

# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE

ISSUE 184 - NOVEMBER 1999

**MICHAEL JACKSON TO APPEAR  
AT THE CHURCH ROOM?**



Well, probably not. But there will be plenty of stars at **THE CHRONICLE'S** Christmas Cabaret! See inside for details

**THE CHRONICLE**

online

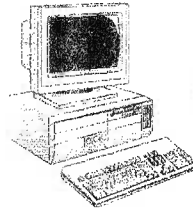
e mail us at

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# Editorial

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1999



astonmag@aol.com

Apologies for the slight delay to this month's **CHRONICLE**, due to school half term. To business, then, and the unhappy realisation of last month's prophecy that Luton Airport was a disaster waiting to happen. As **THE CHRONICLE** was being printed we heard that three people had died when their light aircraft crashed at the airport. Let us hope that further accidents can be avoided.

You will be pleased to hear that my rantings have been cut short this month by a very important article from AAH (Aston Abbots History) which is printed below - please, please read their news and support them in their work on behalf of the village:

## AAH!

Our book about the history of Aston Abbots is nearing completion and should be ready for printing and publishing in the near future. That it is in such good shape is due to Gordon and Dickie having devoted almost their entire lives to editing, proof-reading, correcting and typing for the last few weeks. But it's looking good and should provide a really good read so don't forget to put it on your Christmas present list!

The other fantastic news is that our application for a grant from the 'Millennium Awards for All' Lottery Fund has been successful. We have been awarded the full amount we asked for - a total of £2,712 to cover the cost of printing and publishing and the expenses we will incur in staging the exhibition in January. This is great news as it means we can keep the sale price of the book down to an acceptable level and all profits will go to the Village Fund for improvements to the Church Room and the Recreation Ground.

The book should be on sale in December at a price of £5. If you would like to order a copy contact Clare Shorrock at Oak Farm House, Tel: 681260.

So there you have it - the Christmas pressie problem solved! The work that the team is carrying out is really exciting and I'm sure the book will be a terrific, interesting read once published - I for one am very much looking forward to reading it.

Anyway, enough of my ranting - enjoy **THE CHRONICLE!**

*Andi Swain*

## IN THIS BUMPER ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- Letter from America
- Ride, Sally, Ride
- Ooooh, what a palaver! The Church Room saga
- Harvest Auction
- **CHRONICLE** caption competition entries
- Bonfire Night details
- Future services at The Church
- Double dose of Jottings from the Chalk Face
- Millennium Party update
- One of our signs is missing
- Crossword
- Latest from AA Parish Council
- What's on in the village this month
- All of our regular sections and more!

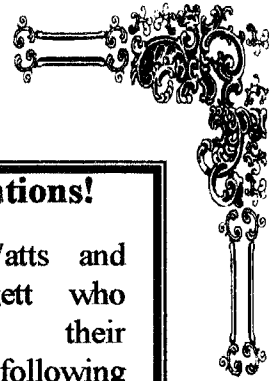
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A note to all would be advertisers -  
 more than 196 households receive **THE CHRONICLE** 11  
 times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum (far  
 cheaper than some local Parish magazines)  
**can you afford not to be in?**

Copy date for the December issue is November 22<sup>nd</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 Abbots.

# RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE



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

Thomas & Eleanor Farrands	4th (Their 1st birthday!)		
Caroline Hall	7th	Ray Wilkinson	10th
John Brancker	7th	John Whyte	23rd
Bridget Brandon	8th	Olivia Gresswell	23rd
Anna Mogford	8th		

## Congratulations!

To Jane Watts and Dean Wiggett who announced their engagement following Dean's romantic proposal while they were both in Holland. We wish them every happiness for their future life together.



WORKING COUPLE RESIDENT IN VILLAGE  
ADOPTING RESCUE DOG IN NOVEMBER  
SEEK **DOG WALKER** FOR WEEKDAY LUNCHTIMES  
£15 PER WEEK - RING LIZ OR PATRICK - 01296 681064

## KIDNEY APPEAL

Many thanks for the contributions to the recent Kidney Appeal collection. A total of £30.00 was raised which is much appreciated by the charity.

## SAD LOSS

We are sorry to record the death of Joyce Smith who died on 29th September. Although Mrs Smith did not live in this village she was a keen member of our Ladies Club, always ready to be involved and lend a hand when necessary. Her funeral took place at St. Nicholas Church in Cublington on the 8th of October. We would like to convey, through **THE CHRONICLE**, our sympathy to her husband and family, and also her many friends.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WINGRAVE & DISTRICT

"Poppy Bingo" to be held at The Aston Abbotts Church Room on **Saturday 6th November** at 7.30pm.

**Lots of fun, prizes and refreshments**

Coffee morning in aid of the Poppy Fund to be held at The Aston Abbotts Church Room on **Saturday 13th November- 10.00am to 12 Noon.**

Take a well earned rest from your chores, take advantage of the bargains at the bring and buy stall, come along to give us your support, enjoy coffee and biscuits and a chat with your neighbours and friends!

## FIGHTING FIT AGAIN

It was good to see Kate Waite out and about again after her recent stay in hospital - we are all glad that you are well again.



## GET WELL SOON

At the time of writing, we are sorry to hear that Shirley Ford is in hospital. We hope her stay will not be too long and that she will be home soon, fully recovered.

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

## BABYSITTING

Hayley and Sarah - Reliable Babysitters

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OTHER SIZES	Inside	£ 10

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Send copy and cheque payable to  
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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

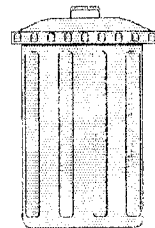
**JOHN SANSOME**  
Longmore Farm 681010

District Councillor  
**PETER COOPER**  
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham 681250

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

## LOCAL RECYCLING

Collection points are available at  
The Bull & Butcher, Aston Abbots  
and The Macintyre Home, Wingrave



**GLASS** - Please sort into green, brown, and clear glass

**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.

## *AUTUMN IN AMERICA* by Shirley Ford

Andrew and I flew off to America on Sept. 24th from Gatwick to Boston, Massachusetts. On arrival at Logan Airport Boston, we found our Jetsaver rep. and the other 40 people we were to share the next 10 days with. Patric McChesney from central New York was our tour director and guide and Jay from Wisconsin our coach driver. His first job was to take us in the coach to our hotel on the outskirts of Boston. We arrived at 4.30, found our room and spent a little time settling in before enjoying a chicken dinner. By the time we had eaten, we were quite tired and turned in for the night.

