash's' can be expected to be frequent users of the facility - whizzing off to meetings, skiing and the like. I dare say one or two of them will be so impressed

with the convenience of having this form of transport in the village, they will buy their own 'copters', necessitating a further expansion of the airfield and its facilities.

All in all, there is much to be said in favour of developing this valuable resource within Aston Abbots. Apart from the obvious advantages and convenience of having air travel 'on our doorstep' there are also other benefits:-

Additional noise levels should ensure grants being available for double glazing which when installed will considerably reduce our heating bills.

Tankers delivering aviation fuel will slow down those idiots who persist in speeding through the village., and increased revenue can be expected from the Banner Homes executives who will no doubt be frequent users of the facility when picking out sites around the village for future development.

Yes! We are indeed fortunate to be blessed with such a useful facility within the bounds of this beautiful village of ours!!



MILLENNIUM MATTERS

The Millennium Party

Summary of the meeting held on 23.2.99 at the Bull & Butcher.

- * All tickets are sold. Only two deposits are still awaited. We are now starting a reserve list in case of cancellations.
- * John Whyte has found a band (with help from Ivan), called "Swoon" - 4 musicians with two (1 male & 1 female) vocalists. They can play anything from 60's music onwards. A Demo tape has been heard and approved. John & Peter to book them. Ivan's programme for the evening is approved.
- * Andy & Ray will organise the purchase of champagne in March (£600 budget).
- * Francesca has produced a menu & budget which was approved. It is likely that we can borrow cutlery and crockery from Stowe School - Ann Dicken is negotiating.
- * Additional use of the marquee: It is still hoped to hold a tea party for older villagers - Jack Rennie had offered to play the piano. Jackie will produce more information & a budget for the race meeting to raise funds for the tea party.
- * Andy now has the figures to produce a final break-down of costs and ticket price. This should be ready by the next meeting. We will probably offer the chance for the balance to be paid in 1 or 2 instalments.
- * Date of next meeting - Wednesday 24th March, 8.00pm at the Bull & Butcher. Full minutes are available from Ivan Greenaway, Andy Bystra or Peter Shorrock.
- * *And Ivan still has room for more volunteers!*

ITEMS FOR SALE

- CARRY COT PLUS WHEELS - IN VERY GOOD CONDITION - £10
- MOTHERCARE COT, MATTRESS, COT BUMPER AND DUVET - £75
Contact Shirley Ford on 681865

THE CHRONICLE TIP FOR THE MONTH

Don't ask Andy "Biker" Bystra to deliver Pizza for you.....



(All will become clear later...Ed.)

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IN THE VILLAGE 2B.

MEMORIES OF RICHARD 'DICKY' CHAPMAN - FROM HIS OLD SCHOOL FRIEND, VALERIE OSBORNE

Remembering Richard Chapman and school days are upper most in my mind during the past week.

As a boy and young man - he was handsome - possessed of the most beautiful, moving, sparkling brown eyes which dominated his face. Eyes which danced with vitality for life.

Born of highly intelligent parents. His mother a brilliant pianist. Father an Olympic medallist, running in the 1912 games.

Aylesbury Grammar School welcomed Richard academically - or so they thought. What great good fortune he could run with the grace and speed of a cheetah, therefore to gain sporting acclaim for school and County which he achieved on numerous occasions.

"They seek him here, they seek him there, the Games Master seeks him everywhere." Another establishment held priority over practise, a rapid sprint to the betting shop.

We would travel home on a service bus - from Kingsbury Square - no school transport in 1943. The conductress was a formidable iron maiden in every sense.

Diminutive, grey-frizzed-netted hair, the ever present "fag" cemented between thin lips. The "bete noire" of her day was Richard, he knew it and played the game to the hilt.

On the "upper deck" (seats the width of the bus, with a single aisle lengthwise) the frolicking would continue.

Richard never could locate his season ticket (did he ever own one?). Frequently his getting off point - "The Red Lion"- Bierton. From there a stylish sprint to Wingrave Crossroads, beating "Eastern National". In sign language he would indicate to the iron-maiden, he had won.

I imagine Richard added a few more firsts over the years.

*"Golden lads and lassies must,
As chimney sweeps come to dust".*

I remember him as a "Golden Lad".

Valerie Osborne

Race Night and Older Villagers Party!

