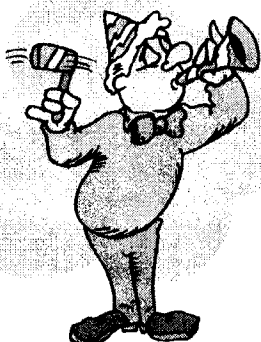


THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ APRIL 2001

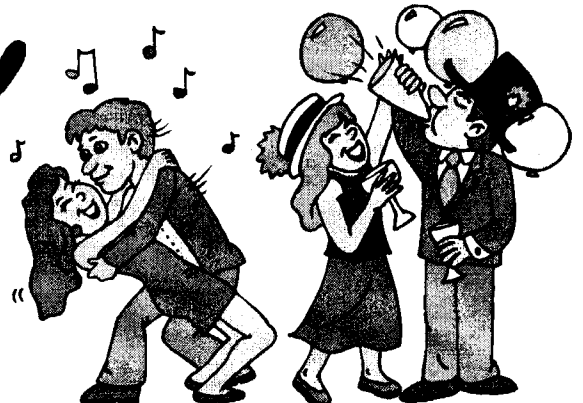
ISSUE NUMBER -

200



PARTY!!!

**SATURDAY MAY 12TH
DETAILS INSIDE**



Editorial

Your Bumper Souvenir Issue 200

Well, here it is. The 200th issue of The Chronicle. And it's a bumper, souvenir issue as well. 'Bumper' because this special issue has 36 pages – more than any previous issue of The Chronicle - and 'souvenir' because in a major feature on page 11 yours truly takes a look back through the archives and tells the story of The Chronicle and how it has portrayed life in Aston Abbots over the past twenty years.

That's not all you will find in this issue. There's a cornucopia of features, both serious and not so serious, and all of our regular items as well. Something for everyone. So, thank you to everybody who has contributed, not just this month but over the last 200 issues of The Chronicle.

The Party

200 issues seems like a good excuse for a party. Actually, I hadn't been living here long before I realised that Aston Abbots doesn't *need* an excuse for a party. Anyway, you can find details of our celebratory party on page 18. The idea is to raise funds to support The Chronicle and to make a donation to the Church Room fund. Tickets are strictly limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Development Concerns

Sometimes hear all sorts of wild gossip and rumours about terrible plans: major new housing estates, demolished pubs, new roads in the village, bypasses, and so on. This is nothing new, as those of you who have lived here for a long time will already know and newer people who read our '200 Issues Of The Chronicle' feature will find out.

The recent Moat Lane planning application was seen off (this time) with the help of a spontaneous letter campaign. However, it is unusual that a campaign can be organised quickly enough and the village has certainly been wrong-footed in the past.

The annual Parish Meeting takes place this month and, as it is a public forum, it might be an ideal opportunity to discuss such concerns. If anyone does wish to discuss these matters - or anything else in the village that concerns them - then please contact Kate Curry so she can put it on the agenda. Details of the meeting are on page 5 and everybody who is interested in the village is warmly invited to attend.

Editorial Policy

Finally, I've received (and published) a couple of 'anonymous' letters this month. Considering the month, I've let it go this time. In general my policy is not to print letters unless I know who has written them (innocuous humorous items might be an occasional exception, at my discretion), although I will withhold the author's name and address upon request.

So, 'name and address supplied' if you want to use a *nom-de-plume* on letters and articles please folks.

Phil

In this month's bumper souvenir Chronicle ~

- ◆ 200 Issues Of The Chronicle
- ◆ Church Room Vote Results
- ◆ Parish Meeting Agenda
- ◆ Footpaths Closed
- ◆ Nomadic Eating
- ◆ Restaurant Reviews
- ◆ Real Snow

and much, much more.....

THE CHRONICLE
Issue 200
April 2001

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~o~

A note to all would be advertisers -

More than 198 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?

~o~

Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 20th April 2001

Please pass items to Phil Spooner at The Birches in Wingrave Road or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible.

Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbots, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

In This Issue

The Peoples Page

Happy Birthday

Chris Farrands	1st
Ian Hinds	4th
Caroline Lane	5th
Philip Wheaton	6th
Karen Brandon	7th
Laura Whyte	11th
Avi Gupta	12th
Anthony Palmer	13th
Robert Clarke	18th
Sam King	20th
Alison Lewis	20th
Thomas Stefancyk	22nd.
Helen Peacock	22nd
Enid Ludlam	23rd
Janet Biddle	25th
Kate Curry	27th
Diana Picking	28th
Kirsty Peacock	28th
Chris Espley	30th

“Accept that some days you’re the pigeon, and some days you’re the statue.” ~ Scott Adams.

Let TRACEY HINDS know about
your news, birthdays, and
forthcoming events - or
contact *The Chronicle*

Who is this?



Happy 18th Birthday to Anthony Palmer

Special Birthday?

Why not tell the Chronicle—then we’ll tell Aston Abbots.

Family Celebration?

Contact Tracey Hinds or any member of the Chronicle team

Wedding Anniversary?

Exam Success?

Happy Event?

Coach outing to the Maze (Oxfordshire)

Monday 7th May Bank Holiday

Depart Aston Abbots 12.30

Book with Colin

Deep within a forest, a little turtle began to climb a tree. After hours of effort, he reached the top, jumped into the air waving his front legs and crashed to the ground.

After recovering, he slowly climbed the tree again, jumped, and fell to the ground. The turtle tried again and again, while a couple of birds sitting on a branch watched his sad efforts.

Finally, the female bird turned to her mate.

“Dear,” she chirped, “I think it’s time to tell him he’s adopted.”

“There are few things more satisfying than seeing your children have teenagers of their own.” ~ Doug Larson.

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VEHICLE RALLY 2001

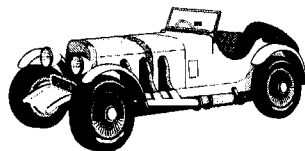
- SUNDAY, 20th MAY -

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The above Rally Event is run by the Game Club Charity, which makes donations to individuals and worthy causes within the Aylesbury area where assistance is not covered by any National Charity. If you know of any one who's in need of assistance, for whatever reason, send in details to The Chairman, the Game Club, c/o The Partridge Arms, Green End Street, Aston Clinton, Bucks.



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In The Village - 1

Footpaths Closed

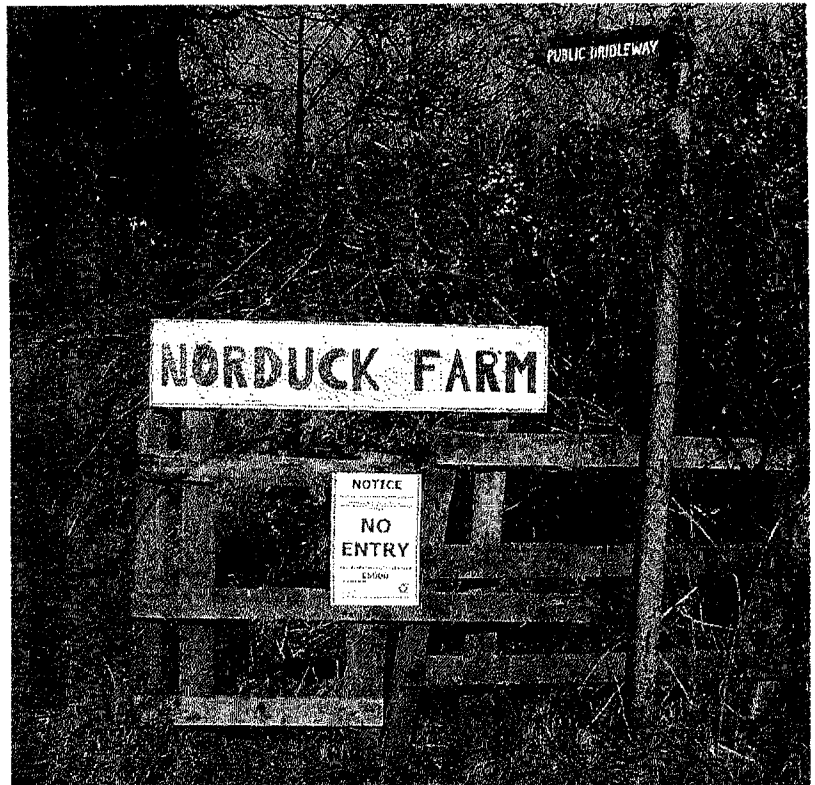
Footpaths and rights of way around Aston Abbots were closed early in March as the agricultural industry was brought to a country-wide standstill by the first outbreak of foot and mouth disease since the 80s—and the most serious since 1967.

At the time of writing—March 23rd—the outbreak shows no sign of abating. Fortunately, none of our local farms have been affected. However it has come as close as Bicester, which must be a worry for our farmers.