The next morning was spent touring Boston with an 'official guide' and after being dropped off by the coach at lunch time we were able to 'do our own thing' for a few hours. At 6.00pm. we were picked up and taken to a restaurant for a very welcome meal. Boston is not a large city being about three by two miles. If you are on foot, you can walk the 'freedom trail' which is easy to follow because there is a red line on all pavements and roads. The advantage in using this is that it takes you to many of the places of interest. Alternatively, you can take the trolley bus where you simply pay a fare and can hop on and off as you please. For the more adventurous (and \$20) you can tour in one of those amphibian ducks which were used by the military to transport soldiers from ship to shore. Andrew and I decided to take the trolley bus followed by a harbour cruise.

Boston is a fascinating city being an interesting mixture of old and new. The oldest church is Old Trinity Church. However, unlike many of our own, this only dates back to the 1700's. Interestingly though, right next to it is a very modern tower block of blue glass standing nearly a quarter of a mile high!

One thing we found surprising was that there were so many English place names used all over the city. We visited lots of places of interest including the famous Boston Tea Party Ship and the pub portrayed in the TV series 'Cheers'. It's real name is the Bull & Finch. Unfortunately we ran out of time all too soon but felt that this is a place return to and spend a little more time.

*Watch this space for a further 'letter from America' by Shirley in next month's issue.*

## LADIES CLUB NOTES

The Ladies club enjoyed a talk on October 9th given by Miss Joyce Whipps, entitled 'Patchwork of my life'. A most interesting, amusing and nostalgic talk of years past. Oct. 21st the speaker was Mr J. Woolley who's talk entitled 'the History of The Police Service' was well received.

### Future events:-

November 4th AGM.

November 18th Mr G Atkins MBE giving a talk on 'Pitstone Fen'.

## Ride, Sally, Ride (a Commitments song!)

Sally Turnham of The Chapel will be exchanging her 140mph Kawasaki and motorcycle leathers for a slightly slower form of two-wheel transport to take part in a mammoth cycling challenge for charity in Cuba early next year with her friend Rachel Freeman.

Sally, 35, has been riding motorbikes since the age of 17, but is keen to tackle the 250 miles on her bicycle to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. The 250 mile journey from Havana to Trinidad will take place over just five days in 90 degrees Fahrenheit and stifling humidity in February 2000.

The first challenge for the girls is to raise in excess of £4,000 to enable them to go on the trip. A charity gig is planned for Saturday 13 November at Tring Football Club and local six-piece rock and blues covers band Doghouse (who, for those of you that weren't there, played their hearts out to 700 Young Farmers at their annual Ball recently) are providing the live music, supported by Celebrating Solutions doing the disco. "They are the best cover band I have seen in ages, and they get everyone up on their feet dancing. I defy anyone not to enjoy themselves!" said Sally. Tickets at just £5 are selling well, so if anyone would like to come along to what promises to be a fun, lively evening, please give Sally a call on 01296 682716. All proceeds go to charity.

And the second challenge is to get fit enough to cope with the actual ride. They have just one day to acclimatise to the heat and humidity when they arrive before starting the cycle challenge. The demanding journey across Cuba will cross the breathtaking scenery of the Escambray Mountains to the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean Sea. "It is not going to be easy by any stretch of the imagination", said Sally, "but as long as we train hard over the next three months, I feel confident that we'll be able to complete the ride and still be able to walk afterwards!"

Sally and Rachel will also be holding an auction and fun night at The Bull & Butcher (date to be confirmed) where friends will carry out promises that they have made to the girls on drunken evenings - such as head shaving, chest waxing, riding around the village green naked on a bicycle and much more - and that's just the men!! Watch this space for more details.

If you can sponsor Sally with a donation or a raffle prize, or if you would like to buy some tickets for the gig, she can be contacted on 01296 682716 (home) or 01908 660666 (work).

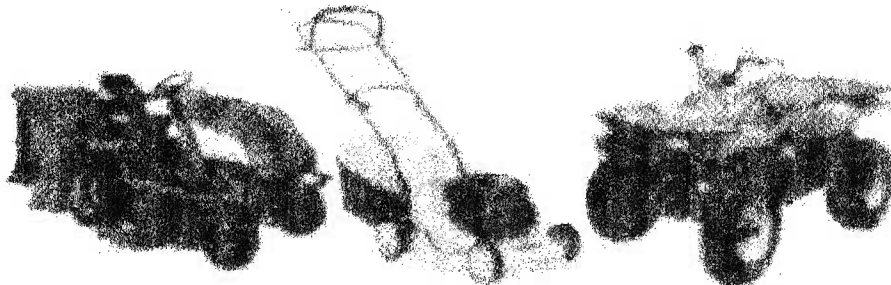
## ABOUT THE GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND CHARITY

Guide Dogs has many services such as teaching people to read Braille, rehabilitation service for newly blind people, funding research into eye diseases, provision of specialist hotels and holiday services and of course, the breeding, training and use of dogs which is what they are best known for. GDBA is an absolutely unique charity. It is supported entirely through voluntary donations and receives no Government funding. If you are uncertain about the life-changing benefits that a guide dog can bring, just ask any visually impaired person. They will say that the dog has completely revolutionised their lifestyle and that they could not possibly imagine life without one. On that basis, visually impaired people are guaranteed to be provided with a dog for as long as they can safely use and benefit from one. This may mean the provision of 3 to 10 different dogs for the blind person in the course of their lifetime and each dog costs GDBA £25,000 from birth, in one of their special breeding kennels through to training, placement and retirement after their working life!

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# IN THE VILLAGE 2.

## MILLENNIUM MATTERS THE MILLENNIUM PARTY

We are pleased to report that all arrangements for the party for the New Millennium are well in hand.

- Most of the monies due have now been received - any stragglers can expect a visit from the 'Bystra Boys' any day now!
- Contract and deposit have been issued to the band.
- The food and drink have been ordered - Francesca will be looking for volunteers to help (making deserts etc) and will arrange a meeting soon.
- Licences and insurance are in place
- All tickets for the race night (30/10/99) are sold
- The Promises Auction for the village will be in May 2000 - details in **THE CHRONICLE** nearer the time.

**VOLUNTEERS** will be needed to help set-up the party and to move/store Peter and Claire's furniture!

The next meeting is at **The Bull & Butcher**  
on **Monday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm.**

## MILLENNIUM NIGHT BABY SITTER AVAILABLE!

For one night only on the Eve of the New Millennium (31/12/99)

- ◆ Mature lady used to all ages of children
- ◆ Willing to stay over if required
- ◆ Rate by negotiation
- ◆ Call Catherine Barlow on 01296 682605



## THE 1999 HARVEST FESTIVAL AUCTION

The Harvest Auction this year was held at The Royal Oak where as if by a miracle, the produce donated in church in the morning had increased some five or six fold by the time people arrived for the sale. There was of course the usual excellent selection of freshly grown fruit and vegetables and this was further enhanced with a wide range of cakes, pastries, eggs, wines, preserves and honey. The entire display was 'set off' with dozens of huge flower arrangements and bunches of fresh cut flowers.

