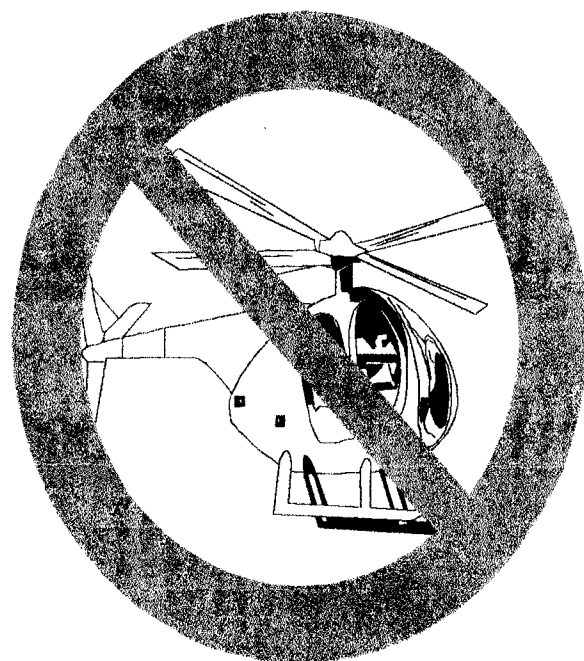


# THE CHRONICLE

**ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE**  
**ISSUE 178 - APRIL 1999 - EASTER**

INSIDE .....

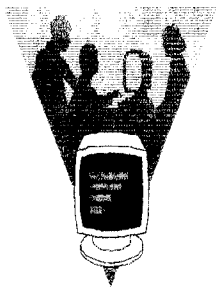
**EXCLUSIVE INSIDE**  
- DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TO STAND  
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## Editorial -

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 1999

This month saw the 3 monthly(ish) meeting of **THE CHRONICLE'S** Editorial team, held as ever at The Bull. Contrary to popular belief, this is not an excuse for a few beers, but a chance for the team to compare notes, review progress, and determine the way forward.

This time, apart from establishing that there were sufficient funds to carry on printing, we decided to embark on a brave fact finding programme.

**YES - WE WILL BE ASKING YOU WHAT YOU THINK OF THE MAGAZINE!** (And probably you, and you....)

As **THE CHRONICLE** has evolved many new features have appeared, styles have changed, and some items may have been dropped - we hope to find out exactly what the village thinks! The team will ask "volunteers" from all walks of village life to comment on the paper and its contents. Of course, if you have something to say you don't have to wait to be asked!

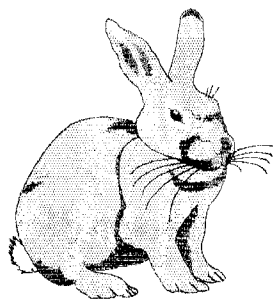
Moving on to more general village matters, we have entered the Bucks best kept village competition. As part of our challenge there will be a 'litterblitz' in the village on 17<sup>th</sup> April - come along and do your bit and help tidy the village!

Elsewhere, I have received a poem from a sad villager, upset that his or her "Pub Poem" didn't make it past the censor. Unfortunately lack of space precludes its inclusion this month, but do not fear - the poem (not the original, alas) should make it into next month's issue.

Also missing this month, again due to lack of space, are the entertainment guide (two new venues for us to visit) and the word search - these will all make next month's **CHRONICLE**.

### 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



# HAPPY EASTER

Also next month, **THE CHRONICLE** will be going technological - we will be giving you a new e-mail address for you to write to us, and hopefully WebMaster Pat (Donovan) will be able to tell you about our web site - more next month...

Anyway, enough of my ranting - enjoy!

*Andi Swain*

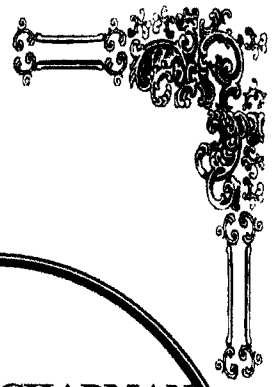
### AND IN THIS BUMPER ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- In the Village - lots of local matters
- Keep Round Aston Pure
- AAH!
- Mini Madness
- Hot from the Hustings - political scoops
- The Village Meeting
- The Dinton Hermit
- Crossword Competition
- What's on in the village this month
- A lesson from The Head Teacher
- More Tea?
- All of our regular sections and more !

A note to all would be advertisers - more than 175 households receive **THE CHRONICLE** 11 times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines!)  
**can you afford not to be in?**

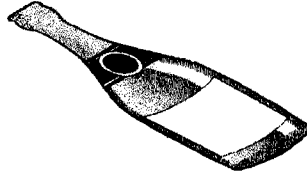
Copy date for May issue is April 23<sup>rd</sup> - please pass items to Andi Swain at 2 Nash's Farm or to a member of the Production Team. Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbotts.

# RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE



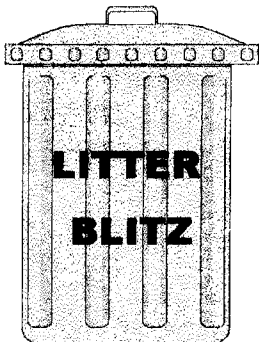
Aston Abbotts wishes a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to everybody celebrating in **April**, especially

Chris Farrands	1st	Sam King	20th
Ian Hinds	4th	Alison Lewis	20th
Caroline Lane	5th	Thomas Stefancyk	22nd
Philip Weaton	6th	Enid Ludlam	23rd
Karen Brandon	7th	Janet Biddle	25th
Laura Whyte	11th	Kate Curry	27th
Anthony Palmer	13th	Diana Picking	28th
Robert Clarke	18th		



## RICHARD CHAPMAN

June and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for the kind messages of sympathy that were given on our sad loss, and also the very generous donations to Milton Keynes Retired Greyhounds. We would also like to thank the many who attended the Church service.

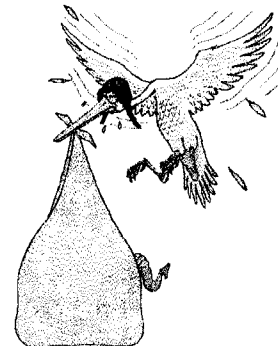


There will be a Litter Blitz in the village on

**SATURDAY 17th APRIL.**

Meet at The Church Room at 10.30am to collect binbags and instructions.

Come along and do your bit for the community - the more people who help, the less work there will be!