DECEMBER 1999

By now I'm sure you know that there is going to be 'a bit of a bash' on 31st December 1999 to celebrate the new millennium. Things are now moving forward at a pace and to make full use of the marquee it is proposed that we hold two more events over the Christmas and New Year period. The proposals are for :

- A Free 'Older Villagers Party'
- A Race Night (with Fish and Chip supper)

The objective of the race night is to have yet another good time and raise the funds for the FREE Older Villagers party, which could be an afternoon or evening of celebrations. Details of what villagers would like need to be established. What we can provide in terms of food, drink and entertainment depends on how much money we can raise. At the moment, these are only outline proposals but we are confident that the race night will be another 'sell out.' We must now establish what support there is in the village for these events and get volunteers to help organise them.

Interested ? If you are interested in attending one of these events or in helping to organise them please complete the coupon below and hand/send it to one of the following people :

Ivan Greenaway at 1, Nash's Farm - tel: 682605

Jacky Coates at Leafy Oaks, 87, The Green - tel: 681459



Name(s)..... Phone No.....

Address.....

1. The number of people who would like to attend the free older villagers' party is _____
2. The number of people who would like to attend the race night (with fish and chip supper) is _____
3. I am interested in helping organise the race night and / or older villagers' party **YES/NO.**

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**Ring Helen and Simon Dowling for further details
01296 688808**

IN THE VILLAGE 3 - 1999 PARISH VOLUNTEER.

Press Release



THE SEARCH IS LAUNCHED FOR "PARISH VOLUNTEER OF 1999"

Contact name: Les White
Title: Head of Administration
Tel No: (01296) 585048

The search is on for the Parish Volunteer of 1999! Following last year's successful awards scheme, AVDC is now looking for worthy local people to be nominated and considered for this year's awards - and it could be someone from your Parish!

Retired Colin Higgs, of Aston Abbots, was named Parish Volunteer of 1998 after a judging panel chose him from 24 "unsung heroes", nominated from all corners of the Vale. Colin is well known in Aston Abbots because of his huge amount of local fund-raising work and his unstinting efforts to keep the village looking beautiful. He picks up litter, spring cleans the village hall, plants spring bulbs each year on the village green and helps maintain the local churchyard - all voluntary and unpaid work. Joyce Brooker of Wing and Jeanette Palmer of Weston Turville were also recognised for their community work.

AVDC launched the Parish Volunteer of the Year awards scheme last year to recognise and reward those people whose tireless voluntary efforts in their local community may otherwise go unrecognised. It's aimed at people who live within the Vale, but outside the town of Aylesbury itself. This is

is because the Town Mayor already runs a similar awards scheme for townspeople.

Colin will kick off this year's awards scheme by unveiling the Parish Volunteer roll of honour at the Civic Centre, Aylesbury, today. Colin, who may not be nominated for this year's awards, has agreed to join the judging panel, alongside three District Councillors and representatives of the Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils and the Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser, which is sponsoring the awards for a second year.

Further information and nomination forms for this year's awards will be available from next week at AVDC offices in Aylesbury, Buckingham and Winslow, and from the Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser reception in West Street, Buckingham. Forms are also available from AVDC Information Points outside Aylesbury, Parish Councils and there are a few included with this press release.

Anyone can be nominated and anyone can do the nominating. However, District Councillors and AVDC staff are not eligible. Nominations must be received by 30th April 1999, and the Parish Volunteer of 1999, together with two others, will be announced in the summer. For more information on the scheme, phone (01296) 585060 or see the "Awards" section below. **An entry form can be found on Page 22 of this month's CHRONICLE.**

- Anyone can submit a nomination. A judging panel which includes three District Councillors and a member of the Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils will choose the winners after looking at this information.
- Judges will take into account things like the kind of activities the nominee is involved with in the community, how long they have been involved with these, how much they use their own initiative and how valued they are by their local community.
- The Judges will be looking in particular for people who work off their own initiative.
- The winner and two runners up will each be presented with an award at a special ceremony later this year.
- There are no age restrictions on who can be nominated or on who can do the nominating. District Councillors - who are not eligible to be nominated for the awards themselves - will be asked by the Judges to comment on nominations from their wards. AVDC staff are also not eligible for nomination.

So think about that person in your own village, town or community who could be Aylesbury Vale's Parish Volunteer of the Year. Then fill in the form on Page 22 of this month's Aston Abbots CHRONICLE and send it to us. You do not have to tell the person that you are nominating them unless you want to.