Bob Willmott started off the proceedings with a few words about harvest thanksgiving after which Shirley Ford and myself conducted the sale. Bidding was fast and furious and although most items were sold at realistic prices there were plenty of bargains to be had. As usual a 'certain young lady and gentleman' arrived early and 'bagged' a front seat so that between them they could 'corner the market' in the many shortbread pastries and biscuits for sale (you really must start feeding them Caroline!!!). By the time it was all over, just about every one had a goodly selection of produce and most ladies left



## BONFIRE PARTY



### ASTON ABBOTTS FIREWORKS PARTY

At The Recreation Ground, Bricstock  
on Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> from 7.00pm

Entry fee - bring one **LARGE** firework!  
**SEE YOU AT THE PARTY! Ed.**

## OOO WHAT A PALAVA ... UPDATE ON THE SAGA OF THE CHURCH ROOM EXTENSION

As soon as the Parish Council had applied for planning permission for the long awaited improvements to The Church Room, the District Council put a preservation order on the Yew tree in the garden of the Old Vicarage.

This order means that the proposed extension will almost certainly be refused on the grounds that it will 'interfere' with the root system.

The only option open to the Parish Council was to withdraw the application and submit a new one featuring different (shallower) foundations. There is obviously considerable extra cost involved, as well as the inevitable delay.

### Meanwhile .....

AVDC (in their infinite wisdom) are threatening to close (yes, close) the Church Room unless improvements are carried out soon!

**We think AVDC want to have their cake and eat it too!**

with flowers.

Once again, this was a 'fun evening' which was both pleasant and profitable. Moneys raised by the sale were £138.50 for Church funds and the raffle achieved a very creditable £38.00 which went to 'Children in Need' at the request of Terry and Garry.

Very many thanks to all of you who donated produce, set up the items for sale and of course those who attended. An especial thank you to Terry and Garry for making us so welcome by hosting the event.

## CAROL SERVICE - SUNDAY 19th DEC.

This year's carol service in Aston Abbots promises to be quite memorable. It will undoubtedly be well attended since firstly it is to be a combined service with Wingrave and secondly the Cublington Youth Group's orchestra ('The Rolling Stones' as they like to be known) are to accompany most of the carols as well as performing a play. The service will start at 3.00 p.m. and it is recommended you get there early.





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*Curried Parsnip Soup*

*or*

*Tomato and Goat Cheese Salad  
with olive oil, balsamic vinegar and fresh basil*

*or*

*Pasta with Pecan Nuts, Mushrooms and Cream*

*or*

*Old Masters Vol au Vents with a Mixed Game Filling*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Roasted Fresh Turkey with Stuffing, Chippolata, Bacon and Cranberry Sauce*

*or*

*Poached Salmon with a White Wine, Cream, Cucumber and Dill Sauce*

*or*

*Loin of Pork with a Green and Red Peppers, Apple, Cider and Mustard Sauce*

*or*

*Pancake filled with Spinach and Pine Nuts in a béchamel sauce with a hint of  
nutmeg served with a Beetroot Coulis*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*A Selection of Fresh Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Desserts of the Day*

*or*

*Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce*

~ ~ ~ ~

*Coffee and Mince Pie*

~ ~

*£19.95 inc. v.a.t*

~

*NO bookings will be taken unless confirmed in writing or fax.*

*We require an £8.00 per person non-refundable deposit by the 1<sup>st</sup> December.*

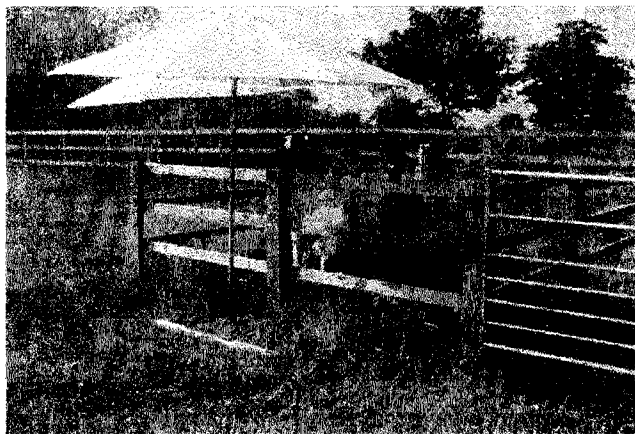
*Please may we have your choices 2 weeks prior to booking. Thank you.*



# IN THE VILLAGE 3.

## THE GREAT ALPACA COMPETITION

Hopefully you were all amused (and stunned!) by the cover of last month's **CHRONICLE** with its picture of the Alpaca Gals. I'm pleased to report that both of the girls have now given birth to a boy each and are away on their jollies (literally!) at the moment. Anyway, the competition proved very popular - some of the best captions are shown below.



- a) "70 degrees in the shade and I bet the Vet's still got cold hands when he gets here!" Ivan's original caption
- b) "Alpaca da skis, you packa da bubbly - Millennium in Klosters it is then!" From Caroline Lane
- c) "Isn't it just typical of Brits - even on the hottest, sunniest day of the year they are still expecting rain!" From Simon Swain
- d) "Well, Glor, where are the 'O's' and 'X's'? We'll finish the game now that the humans have given us this lovely shade..." From Ray & Jackie Coates
- e) "If this is the size of their satellite dishes I knew we should have opted for cable!" Also from Simon Swain
- f) "Does my bum look big when I stand like this?" From Chris Bee
- g) Al 1 - "Did you know you can see into Vic's greenhouse from here? He has an enormous cucumber." Al 2 "Yes, I've heard!" Also from Chris Bee
- h) "If he thinks he's going to shove his hand up my bum again..." talking about the vet (of course!) From Clare Shorrock
- i) "They really *are* barking mad if they think I'm putting *that* in my lunch time cocktail!" Editor's poor contribution

Thanks to all of the contributors - **THE CHRONICLE** team will sit in judgement over the coming month! Ed.

## ROADSIGN ON THE GREEN

One of the arms on the road sign on The Green was recently broken by vandals. We would like to have the sign repaired, as to have it replaced would mean losing the nice 'old-fashioned' sign and getting a new one (a boring, modern one!). The only trouble is, the piece which was broken off has now disappeared - it stood by the sign for a couple of days and now it has gone.

So please, if you know the whereabouts of the missing 'arm', or are keeping it out of 'arm's way', could you let me know.