Drastic measures have been required to halt the spread of this virulent disease and prompt action to close off farmland was taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and local councils.

The sign in the picture, at the entrance to Norduck Farm, was just one of many that appeared around the village early in the crisis. Nobody likes to see the footpaths closed, but it is an essential measure to prevent the disease spreading—so PLEASE KEEP OFF the footpaths and away from farmland and livestock whilst the restrictions remain in force.

~ Ed



Church Room Vote

Last Month we asked you to vote on whether or not the improvements to the Church Room should go ahead. The votes have been counted and checked—and here is the result:

YES 85%

NO 15%

Total votes cast : 80

Number of Yes votes : 68

Number of No votes : 12

The Chronicle asked Tom Manning, the chairman of the Church Room committee, for his reaction to the results. Tom told us, "I am pleased with the result. This vindicates the project and we will be continuing with confidence. At the next committee meeting we will be instructing out architect to go ahead with getting Building Regulations approval."

Then it is going to be down to fund-raising with a vengeance—and exploring the options for obtaining grants.

Thank you to everybody who voted

Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 25th April at 8pm in the Church Room.

This meeting is completely separate from (and predates) the Parish Council, and offers the opportunity to discuss other aspects of village life. Issues such as the distribution of profit from the Fete are decided here, and you will have the chance to air your views about the future of the Church Room, as well as hearing reports from the local police and our District Councillor.

Draft agenda:

- Church Room update / discussion
- Chronicle – editor's report
- Fete 2000
- Fete 2001
- Police matters / neighbourhood watch
- County Council and District Council reports
- Recreation Ground

This is your opportunity to have a say in how your village is run – don't miss it! If there are any issues you would like raised or discussed at the meeting please let me know as soon as possible.

Kate Curry— Telephone: 681137

Close Contact

If truth were to be told, your editor was a little bit of a headbanger in his misspent youth - always happy to go and see heavy rock and pub-rock bands, shaking his head from side to side with his long hair flying around. That was over 25 years ago of course. Now headbanging gives him a headache and the only thing left to fly around is his glasses.

Be that as it may, I still enjoy rock music. Noting that a band called Close Contact was appearing at the Bull on the last weekend in February I strolled on up to check them out – and was very pleasantly surprised.

The four piece from Aylesbury – bass, drums and two guitars – bashed out a couple of excellent, tight sets that included not just favourite rock standards, but also some less obvious numbers. Tracks like The Who's Kids Are Alright and Won't Get Fooled Again, Thin Lizzy's rendering of Whiskey In The Jar and AC/DC's Highway To Hell went down very well with an appreciative audience.

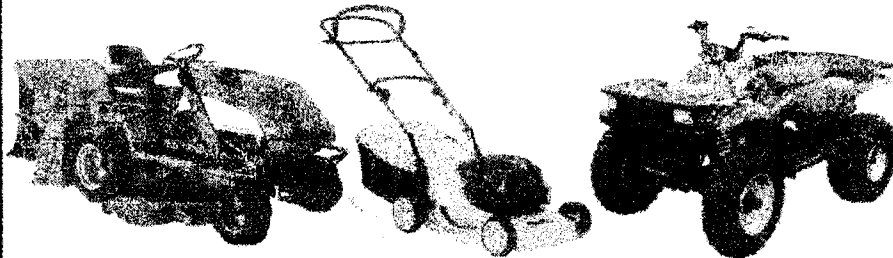
Let's hope they return to the Bull and Butcher before too long.

~ Ed

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In The Village - 2

Nomadic Eating

It was a dark and stormy night — well it was somewhat blowy anyway, - when four intrepid couples embarked on the inaugural Movable Feast, Roving Supper, call it what you will; aiming to raise some cash for the Church Room project and have a really good time together in the process.

We all met at Norduck for a pre dinner drink followed by Anne Dicken's delicious starter of baked peppers with anchovies. Then we moved on to 1 Nash's Farm where we consumed a really fantastic main course, (difficult really to consider desert after seconds of Liz's cooking), and considerable quantities of the contents of Ivan's cellar. Since, however, Francesca was providing the next course we did manage to stagger a couple of hundred yards to the Old Cottage where we did full justice to the culinary delights on offer — and to Bob's cellar. Finally, it was across the road to Oak Farm House where, due to my well-known aversion to cooking, Peter and I had only to supply cheese and biscuits, coffee and after dinner drinks.

The point of all this, however, was not merely to wine and dine magnificently but to enjoy the company of our friends for the evening - an aim we most certainly achieved—while donating £10 each to the Church Room fund for the pleasure of doing so. It was, in fact, such a great evening that each of us will be organising similar events in the near future — so watch out, you may be targeted!

~ Clare Shorrocks

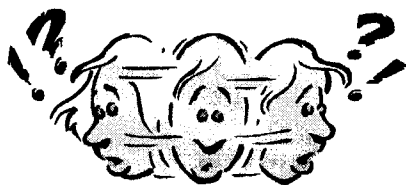
Sounds great to me! For those of you who don't remember, a couple of months ago Anne Dicken suggested forming a party of 8 with each couple agreeing to provide one course of a meal at their home and each participant donating £10 to the Church Room fund. Go on—why not have a go? ~ Ed

Quiz night - 18th March

A fairly typical village event at which only twenty or so turned out on that damp, cold evening. However it's probably fair to say every one who went along, ended up having a very enjoyable time from the very start. There was no 'safety in numbers' this time because Colin split up our usual team of about ten – only 6 per team was apparently his new rule. The questions, covering five topics were not too difficult but since many of the questions required knowledge of plants or geography, those who found themselves on Vic & Christine Scott's team 'held all the aces' and of course ended the evening with the highest score of the evening (surprise, surprise!!).

Our table's only claim to fame was the winning of the first raffle prize which said it all really!

The cheese and wine interval provided refreshment suitable for flagging grey cells and although a further round of questions were 'inflicted' on us, all too soon the evening was over. A fun evening which raised a very creditable £75.00 for church funds. Well done to Colin and all who helped him with the food and organisation.



Carlos's Restaurant

To celebrate Ray's birthday, we went to Carlos's Portuguese Restaurant which is behind Kingsbury Square in the old part of Aylesbury - cobble streets, old buildings - and you could be forgiven for walking straight past the restaurant as the sign is only visible if you are a giant. It is in the soliciting area – no not the oldest profession!! The Legal profession where all the Solicitors lurk behind their desks!!



The entrance to the restaurant is behind two large wooden doors which is also home, on the first floor, to the Aylesbury Literary Club. Being in the middle of the week, the restaurant lacked atmosphere initially because there were only two other people dining, but once the lights were dimmed and candles lit on individual tables, the room took on a more intimate feel. The décor is certainly in keeping with a Literary Club half panelled walls, huge fireplace, high ceilings, which is just as well because the ceiling is a bit different to say the least. You are looked down on by two well endowed (covered I hasten to add) mermaids surrounded by bright blue sea. Traditional Portuguese plates adorn the walls

Now I have set the scene, down to the important bits - menu and wine. An extremely good selection of starters, main courses including meat, fish, specialities of the house and vegetarian dishes – you were actually spoilt for choice. We sampled the Asparagus au Gratin with a lovely crunchy top and breaded mushrooms with a garlic dip (had no problems with vampires that night). To follow there was monkfish, with Mediterranean prawns, mushrooms, peppers and onions chargrilled and basted with Piri Piri served on a bed of rice with vegetables of the day (that was just for me). Ray had Fillet Steak chargrilled and served with mushrooms, the steak had been marinated in Piri Piri, vegetables of the day and chips. Portions I would point out were on the generous side.

The selection of Portuguese wines was excellent, prices ranging from £10 upwards. The meal for the two of us, that was starters and main course, but excluding wine, was in the region of £35. They also hold theme evenings throughout the year and traditional Portuguese Fados including live music. Certainly worth another trip.

Useless information - Did you know that from the Clock Tower in Kingsbury Square to St Mary's Church there are underground tunnels. The tunnel at one time could be viewed from the basement of Courts the furniture store (I am sure the more mature residents of A and A will know where this shop was).

~ Jackie Coates – Leafy Oaks

Carlos's is in Temple Street, Aylesbury - 421228

"I don't think I'll get married again. I'll just find a woman I don't like and give her a house." ~ Lewis Grizzard

"When a man steals your wife, there is no better revenge than to let him keep her." ~ Sacha Guitry

"Life is a sexually transmitted terminal disease." ~ Colin Greene

Photographs

by Paul Ridgley

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Letters To The Editor

Tottenham Villas, Aston Abbots, Bucks.

March 2001

Dear Editor

I have recently moved to Aston Abbots from the village of Tottenham, North London, selling my terraced one-up one-down 'hutch' and buying a lovely mansion in your locale for pretty much the same price.

The estate agent chappy had eulogised on the joys of living in the country - the peace, the quiet, the clean air and so on. So we upped sticks and moved out here. And certainly all was fine through January and February.