## CONGRATULATIONS

to Alison and Carl Bowden on the birth of their daughter Abby Louise on March 16th - a sister for John

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

## BABYSITTING

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or Sarah on 681740



## THE CHRONICLE

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	Inside	£ 25
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	Inside	£ 15
EIGHTH PAGE	Back	£ 15
	Inside	£ 10
Front page 1/8 <sup>th</sup> size per month		£ 5
OTHER SIZES	Inside	£ 10

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**Ivan Greenaway, 1 Nash's Farm,  
Aston Abbots, Aylesbury  
Tel 01296 682605**

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**JOHN WHYTE**  
14 Bricstock - tel. 681685

**GEORGE FOX**  
1 Church Row - tel. 682024

**TONY HINDS**  
6 The Green - tel. 681454

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

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

**TOM MANNING (Chairman)**  
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

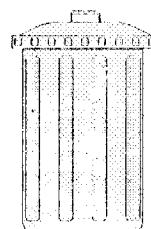
**JOHN SANSOME**  
Longmore Farm 681010

District Councillor  
**BRYAN ROUND**  
11 Nup End, Wingrave 681621

County Councillor  
**BRENDA JENNINGS**  
2 Cotes Way, Wing 681065

## LOCAL RECYCLING

Collection points are available at  
**The Bull & Butcher, Aston Abbots  
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**CANS** - All types accepted including aluminium and steel  
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.

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ROUND TO STEP DOWN NEXT MONTH

Bryan Round, District Councillor for Aston Abbotts, has announced that he will be stepping down at the next election.



Brian Round has been our representative on matters from local planning and traffic issues to schools and housing for the past 16 years.

But **THE CHRONICLE** can reveal that after so many years of public service he will be standing down at the forthcoming election on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

As we go to press, **THE CHRONICLE** is aware of at least one Independent candidate who will be offering himself to the electorate.

Colin Smart, a retired City businessman and former East Herts District Councillor living in Wingrave has indicated that he is prepared to make a return to local politics. Born and brought up locally, Colin feels passionately about the area and is confident that he can continue Brian's good work.

The final date for nominations is April 8<sup>th</sup>, after which time we will know if anybody else is standing. But whoever seeks election, you can have your say on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Remember, unlike recent years there could be a contest.

Look out for more details "hot from the hustings" in next month's **CHRONICLE** and expect a knock or two on your door from candidates inviting you to exercise your prerogative!

Ed.

## IS THIS MINI-MADNESS???

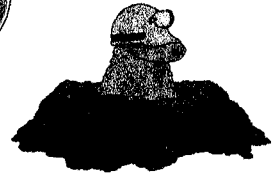
The mini-roundabout phenomenon could be about to descend upon our rural landscape!

Yep, that marvellous feature of many of our local towns (and some might say the only interesting one!) is being suggested as a possible cure to a local village's speeding traffic problem.

Picture it - Hemel's "Bonkers Bumps" or Aylesbury's "Mad Molehills" in the middle of the local countryside!

But seriously, our sister paper *The Crier* last month reported on an open meeting held in Cublington to discuss measures to bring an end to the problems of cars speeding through the village. In particular, a scheme has been proposed for the High Street and Wing Road including raised areas and narrowings.

The residents present also asked the Parish Council to consider additional measures for Aston Abbotts



Road and Stewkley Road.

Also suggested was a mini-roundabout at the crossroads, which the Parish Council agreed to look in to - we await their findings with interest.

Of course, these measures will have a direct impact on the majority of us as we use the routes in question.

Will narrowings and speed humps slow traffic down or create additional hazards? Do you feel that the introduction of a mini-roundabout is a necessity of modern rural traffic control or are you against further urbanisation of the villages? Do you have an alternative?

**THE CHRONICLE** would like to hear what you think. Also, our Parish Council will be consulted over the proposals so let a councillor know your thoughts on the matter - your views and ideas could have a direct impact on the final scheme.

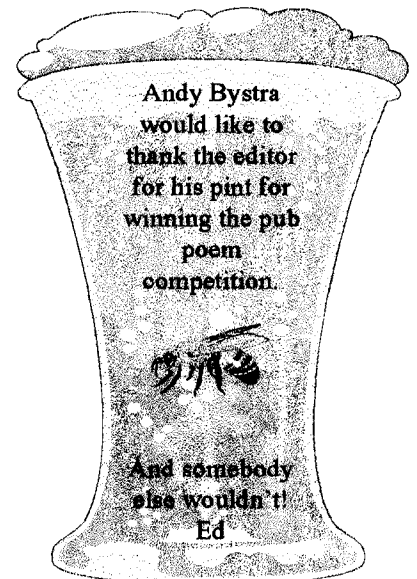
Ed.

## Coffee Morning

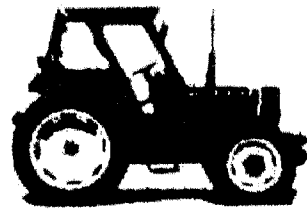
Judging from the attendance at the coffee morning held on the 20th March, it would appear that these events are becoming increasingly popular.

For a few 'pence' we enjoyed a couple of cups of coffee and (since 'the lady from Ross Road' was late) the pick of a goodly selection of biscuits. Most important of all of course, was the good company providing a fund of 'village stories', cheerful banter all adding up to a pleasant and welcome break from the Saturday morning chores.

There was in addition a small sale of locally made pastries and the obligatory raffle; all of which raised £65 for church funds.



# RGC

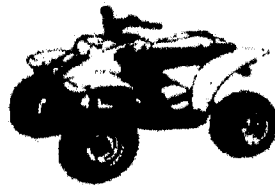


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# IN THE VILLAGE 2.

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Aston Abbotts has been entered this year (after a few years absence!).

Although specific features in the village have to be identified on a map ( Church, Recreation Ground, Church Room etc. ), the village will be judged *as a whole* and not just on those features.

Preliminary judging will take place between 28<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June, followed by a final inspection in early July, with the winner is announced on 9th July. **SO.....The rest is up to you** - Keep those hedges trimmed, lawns cut and front gardens neat and tidy and we might be able to sport a 'Best Kept Village' sign for the new Millennium.



## 1999 ASTON ABBOTTS FETE

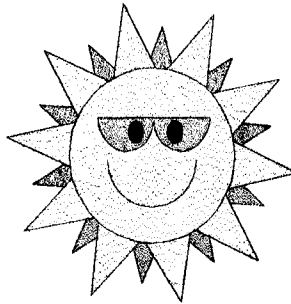
The date for this year's fete is Saturday 24th July, so put that in your diaries.

The first committee meeting is to be held at 8.00pm on Friday 9th April at our house. Anyone who is at all interested, or has any ideas, please come. Do not be put off by the term "committee meeting." It is very informal and it would be marvellous to see some new faces.

Anyone who would like to help in any way on the day, but is not keen on coming to the meetings, please give us a call. There are a few vacancies this year due to people leaving, retiring etc. and most stalls can always do with some extra help.

Last year's fete made record profits, which all goes towards our village. Equally important, it was a very enjoyable afternoon for everyone there. So let's make this year's fete another grand success.

Barbara Bellingham and David DeSilva  
The Old House, 29 The Green - Telephone 01296 681 689



## CHRONICLE ADVERTISING RATES

**THE CHRONICLE** has held its advertising rates for many years now, despite terrific increases in the costs of print and production. Alas, the costs have overtaken us and we can hold those rates no more! Page 3 (where else?) contains details of the new rates for 1999 and beyond.