Kate Curry Tel: 681137

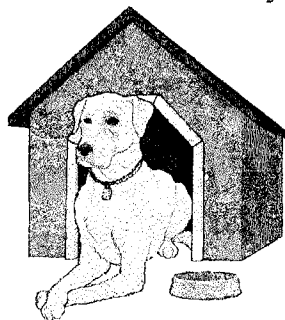
## THE CHILTERN DOG RESCUE SOCIETY

We are soon to adopt "Misty", a two year old Border Collie, from Chilterns Dog Rescue Society. It has been a long wait until Misty's homecoming owing to a somewhat unexpected event. Misty went off to the vets to be spayed but a scan revealed she was to have puppies! The litter was expected to be small, but after swelling to an enormous size, Misty gave birth to 8 puppies which will all be homed by the Society.

The Society is based in Hog Lane, Ashley Green, Chesham adjoining Woodfield Springs Kennels. Since forming in 1963, they have successfully re-homed over 13,000 dogs. At any one time there are normally between 25 and 30 dogs awaiting re-homing. All dogs are well cared for, given food, shelter, full veterinary care, grooming and even some training. Some dogs stay only a few days before being re-homed. Others, generally older dogs, may be at the kennels for several months or more.

If you are thinking of having a dog, please consider Chilterns Dog Rescue. The procedure is very simple. After filling in registration forms, you will be shown any dog which matches your requirements and home situation. If a successful match cannot be found immediately, you will be contacted when a suitable dog arrives. Unlike some animal rescue centres, you cannot wander around the kennels as this tends to distress the dogs who bark and launch themselves violently at the bars in an attempt to be chosen. Instead suitable dog(s) are brought out to you by the staff. The Society does make a charge for adopting dogs, both to fund their ongoing work and to deter impulse buyers who have not fully considered the commitment of dog owning.

Other ways which you can help, as well as financially, include donating blankets or newspapers or by being a volunteer dog walker. We have been dog walking for a couple of months and found it very rewarding, particularly through seeing the progress and improvement made by



some of the previously mistreated dogs.

If you are interested in finding out more, the offices are open from Saturday to Tuesday from 10.30am to 2pm and on Fridays from 11am to 1pm. Alternatively, you can telephone on 01442 876009.

Liz & Patrick

# **M a G i S e o**

for

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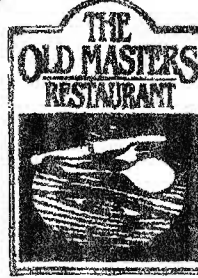
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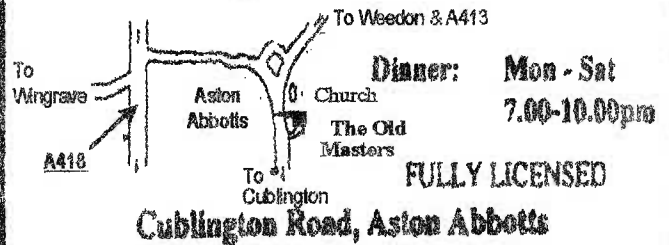
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**Please phone Malcolm Burrell**

**for further information.**

**Tel: 01525 221413**



# WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER 1999

<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm	British Legion Bingo in The Church Room
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b> 10.00am - noon	British Legion Coffee Morning in The Church Room
<b>8.00pm - late</b>	'Doghouse' charity gig at Tring FC (See page 4)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b> 10.45am	Remembrance Service at Wingrave
<b>2.00pm</b>	Village footpath walk, The Green
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b> 2.00pm	Rambling Club members meet Wing Church
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 7.00pm	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b> 8.45am	Parish Communion at St. James (note changed time)
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm	Floral Class join with Aylesbury for Christmas demonstration at the Grammar School
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas shopping trip to Derby - see opposite for details

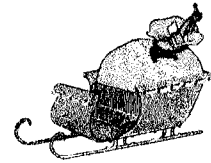
## BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

Xmas Shopping Trip to Derby  
Cost £ 8.50

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on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am  
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permission of MR & Mrs Bowman-Shaw

### CHURCH FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER

W/E 6/7	Mr C Higgs	W/E 20/21	Donated
W/E 13/14	Remembrance	W/E 27/28	Advent - no flowers

### SIDESMEN FOR NOVEMBER

7 <sup>th</sup>	Mr C Higgs	28 <sup>th</sup>	Mr C Higgs
21 <sup>st</sup>	Mr G Kemp		

## NOTICE - MOBILE LIBRARY

Wingrave Road Stop - please use your library  
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**Use The Wingrave Road Stop!**

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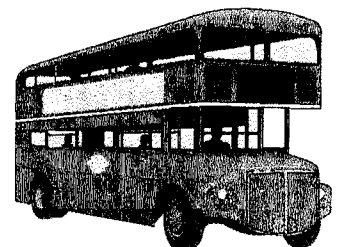
Or leave Aston Abbots for Aylesbury at 10.00 or 12.00 and go to

⇒ **Oxford** at 10.30 / 12.30 returning at 2.30 or 4.00

⇒ **Watford** at 10.25 / 12.25 returning at 2.05 / 3.30

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# IN THE VILLAGE 4.

## THE QUANTON THORN

An article by **THE CHRONICLE'S** historical writer, Colin Higgs

The rectory Garden at Quanton presented a strange spectacle on Christmas Eve 1753 as a large crowd from the village trampled the flower beds at Midnight, swinging lanterns.

They had come to witness the budding of the Holy Thorn which was said to have grown from a slip of the famous Glastonbury Thorn and was reputed to bud each year on Christmas Eve so as to be in full bloom on Christmas Day.

In 1753 (new style dates) this had a special significance for the villagers because in 1752 England adopted the Gregorian reforms of the Julian Calendar which was 11 days out. To countrymen it seemed that Parliament was interfering with Nature and had robbed them of 11 days, so feelings were running high at Quanton.

The crowd in the rector's garden that Christmas Eve sought proof that Parliament had no power to upset the calendar - so would the Holy Thorn bud on Christmas Eve (according to the old style Julian calendar) or on the new style date. But the Thorn did not bud on the 'new' Christmas Eve, proving beyond doubt that the next day was not Christmas Day.

People avoided going to Church and shunned festivities, so to still the clamour Christmas services and festivities were held on the old Christmas Day (now January 5<sup>th</sup>).

The Glastonbury Thorn from which the Quanton Thorn was said to have derived was traditionally linked with Joseph of Arimathea who came on a mission to Britain and was granted a piece of land to build a church by King Arviragus. When Joseph reached Glastonbury he thrust his staff into the ground and it was said to have put forth leaves and the next day bloomed and henceforth always budded on Christmas Eve. Slips from it planted in other places did likewise.

The most likely explanation is that the oriental thorn blooms naturally about Christmas time and in mild winters asserts its habits in this country but the Parishioners of Quanton no longer invade the Rectory garden on Christmas Eve (old or new style date!).