Then last week at around 6.30 am it started. The most awful, annoying, sleep-denying, mind-numbing sound you could imagine. Birds. Yes, birds – or more to the point, their incessant loud singing. What is it with these creatures that they have to shout the joys of the countryside from the rooftops? We didn't get this kind of treatment in Tottenham.

Through the pages of your worthy tome, please ask your fellow parishioners to keep their garden birds QUIET in the mornings - I can't sleep and will consider a law suit if it does not cease forthwith.

Yours faithfully,

Ronald C. Commuter

I have to say that I believe that this is the responsibility of the Parish Council. I know they are to be applauded for not increasing the precept over the past three years but, I mean, what do we pay our taxes for if not for them to protect our village, our environment and our slumber. I suggest that all of you who feel as strongly as Mr Commuter should catch one of the squawking, feathered menaces, go along to the next Parish Council meeting, and give them the bird. ~ Ed.

Dear Phil

I note that the Refuse Freighter will be in the Village on Monday May 14th. As usual the Council have chosen to provide this service for 4 hours when many residents are at work (between 12 & 4 pm). However it occurs to me that some able-bodied people who might be around the Village on that day might like to fill the freighter with the remains of last years bonfire. This unsightly heap remains in the Rec because of the heavy rain at the time, but also because a lot of non-combustible items e.g. bedsteads and other metal objects were put on the fire. These items are actually quite dangerous and should be removed for the safety of children playing in the village.

Just a thought.

Sally Palmer

Good idea Sally. I'm worried that the freighter will arrive at the Bull just two days after The Chronicle's 200th issue party. I hope the driver doesn't remove from the car park any still-comatose members of the 630 club who have been there since Saturday and not yet been missed by family and friends.

How about it guys? Would any of you who are around then be prepared to help get rid of the rubbish from the Rec? ~Ed

Dear Sir

So, discussions continue over the future (or not) of the village Hall. I refuse to call it the church room as it was built for the village, by the village, to be used and maintained by the people of the village.

I have read in a recent Chronicle that £6000 has now been raised towards improvements to the Hall. Congratulations! You must be well pleased to have raised that much in, er, well about six years actually. So, at £1000 a year, with £29,000 to go, you could consider to start improvements in 2030. But of course, then there's increased building costs over the next 29 years, probably doubling the original estimates, so you could then start in 2065. The problem then of course, is that you will all be dead, and who will fundraise then?

Lets face it Aston Abbots, it ain't gonna work. Pull the damned place down and plant a couple of nice oak trees in its place, and who knows, by 2065 they would be mature enough to cut down and, well, cut up and make into doors and things that could go into building, well, a village Hall or something.

Alternatively, why not try and get into someone's good books, so that when they snuff it they leave all their money to the village. Then you really could build a village Hall to be proud of.

Drew Morebreth

The above letter was edited slightly for content. It is usually The Chronicle's policy not to print letters written under a nom-de-plume unless the editor knows the author's identity. In this case I don't, but it is April after all... Please take it with how ever many pinches of salt you like. ~ Ed

DON'T FORGET ~

FETE 2001

SATURDAY 21ST JULY

Plant Pots If you have any unwanted plant pots they would be most useful for the people preparing plants for the plants stall. Please contact Clare Shorrocks on 681260 if you can help

Bridal Dresses, Christening Robes and Tailor's Dummies If you can lend any of these items on the day of the fete they would be very useful for one of the displays. Please contact Clare Shorrocks on 681260

Volunteers If you would be prepared to help on a stall **on the day**—maybe just for **one hour** so you don't miss the whole fete—then please let Barbara Bellingham know that you are available. Barbara is on 681689.

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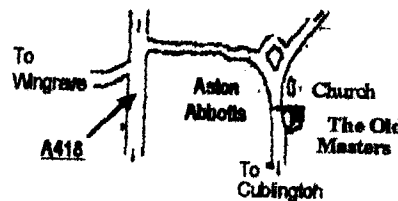
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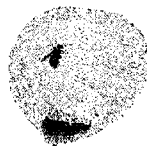
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200 Issues of The Chronicle

In a pre-launch issue of The Chronicle, editor-elect Graham Parker wrote "*The Parish Council has accepted the responsibility of producing a monthly newsletter for the village and somehow or other I appear to have been given the job as editor - the principle reason for the dubious honour is probably that I was not at the meeting when the position was discussed*".

Issue Number 1 of The Chronicle hit the streets in September 1983. Articles told how Aston Abbots came second in Bucks in the Best Kept Village competition; there was an item on the possibility of connecting households to North Sea Gas; Gardening Tips; the Aston Abbots Cookbook; and a report on the 1983 fete, which was opened by Vic Scott and raised £969.17.

There was also an update on Parish Council activities, with the Parish Council then consisting of Colin Higgs (chairman), John Whyte, Peter Dines, Graham Parker, Les Smith and David Watts. A reply slip asked for views on the future of the Church Room (199 issues later The Chronicle was to do the same again). A feature article by Ruth and David Watts touched on 900 years of Aston Abbots history and the Message From The Rector Fr. John Heffer, in addition to wishing The Chronicle well, gave news of a forthcoming visit by the Bishop of Buckingham (I feel a limerick coming on).

And with this first issue of 12 pages The Chronicle was established, garnering a favourable reaction from villagers.

The first issues contained no advertising, but by issue 3 Graham was saying, "*This issue of funding must be faced,*" and estimating the annual cost at £150. Free distribution was an essential guiding principle of The Chronicle and issue 5 in January 1984 carried the first advertisements.

By the time The Chronicle celebrated its first year in publication with issue 12 the 'Noticeboard' page - the forerunner to our Peoples Page and What's On pages - was becoming established and regular contributors were emerging, including an occasional column written by 'Bucket Of Booze' which poked fun at village events. Local news included the granting of planning permission for conversion of the former school to a restaurant, despite a petition against it signed by 42 local residents. Less than a year later the Old Masters was open and Juan had become a regular advertiser supporting The Chronicle, as he still does today.

Issue 12 also contained the news that Aston Abbots had won the Gurney cup for the best kept village in Bucks.

By the end of 1984 editor Graham Parker was threatening to "*bore you into submission*" if he didn't receive more articles, and admitting that The Chronicle was running at a loss.

In 1985 issue 27 featured the first Andy Bystra cartoon showing Ernie and Eileen Naylor leaving the Bull and Butcher. The Noticeboard page had metamorphosed into the Peoples Page, edited by Bridget Brandon, with a separate events listing.

In January 86 Graham reported The Chronicle as still running at a loss, despite contributions from the Parish Council (£10) and the Christmas Show (£5)). At that time few people realised that Graham was making up the deficit out of his own pocket.

Issue 30 in February saw the first Andy Bystra cover drawing and some sun appeared on the financial horizon with the publication of a letter from 'The Friends Of The Chronicle':

Dear Graham,

The purpose of this letter is two fold. Firstly to extend thanks to you for the work you do in bringing out the Chronicle ever month. The paper is enjoyed by a great many people and is a source of conversation in many houses not to mention pubs. It is something we all look forward to dropping through our letter boxes. The second reason is that we would like to be of some help. Some of us send in the odd article, some of us raise funds which eventually get to you, some of us just smile as we read.

However we realise that you need additional funds to run the Chronicle and we would like to ensure its future health. In conversations this Christmas

we came up with the idea of "THE FRIENDS OF THE CHRONICLE".

This would be a group of people willing to contribute a small sum of money on an occasional basis to give your venture some additional security.

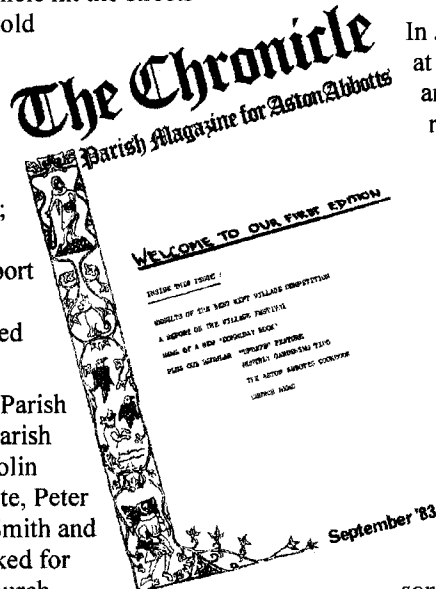
The authors of this letter have already volunteered to become a "Friend" By the publication of this letter we would ask any one else who enjoys the Chronicle and who would like to become a "FRIEND" to contact any one of the people below.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Bystra, Bridget Brandon,
Chris Brandon, Neil Chesher,

Margaret Chesher, Helga Davies, Stuart Davies, Fred Poulter, Molly Poulter, Patricia Sims, Patrick Sims, Tricia Webb, Marshall Webb, John Whyte, Dee Whyte and Rita Robinson.