Please send your nomination form to reach us as soon as possible. Closing date is April 30th, 1999. If you need help filling in the form, or more information about the scheme, please phone (01296) 585060 or mini com (01296) 585055.

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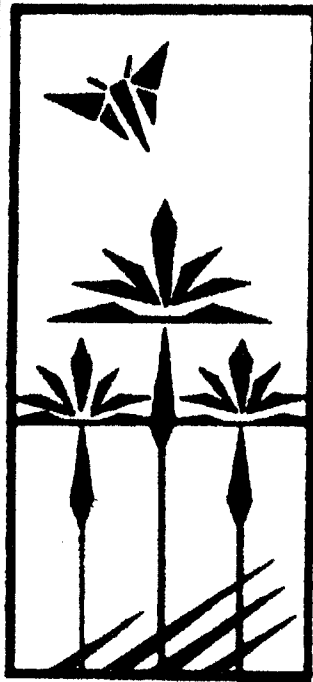
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IN THE VILLAGE 4.

HISTORICAL INTEREST ...

An article by Colin Higgs about the History of Aston Abbotts

OLD FARMHOUSES

Farm dwellings throughout the country differ much in styles of buildings, but have one thing in common - plenty of space incorporated in solidly built houses intended to last (unlike smaller cottage homes and compact modern

houses erected since World War II.

These period farm houses were erected when young men and women from the villages looked, naturally, to the Farmer for work on the farm or in the house. This helps to explain why farmhouses had so many rooms - not only to house the family, but the domestic staff as well!

Keeping warm was NOT a problem nor the expense that it is today as there was plenty of timber to hand for the large open fires. The broad chimneys also spread warmth around the house and if need be the bedrooms also had fireplaces.

Turning to the material from which old houses were built, in Medieval times timber was used with the lower ends of vertical posts resting on stone bases. Then later the posts were rested on bases built of stone and brick, and the spaces between the beams were filled with Wattle and Daub - the roofs were thatched. In the 16th century granite, limestone, bricks made locally, and slates for roofing were used.

A feature in some areas was the practice of tile hanging upper halves of the outside walls for extra protection against the weather, other areas used weather boarding painted black or tarred according to local custom.

Villages and the countryside would be bare and very uninteresting without our attractive old farmhouses and buildings, let alone the hospitality of the people who dwell in them.

Colin



ASTON ABBOTTS

Oxley's Farmhouse, Mr. & Mrs. William Elliott with four of their five children, 1870

READ ABOUT THE NEWLY LAUNCHED "ASTON ABBOTTS HISTORY" ON PAGE 18 AND DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE

TONY'S VILLAGE SPORTS COLUMN



MIGHTY BULLS GO THIRD....

Flushed with our recent success in the Cup semis, we have played just two league games since my last write up.

The first was away to local rivals The Five Elms at Weedon which saw a repeat of the cup semi final with The Bull

& Butcher cruising to a 4-0 lead before taking our foot of the gas and eventually winning 5-3.

The second game was at The Swan & Castle, a "neutral" table, against the St. John's team from Stone. This could have been a complete disaster as we only had 6 players and therefore had to forfeit one game before we even started!

However, some great play by the whole team, especially from Andi & Lol who both won their singles matches before winning a doubles match together, and with a little help

from myself and Alan we "strolled" to a 5-3 win. The result could have been a whitewash as both Mark and Rob were unlucky to lose their singles' matches.

We have now moved up to third in the league!

Tony

STOP PRESS ... CUP FINAL

Come along and support the team as we take on The Swan & Castle "B" in the Cup Final, to be held at The Swan at Westcott on Wednesday 17th March at 8.30pm. (get their early to reserve a seat!).

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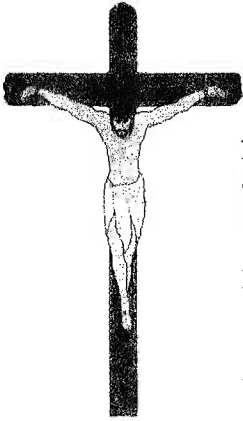
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RECTOR'S REPORT - MARCH 1999

Lurking in the deepest recesses of the garage I discovered an old tea chest and a sack of sawdust.