Colin

## CUBS BRING & BUY SALE

The Cubs made **£83.43** towards the new Wingrave Scout Hut. Many thanks to all who helped - James McManus, Daniel and Thomas Walton, Ben and Sam King, Sarah Smith, and to everyone who came and supported us.  
**Daniel Smith**

**P.S. We have a red and white spotty cake tin - if it's yours please ring 681373!**

## Environmental Services Aylesbury Vale Area Office

Buckinghamshire County Council's Environmental Services are pleased to announce that their Area Office serving the Aylesbury Vale area has now relocated to the Winslow Centre. As well as acting as a local focal point for Environmental Services, a number of functions are dealt with directly from this office; for example - Highway Maintenance, Rights of Way, Traffic Management and Road Safety.

There is usually a member of staff available to take your call or to see you if you call into the office with regard to these issues. If we are unable to deal with your enquiry directly, we are always pleased to help you contact the appropriate section in County Hall. Our telephone number remains 01296 383400, and the new address is:

**Buckinghamshire County Council,  
Environmental Services Area Office,  
The Winslow Centre, Park Road,  
Winslow, Bucks MK18 3RB.**

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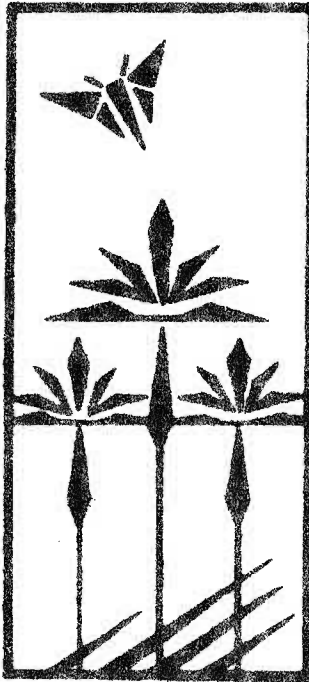
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## PREPARING FOR YOUR LIFE TOGETHER

At last the date has been set, the church and reception booked. The house is full of magazines with suggestions of how to make this your special day. Travel brochures are scanned for the perfect location to retreat after the celebrations are over. There is so much to do, it is all so hectic and easy to get carried along with the excitement.

When you come home and return to work the glamour of your wedding day may seem a long way in the distance. No-one told you it would be like this - job commitments, long hours, arguments over who does the shopping, cleans the house and so on.

The wedding day is important but it is only the beginning. What happens in the following days, months and years can be more complex. We all go through changes in life, each stage brings tasks that need to be managed. It is therefore important to have an understanding of the pitfalls that may lie ahead.

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PAGE 14 - THE CHRONICLE

The advertisement is enclosed in a thick black border. It features a large, stylized illustration of a sheep's head and neck, rendered in a pixelated or dotted style. The sheep's face is on the left, and its neck and part of its body extend towards the right. The text is centered within the sheep's outline. The background of the sheep's wool is filled with a pattern of small 'x' marks.

---

# S.M. ARMAN.



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# IN THE VILLAGE 5.

## ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

### **UNOFFICIAL NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - ON WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 1999**

#### COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

- The new swimming pool in Aylesbury is to be named 'Aqua Vale.'
- A Park & Ride scheme is being discussed for Aylesbury.
- The Local Plan has now been approved - the only effect it will have on Aston Abbotts is to severely restrict any planned development in the village.

#### PLANNING

A/9911544/APP Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane, Aston Abbotts.

Conservatory **APPROVAL**

A/9911462/AOP Land adjacent New Zealand Cottages, Wingrave Rd.  
Site for four terraced dwellings and detached garages. **REFUSED**

A/9911893/APP Littleheath House, Longmoor Farm, Cublington Rd.  
Insertion of door in front elevation. **The PC had no comment to make.**

A/9911973/APP Littleheath House, Longmoor Farm, Cublington Rd.  
Works to oak tree. **The PC had no Comment to make on the application, but would like to be assured the works would be carried out by a qualified, registered tree surgeon.**

A/99118751 APP 1, Nash's Farm, Aston Abbotts.

Erection of trellis on existing fence (retrospective) **The PC had no comment to make.**

**Church Room Extension - update.** Planning permission has been delayed by the imposition of a tree preservation order on the yew trees. Amended plans could now be re-submitted. Resolved to follow this plan of action. Dissatisfaction was expressed at the apparent lack of progress by AVDC on this project - especially as AVDC is at the same time threatening to close the building if work is not carried out soon.

#### HIGHWAYS

A418 - Two representatives from AAPC have been invited to attend a meeting on 26th November. Cllrs. T.Manning and J.Sansome agreed to attend. A response has been received from John Bercow MP to a pressure letter we sent about the A418, in which he promises to look into the matter.

*Road Safety Consultative Group* meeting agenda - Resolved to raise the issue of speed cameras on A418. *Traffic re-routing after accidents* - discussion took place regarding traffic routed through the village following accidents on the major roads. We cannot do anything about this, though it was agreed that signs in the village would help.

#### VANDALISM

Damage has occurred in the village due to vandalism (trees broken, road signs damaged). Resolved to try to have the old road sign repaired, rather than have a new one installed.

#### REPORTS

Skips - more skips would be most desirable, but they would prove too expensive.

The 'Neighbourhood Watch' sign needs replacing. Bus shelter in Wingrave Road is tilting and needs some attention.

The ash tree by the lamp on the allotment corner needs lopping.

The hole in the pavement in Wingrave Road has not been mended. B.T. will be contacted again.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Wednesday 27th October 1999 - Everyone is welcome to come along.

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

The Beaver colony is now back up to strength with our six new Beavers recently invested. We have spent our meetings this half term exploring other countries, such as Spain, France, Canada, Great Britain and U. S. A. The Beavers have enjoyed looking at the map of our world, thinking about scouting in some of these countries and especially enjoyed sampling their different foods!

We have had good contact with the Cub pack with a great joint visit to train with the Aylesbury United players and an opportunity to get together with the Cubs and Scouts at a joint investiture ceremony. If you would like more information about Beavers, please contact Sue Ascott 681878 or Jan Antiesowicz 681430.

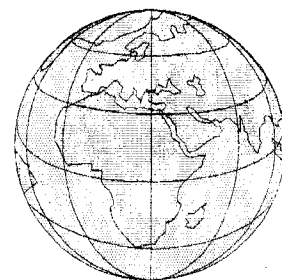
Wingrave Cubs and Scouts put in a very valiant effort at the District Swimming Gala, Wingrave coming 2nd overall with the Scouts in particular achieving many successes. Many thanks to all those boys who came along, and to their supporters too. Well done boys!

We had a joint meeting 15th October, where 7 Beavers were invested as Cubs, and 2 Cubs were invested as Scouts. It is very rewarding to see the children progress from one section of the group to another. We also officially welcomed Andy Hall into the Group. He has moved very swiftly from Cubs to Scouts, where he has taken over from Sheena who has asked for a break from her duties as leader.