Of course, **THE CHRONICLE** still represents excellent value! Distributed free to over 175 households your advert will be seen by more than 500 people. And copies are also passed to our local Doctors' surgeries guaranteeing extra readership.

## NEW PRIME SLOT FOR 1999 - THE FRONT PAGE FOR ONLY A FIVER....

In a new innovative move **THE CHRONICLE** is offering one solo, eighth of a page advert slot on the front cover of each issue, on a month-to-month basis.

You can secure this spot for just £5 for the May issue - first come, first served.

To take advantage of this exceptional opportunity call Ivan Greenaway on 01296 682605.

Finally, to all of our readers - please support our advertisers by using their services and let them know where you saw their ad. It's their contribution that helps to keep **THE CHRONICLE** free.

Ed.

## Nash's Farm (the final chapter!)

Well, the last four houses on the old Nash's Farm site are nearing completion and I would judge we will have 'new neighbours' within the next couple of months.

After all the argument about the premature knocking down of the 'black barn' (and many of us are still more than a little sore about how 'Banner' went about it), and the high density of their initial proposals for this final phase, it will be nice to see these last four finished and occupied. Being the early part of the summer, no doubt it won't be long before those moving in will have the gardens 'shipshape' and this little corner will be transformed from untidy building site to a very pleasant corner of the village.

I just hope however, that we have all learned from our dealings over the initial phases of this planning application just how tricky and ruthless developers can be and be better prepared the next time.





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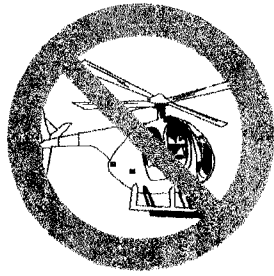
**01296 681520**



# IN THE VILLAGE 3.

## HELI BELLI!

Another Chopper Chapter this month! Following last month's exclusive scoop, all "heli" has broken out in Aston Abbotts, spurring the mysterious "Church Spier" to rotate into action!



### The Editor, Aston Abbotts Chronicle

I read with increasing anxiety the comments made in your last issue about establishing a heliport in this village. I appreciate that this is a licence for occasional use but, I ask myself, where will it end? How many helicopters will be using it and how often?

I can see that several local commuters - no names, no pack drill - will be straight in there taking advantage of this "facility" and I predict that, without action, in a couple of months we will be inundated with low flying, house buzzing, chimney clipping cowboys.

Is this why we moved to the country? Did we come here to listen to cows mooing, sheep baaing and pub landlords complaining? Did we fight the third London airport only to be defeated by the back door?

All questions that need an answer. Who will give us that answer? Who can we trust?

I moved here following a very bad experience in my last village. When we moved to Heathrow in 1964 there was hardly a plane to be seen. Now look at it. Did Heathrow start with an occasional licence? Another question that needs answering.

I have to say that this problem needs someone to take it on, to deal with it, to tackle it up front and I'm your man. So I'm starting today. I need you all to join my group and to sign my petition. I'll be calling door to door over the next few days.

Come and join me and my group, which is to be known as

### KEEP ROUND ASTON PURE.

Come and join me. Give us your support. Of course, as you will all know, any brand new organisation needs funding so this is also a call for donations. About £100 each should get us started. Don't baulk at this sum. Justice doesn't come cheap.

Donations (cash only I'm afraid) to Box No 1, The Chronicle. Remember give me your support and help



The  
Church  
Spier

Next month's scoop... Keep Round Aston Pure group strikes strategic alliance with Aston Abbotts Racing and Social Enterprise. Ed.

## AAH!



The Aston Abbotts History group met at the Bull & Butcher on March 23rd, joined by Vic Scott, to discuss the progress made so far with the project. It turned out that Dickie Dicken must have spent the whole of the last month in

the county library and museum and has already collected a veritable mountain of historical information. He is now starting to flesh out the bare bones with "social history details".

Shirley Ford has been busy ferreting through church records and is accumulating some really useful and interesting information. Our thanks to Ruth Watts who has kindly lent us the file she compiled about Aston Abbotts while working in the county library - it's packed with all sorts of amazing documents.

Paul Ridgeley has made a start with photographing the village - giving Colin heart failure by hanging from the church tower with one hand while snapping away with the other. Paul and Colin are just about to start interviewing and photographing some of



the older villagers to collect their memories. Colin has also spoken to the vicar who is happy for us to use the church for the exhibition in November.

Peter Shorrocks has started compiling a flow chart which will show events in Aston Abbotts set against national and international events.

We also discussed funding, both short term to cover the cost of the photography, and long term to cover publishing costs. We decided to apply for a grant from the Millennium Fund which will give up to £5000 for projects to benefit the community.

All this seems like good news. The only real disappointment is that only eight households have agreed to be photographed.

Obviously everyone else is perfectly prepared to take part but haven't got round to returning the form to Paul! Come on everybody - pull your fingers out and **DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT NOW!**

The Next meeting is on Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm at The Bull & Butcher

(Make that 9 households now. Ed.)

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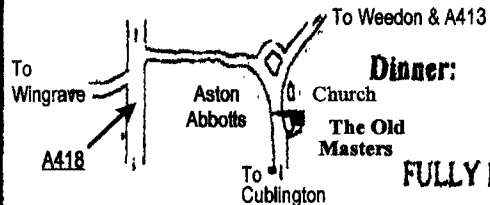
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**for further information.**

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# Race Night and Senior Citizens Party!

**TUESDAY 28th DECEMBER 1999**

Last month we outlined proposals for a free Senior Citizens/Older Villagers party. Things have progressed a little since then and the latest proposals are that:

**The Senior Citizens of Aston Abbotts are invited to a free afternoon tea at celebrate the millennium.**

**Celebrations will be held in the HEATED marquee at Oak Farm on Tuesday 28th December 1999.**

**Jack Rennie has volunteered to play the piano.**

**Transport can be provided (if needed).**

## **What would you like ?**

Obviously, we need to establish what other ideas people may have and what the Senior Citizens of Aston Abbotts would like to receive in terms of food, drink and entertainment etc. Please remember, these celebrations are to be paid for by a Race Night to be held earlier in the year and we need volunteers to help organise both of these events.

**Interested ?, Over the Moon ?** If you are interested in attending the party or helping organise one of these events, have any suggestions for food, drink and entertainment, have any other ideas, then please, please, please complete the coupon below and hand/send it to:

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

**Margaret Kent 6, The Green - tel: 681459**

---

## **I would Like to Attend the Free Senior Citizens Party**

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

Address.....

The number of people who would like to attend the free 'senior citizens party' is \_\_\_\_\_

## **Other Suggestions (e.g. Food, Drink and Entertainment)**

.....  
.....

## **I am a Willing Helper**

**I am interested in helping organise the race night and/or free 'senior citizens party.'**

Name.....Phone No.....