In the same issue another letter from Basil Bottom threatened to



Something For Everybody

This first issue of the CHRONICLE will I hope inform, entertain and amuse. The aim is to try and provide a magazine that will have something for everyone. If your area of interest is not covered please let me know and I will try and put the matter right in future editions.

There is almost too much to report this month - a successful Festival; a sensational (and much deserved) second place in the Best Kept Village Competition; news of a new 'Domesday Book' to be produced by the Friends of the Vale of Aylesbury, as well as our regular 'Message from the Rector'.

Other monthly feature include advice from our 'Amateur Gardener' and the 'Aston Abbots Cookbook', a pot-pourri of recipes old and new; familiar and unfamiliar.

But, this is your newsletter, available free to all. If you want to announce future events, suggest ideas, buy something or sell something why not use THE CHRONICLE.

The regular 'Update' section on Parish Council news will I hope keep you informed of issues that are discussed and enable you to use your voice in village affairs. This month the Council is seeking your advice on the future of the Church Room. All comments would be most welcome.

Graham Parker.

200 Issues of The Chronicle ~ continued

take over The Chronicle, saying, "I am thinking of making a bid for your magazine and to thereby increase the size of my publishing empire. At present I produce the following: The Undertakers Weekly, - but the circulation of this publication seems to be dying".

As 1986 progressed Fr John Heffer made an appeal for a demonstration at the dangerous Wingrave crossroads following the death of Wingrave cyclist David Gaskell. The campaigning and protest was to gain momentum over the year featuring in local newspapers as well as in The Chronicle.

'View From The Corner Of The Bar', penned by Neil Chesher, appeared and by the middle of the year contributions and fund-raising events were beginning to ensure a future for The Chronicle. The village shop started selling 'Bric-a-Brac' and The Chronicle expressed its best wishes to the O'Sullivan and Perkins families whose homes were destroyed by fire. Peter Knight won first prize in the Bucks farming and Wildlife competition.

1987 started with the Parish Council expressing concern over a plan to build one dwelling at the rear of Home Farm and turning down a request for help with Chronicle funding.

April saw Billie and Phil Howe leave the Royal Oak. The Parish Council was in crisis due to lack of candidates for the May elections and the Aston Abbotts Chapel celebrated its 125th anniversary. In the summer streetlights were finally installed at Wingrave crossroads, but the campaign for a safer junction continued.

Arthur Roff, a steward at the Methodist Chapel opened the 1987 Festival. Licensees Barry and Maralyn Sykes kept the Bull and Butcher open all day whilst Trisha Webb and Dick Clifford cooked the burgers that these days are so splendidly provided by out Four Fat Blokes.

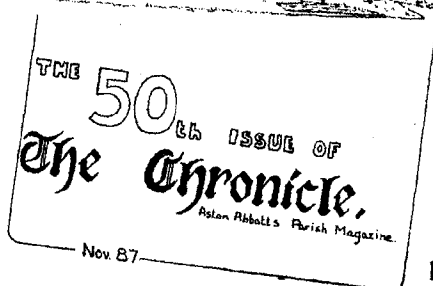
In September the first cabaret - an evening of Entertainment - was staged by The Friends Of the Chronicle, raising nearly £300 as reported by a grateful Graham Parker when he penned the editorial for the 50th issue in November, "Now, welcome to our 50th Edition, marked (or perhaps scarred is the more appropriate word) as it was by the 'Chronicle Aid' party in the Church Room last Saturday night. Those of you who were there will remember it for many a long day; those of you who were not there will now by now that your good judgement has again been vindicated".

The Christmas Show raised further much needed funds. At the end of the year the Youth Club closed, due to dwindling membership, and the Royal Oak completed renovations under landlords Gayburn and Joanna Owen.

1988 started with St James having to find £750 for the chancel roof as its inner roof had fallen in and Colin Higgs took BCC's Highways Department to task over the poor condition of our village roads. New landlords Roger and Lorraine Sykes took over the Bull, only to leave in the summer. A little controversy raised its head over some Chronicle articles

signed with a Nom de Plume.

By now The Chronicle had increased in size and was sometimes running to 22 pages or more. Although some of the increased page count was due to larger amounts of advertising that brought in more revenue, it still created a heavy workload for Graham. In 1988 the use of computers was not widespread and much of The Chronicle was typed up by hand and glued onto pages which were then photocopied. This was clearly taking its toll, with many of Graham's editorials starting, "Sorry for the late arrival of this months Chronicle..."



In Issue 60 matters reached a head as stated in the editorial, "Nothing to say other than hope there is someone out there who would be interested in taking over the position of Editor. While I enjoy the task it does take up time that should be used in other ways, and the likelihood is that publication will become increasingly erratic. So if there is someone who is interested in taking over please let me know and I will gladly explain what is involved". With remarkable prescience and two inches below appeared the item, "People Page Stop Press. Welcome to Gordon Smith, Caroline Lane and their daughter Sarah, who have just moved into Church Row."

As the year rushed to a conclusion the Rev John Heffer moved on to Wilden in Beds. Neighbouring Cublington was up in arms over Bootsey Waite and his National Chopper Club rallies, and Aston Abbott's annual bonfire night celebrations were once again organised by Tony Hewitt and John Ford.

1989 started with bright promise as AVDC agreed to discuss village conservation proposals. Graham Parker was still at the helm and another Chronicle funding cabaret was planned for February, but in the March editorial Graham wrote, "Can I now announce my 'goodbye'. As from the July issue I am afraid I will be vacating the Editors desk and handing over to well I know not who at the moment. If you are interested in taking over the Chronicle, lock, stock and barrel, then please let me know. If no one comes forward the magazine will cease with the July issue".

Aston Abbotts was suffering from a spate of tyre slashing incidents. The Bull was changing hands rapidly with the departure of Dave and Tonia Parsons and the arrival of Barry and Denise Ward. Don Hinds passed away in the early summer.

A plan to create affordable local housing attracted signs of dissent with a 'name and address supplied' article to The Chronicle in June. "As an observer at the May Parish Council meeting I was stunned to hear of the enquiries being made to build what amounts to a brand new 'village' between Aston Abbotts and Cublington. Not only that, but that 'village' is going to consist of mobile homes. Now to me 'mobile homes' is a euphemism for 'gypsies encampment' and we have all seen the terrible problems created in the location of the campsite up at Cublington. The area of Aston Abbotts and Cublington has always been under

"...A BRAND NEW VILLAGE BETWEEN ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON"

"...THE MAGAZINE WILL CEASE WITH THE JULY ISSUE"

200 Issues of The Chronicle ~ continued

attack. Not so long ago it was the airport, then insidious bits of infilling and now...."

In issue 70 Graham Parker said his final goodbye and announced that Caroline Lane and Gordon Smith would take over the editorship. At the time Caroline and Gordon were renting temporary accommodation in Aylesbury whilst their house in Church Row was being repaired following a fire.

The same issue carried a record number of furious responses to the article on affordable housing, as typified by Lol Hinds, "If anonymous had come to myself or Ray Wilkinson and asked us about this project instead of listening to malicious gossip and rumours, they would realise that we are trying to help the locals of Aston Abbots, Cublington and Wingrave to remain in or near to their relatives and loved ones in these villages. With the price of houses in this village we see so very often rich businessmen and women coming in then selling up making a quick profit never to be seen again - so much for community spirit.

"Well, I have lived here all my life and I don't see why I should be shoved out by some rich person trying to make a fast buck at the expense of people like myself. I can assure you that from the huge amount of people who are interested in these types of home not one of them is a gypsy, nor do they ever intend to be one, so that knocks that theory on the head.

"...So please if there were any of you out there taken in by that OTT letter then please spare a thought for people who genuinely want to remain part of this community."

With that controversy, Chronicle founder Graham Parker bowed out. It took nearly a page for him to list the contributors and advertisers he wished to thank, including special thanks to, "Colin Higgs and Peter Dines who have never missed an issue".

September 1989 saw Caroline and Gordon's first issue as editors. Graham Parker opened the festival, and a festival display showed the planned low-cost housing development.

The Beds and Bucks Observer of the 15th August reported the "Gypsy Camp" controversy and how the article in The Chronicle had stirred it up. However, at the end of the month the Observer reported that AVDC had turned down the plan.

Village life continued as usual. Andrew Ford came 72nd out of 1737 runners in the Wycombe Hall marathon and The Chronicle reported on Neil 'Captain Birds Eye' Chesher's abortive attempt to single-handedly sail his dinghy across Ullswater.

New rector Bob Willmott was installed in September and welcomed in print by Peter Dines. An Aylesbury property agent Steve Rotherham purchased the abbey and its contents were put up for sale in November. The first map of the planned Aston Abbots conservation area was printed in The Chronicle. In December hunt saboteurs disrupted a meeting of the Old Berkeley Beagles near the Royal Oak.