The final monies raised from the sponsored walk in the summer was £292.80 for the Cub section. Special mentions go to Michael Smith, Sam Mitchell, Oliver Pashley and Matthew Newman for their sponsorship contributions.

Daniel Smith organised and ran a bring and buy sale in Aston Abbotts, raising over £80.00, special thanks to him and his family. All monies raised will go towards the new Scout hut.

Cub leaders: Fran Pollard 625454 Julia Ellis 681118 Scout leader: Andy Hall 681696



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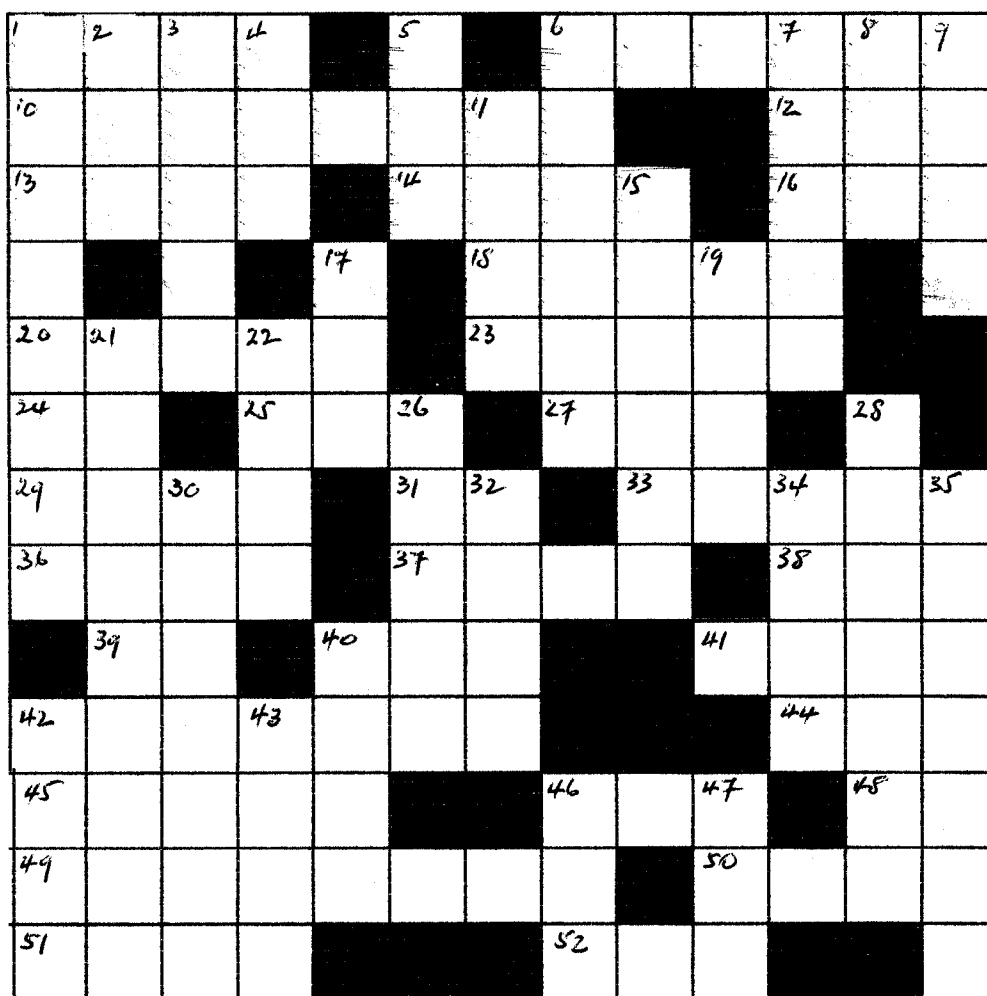
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# THE CHRONICLE CROSSWORD

**NOVEMBER**



**ANSWERS - OCT**

1. Thame. 5 Warmth. 8 Rime. 9 Imprints. 12 Iota. 14 Attempts. 16 Kiri. 19 Ten. 21 Definite. 24 Fre. 25 You. 26 Rolls. 29 Team. 32 Atoll. 33 Asses. 35 Ayes. 37 Tang. 38 Own. 40 Dinant. 42. Resign. 44 Yule. 46 Desk 47 Tenet. **DOWN**  
 1 Trick. 2 Him. 3 Amp 4 Mercifully. 5 Watt. 6 Maim. 7 Hotter. 10 Namy 11 St. 13 Opted. 15 Eke. 17 Idiot. 18 Re. 20 Negligent. 22 Iota. 23 Tuesday 26 Razor. 27 Loans. 28 Sledge. 30 As. 31 Mettle 34 SA. 36 Sims. 39 Wed. 41 Nut. 43 I D. 45 En

**ACROSS:**

- 1. Coalmines (4)
- 6. Spiritual meeting (6)
- 10 Animal (8)
- 12. Tree (3)
- 13. Hard earth (4)
- 14. Cranny (4)
- 16. Anger (3)
- 18. Small drinks (5)
- 20 Strong desires (5)
- 23. Weird (5)
- 24. Not out (2)
- 25. Extra faculty (abbrev 3)
- 27. Boy's name (3)
- 29. First man (4)
- 31. Arsenic (chem syn 2)
- 33. Pours down (5)

- 36. Girl's name (4)
- 37. Underground
- 38. Obtain (3)
- 39. That bad cheque again (2)
- 40. Offspring (3)
- 41. Extra (4)
- 42. Gushing, gliding along smoothly (7)
- 44. Title (3)
- 45. To invigorate (5)
- 46. Guided (3)
- 48. Company (abbrev 2)
- 49. RESIGNEE (anag 8)
- 50. Native of SE Asia (4)
- 51. ---wolf (4)
- 52. Women's Army Unit (3)

**DOWN:**

- 1. Odd (8)
- 2. Sick (3)
- 3. Sets of players (5)
- 4. Melita Norwood e.g. (3)
- 5. Container (3)
- 6. Stocked (6)
- 7. Din (5)
- 8. Vehicle (3)
- 9. Supplemented, stretched out (4)
- 11. DONE 9anag 4)
- 15. Martial art (6)
- 17. Donkey (3)
- 19. Belonging to me (4)
- 21. Stress, denote (9)
- 22. River in W. Midlands (4)
- 26. WW2 US Generaal (5)

- 28. Country (7)
- 30. Southern town (7)
- 32. GUNS (anag 4)
- 34. GOES (anag 4)
- 35. SITE ROD (anag 7)
- 40. To make music (4)
- 42. Moved like birds (4)
- 43. Of the verb To Be (4)
- 46. Meadow (3)
- 47. Delirium tremens (3)

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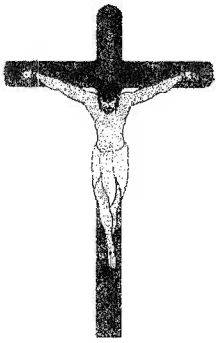
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## RECTOR'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 1999



It seemed like a good idea at the time but those who put it forward had clearly not thought of the problems that it might involve.