It was very much a blast from the past. For this was the makings of a "Lucky Dip" for a Garden Party. It had seemed like a good idea at the time. Extremely simple, yet, somehow it didn't quite work. The sweets, for which it was designed, proved to be a disaster. Not only did they come out with a curious 'woody' taste, but,

even though they were wrapped, the sawdust seemed to get into the wrappers and give them some rather interesting 'chewy' bits.

That much I could remember about it - together with the 'mental-note-to-self' - "Next time try small plastic toys!" But, after many years in the back of the garage, there is not going to be a next time, because I have decided that it is not really worth the storage space - so its gone to the tip. Of course, it might have come in handy one day, but technology has moved on. I think that if I ever have to provide a lucky dip again, it will be in a plastic dustbin, and the "concealing-medium" will be polystyrene chips. Yet, I don't doubt that there will be something about that combination that will cause problems.

It is strange the way these things come back to jog our memories. The "Lucky Dip" was something that I had forgotten about. Years ago. Yet, the sight of the tea chest and the sawdust brought the memories flooding back - and especially the memory that

it had been rather less than successful!

Sometimes we hide in the back of our memories events from the past, thinking that on a later day we will try them again. The gadgets that we bought that did not really solve the problem we had in mind for them. The things that we tried, that didn't quite work as we planned, and we put them away for another day. Then, almost before we know it, we have a storage problem!

The forty days before Easter -and that means all of March this year - are days when we are challenged to reassess our values. To look again at some of the things that we have put away for another day. Those Bible stories that we heard at Sunday School - have we thought about them since those far off days? Was there something about them that didn't quite work for us? Is it worth looking at them again with the wisdom of a greater experience of life? And even the ones we thought that we could grasp - might it not be an idea to take another look at them?

It always surprises me that there is so much more to be discovered in each of the Bible stories every time that I think about them. The trouble is that it is more comfortable thinking about the stories that need less thought, than trying to unravel those that are a bit of a struggle. In order to understand the more difficult stories, we shall probably need to discard some of the ideas and concepts which we have hoarded for too long.

Bob Willmott

1st Wingrave Scout Group

BEAVERS

On 6th February the Beavers attended the District Handicrafts Event at Wendover Memorial Hall. We were among 93 Beavers from colonies all over Aylesbury Vale and had the opportunity to make 20 different craft items including masks, badges, aeroplanes and clay medallions.

There was a competition to construct a model around the theme of "space" and we were very proud to see **Michael Ellis** win 2nd prize for his model of a moon buggy. The Beavers have enjoyed learning about birds and how to take extra care of them in winter. We have made bird feeders, paper birds and held a quiz about different birds and their habitats.

Two new Beavers have joined us and four, **Thomas Ellis, Ben Harding, Thomas Walton** and **Oscar Williams** have now been invested. All are very welcome in our colony.

CUBS

Four of our Cubs took part in the District Quiz and **Luke Henley, Matthew George, Daniel Smith** and **Matthew Newman** all did very well to come 5th. More points towards next years Endeavour Award.

Our new Cubs, **Joe Harding, Christopher Burgess, Sam Mitchell** and **Dominic Christer** have worked hard to

complete their Membership Award and were invested on 9th February in a meeting jointly run by the Scouts. We have had two practice sessions of Ten-Pin bowling at Jardines club, ready for the District Competition later this month.

The older Cubs are attending a meeting with the Scouts in order to arrange their Night-Hike which is also later in March. Our pack programme for March will include a number of experiments, with the aim of enabling as many boys as possible to gain their Scientist's badge.

SCOUTS

The Scouts entered the District Quiz on 31st January and came 3rd, a very good performance. We had an extra Scout, and an extra District team was made up, which came 4th - so Wingrave Scouts held two good positions! We had a successful evening running the Cub pack after their investiture, involving them in a number of games.

We have begun working towards our Outdoor Activity award, beginning with a wide game in Tring Woods. **Rupert** has come back down to earth after his visit to Chile and is preparing a presentation evening, on **Friday 5th March at 7pm at Wingrave Scout Hut**. Anyone who helped **Rupert** to raise money for his trip or is interested to hear about it, is welcome to come along and find out what he did.

Julia Ellis

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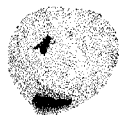
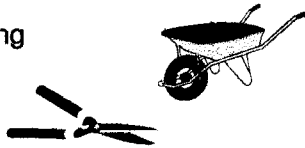
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IN THE VILLAGE 5.