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Lyme Bay and Golden Cap.**

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

# IN THE VILLAGE 4.

## Church Grass

Last year, a decision was made to leave part of the churchyard grass uncut to create a small area in which to encourage wild flowers and to reduce the work load in mowing. As part of its continuing development, this year, the area has been reshaped and slightly enlarged.

The next phase is to introduce wild flowers to recreate a small example of the hay meadows of yesteryear, the passing of which many now bemoan. However, contrary to popular belief this will not (within a reasonable period) happen by itself; neither is it a matter of just scattering a few seeds. Advice from Vic Scott suggests direct planting is the best way to achieve our aims.



The purpose of this note is to inform those of you who are interested as to the aims of the project and to ask if you would like to help in raising wild flowers from seed for planting when they are mature, and/or donating any such plants you may have currently growing in your garden. They need to be native wild plants such as field poppy, dog daisy, knap weed, etc. If you do, please contact Anne Goodman on 681763 or Andy Bystra on 681690.

Footnote;- If you find yourself with a few minutes to spare and like plants, a short walk around the churchyard is quite interesting this time of year since there are large numbers of aconite's, wild pansies and primroses. Even the grass has been cut so you shouldn't need your wellie.



## ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

We have had to re-arrange our programmes for various reasons, and were, therefore, grateful to Victor Scott for giving us a most interesting talk on India, illustrated by slides.

We began March with our usual Spring Lunch. The tables were beautifully decorated with both food and flowers.

On March 25th, Mr. Hugh Granger is speaking on "Our Ancestor's Superstitions". Anyone is welcome to join our afternoons. Our meeting on April 8th begins with a 'Bring & Buy', in aid of the Florence Nightingale Hospice, followed by tea and a chat.

## ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

UNOFFICIAL NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 1999.

### Matters Arising

- **The trees along Wingrave Road.** These are being lopped following a report on their generally unsafe condition.
- **Banner Homes** has agreed to pay £ 1.50 compensation to the Parish Council for inconvenience caused by the siting of the port-a-cabins on the grass verge.
- **Notice board.** The Parish Council notice board is to be replaced with a new (watertight) one.

### Election

Parish and District Council elections are to take place on May 6th. For details and key dates please see the village notice board.

### Planning

**Appeal by Mr. M. Meiris: Land adjoining Longmoor Barns, Cublington Road, Aston Abbots.**

The Council has withdrawn the enforcement notice and the Secretary of State will be taking no further action on the appeal. The Council has issued a further notice in respect of the site and we will be informed if an appeal is lodged.

### Highways

- **Parking on The Green.** Some groups using the Church Room persistently double park their cars on The Green, thus causing an obstruction.
- **Signpost for the Royal Oak.** It was agreed that the concealed entrance to the pub constitutes a road hazard. Resolved to write to the Highways Dept. requesting advice.

### Best - kept village competition.

We will be entering the competition this year.

### Manhole cover in Bricstock.

There is a damaged, possibly dangerous manhole cover in Bricstock. It will be investigated.

### Litterblitz.

A Litterblitz will be held in the village on 17th April 1999 (see Rita's page for full details - Ed.)

### Postal Deliveries.

These have become very late in the village recently. A letter of complaint will be sent.

### Date of next meeting.

Wednesday April 7th. 1999. Everybody is welcome to come along.

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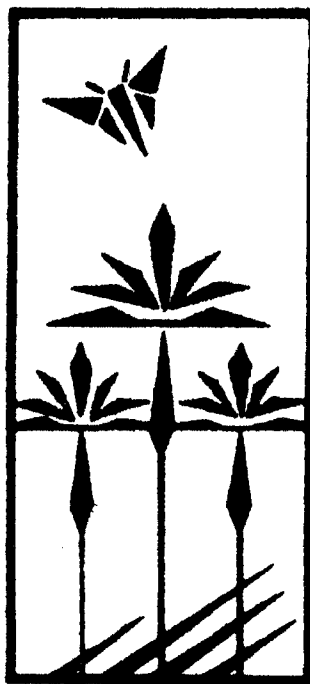
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# Country



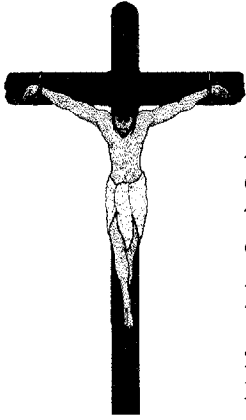
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## RECTOR'S REPORT - APRIL 1999

A few weeks ago I had a letter from BBONT, our local wildlife Trust, asking me to help with their Mistletoe Survey. For all I know, many other people in Wingrave, Rowsham, Aston Abbots and Cublington may also have received them. Apparently our Christmas custom, which goes back at least to the early 17th Century, of kissing under the mistletoe is now under threat because the removal of old orchards is making the mistletoe an endangered species.

My first reaction was to throw the survey form in the waste bin. I have no mistletoe growing in my garden, so therefore I have no information to send in. But I have a feeling that there is probably some growing somewhere in these three parishes - and, if there is, I hope that it will be included in the BBONT Survey.

The Church has long had a thing about mistletoe. I did try to find out about it - but didn't discover very much. It has pre-Christian symbolism and was venerated by the Druids, especially if it grew on an oak tree. There are also links with human sacrifice, possibly through the berries which could be poisonous, but these links are not very clear.

Mistletoe is something that we associate with Christmas - and we are tempted to forget that it is a parasitic plant that grows for many years on its host plant - which is often an apple tree. One obvious link between it and the Christmas story comes through kissing. Kissing involves the invasion of the personal space of another person. At Christmas we remember how God invaded our personal space by taking our human nature and living on earth like we do.

Part of the story of the Cross is that Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus with a kiss. It was a kiss that led Jesus to the Cross, and the Cross that gives us new life through Easter's Empty Tomb. The kiss of Judas may have seemed like the "kiss of death", yet it had its place in the story of God's plan for his world. There is something about the Cross, with its human sacrifice, that does not seem very far from the mistletoe.

For many people, the Good news of Easter is as much an endangered species as mistletoe. Of course we may think that we can manage Christmas just as well without mistletoe. After all there are still all the other bits left, and our society is as good at inventing new customs as previous generations. But we shall be very hard pushed indeed to come up with something that will replace the story of Jesus that forms the basis for our celebrations of Christmas and Easter.

Whilst mistletoe may be an optional extra to the celebration of Christmas, we need to be very careful that we don't place too high a value upon it. After all, what really matters is not how many people we manage to kiss under it, nor even whether it continues to thrive in this country. What really matters is that we do not forget that at Christmas God sent his only Son into the world - and that at Easter Jesus triumphed over all the forces of evil and, in so doing, enables us to share in the new and eternal life of God himself.

If the mistletoe carries the stigma of its pre-Christian past, the Rising of Jesus from the dead gives us the assurance of a glorious future.

**BOB WILLMOTT**

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### STEPS AND PEDALS: CYCLING AWARENESS

Over the past few weeks, a team of volunteers from Wingrave has been attending training sessions and planning a cycling awareness course for children aged 10 and over. The course is designed by Bucks County Council and has been running for several years now in Buckinghamshire and other Counties; without doubt, it has helped to reduce the number of serious accidents incurred by children on bicycles.