In every Church in England at midday on January 1st 2000, there should be a short service to welcome the new Millennium.

But will this be the straw that breaks the proverbial camel's back? How likely is it that we can have a meaningful service with a reasonably sized congregation in the three churches of the Benefice on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day (which happens to be a Sunday), and services on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and Sunday January 2nd?

I learnt more than twenty five years ago that it is not a good idea to have too many services – because, like you, I also need to spend some time with my family. I learnt through spending one Christmas morning from 7.30am until 1.30pm conducting services without a break – and I'd already done services on Christmas Eve and the Midnight Eucharist – and at the time we did have three small children and a very new baby!

The solution that seems most sensible is to share out some of the services. The overall pattern will not be very different from previous years, but there will be some services which will be combined. One of these will be a Joint Service of Carols and Readings at 3.00pm on Sunday 19th December in Aston Abbotts Church. There will only be one service on Sunday 26th December – in Wingrave at 10.00, and the following Sunday there will only be one service which will be in Cublington at 10.00. Full details of the Christmas and New Year Services will be advertised next month.

It is always difficult to change the services at Christmas – because each family has their favourites, the ones that they like to attend, the ones that fit in with their domestic arrangements, and so on. In altering the pattern this year I have tried to treat each church fairly – after all, there are three Churches which each need funds for heating, insurance and repair and maintenance. If we concentrate the services on one or another of them, we shall only be compounding the financial problems of the others.

Another Millennium idea that might prove not to be quite as good as it looks is the Millennium candles that will be delivered to every house (we hope) in these villages during December. They come with the good wishes of the Church as we celebrate the two thousandth birthday of Jesus Christ. Historically we may not have got the date quite exact – but the sentiment is there. To remind us of our Christian Heritage and to give thanks for it. In theory they are to be delivered into people's hands rather than pushed through doors or left on the doormat. We are grateful to the benefactor who made these available to us – and the money was given specifically for them rather than being a drain on our other funds. These candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. I hope that you will remember Him as you light yours.

**BOB WILLMOTT**

## HARVEST CELEBRATIONS IN ASTON ABBOTTS ON 10TH OCTOBER

The Harvest Festival service in this village is usually one of the better attended, and this year was no exception.

Despite our best intentions, as usual, we only just left enough time to get to Church. The excuse this time was that the service had been changed from 11.15 to 10.00 ( we would have known if we had read **THE CHRONICLE** properly). Even so, it was such a beautiful autumn morning that it seemed a shame to rush even though the 'time to run' bell was ringing.

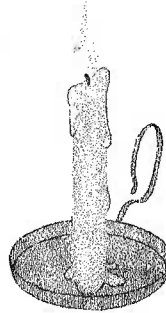
Once inside, it was particularly nice to see so many friends and neighbours (some 35 in all) and the church fully decorated with flower arrangements in every window and corner and donated produce at the front.

Peter Binns conducted the service in his usual direct and forthright manner and this coupled with 'harvest' hymns most of us remembered from our school days contributed to it being a most enjoyable and uplifting occasion.



## IONA SERVICE - SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER

For this rarely performed service, the church will be almost lit entirely by candles, creating a very special atmosphere. This type of service has strong links with Celtic practices and is based on those carried out exclusively for many years on Iona. Apparently, the people from Iona brought their unique style of worship to the mainland at Liverpool where their services were (and still are) very popular. The service will start at 6.00 p.m. and should be a very interesting and moving occasion.



## JOTTINGS FROM THE CHALK FACE

*We've a double helping of Baird McClellan's monthly insight into life as Headmaster of Wingrave School (detention, I guess? Ed.)*

A Panda arrived through the post the other day! You might think that it would be difficult for such an animal to be squeezed through a letter box but the only similarity that this particular Panda bore to the animal of the same name is it's colour - black and white.

My PANDA originates from OFSTED, the Office for Standards in Education, and stands for Performance and Assessment. One is sent to all schools to enable them to compare their performance with other similar schools, based on the information that OFSTED holds in its databases.

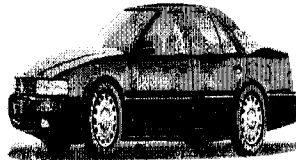
The document does contain some interesting and useful information which I try to absorb depending on the level of interruptions that I might receive when reading it. Some of

**"Jottings" continued on Page 24**

NO JOB TOO SMALL

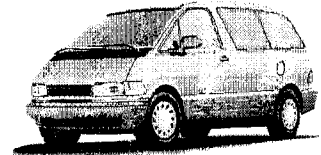
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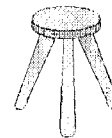
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# ST. JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

## CHURCH SERVICES

7 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service	
	18.00	Wingrave	Confirmation Services	
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Wednesday	10.00	Aston Abbots	Franciscan Service	
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	
	10.45	Wingrave	Remembrance Service	
	18.00	Aston Abbots	Iona Service	
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Wednesday	10.00	Rowsham	Franciscan Service	
21 <sup>st</sup> Nov.	08.00	Wingrave	Prayer Book Communion	
	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	
	10.00	Wingrave	Family Service	
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion	
	10.00		Franciscan Service	
20 <sup>th</sup> October Wednesday	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	
24 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion	
	10.00	Wingrave	Franciscan Service	
24 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Wednesday	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	08.45	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion (Note changed time)	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	
	18.00	Wingrave	Advent Carols	
	5 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
		10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion	

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Baptism

10<sup>th</sup> October Samantha & Paula Wood at Wingrave

### Marriages

25<sup>th</sup> September Adrian Gross and Anne Marie Nuttall  
at Wingrave

16<sup>th</sup> October James Joiner and Sam Meyer  
at Wingrave

### Funerals

23<sup>rd</sup> September Rene Webster at Cublington and Oxford

28<sup>th</sup> September Jacqueline Brinded at Amersham

1<sup>st</sup> October Rose Camp at Wingrave and Amersham

8<sup>th</sup> October Joy Smith at Cublington

## SUNDAY READINGS

7<sup>th</sup> November 3 Before Advent 1 Thess. 4.13 - 18  
Matthew 25.1 - 13

14<sup>th</sup> November 2 Before Advent 1 Thess. 5.1 - 11  
Matthew 25.14 - 30

21<sup>st</sup> November Christ the King Ephesians 1.15 - 23  
Matthew 25.31 - 46

28<sup>th</sup> November Advent 1 Corinthians 1.3 - 9  
Mark 13.24 - 37

5<sup>th</sup> December Advent 2 2 Peter 3.8 - 15  
Mark 1.1 - 8

### ST JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

Rev Willmott 681623      Gordon Kemp 681763  
Christine Fox 682024

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shirley Ford 681865      Ann Goodman 681763  
Andrew Ford 681865

## **7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT WINGRAVE CHURCH TO BE TAKEN BY THE BISHOP OF BUCKINGHAM**

The Bishop of Buckingham will be at Wingrave Parish Church on November 7<sup>th</sup> to take a Confirmation Service.