1990 saw Gordon and Caroline settling comfortably into their editor's chairs. The management of the Church Room was causing a certain amount of discussion, a fund was launched to

repair the church clock and Gordon Smith wrote a special report on a plan to build a landfill site between Berton and Rowsham. Chronicle Treasurer Mike Cox stepped down as he was leaving the village and John Whyte took over the position – and holds it till this day!

June 1990's editorial asked, "What's happening to the Bull & Butcher? It's a question on many

people's lips — well nobody knows anything very much yet. All we know is that the brewery has put it up for sale because it doesn't make their required amount of sales per week, and that several other pubs belonging to the same brewery are suffering the same fate (such as the Unicorn in Cublington). The Bull is under offer at the moment, and rumour has it that the potential buyers want to keep it as a pub. We hope so. We think it's good for the village to have two pubs with very different characters and clientele. Furthermore, we think that Josh and Kay are making a splendid job of continuing the Bull's friendly atmosphere, and if they can't stay themselves, we hope someone else will". Hmmm.....

Kay and Josh Reid left the Bull in July. The Peoples page welcomed the von Simpson family to The Abbey in September and Chris and Pam Watson took over at the Bull. Also in that issue Caroline Lane warned: "As many of you will already know, Doris Scutchings is giving up the Post Office at the end of September. She has run the Post Office for 43 years, so will be very much missed. Our good wishes to her for the future.

"Out of curiosity I rang the head office in Oxford to find out what plans are for Aston. They are looking for someone to take it over on a part-time basis. Nobody had applied when I rang. This is sad, but not really surprising — life is getting increasingly difficult for village shops and post offices. The post office is a focal point of daytime life in the village and it would be a shame to lose it, so do find out more if you think you can help."

Ownership of the Church Room was still puzzling many and its management was starting to become controversial. A full-page article by Bob Willmott attempted to clarify the issue.

The controversy made the local press during November. The campaign against the Berton landfill site was gaining momentum. Geoffrey Husson of Badgers Oak Farm applied for a license to stage a rock festival with up to 25,000 attendees on his land the following summer. Aston Abbots and Cublington PCs opposed the proposal.

1991 started with the sale of the Bull by its then owners David and Yvonne Ash and the Peoples Page welcomed new owners Frank and Louise McManus who "...have plans for refurbishment and expansion of facilities at the Bull". Doris and Len Scutchings celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary and the village celebrated as the plan for the landfill at Berton was rejected by AVDC.

April's Chronicle reported that the Wing bypass was to be a dual carriageway and follow the Northern route cutting between Burcott and Wing, and the Owens left The Royal oak.

Bob and Julie Moulton took over at the Oak and co-editor of The Chronicle Caroline Lane joined the Parish Council. A letter from Ivy Brandon, Arthur and Brenda Roff, Vie Scott, Vika and

"THE POST OFFICE IS A FOCAL POINT OF DAYTIME LIFE IN THE VILLAGE AND IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LOSE IT..."

"AN AYLESBURY PROPERTY AGENT PURCHASED THE ABBEY"

200 Issues of The Chronicle ~ continued

Paul Tyldesley, Alf and Wilf Parker and Rev. Peter Lemmon in May's Church News asked, "First we lost our school, then we lost our Post Office. Do we want to lose our chapel?"

An intruder kicked John Page of Oxley Farm in May. In June BCC announced support for the southern Wing bypass route. Roy Malin took over as chair of the Parish Council after Colin Higgs resigned following 21 years service as a district and parish councillor. By the end of 1991 sufficient funds had been raised for the Church clock to be repaired.

Early in 1992 Caroline and Gordon presided over the 100th issue of The Chronicle. A Cheese and wine party was held in the Church Room to celebrate it (see elsewhere for details of the 200th issue party). The event was celebrated with a collection of article reprints from the first 100 issues. The issue also contained a report on the Chronicle cabaret titled 'Chesher's New Organ Revealed', penned by Ray Wilkinson.

The next issue was looking for fete committee members and also reported on the formation of an Aston Abbotts Action Group to oppose the wing bypass.

Then in June, grim news from Janet Biddle: "Regretfully it has been decided that the village fete will not be held this year... We had just one offer to join the committee after the article in the May Chronicle, and it was felt we needed the very minimum of eight to make it work. We all have many other commitments with work, families etc. and it just does not seem fair or reasonable to ask six people to undertake such a lot." However, the Church decided to go ahead with a separate Church fete in the grounds of the Abbey.

September reported on a spate of burglaries in the village. Distributed with the December issue was a copy of the village appraisal, which had been carried out over the previous months. 134 adults and 14 young people aged between 10 and 17 had responded to the survey and its findings included:

"We would support the sorting of rubbish for recycling. The sub-post office is still badly missed. The shop is valued as one of the few village amenities left and for its friendliness, but more stock wanted. Church and chapel: both seen as important to the village by most people."

In issue 111 Clifford Price reported "It's no good hanging about if you want tickets for the Cabaret. And it's no good hanging about if you want to be sure of a good seat. The first members of the audience were there forty minutes early, having made it from the far end of Ross Road. The first members of the cast turned up quarter of an hour later, having finally found the key to the Church Room. The scene was set for another memorable evening..."

The Chronicle reported that the Church Room committee were looking at improving the toilet facilities, with a new toilet block extension at an estimated cost of £10,000.

"DO WE WANT TO LOSE OUR CHAPEL?"

The Bull and Butcher alterations were approved by AVDC. 1993's fete was opened by Don Bellingham and realised net proceeds of £930. October's cover showed a drawing of a possible dual carriageway underpass junction at Wingrave crossroads and readers were urged to attend the public meeting about it at Wingrave School hall.

By now, Lol Hinds was organising the annual fireworks display and thanks were extended to him in the last Chronicle of the year. The results of the 1991 census were reported, putting Aston Abbott's population at 340.

Issue 120 wished a Happy 40th birthday to regular advertiser Dave Lewis (Flackwell Electronics) and listed his hobbies as "Flying, Muff Diving, Gate Crashing Parties and Pubs"! The Neighbourhood watch scheme was revived.

March's issue 121 reported the theft of the Florence Nightingale collection box from Osborn's shop. A small spate of car crimes was attracting interest.

In May Caroline and Gordon wrote, "Come the autumn, we will have produced five years' worth of Chronicles, and we think it's time to stop before we get too set in our ways" and appealed for someone to take over. The following month they reported, "We have not exactly been swamped by people eager to take over the editorship of The Chronicle". By July the idea of a rota of people each producing one issue a year was mooted.

Issue 129 appears to be missing from the Archive, but a very smart issue 130 in October, edited by Simon and Helen Dowling, tells us that Chris and Bridget Brandon had edited the previous issue. The rota system of Chronicle editing was well under way.

November saw editors David de Silva and Barbara Bellingham suggesting people might like to protest about the planned Microlight airfield at Aston Clinton, whilst in the Church News Colin reported that the Chapel had closed.

Deirdre Whyte produced the Christmas 1994 issue, with an ominous report appearing in the Parish Council Notes under the Planning Applications section, "Nash's Farm, conversion of two barns into residential and building of eight further dwellings: after much discussion among councillors and comments from members of the public present, the following comments were made. (1) Building materials had not been specified; it was extremely important that materials should complement houses in the conservation area. (2) Boundary demarcation not specified... (3) What was the purpose of the access left open to the field behind? Further development in the field behind this site would be unwelcome. (4) Although not grounds for objection, the parish council felt an opportunity had been missed to provide starter homes within reach of local people..."

Andy Bystra ushered in 1995 with Jan's Chronicle, Gordon Kemp and Ann Goodman took over for February, and Janet Biddle produced March's issue in which Caroline regretted that



200 Issues of The Chronicle ~ continued

they had felt unable to print a village 1994 roundup submitted by 'Ivor Cheek' for fear of causing offence.

Margaret Chesher's April issue noted that the Nashs Farm planning application was on hold for legal reasons connected with land donation near to the Rec.

Margaret Kent started the May issue with "Welcome to the May edition of the Chronicle. May, I think, is one of the loveliest months of the year. Everything is fresh and green, birds singing, lambs in the fields, gardens planted and lawns mown. We are lucky indeed to live in such tranquil surroundings, so let us remember and be thankful as we commemorate in our own way the 50th anniversary of VE day on May 8th." Elsewhere Gordon Smith regretted that there were not more volunteers for the fete.

June 95 was edited by Jeremy Bale and the Parish Council minutes note the refusal of a planning application for an extension at New Zealand Cottages. In issue 139 editor Caroline Lane reported that Andy Bystra would take over editorship when he retired and it was also reported that planning permission had been granted for barn conversions and new dwellings at Nashs Farm. The Bull and Butcher were applying for a public entertainment licence.