The Wingrave course will consist of a parents'

briefing session followed by ten training sessions from 9.30am to 11.00am on Sunday mornings at the school.



The parents' briefing session will be at 9.30 on Sunday 25 April, and the training sessions will follow over the

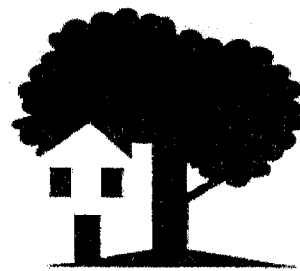
subsequent weeks.

The course has already been advertised within Wingrave school, but is also open to other children in the village, subject to places still being available. Anyone who would like more information and/or a place on the course is invited to contact Andrew Muir on 01296 681513 not later than Sunday 11 April.

Parents should note that Bucks County Council requires that children must attend each session of the course and have a roadworthy bicycle; children missing sessions and /or having an unroadworthy bicycle will not be allowed to continue on the course.

---

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## WHAT'S ON IN APRIL 1999

<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup></b> 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Good Friday - HOT X Buns
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b> 11.15am 2.00pm	Easter Day Communion at St. James Church Rambling Club members meet Mursley
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b> 2.00pm	Aylesbury Vale Holiday Walk - Wing Church
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b> 2.00pm	Jumble Sale in The Church Room from 2 - 4pm
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup></b> 12 noon	Aylesbury Vale Holiday Walk - Five elms, Weedon
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b> 10.30am	LITTERBLITZ DAY - The Green (Just turn up)
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b> 2.00pm	SPONSORED WALK IN AID OF ST. JAMES - The Green Sponsorship forms from Shirley Ford
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b> 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b> 2.00pm	Rambling Club members meet Woburn
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup></b> 7.00pm	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm Floral Class in The Church Room
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
<b>Monday</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> 12.35pm	Bank Holiday Coach trip to Swiss Gardens / Old Walden Departing from The Bull & Butcher Tickets £ 5 - Book with Colin
<b>Thursday</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	District & Parish Council elections at The Church Room From 8am to 9pm

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**Tickets cost just £5 -  
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**Kids  
bored  
this  
Easter?**

Some places to visit

- Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway (Pages Park)
- Woburn Wildlife Park
- Aylesbury Museum
- Quanton Railway Centre (Quanton Station)
- Historic Oxford (Various museums, buildings, gardens, shopping and the river)
- London

### CHURCH FLOWERS FOR APRIL

W/E 3 / 4 Easter - As Detailed  
W/E 17/18 Mrs Loader  
W/E 24/25 Mrs Wier  
W/E 1 / 2 May Mrs Ford

### SIDESMEN FOR APRIL

4 <sup>th</sup>	Mr C Higgs	18 <sup>th</sup>	Mr G Kemp
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mr J Hartnett	25 <sup>th</sup>	Mr C Higgs
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Mr J Hartnett		

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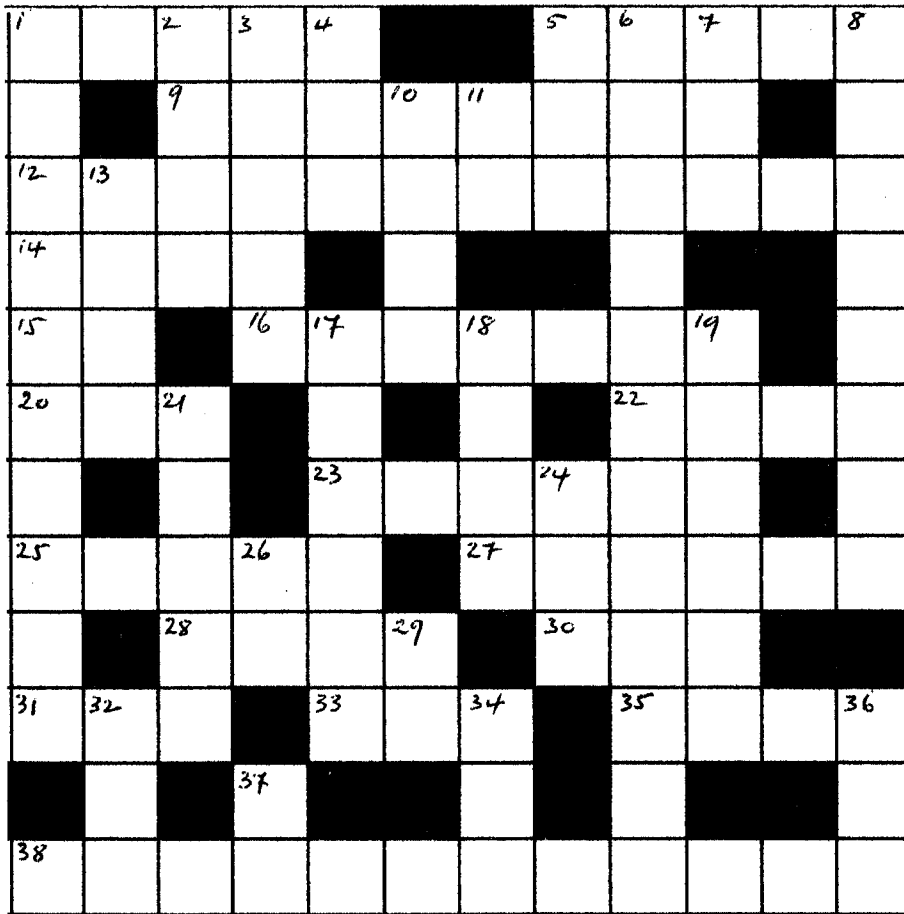
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Answers to March. **ACROSS**

- 1&5 High Wycombe. 10 Alberta. 13 Ohio
- 14 MK. 15 Real. 16 Moo. 17 Bernstein
- 19 Wed. 20 Sacs. 21 Ewer. 23 Sty. 26 Rattle. 27 Evenly. 30 Wit. 31 Roar. 32 Up
- 33 Age. 36 Two. 37 Nil. 39 Urban. 41 DNA.
- 42 SSL. 43 Dea. 47 Egret. 49 Igloo.
- 50 Knowledge.