Clare Shorrock writes about

ASTON ABBOTTS HISTORY (AAH)

Tuesday 16th February saw the inaugural meeting of a group of Villagers who are interested in researching and writing about the history of Aston Abbotts. At present the group numbers nine people but anyone else who is interested is more than welcome to join us. The next meeting is at 8.00pm on Tuesday 16th March at the Bull & Butcher.

After considerable discussion it was decided that we should aim to produce:-

1. An exhibition tracing the village's history over the last 1000 years. This would include documents, maps, photographs and "artefacts".
2. A small booklet about the history of Aston Abbotts and a more detailed, hardback version of the booklet, both with illustrations such as maps and photos and both to be on sale on such occasions as the Fete, Open Gardens day etc.
3. A "living history" which would have two aspects, firstly a collection of the memories of the older members of the village about life here during the 20th century, and

secondly a complete photographic record of the village in 1999. This would include general views of the village, photos of village events such as the Fete, and photos of every house in the village, hopefully with the occupants. Additionally, we would like to try to get all Aston Abbotts residents to be in a group photo in the church yard with the photographer at the top of the tower. Individual prints of all photos would be available for sale.

Dickie Dicken and Peter Shorrock will trawl the County Archives, County Museum, St Albans Abbey Archives etc. Shirley Ford will search the Church records and Colin Higgs is producing a map of the village and all the surrounding fields, and he will also talk to older residents about their memories. Paul Ridgely will take all the photographs and Sally Palmer will collect and store old photographs, documents, maps and artefacts.

We are aiming to accomplish all this by the millennium which is quite a tall order, so.....

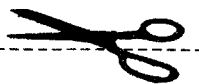


WE NEED YOUR HELP -
AND THAT MEANS EVERYBODY!!



- If you can lend us old photos of the village and its inhabitants or "artefacts" such as items or implements in daily use around the home or at work please contact Sally Palmer on 681152.
- If you have any old title deeds or other legal documents please contact Peter Shorrock on 681260.
- If you have *any other ideas* which you think could add to the project, or if you know of any source of funding, such as grants, to help us pay for photography, publishing etc., or if you have audio typing skills, please contact Clare Shorrock on 681260.

Finally, and most importantly if we are to make the photographic record of Aston Abbotts complete, and therefore of full value to future generations living here, please agree to be photographed with your house. Please fill in the tear off form and give it to Paul Ridgely at 8 The Green - 682058.



NAME(S) _____

TEL. No. _____

ADDRESS _____

I / we are / are not happy* to be photographed with our house - the most convenient time of the week for me / us would be _____

I / we are / are not happy* to be in the group photograph at the church.

*delete as applicable

THE CHRONICLE WORD SEARCH

All but one of the words listed are hidden in the grid. They always appear in a straight line, but can be read in any direction - backwards or forwards, including diagonally. BUT WHICH WORD CAN NOT BE FOUND?

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

- WARMER CROP CALF
- DUCKLING LAMBS CUB
- SPRING BUDS NEW
- CROCUS EGGS
- CUCKOO CHICK
- DAYLIGHT DEW
- HOTXBUNS ROBIN
- WOODPECKER
- SHOWERS BUCK
- FLOWERS SMILE
- DAFFODIL BUNNY

AND THE MISSING WORD IS _____

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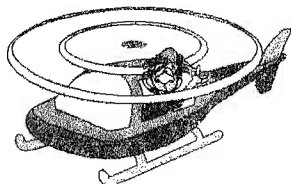
IN THE VILLAGE 6.

Aston Abbotts Helipad

We're On The Map.....

At last recognition for Aston Abbotts. The Pooleys Pilots Flight Guide, Produced with the assistance of the Civil Aviation Authority, has accepted Church Farm as a registered unlicensed Helipad.

Don't be alarmed, this wont become a busy airport. An unlicensed Helipad can only operate on a very limited basis with a strictly controlled amount of movements per year.



For those interested our global position co-ordinates are N51,53.335 W000,45.891 and our height above sea level is 325ft. All flight manoeuvres will be conducted to the North and instructions will be given to visiting pilots not to over fly the village.

We were inspired to register the Helipad when Sarah Duchess of York, who obtained her helicopter license when she married Prince Andrew, called to ask if she could land to have lunch at the local pub. We were delighted at the thought of a royal visit to our village and passed on the Bull and Butcher's phone number. Sadly Frank was fully booked and told her that if she thought she could just turn up without a booking the best he could do was a packet of peanuts.