Caroline stayed in the chair for the September issue and the following month's editor Don Bellingham announced that Andy Bystra would be doing the job from now on. With that, the rota system of Chronicle production came to an end.

So in November 1995, with issue 142, Andy Bystra became editor, starting with these words, "Armed with a brand new computer, boxes of Chronicle bums and Caroline Lane's detailed list of 'instructions'; right now it seems like I've taken on an impossible task. Oh well; one man plays many parts in his time and all that".

His sentiments reflected the realisation that producing The Chronicle was not a quick task. Margaret Kent and Tony Hinds have since told me of the amount of work that went into their issue. Although computers were having an impact, much of the magazine was still being assembled by hand and the sheer volume of work in putting together a 24-26 page monthly publication with its local news, regular contributions and reports, features and advertising can only be appreciated when you have tried it.

With Andy taking over The Chronicle, Rita took over The Peoples Page from Bridget Brandon who had produced it since September 1985 - just over ten years.. Also in November, the crossword made its first appearance.

In December Ivor Cheek returned:

*Now Ivor sat in relaxation
brain had gone in meditation.
Should he pen some foolish lines
to entertain the village minds*

*Should he write, just for The Chronicle
more biting satire, diabolical.
It's tricky now, with laws of liable
His non-de-plume must be reliable.*

"If you have any information which might lead to the identification of the scoundrel, please write to The Chronicle immediately" pleaded Andy.

January 1996 started with the news that islands were being considered for Wingrave crossroads. In April Andy was able to report that March's questionnaire on the future of the Rec had attracted a total of four responses. Next month he reported, "At the end of April I attended a symposium run especially for editors of village magazines... Of the thirty-five or so magazines represented we have the smallest circulation at 174 (the largest was 6,500). We were the only one of a handful which is delivered completely free to every household and the only one which is totally financed by the efforts of villagers and advertising space".



Andy Bystra

He also noted that relatively few were using computers to produce their magazine, something that Andy was pioneering with The Chronicle to create greater consistency, make a more attractive presentation, and to try to reduce the workload. In a more humorous moment much was made of the disappearance of Banner Homes' flags from their Nashs Farm development.

Next month Banner Homes got their own back, as Caroline Lane reported in June 96's issue 149, "Parish councillors were dismayed and angry as everyone else when the two barns at the front of Nashs Farm were demolished. The Parish Council, our District Councillor Bryan Round, and (we think) AVDC Planning Department all assumed that they were to be converted. However... it is legal...."

The same month Shirley Ford and family were still mourning the death of Shirley's husband John some weeks earlier, well-known villager Percy Rickard (whose chair is still in the Bull) moved into a residential home and, on a happier note, Ruth and Don Bellingham celebrated their Golden wedding.

Issue 150 passed without any comment upon this particular milestone in Chronicle publishing. The Parish Council minutes in issue 151 shows that the unexpected demolition of the Nashs Farm barns was still very much in people's minds, "The site appeared to be being deliberately developed by stealth, a piece at a time, whereas a development as large as this, in such a small village should be being considered [by] the village and Aylesbury Vale in it's entirety.

"THE SITE APPEARED TO BE BEING DELIBERATELY DEVELOPED BY STEALTH"

"The two barns which Aylesbury Vale and our P.C. had all understood were to be converted were deliberately removed in early one morning by Banner Homes. These barns were a dominant feature of this corner of the village and should now be reproduced in some form as part of this latest application."

1996 drew to a close with Andy Bystra thanking the people who had contributed to The Chronicle during his first year as editor, and also extending thanks to treasurer John Whyte and all those, including the village show performers, who had raised sufficient funds to ensure publication continued. The show itself, with its Star Trek theme was warmly reviewed in February.

March 1997 saw Rita's People Page welcoming Liz and Ivan to Nashs Farm. I doubt many Astonians knew what an Alpaca

200 Issues of The Chronicle ~ *continued*

looked like back then, let alone thought that Aston Abbots would become home to a small herd of them!

Issue 158 in April reported that Frank and Louise McManus had raised around £1400 for the Macmillan Cancer Fund with their St Patrick's charity evening. This month, not for the first time, the issue of improvements to the Church Room was raised.

Andy Bystra had drawn up plans for improvements, but "After a site meeting, AVDC had offered an 'informal view', to the effect that it was unlikely that the plans would be supported".

By the time issue 159 appeared in May 1997, funding of The Chronicle had once again become a problem, as reported by Andy in his editorial, "Thanks largely to a donation from The Parish Council this month we have just enough finds to cover the printing of this issue. However, yet again we do not have enough money to publish the next issue hence the 'begging letter' in the next column. The level of help received will be a good indication as to whether The Chronicle is valued by the village in general or indeed required at all!"

In his letter treasurer John Whyte appealed "URGENT! URGENT!! URGENT!!! We need your help for The Chronicle. Each issue costs about £75.00 to produce and we have run out of money. Please, please can you help?"

Enough donations arrived for the following month's issue to be printed. On Rita's People Page a couple of items caught my eye: Andi and Becky were welcomed to their new home in Nashs Farm (Andi Swain is going to play a part in the later stages of our story, of course) and former Chronicle editor Caroline Lane stepped down from the Parish Council after many years of service. Also, planning permission for 5 more homes at Nashs Farm was refused.

In July Andy reported upon a Parish Council donation of £200 to The Chronicle (in addition to a previous £50). He also announced that advertising rates would have to be increased as the amount charged per page was about half of what it was costing to print the page!

August's editorial was sombre as Andy reflected upon the deep felt shock of everybody following the death of the Princess Of Wales. Bob Willmott reported that Siv Tunicliffe was to be ordained and would become our curate and a weight restriction was put on Castle Hill bridge in Wing, diverting more heavy goods vehicles through Aston Abbots.

The final editorial of 1997 dealt a double blow. First it was announced that there would be no Christmas show for the first time in many years. Then Andy announced, "As of July next year I intend to 'stand down' as editor... During the three years I will have been editor, The Chronicle has been transformed from 'cut and paste' into the 'digital age' and I believe maintained the aims initially laid down by Graham Parker (today this would be called 'the mission statement'). However, I now feel it would benefit from a fresh approach to it's content."

Andy had indeed transformed the presentation of The Chronicle, applying modern computer techniques to aid layout and incorporate graphics. However, he was writing and typing up large amounts of it as well, organising printing and distribution, and he was spending anything up to six days a month on its preparation. Quite rightly, he wanted more time to concentrate on some pet projects of his own. However, it was to be six

months before he would depart. Elsewhere in the issue the sad news of Frank Higgs' death was reported.

January 1998 started with Andy reflecting on the previous year and observing, "The early part of the year saw our new neighbours move into the Nashs Farm development and friendlier people you couldn't wish to meet."

The issue also carried a report from 'Nobby' Wilkinson on the 'Bull Monty' staged by 630 club members in the Bull and Butcher and inspired by the film with a similar name. And a public meeting was announced to see if there was support for redevelopment of the Church Room. Next month Andy reported that only ten people turned up to the meeting. The Banner homes planning appeals were rumbling on with the news that the plans for five more houses had once again been turned down.

At the Annual Parish meeting, reported in issue 168, it was recorded "Andy Bystra reported that the Chronicle was in improved financial health due to a donation from the Parish Council, private donations, and fundraising events. As always more contributions would be welcome. The average length of each issue had been reduced in order to cut costs." It was also reported that a Chronicle Cabaret, organised by Neil Chesher with help from the other cabaret stalwarts, had raised £150 for The Chronicle.

In May Andy worried that there had been no offers to take over the editorship and said, "Therefore I conclude that next month's issue will be the last". In his last editorial in the June 1998 issue he thanked all the contributors and said that at that time there was no firm plan for continuation of the magazine. With that, Andy Bystra bowed out as editor, but he didn't go away. Since then he has remained a major contributor and enthusiastic supporter, with his familiar bee motif still adorning many of the village news items and other articles.

In September 1998 Andi Swain took over as editor. A new approach had been agreed, and The Chronicle was now to be produced as more of a team effort. The team was Andi Swain (editor), Andy Bystra (features and distribution), Ivan Greenaway with Liz Barlow (advertising) and John Whyte (finance/funding). With his first issue Andi was able to celebrate 15 years of The Chronicle and report that regular contributor and former Parish Councillor Colin Higgs had been voted the Top Parish Volunteer.

The next issue – 171 – reported that the final phase of Nashs Farm had been granted planning permission subject to legal formalities and a new feature gave local restaurant reviews along with "Abbott ratings" to show how good they were. November saw Carol and I being welcomed on the Peoples Page (we had arrived in September) and reported that the Open Gardens had raised £270 and the Harvest Auction £260, both for Church Funds. Two whole pages were devoted to 'Millennium Matters' with Liz, Francesca and Jackie saying, "there is clearly not enough enthusiasm at present to make it possible to book a marquee".