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# IN THE VILLAGE6.

## JOTTINGS FROM THE CHALK FACE (Continued from Page 20)

the statistical information can be used as an aid to raising standards of attainment and some is less valuable. For example "your school is smaller than other primary schools 188 compared with the average size nationally of 242 pupils". I know this, do I really need to have it written down? Wingrave also apparently has a relatively high % of children in "high social class households" however this might be judged. Considerably less though than Cheddington so don't feel too smug residents of Wingrave! I'll answer the door now and praise the child who has just been sent to me for trying really hard with her work. Always a question of priorities.

And talking of priorities how best should I use my time during the lunch break? I usually eat with the children and then walk around the playground or school field talking to them and introducing games such as Cars, Snakes or Gladiators. By doing this I am able to keep my eye on what is going on, can spot a child who looks a bit lonely or upset and generally chat and mingle in an informal way. I can't always manage to get outside but I think that it is valuable to do so when I can.

Some months ago I was in my office talking to an Advisor during the lunch break when there was a gentle knock at my door. It was a Year 2 boy who enquired "When are you coming out to play Mr McClellan?" "I won't be long", I said and I have remembered that request ever since. I could, of course, stay inside and absorb my PANDA!

## JOTTINGS 2<sup>ND</sup> INSTALMENT

I usually only manage to skim through a newspaper during term time but pay more attention to them during the holidays. One article particularly intrigued me because although it related to bureaucracy in the Police Service, there were clear parallels with education. It was the story of a single arrest and the paperwork associated with that arrest. Two hundred and forty nine documents and nine hours work! The story went like this:

"Soon after PC Richard Thomas started his shift at 7am, he was called to arrest a 19 year old who had been stopped allegedly trying to steal a bottle of whisky from a supermarket in Bristol. After taking the suspect into custody, PC Thomas's form-filling marathon began. First, there was a custody form and an arrest statement, before he went back to the supermarket to take witness statements from a security guard and a closed circuit TV operator. He then returned to his desk at the city's Trinity Road police station and worked on more forms until the end of his shift at 4pm. They covered registering exhibits, transcribing statements, filling in remand application details and completing personal

information sheets and papers dealing with fingerprints, photographs and DNA swabs. PC Thomas also had to photocopy 92 of the 157 forms he had completed to send to the Crown Prosecution Service- taking the total to 249."

No wonder the Police are sometimes reluctant to make an arrest! But where is the parallel with education you might ask? Let me give you one example. Let's focus on the delivery of a single Literacy Hour lesson. Each teacher is provided with a Literacy Framework which provides guidance on what has to be taught. This contains a Long Term Plan. From this the teacher has to prepare a Medium Term Plan. This uses a half-termly format, with space to plan up to eight weeks. The form sets out each of the strands in the Framework (Word, Sentence and Text) against each of the weeks.

An additional column is included for teachers to note particular texts to be used in each of the weeks, linked to the range of work for the term. Each strand contains "a continuous work" and a "blocked work" section because some objectives, for example, phonics or practising reading and spelling strategies, will need to be part of their teaching throughout the term, while other more specific objectives, for example, learning about apostrophes or writing poetry, may be assigned to particular weeks.

### The weekly planner

This can be used to represent the key activities for each Literacy Hour in a given week. Each day is set out as a row showing the sequence of work through the Literacy Hour. The columns for group and independent work are based on an assumption of about 30 pupils in a class and five ability groups. These groupings should enable teachers to differentiate their focused work. It does not imply that pupils need to remain in those groups when working independently, or at other times outside the Literacy Hour.

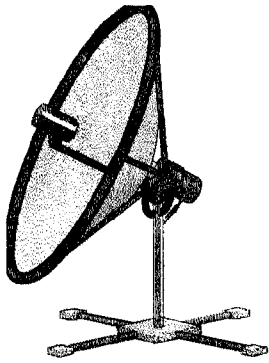
The daily lesson plan for the 1 hour lesson in question must now be produced. This will include spaces to be filled in on grouping, links with previous lessons, objectives and links to the National Curriculum, lesson content, activities the children will be involved in, the lesson focus, resources used, extension activities for more able children, support given to less able children, the assessment to be used and notes for future planning. All this for a 1 hour lesson. Is it all necessary?

I will refrain from comment but I will say that when OFSTED inspects a school they do expect to see all this paperwork in place. If it is lacking then the school and the Headteacher will be criticised in the official report. The school will also have to put matters right. Nine hours work for one arrest? There are similarities.

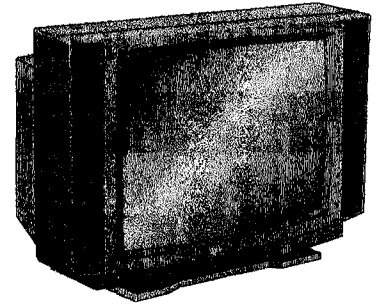
**BAIRD McCLELLAN**

# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

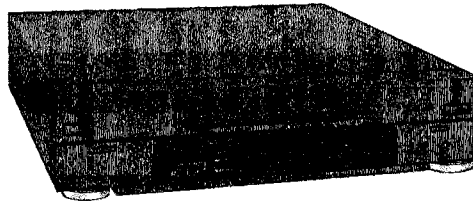


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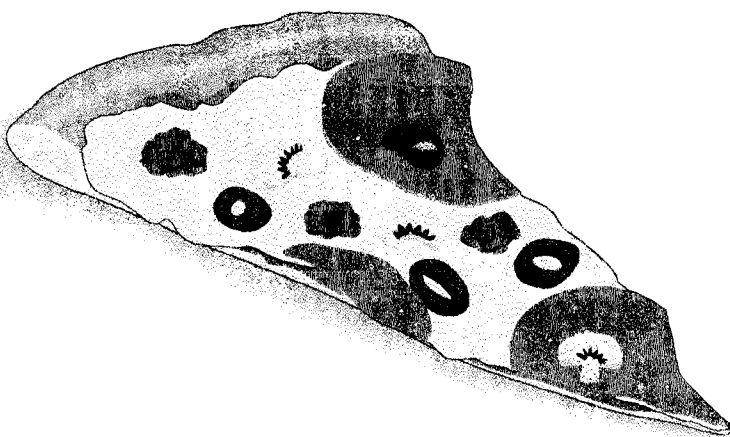
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