Dave Lewis

Aaahh, I get it (now!) Ed.

WHOOOPS!!

Apologies to those of you who might have received damaged or 'muddied' copies of **THE CHRONICLE** last Month.

It was a nice sunny day when the printed **CHRONICLES** had to be picked up from Waddesdon School so it seemed a good idea to rouse the motorbike from it's winter slumber and combine 'business' with pleasure.

Whenever I turn up at the school on the 'bike' I invariably get into conversation with someone or the other and this particular day was no exception.

Evidently this broke my concentration when tying the box on the back because part way along Whitchurch High street there was a bang and an 'explosion' of **CHRONICLES** caught the slipstream. Luckily there was no wind to scatter them further and there they lay in a neat line covering some 20 to 30 yards of Whitchurch's finest gutter.

Despite the help given me by two very nice young ladies I couldn't gather them up and tie them back on the bike quick enough. Sorry again - Andy



A murder of crows, a flock of sheep, and now "an explosion of CHRONICLES" ...mmm, it all sounds a bit suspicious to me - and what was Mr Bystra doing tying two young ladies onto his bike???? Ed. (Pizza anybody??)

ASTON ABBOTTS MILLENNIUM PARTY MENU

The menu for the millennium party on December 31st is:

Champagne Reception

Hot & Cold Buffet Supper

Carved Buffet

- ◆ Roast Turkey Crown
- ◆ Dressed Salmon
- ◆ Hand raised Pork, Chicken & Apricot Water Crust Pie
- ◆ Salad Selection

Buffet Hot

- ◆ Chili Con Carne
- ◆ Chicken Tikka Masala
- ◆ Hot Minted New Potatoes
- ◆ White & Wild Rice
- ◆ Wild Mushroom Quiche Vegetarian Choice

◆ Festive Desserts & Traditional Cheeses

◆ Champagne Toast at Midnight

DISTRICT AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

6TH MAY 1999 - INFORMATION ON KEY DATES

For a full schedule of all relevant information please see the Parish Notice Board - a summary is shown below:

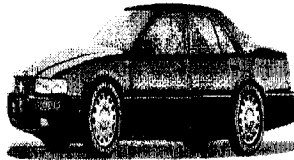
- 22nd March Nomination papers for potential candidates available
- 8th April Completed Nomination Papers to the Returning Officer by 12 Noon
- 20th April Absent Voting - applications to vote by post/ proxy must be received by 5.00pm. Electors who can not vote in person because they are on holiday, working away, sick, or disabled may apply.
- 6th May All postal votes must be received by the Returning Officer by 9.00pm
- 6th May Polling Stations open from 8am to 9pm

For forms or further information contact Mrs Rowden on 01296 585050 or see the Parish Notice Board