**DOWN:**

- 1 Hamster. 2 Ilk. 3 GB. 4 Herbert.
- 5 Walnut. 6 Coats. 7 Oh. 8 Mimic. 9 Boons
- 11 Reed. 12 Tar. 18 Eager. 19 Wet.
- 22 Wapping. 23 Sewers. 24 Yet. 25 Byron
- 28. Not. 29 Law. 32 Under. 34 Gusto.
- 35 Undid. 38 Lark. 40 Bill. 44 Egg. 45 Ale.
- 46 Do. 48 En

**ACROSS**

- 1. Fully satisfied (5)
- 5. To Plait, intertwine (5)
- 9. A slaughterhouse (8)
- 12. A Bucks Village (5&7)
- 14. Village in Shropshire (4)
- 15. To exist (2)
- 16. Submitted; produced (7)
- 20. Uneven; peculiar (3)
- 22. To enlist (4)

- 23. French politician (6)
- 25. Farm in USA (5)
- 27. To irritate, worry (6)
- 28. Paradise (4)
- 30. Payment for services (3)
- 31. To finish (3)
- 33. Full stop (3)
- 35. A notion (4)
- 38. BOTH ROUGH RON (anag 12)

**DOWN**

- 1. N.Bucks village (10)
- 2. Art Gallery (4)
- 3. Hard black wood (5)
- 4. Boy's name (3)
- 5. A curtsy; old coin (3)
- 6. S. American town (3,2&7)
- 7. Skill (3)
- 8. Space between two objects (8)
- 10. To seize (4)
- 11. A disease (2)
- 13. A pip (4)

- 17. Moved very slowly (6)
- 18. A den (4)
- 19. Ships have done this when coming into port (6)
- 21. Ate a meal (6)
- 24. One of the sevices (3)
- 26. A small disc (2)
- 29. Negative (2)
- 32. Abbr. for Compass point (2)
- 34. Also (2)
- 36. A tree (3)
- 37. Royal letters (2)

**Village competition** Aston Abbots is being entered in the best kept village competition this year so it is hoped that everyone will make an extra effort to ensure their gardens,

property and adjacent areas are kept even tidier than usual in the hope of impressing the judges. We will publish further information in later **CHRONICLES**.

Andy and Helen Welcome You to

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The cottages are in the southern Dordogne, near the mediaeval town of Eymet, 12 miles from the historic city of Bergerac and just over an hour from Bordeaux.

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# IN THE VILLAGE 5.

## THE DINTON HERMIT

An historical article by Colin Higgs.

A few years ago all the locals had heard of the DINTON HERMIT, even if they did not know that his name was John Biggs, whose picture adorns the iron signs of the Dinton Hermit at Ford, a village some 1½ miles from Dinton.

A pair of his shoes survive, one of them was kept at Dinton Hall and another sent to the Ashmellow museum at Oxford.

John Biggs, believed to be a native of Dinton, was born on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1629 and on his death on April 4<sup>th</sup> 1696 was buried at Dinton.

He was employed as a clerk by Simon Mayne who owned Dinton Hall and was related to many chief families that adopted the cause of Parliament. Mayne was elected MP for Aylesbury and was one of the Judges who signed Charles 1<sup>st</sup>'s death warrant. It was said that while living at Dinton Hall Simon Mayne for a time eluded the Royalists by taking refuge in a secret hiding place under the roof gables and gained access by a tunnel lined with cloth; the 3 lower steps of a staircase lifted up to give entrance to the tunnel

through which he crawled.

Simon Mayne yielded himself to the authorities in 1660 and later stood trial at The Old Bailey where he died of deteriorated health on April 13<sup>th</sup> 1661.



His body was handed over to his widow for burial at Dinton.

After his master's downfall and the subsequent restoration of the Royal line John Biggs (the Hermit), although a fair scholar, took himself to a cave in the grounds of Dinton Hall where he lived the life of a hermit.

His clothes - trousers, coat and a hooded cloak - he kept going, like his shoes by continuous patching. He existed on charity but never asked for anything but leather which he used for the patching. His shoes were composed of countless small patches of leather, in parts 6-10 layers thick.

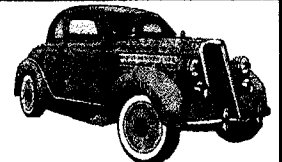
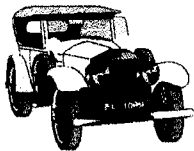
The Ashmellow shoe measured at the bottom was 13 inches long by 6 inches across and weighed 4lb 5 ounces in its dry state.

He lived for about 35 years in the cave known as Biggs' Cave and emerged in summer in usual garb frightening children as he went to the woods. But in spite of his terrifying appearance and bad reputation, prompted by curiosity People came from all parts to bring him food, milk, and ale; he carried the liquid refreshment in 3 bottles (probably made of leather) suspended from his waist.

Sir John VanHatten who acquired Dinton Hall at a later date had the ground at the site of Biggs' Cave dug over but nothing was found.

Today if anyone asks the way to the Dinton Hermit they are probably seeking refreshment at the pub of that name in Ford!

COLIN HIGGS



## CHILTERN HILLS VINTAGE VEHICLE RALLY

WESTON ROAD, NEXT TO AYLESBURY RUGBY CLUB

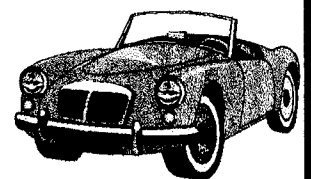
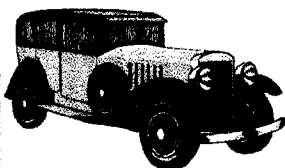
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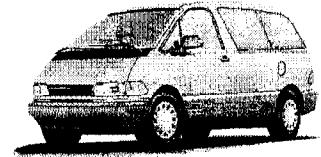
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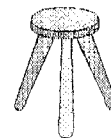
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# ST. JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

<u>CHURCH SERVICES</u>				<u>FROM THE REGISTERS</u>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b> Thursday	20.00	Wingrave	Maundy Eucharist	<b>Baptisms</b>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	10.00	Aston Abbots	Good Friday Devotion	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Grace Rayner	at Cublington
Good	12.00	Cublington	Good Friday Devotion	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Samuel Smith	at Wingrave
Friday	14.00	Wingrave	Good Friday Devotion	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Oliver Roberts	at Wingrave
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> Saturday	18.00	Wingrave	Saturday Pause	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Emily Roberts	at Wingrave
<b>4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00	Cublington	Family Communion	<b>Funeral</b>		
Easter	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	5 <sup>th</sup> March	Richard Chapman at Aston Abbots	
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion	<b>SUNDAY READINGS</b>		
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b> Wednesday	10.00	Cublington	Prayer Book communion	4 <sup>th</sup> April	EASTER	Col 3.1-4
<b>11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion			Matt 28.1-10
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	11 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter 2	1 Pet 1.3-9
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion			John 20.19-31
<b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b> Wednesday	10.00	Aston Abbots	Franciscan Service	18 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter 3	1 Pet 1.17-23
<b>18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	08.00	Wingrave	Prayer Book communion			Luke 24.13-35
	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	25 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter 4	1 Pet 2.19-25
	10.00	Wingrave	Family Service	John 10.1-10	(Eph 4.7-16)	(Mark 13.5-13)
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Easter 5	1 Pet 2.2-10
<b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b> Wednesday	10.00	Rowsham	Franciscan Service			John 14.1-14
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	<b>ST JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS</b>		
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	<b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>		
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion	Reverend R Willmott 681623		
<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b> Wednesday	10.00	Wingrave	Franciscan Service	Shirley Ford 681865	Hilary Hasler 681877	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b> Saturday	18.00	Wingrave	Saturday Pause	Christine Fox 682024	Michael Hasler 681877	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	10.00	Cublington	Family Communion	Gordon Kemp 681763	Ann Goodman 681763	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion			
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion			

## COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS APPEAL..

Following last month's article in **THE CHRONICLE** concerning Tesco's vouchers for computers for schools, a volunteer has stepped forward to pass these to a local school. Claire Barnett attends Wingrave School (infants & juniors) and will be delighted to pass on Tesco Vouchers, Walkers Crisps Vouchers, or any others for that matter! In these times of budget cuts, the school needs any help it can get from voucher schemes.