Andi Swain's October editorial said, "Well, my third Chronicle and I seem to be getting into the swing of things! I still haven't worked out how Andy Bystra managed to look after all elements of production - editorial duties alone are quite time consuming". This month Dave Lewis' Flackwell Electronics

"...WE HAVE RUN OUT OF MONEY. PLEASE, PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?"

"...NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE WILL BE THE LAST"

200 Issues of The Chronicle ~ continued

advert moved to take up the whole back page and the tradition of including within it a (sometimes rather cryptic) cartoon involving Dave began.

Millennium matters gained momentum with the Christmas 1998 issue reporting that a party would be held in a marquee at Oak Farm House and by issue 176 in February 1999 all 120 tickets were sold.

The speed with which the Millennium party preparations gained momentum reflects the surprising extent of social activities within the village. The Chronicle has always reported on these and many articles of that time were reflecting this rich social agenda, with reports on cabarets, a Burns night, a St Georges Dinner and many other events.

In March it was reported that Richard (Dicky) Chapman had passed away. Also that month, Clare Shorrocks wrote about the inaugural meeting of the Aston Abbots History group and Andy Bystra admitted to having lost the previous month's Chronicles off the back of his motorbike when he picked them up from Waddesdon School, where they are printed.

The following month Andy Bystra reported that the last four new houses at Nashs Farm were nearing completion with the words, "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". A spoof article from 'The Church Spier' asked for donations (cash only please) to help fight the Aston Abbots helipad, recently announced by Dave Lewis and at the 1999 Parish Meeting Andi Swain was able to report that "The Chronicle was in good health with 27 regular advertisers and approximately 20 regular contributors. Distribution had reached 178 copies. Reader's 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 circa £250." Andi asked for a contribution from Fete proceedings.

In May Andi was able to "say a big thank you to Tom Manning and the Parish Council for its very kind contribution to the production costs for the current year".

Also in May The Chronicle was dragged kicking and screaming into the modern age when it gained an email address. Nigel Palmer grabbed the honour of being the first person to email the magazine but, as reported in June, nobody could read it.

The 1999 fete was blessed with temperatures soaring into the 80s and the first appearance of the Four Fat Blokes burger stand. In his editorial Andi reported, "The fete is a fine example of villagers coming together to help out others whilst having a good time, and is the result of a lot of organisation and hard work. David and Barbara have organised the day to great effect for a number of years but it's now time for someone else to take the helm". £2,139 was raised.

Safety on the A418 was causing concern. The Chronicle reported, "At the recent Parish Council meeting the latest fatal accident on the A418 was discussed. This tragedy brings the total number of fatalities on this dangerous stretch of road to ten in the past three years".

"THIS TRAGEDY BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FATALITIES TO TEN IN THE PAST THREE YEARS"

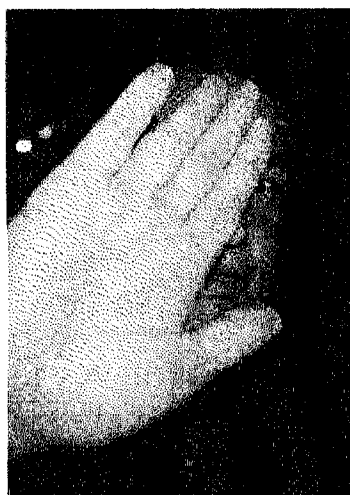
Andy Bystra reported on June's 630 Club canal cruise organised by Ray Wilkinson and Captain Bob Bean, "A brief stop was made at the White Lion, Marsworth so that the hot meal could be brought on board and the boat manoeuvred up through the lock. The opportunity was not wasted by most members who promptly jumped ship and disappeared into The Lion".

When issue 183 appeared in October 1999 Andi Swain was warning about the increase in aircraft as Luton airport expanded, the millennium party plans were nearing completion and Clare Shorrocks welcomed Gordon Smith to the Aston Abbots History group as they moved their millennium book project towards production.

The now legendary millennium party clearly left all the Chronicle reporters with such terrible hangovers that the party report did not appear until issue 187 when Andy Bystra wrote, "It was exceptionally nice to be able to celebrate this once in a lifetime event in such a stylish and pleasant way. What made it particularly nice was being able to do so with so many of our family, friends and fellow villagers".

Controversy had struck following a letter in the previous issue about the village kids playing in the streets. So full was the postbag that Andi was unable to print all of the letters. Opinions varied, but Margaret Kent summed up the feelings of many, "I think the youngsters in this village are a good bunch - there's no malicious damage, only high spirits. Most of them must be bored, there isn't much for them to do, and kicking a ball about seems harmless".

The Castle Hill bridge in Wing was finally re-opened in March, affording an alternative route for heavy goods traffic other than through Aston Abbots. Also that month the first of a series of Village Interviews conducted by yours truly appeared, with Andy Bystra the vict... err... subject.



Andi Swain: "No Publicity!"

"I HOPE WE HAVE ALL LEARNED HOW TRICKY AND RUTHLESS DEVELOPERS CAN BE AND BE BETTER PREPARED THE NEXT TIME"

In April Rita retired from the Peoples page, which she had compiled for 5 years. May's cover sported a picture of Clare and Peter Shorrocks receiving a large millennium Oak as a gift from grateful

partygoers for letting their house and garden be used for the millennium party. And yet more controversy, with the announcement that the Church Room was to be renamed the Parish Hall.

The Abbey gardens were opened to the public as part of the Open Gardens in June and proved hugely popular, as did Vic Scott's garden with its 400 species of plants.

September saw a report on the Astonbury music event held at Norduck farm "We are fortunate in Aston Abbots in having people of all ages who have considerable musical talent". But there was a serious plea from Andi, "I am now into my third

200 Issues of The Chronicle ~ continued

year as Editor of this wonderful magazine and the time has come for me to hand the Editor's cap to somebody new - maybe you? Alas, an ever increasing work-load has somewhat forced the issue and so a new editor is needed rather urgently".

Two months later Andi was able to gleefully report that some fool had been found for the job. The fool's protestations that his cry of "I'll do it" was actually referring to a bet over drinking a pint of beer whilst standing on ones head went unheeded, and as Andy bowed out with the final issue of 2000 - number 196 - the Chronicle was passed over to your current editor.

And so ends my little rummage through the archive box of 200 Chronicles, each issue representing a little labour of love at the hands of the editor of the day and the dozens of people who have contributed to it over the last 18 years. Without doubt I have missed many special people and many important events. So, I apologise now if I have caused any offence.

It's impossible to thank everybody personally, so I will just say a big Thank You to every one who has contributed in the past, whether it be a single letter or a long stint as editor; to our advertisers; to the people who have made donations or worked so hard to raise funds; to the Parish Council for its support; and

to the distribution team.

But, most importantly, thank you to YOU the readers. You are the reason we do this. This is your magazine and it is produced for you. So please write in with letters, articles, news or adverts. We are always pleased to hear from you.

The Chronicle has changed in its 200 editions. It started as a typed newsheet with handwritten headlines and articles cut and glued into place and has now become a Publisher 2000 document printing neatly out of a laser printer at a tap on a keyboard. But this change is only superficial; underneath it The Chronicle hasn't changed one jot. It still includes the village news and gossip, the What's On items, the Church reports and news, the jokes and leg-pulls, the cryptic comments and stories, the Parish Council news. It still tries to uphold Graham Parker's original aims as stated in his first editorial reproduced on page 11. It still tries to inform, entertain and amuse. It still tries to have something for everyone. It's still the same magazine - and I hope it remains just as useful, relevant and important today as it was when issue number 1 first dropped through Aston Abbotts letterboxes back in September 1983.

~ Phil Spooner



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The Cublington Calendar

It was April and the people of Cublington were worried. Some because there was too much wind, and some because there was too little. "The black plague!" cried one old woman. And so she and her friends strung clothes-lines from tree to tree across the four roads leading into Cublington. "We must keep the wind out!". And they hung thick grey blankets over all the clothes lines.

But the wind that worried the old women was not strong enough to please the two millers in the village. "There's just not enough wind for us both," they said. so they shook hands and pulled down one of the mills.

It was July and the good people of Cublington were worried. Some of them were worried because it was not warm enough, and some because it was too wet. So one group of villagers busied themselves in the orchards, lighting bonfires under all the plum-trees to help the fruit to ripen.

But another group kept watch over the rising stream saying "Remember what happened last time?" Poor old Amy, she had to pull down her staircase otherwise the water would have got upstairs." So they collected as many willow-hurdles and hazel hurdles as they could, and put up a good, strong fence across the meadow between the stream and the village.

It was October and the good people of Cublington were worried because a rabid dog had bitten a wheelbarrow. "That'll be the end of it," said one woman. "It'll go mad," said her friend.

So the two of them hurriedly trundled the barrow into a garden shed, and chained it up.