NO JOB TOO SMALL

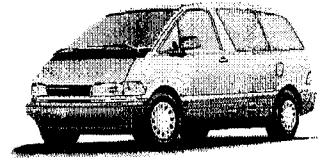
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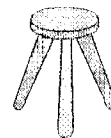
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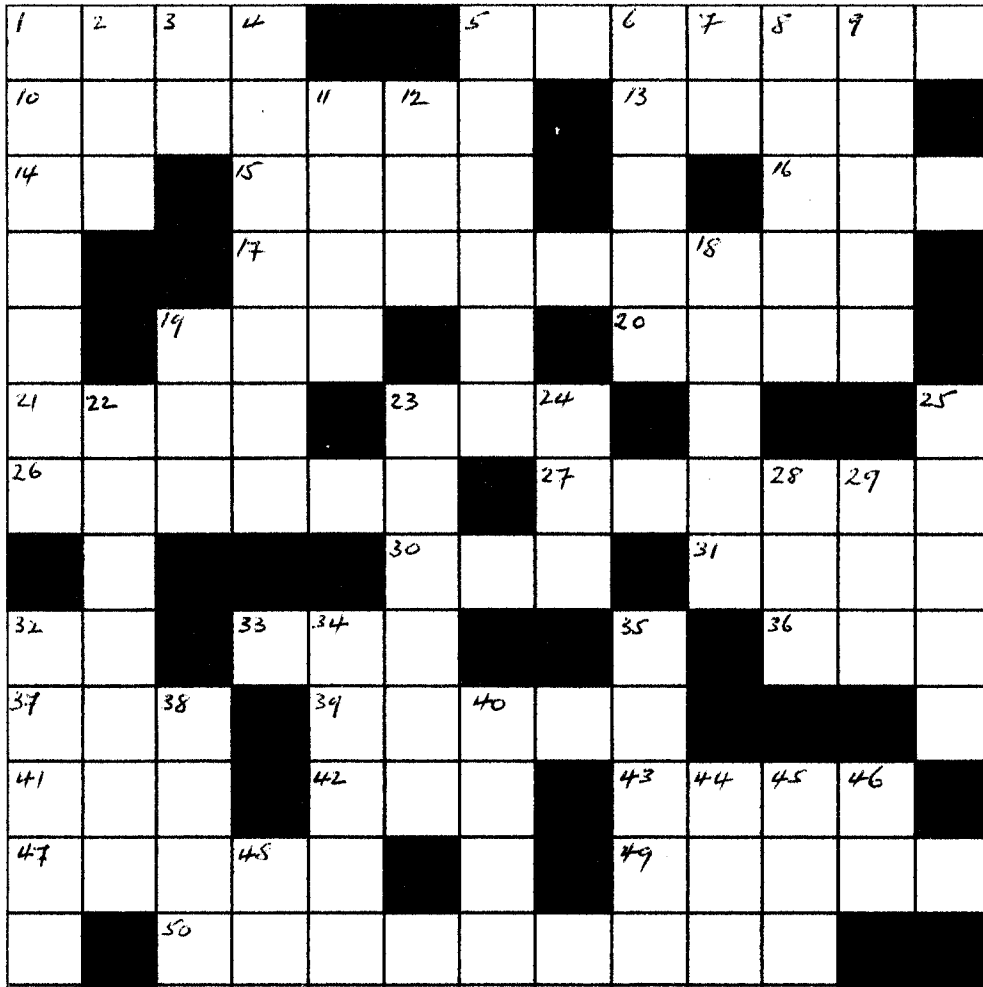
ST. JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

<u>CHURCH SERVICES</u>				<u>FROM THE REGISTERS</u>			
3rd March Wednesday	10.00	Cublington	Prayer Book communion	<u>Baptisms</u>			
7th March	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	31.1.99	Annie Boddington at Wingrave		
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	7.2.99	Samuel Pitman at Wingrave		
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service	<u>Funeral</u>			
	15.00	Wingrave	Annual Church Meeting	8.2.99	Nancy Horsfield at Wingrave and Amersham		
10th Mar Wednesday	10.00	Aston Abbots	Franciscan Service	<u>SUNDAY READINGS</u>			
14th Mar	10.00	Cublington	Family Service	7 th Mar	Lent 3 (V)	Rom 5.1 - 11	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion			John 4.5 - 42	
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion	14 th Mar	Lent 4 (V)	Eph 5.8 - 14	
17th Mar Wednesday	10.00	Rowsham	Franciscan Service		(Mothering Sunday)	John 9.1 - 41	
21st Mar	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	21 st Mar	Lent 5 (V)	Rom 8.6 - 11	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion			John 11.1 - 45	
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion	28 th Mar	Palm (R)	Phil 2.5 - 11	
	15.00	Cublington	Annual Church Meeting			Matt 21.1 - 11	
24th Mar Wednesday	10.00	Wingrave	Franciscan Service	4 th April	EASTER (W)	Col 3.1 - 4	
28th Mar	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion			Matt 28.1 - 10	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	<u>ST JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS</u>			
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion	<u>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS</u>			
1st April Thursday	20.00	Wingrave	Maundy Eucharist	Reverend R Willmott	681623		
2nd April	10.00	Aston Abbots	Good Friday Devotion	Shirley Ford	681865	Hilary Hasler	681877
	12.00	Cublington	Good Friday Devotion	Christine Fox	682024	Michael Hasler	681877
	14.00	Wingrave	Good Friday Devotion	Gordon Kemp	681763	Ann Goodman	681763
4th April	10.00	Cublington	Family Communion				
Easter	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion				
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion				

"HANDYMAN" WANTED ... Are you an active "Handyman" looking to earn a bit of extra cash? Then read on.....