**So pass your vouchers to Claire (or mum Jean) at 67 The Green (688285) or to Editor Andi Swain at 2 Nash's Farm**

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**Offices in Herts, Beds, and Bucks**



# IN THE VILLAGE 6.

## TONY'S VILLAGE SPORTS COLUMN



Since the last **CHRONICLE** we have played four league matches, beating 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Swan &

Castle 'A' 6-2 in the first. In the next game against St. John's we were short of players and had to forfeit a game, but still managed a draw.

We then played league leaders Swan & Castle 'B' beating them 5-3 in one of the most extraordinary games we have played.

Then came the big one - the Cup Final - against Swan & Castle 'B'.

We didn't function as well as we can (big match nerves, perhaps Ed.) and went down 4-2. We then played Swan & Castle 'B' again in the league in a match that we should have one but drew.

We still remain in third place in the league, just one point behind the second placed team and four points off the lead.

*Tony*

**A Froggy story that Couldn't happen here** .... Natalie Kato, our U.S. correspondent, saw this in the California Examiner (March 20, 1998)..

Fire Authorities in California found a corpse in a burnt out section of forest while assessing the damage done by a forest fire. The deceased male was dressed in a full wet suit, complete with a dive tank, flippers, and a face mask.

A post-mortem examination revealed that the person died not from burns, but from massive internal injuries. Dental records provided a positive identification. Investigators then set about determining how a fully clad diver ended up in the middle of a forest fire.

It was revealed that, on the day of the fire, the person went for a diving trip off the coast-some 20 miles away from the forest. The fire-fighters, seeking to control the fire as quickly as possible, called in a fleet of helicopters with very large buckets. The buckets were dropped into the ocean for rapid filling then flown to the forest fire and emptied. You guessed it! One minute our diver was making like Flipper in the Pacific, the next he was doing a breaststroke in a fire bucket 300 feet in the air. He apparently extinguished exactly 5'10" of the fire. Some days it just doesn't pay to get out of bed.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Jean Barnett (67 The Green - Tel: 688285) writes...

As the village Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, I receive "Ringmaster" telephone messages concerning potential crimes in the village, appeals for help in finding vehicles involved in crime, and warnings about 'scams' taking place in the district. Details of these are posted in the Shop and on the notice board at the bus shelter.

A regular N.W. magazine is also available in the shop (usually two or three copies hung behind the door, to be returned when read). The Police will attend a crime prevention evening if we would like one - if you would like me to organise this, please fill in the reply slip below and post it through my door at 67 The Green. If there is sufficient interest I will give details of the meeting in a future edition of **THE CHRONICLE**.

### WELL FANCY THAT .....

runners-up will be drawn at the pub on April 4.

## Village show dies from lack of support

APATHY has led to the 1999 Wing Village Show being cancelled.

Almost 1,200 leaflets promoting the annual show were distributed via the parish magazine, What's On In Wing.

Only 10 people bothered to reply.

The committee thanks all those who have supported past shows and regrets that this year's will not take place due to lack of interest.

A committee member said: "Sadly the days of baking a cake and growing vegetables are disappearing.

Allot

To help ensure the Aston Abbots fete meets a happier end (and beats last year's record) read the article on Page 6 of **THE CHRONICLE**.

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## I / WE WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND A VILLAGE CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Jean Barnett, 67 The Green ( Telephone 688285).

# IN THE VILLAGE 7.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> WINGRAVE SCOUT GROUP

**BEAVERS** The Beavers are busy this half term thinking about special events arising such as Mother Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter and also looking at things growing as we move in to Spring. We are looking forward to the forthcoming District Beaver Quiz and the Beaver's Tenpin Bowling Tournament at Jardines where 1<sup>st</sup> Wingrave will be well represented.

We have recently invested two new Beavers, Jack Whitehouse and Jordan Grace and our colony is both lively and active! After Easter Sue Ascott will be taking over as Beaver Scout Leader as John Bower will be moving away from the village. 1<sup>st</sup> Wingrave would like to thank John for all his hard work and dedication in keeping us going.

If anyone would like to become involved in helping the colony for 1 hour each Monday evening in term time, please contact Sue Ascott 681878 or Jan Antiesowicz 681430.

**CUBS** We have had a particularly active month in March, some of which has been due to District events. Those Cubs who have taken part have really enjoyed themselves.

On Sunday 7th we took part in a joint service at the Methodist Church. Later that day we had a team of Cubs entered in the Crystal Maze competition. The team had to complete a number of challenges in the fastest time. Our Cubs did so in record time, really working as a team to come joint 1<sup>st</sup> with Ivinghoe and Pitstone. Sunday 14th saw three teams of Cubs at Jardines for the Ten-Pin Bowling Tournament. All the Cubs enjoyed the challenge and out of approximately 100 teams, we came 2nd and 4th! All of our Cubs who joined in this year won either a trophy or a Cub Scout medal.

The Cubs have been working for their Scientist's badge, completing a number of varied experiments over two pack meetings. The month ended with a joint swimming event at Wendover with the Scouts at the end of which we had a going-up ceremony for Matthew George and Edward Westlake who are moving up to Scouts. We wish them well in their future Scouting. We also send our good wishes with Luke Henley who is transferring to a Troop closer to his home. Finally we welcome Chris Hall into the Pack, he has moved here from Dunstable. We hope he settles in soon.

**SCOUTS** The month started with Rupert's talk about CHILE, which he gave to the Group and Villagers. It gave us all an interesting insight into the trip and the opportunities the Scouts had whilst they were in Chile. Well done and thank you Rupert. We may be able to excite our Cubs enough for one of them to follow in his footsteps!

We took part in the Ten-Pin bowling tournament and came 4th, well done boys! Friday 12th saw a joint Night-Hike with Cheddington. We hiked from Wingrave to Cheddington where we had a sleep over before breakfast and home.

The Scouts have been working on their Orienteering badges, with a 25km Challenge Hike at Wendover and the County Orienteering Competition at Wendover Woods. Future events include a weekend camp at Phasels Wood and a weeks summer camp to Dartmoor.

Finally we welcome Matthew Hall who has joined the troop from Dunstable, we hope he enjoys Scouting here in Wingrave. Welcome and thank-you to Leigh Pollard from the Fellowship who has been helping Sheena to run the Troop.

Julia Ellis.

## JOTTINGS FROM THE CHALK FACE

I had a bit of a shock when I entered my study one day towards the beginning of the month. There on my desk was an alien piece of modern technology. A computer! Now I admit to being a bit of a technophobe and found it difficult to cope with a slide rule at school! When I was first appointed as Head Teacher Information Technology was very much a fringe subject and all my Secretary needed was a typewriter. Things have changed and I must now try to catch up with and even surpass the IT knowledge of the average 5 year old. It will be an uphill struggle but I intend to get there.

A letter from the House of Commons arrived on my desk recently. It was from John Bercow MP congratulating me on how well the school did in the recently published league tables. John Bercow has visited the school and it is nice to receive such recognition but it is unwise to place too much store on league tables. Some children are very able, some less so. The composition of a class varies from year to year in terms of intellectual ability. The absence of a single child on the day that tests are taken can make a significant difference to the % results as can children with Special Educational Needs. There is much more to a school than where it appears in a league table.

This leads me on to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March, Red Nose Day, something that I had hoped the children might overlook as we already support a number of charities. I was wrong! Red was the order of the day and red noses, red tights, red shirts, red leggings, red makeup and even red hair assailed me as I arrived at school. And that was only the staff! The children had also gone to town and organised a variety of money making activities with the result that nearly £200 was made for those less fortunate than ourselves. I was delighted with the efforts of all involved and felt very proud of them all.

Baird McClellan - March 1999

**Mr McClellan is Head Teacher of  
Wingrave School**

# IN THE VILLAGE & (EIGHT!).

Phew .. that's most things reported in **THE CHRONICLE** this month, except for the all important annual Village meeting...

## NOTES FROM THE PARISH MEETING 1999

Held at The Church Room, Aston Abbots, Wednesday 24 March 1999, 8.00p.m. **PRESENT** Chairman of the Parish council (Tom Manning), Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting (Gordon Smith), 16 members of the Parish, the Rev Bob Willmott. Apologies received from Jean Barnett, P.C. Griggs, Barbara Bellingham, David de Silva, District Councillor Bryan Round.

### • THE CHRONICLE

Andi Swain reported that the **CHRONICLE** was in good health with 27 regular advertisers and approximately 20 regular contributors. Distribution had reached 178 copies. Readers opinions on content were to be sought informally. Finances were on an even keel - assuming the annual grant from the Parish Council could be renewed, there would be a shortfall of c. £250. Andi asked for a contribution from Fete proceedings. The Chairman and others expressed strong appreciation of the quality of **THE CHRONICLE**, and thanks to all involved.

### • VILLAGE FETE 1998

In the absence of Barbara Bellingham and David de Silva, Gordon Smith reported that the Fete had been a spectacular success. A record profit of £2462 had been made. This had been distributed as follows: St James' Church £862; Church Room £739; Recreation Ground £738; Toddlers' Group £123.

### • VILLAGE FETE 1999

Gordon Smith reported that Barbara and David had agreed to act as organisers for one more year, that preparations were already under way, and that the Festival Weekend would be 24/25 July. Regarding division of funds, as well as the application from The Chronicle, an application was made by the AA History group. The following division was agreed: St James' Church 32.5%; Church Room 25%; Recreation Ground 25%; Chronicle 10%; History Group 5%; Toddlers' Group 2.5%.

### • POLICE/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Jean Barnett, our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, has written for this month's **CHRONICLE** - see page 24 for details. No representative from the police was present, but Gordon Smith has again made representation about speeding through the village and the increase in the volume of heavy lorries following the imposition of a weight restriction on the bridge at Castle Hill, Wing. To the grateful surprise of the meeting, Parish Councillor Sansome reported that he had recently been informed that the BCC financial plan for 1999/2000 included provision for the strengthening of the relevant bridge.

### • CHURCH ROOM

Tom Manning reported that progress had been made on the transfer of land. With Bryan Round, he had visited a Planning Officer at AVDC to discuss the extension plans - the Planning Officer had not raised immediate objections, but said that he could not offer firm advice until permission had been granted

for the removal of a yew tree in the grounds at the front of the Rectory. A Tree Officer was to visit the site; in the interim Mrs Murray had, separately, applied for permission to take down the tree. No formal planning application should be made until the question of the tree was resolved.

### • RECREATION GROUND

Most of the necessary improvements to the playground equipment has now been completed. Further details of developments are available from the Parish Council.

### • ANY OTHER BUSINESS

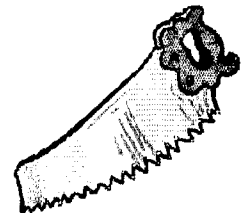
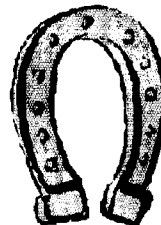
Tom Manning reported that District and Parish Council elections were to be held on 6 May, and that, after c. 16 years, Bryan Round would be standing down as District Councillor. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Councillor Round offering thanks for his support of the village.

A number of unflattering comments were made about Royal Mail service in the village. The Clerk was asked to write to express dissatisfaction.

A query was made concerning rates of Parish precept included in the Community Charge. Tom Manning reported that the increase in this had been held to 3.3%, to minimise impact upon village residents.

The meeting closed at 9.03 p.m

## CAN YOU HELP OUR MILLENNIUM EXHIBITION?



As you may know a group of villagers are working on a history of Aston Abbots and intend to mount an exhibition at the end of the year.

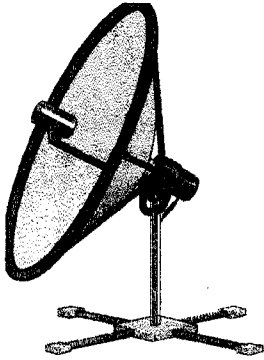
I will be collecting old photos and artifacts to display. These can be anything that tells us about life in the village in the past and might include farm implements, craft tools, war time memorabilia, things used in the school or old trophies but could be anything at all so long as it relates to the village.

I do not necessarily want things yet but it would be helpful if you could let me know what you might be prepared to lend. Everything will, of course, be returned afterwards.

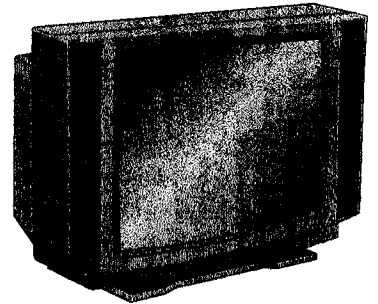
Please contact me on 681152 if you will be able to help.  
Thank you - Sally Palmer

# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

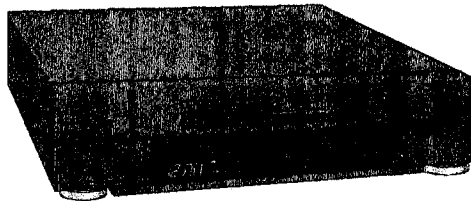


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