Wingrave with Rowsham Parish Council is looking for a fit and active "Handyman" to work for 7 hours per week, at a rate of £6 per hour. You can arrange your own work schedule but must be able to use common sense and tact in your work and when dealing with the Public. The Parish Council has plenty of tools for most jobs and Aylesbury Vale Contractors dispose of any black bags of rubbish. If you are interested in the job please contact or write to

The Parish Clerk, Mr John Hawkes, Tattlers Hill, Wingrave, HP22 4PZ



Answers to February -Across
 1 Aylesbury. 8 Alb. 10 Inter.
 11 Eft. 12 Ember. 13 Gas. 15 Ere
 16 entered. 19 Surge. 20 Delays.
 21 Aitch. 23 Race. 24 Ails. 26
 Edits. 27 MS. 28 Ear. 30 Dane.
 32 On. 34 Weedy. 35 Clone. 38 TD
 39 Rated. 41 Aphid. 43 Ate. 44
 Wood. 46 One. 47 Mediterranean.
Down - 1 Amersham. 2 Liberal.
 3 Energise. 4 Street. 5 Be. 6 Urge
 7 Yesterday. 8 Attracted. 9 Brads.
 14 And. 17 Elain. 18 Eyes.
 22 Cure. 25 Isolated. 26 Eddy.
 29 Awed. 31 Redden. 33 Noted
 35 Cram. 36 NE. 37 Up. 38 Tina
 40 Tor. 42 Hoe. 44 We.
 45 Or.

ACROSS

- 1&5. Local town (4&7)
- 10. Canadian province (7)
- 13. USA state (4)
- 14. Postcode local Newtown (2)
- 15. LARE (anag 4)
- 16. To low (3)
- 17. Composer (9)
- 19. Married (3)
- 20. Liquid receptacles (4)
- 21. Pitcher (4)
- 23. A pen (3)
- 26. Child's toy (6)
- 27. Smoothly (6)
- 30. Humour (3)

- 31. Shout out (4)
- 32 Higher place (2)
- 33. Era (3)
- 36. A number (3)
- 37. Zero (3)
- 39. Relating to towns (5)
- 41. AND (anag 3)
- 42. Designated places (3)
- 43. Inanimate (4)
- 47. Wading bird (5)
- 49. Domed house (5)
- 50 Information, learning (9)

DOWN

- 1. Animal
- 2. The same (3)

- 3. Plates seen on cars (2)
- 4. Boy's name (7)
- 5. A tree (6)
- 6. Worn outdoors (5)
- 7. Exclamation (2)
- 8. To copy (5)
- 9. Benefits (5)
- 11. Water plant (4)
- 12. Used in roads (3)
- 18. Keen (5)
- 19. Damp (3)
- 22. Area E. London (7)
- 23. Needle users (6)
- 24. Still (3)
- 25. Poet (5)

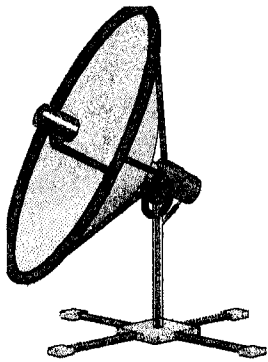
- 28. Expresses denial (3)
- 29. An edict (3)
- 32. Below (5)
- 34. Zest (5)
- 35. Untied (5)
- 38. Bird. (4)
- 40. An account (4)
- 44. To urge (3)
- 45. Beer (3)
- 46. To perform (2)
- 48. Printer's measure (2)

GREAT NEWS ABOUT MORE COMPETITONS.....

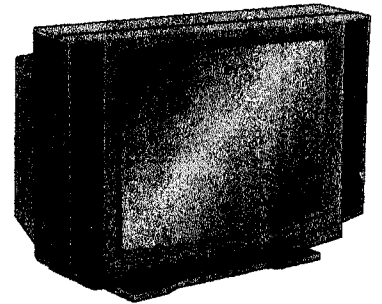
After an absence of a month, the ever popular (ahem..Ed.) Chronicle Word Search is back on page 19

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

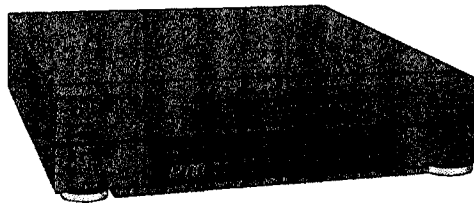


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