It was December and the good people of Cublington were

worried. All year they had been building a new church But they had forgotten to put in any windows. A band of villagers went back to their homes in search of hampers and wheelbarrows - but not the barrow that was still in quarantine. Back in the churchyard, they opened their hampers to catch the sunlight. Then, at a signal from the master builder, they shut them up tight and wheeled them into the church.

When they opened their hampers again, and found no sunlight inside and were very puzzled.

It was February and the good people of Cublington were worried because they had not built their fine new church in exactly the right place. "There's nothing for it," said the masterbuilder. "We'll have to give it a push.". They all took off their coats and laid them on the ground outside the east end of the church. Then they walked round to the west end and put their right shoulders against the rough wall. They grunted and they shoved, and when they judged they had moved the church to its right position, they walked round to the east end again to pick up their coats.

But their coats had gone. Every single one of them. "Where are they?." "They can't have got up and walked away." "You know what we've done," said the master builder. "What noodles we are! We've pushed the church right over them." "Ah!" That's all right, then," Then they all trooped into the church to collect their coats.

It was April and the good people of Cublington were worried. A whole year had passed by and they hadn't even noticed it. A whole year, and it was time to begin again.

From 'The Old Stories' Kevin Crossley-Holland



The Chequers Inn

Carol had picked up a £20 discount voucher at her Christmas 'do' at the Chequers in Weston Turville, so Sally and Nigel Palmer, Carol and I set off to see if the food was as good as she had reported it to be.

The Chequers, located in Church Lane has a purpose built restaurant attached to the pub and is clearly aiming at restaurant-goers rather than providing pub meals. We enjoyed a drink in the (rather crowded) bar before taking our table. As it was a Friday we were not surprised that it was busy, but booking would seem to be advisable, if not essential. The menu offered a wide choice of dishes, with starters ranging from £4 to £8 and main dishes from just under £10 upwards. There was also a choice of fresh fish (on display, but not priced on the menu). There is a set menu with a good choice of dishes. As many of these are exactly the same as the dishes on the full *à-la-carte* menu it is possible to save a bit of money without sacrificing quality. The set menu is £18.50 for two courses and is available Monday to Friday only.

The restaurant itself was not cramped, which we liked. My Chequers Smokies starter was excellent at just under £6. Carol had fried goat's cheese and Sally had grilled sardines,

My Sea Bass, grilled with herbs, was delicious. I had them bone it when they brought it to the table, but they left rather a lot of bones in it, which was a bit of a nuisance. Carol and Sally also enjoyed the Sea Bass, whilst Nigel tucked into a fillet steak on a potato croquet base. The house wines were a touch expensive at around £11-12, but you could get a decent bottle of wine for

just a few pounds more.

The desert trolley was crammed with freshly made deserts, and those of us who pigged-out on them can testify that they tasted as good as they looked.

After coffee and mints came the bill – and here there were a couple of tiny niggles. Our £20 discount voucher, surrendered when we had sat down, was forgotten. The handwritten bill had 'Service Not Included' printed on the bill form, but when I queried an un-itemised 10% added at the bottom I was told that it was a service charge. Then when my credit card slip turned up it had a section for gratuities, even though we had been charged a service charge (which I suspect some people would not have spotted as it was not identified as such).

However, these minor niggles aside, the food was very good and we all thought that we would be happy to go back there again, but Mrs Ed is going to have to save quite a few more pennies in her piggy bank before we do!

~ Phil Spooner

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Snow Joking Matter....

Here we go againit's the latter part of March and we have another sprinkling of snow! That must be the fourth or fifth time this winter that the white stuff has made an appearance....no major disruption this time (not so far, although they are predicting more tomorrow). It does seem that even relatively minor amounts such as the 6 or so inches that fell after Christmas can cause all sorts of traffic mayhem (and I can certainly vouch for that!).

But ponder this for a while.....

We have just returned from a week's skiing at Mammoth Lakes, high up in the Sierra Nevada mountains on the California / Nevada border in the South West of the USA. The village is at around 8,000 feet whilst the top of Mammoth mountain is 11,200 feet above sea-level (Ben Nevis is around 4,400 feet high). For the skiers in the village, we did manage to ski down from top to base, a 2,700 feet drop! So what, I hear you ask?

Well, here are a few interesting Mammoth snow facts that put our own snow story somewhat into perspective.....

- It snowed in Mammoth from 8.00pm on Saturday 3rd March (our first day) until 2.00pm on Wednesday 7th
- On Sunday and Monday 4th / 5th there was 100% precipitation (the weather reporter's words) - in other words, it snowed non-stop
- In the 24-hour period from midnight Saturday to midnight Sunday we had 37 inches of snow - that's 3 feet, or close to a meter in one day
- On the Thursday, we had one of only 5 days this winter where no snow fell in Mammoth
- On average Mammoth gets 385 inches of snow per year, although this year has been exceptional even by their standards....

The photo shows our 4x4 on the Monday morning after the "big" snow - the car had been completely clear on the Saturday night!! It took an hour or so to dig the car out this particular time, although with snow pretty much all week it was a job that we had to repeat before we could return home. And during all of this snow, the roads (even side roads) remained open with the traffic moving freely, ploughs appearing every so often to push the snow to the roadside; admittedly, most vehicles are 4-wheel drive and many have snow chains or tyres.

Some information for the skiers in Aston Abbots - Mammoth has terrific variety with over 150 near-empty runs, 29 lifts (with no queues) and 5 lodges spread over two mountains. The trails are well groomed with plenty of powder, although even their super-efficient ploughs could not keep up with the heaviest snow and it was extremely hard work on the slopes for a couple of days. Still, I managed to tackle my first 'black' runs and came through the week relatively unscathed. Call Becky or me if you want to hear more about the resort...

So next time we get a dusting of snow, spare a thought for the folk of Mammoth, California....

~ Andi & Becky



Wingrave Red Nose Day Events

The Guide Red Nose Day Disco was a great success. There was a huge turnout with a wide age range, as a result the amazing total of £450.00 was raised for Comic Relief The Guides would like to thank all those who gave their support to make this such a excellent event-

Soak the Teachers Three members of staff at Wingrave C of E School kindly 'volunteered' to be soaked with wet sponges and water bombs. This turned out to be a very popular event during Friday lunch break and despite goggles swimming hats and waterproofs, there were three very wet teachers by the end! Running at the same time was a Penalty Shoot Out, a drier event but also popular. The two events raised £60.00. Well done to members of class 6 who organised these events.

Musical Lesson

A newly married sailor was informed by the navy that he was going to be stationed a long way from home on a remote island in the Pacific for a year. A few weeks after he got there he began to miss his new wife, so he wrote her a letter.

"My love," he wrote "we are going to be apart for a very long time. Already I'm starting to miss you and there's really not much to do here in the evenings. Besides that we're constantly surrounded by young attractive native girls. Do you think if I had a hobby of some kind I would not be tempted?"

So his wife sent him back a harmonica saying, "Why don't you learn to play this?"

Eventually his tour of duty came to an end and he rushed back to his wife. "Darling" he said, "I can't wait to make passionate love with you!"

She kissed him and said, "First let's see you play that harmonica."



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Look up our Early Years report on the web at
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Look us up in the Daily Telegraph Schools' Guide and on the web at www.swanbourne.org

Prospective candidates should telephone, fax or e-mail for a job description and school prospectus.

Please apply in writing to:

The Joint Heads,
Mr and Mrs S. D. Goodhart

Please enclose your CV, a photograph and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees.

Closing date for applications:

9th March 2001

Registered Charity No. 310640

The Royal College Of Music Junior Department

Last month Sally Palmer told us how she and Nigel have been taking their son Anthony to the Royal College of Music every weekend. Now Sally tells us some more about the College.

For six years Anthony has attended The Junior Department of the Royal College of Music in South Kensington, London. I thought it might be of interest to write some articles about the College and what it is like to go there.

The Royal College of Music is situated behind the Royal Albert Hall and was built in 1894 on land granted by the Royal Commissioners of the Great Exhibition of 1851. Nearby is one of London's great parks, Hyde Park and Kensington Place. The Victoria and Albert Museum, Science and Natural History Museums are all within a five-minute walk of the College. The College itself has been extended several times but much of the original features remain including the ornate front porch, fine concert hall and spacious original teaching rooms. The College contains a small museum of instruments.

The Junior Department began life in 1926 as a training scheme for senior college students wishing to teach music. Originally 36 Exhibitioners, aged over 11, were selected by audition from London state schools to be taught free by teacher training students at the College during the evenings. The scheme proved very successful and before 1939 the number of Exhibitioners had increased to 120 with a few coming from outside London. Gradually the best children were offered specialist teachers for their main instrument and this eventually became the norm. The trainee teachers taught the children other elements such as singing, second instruments and musical theory.

During the 2nd World War teaching was moved to Saturdays to avoid the blackout. However many of the children were not well off, so many came into college on the early (before 7.30 am) workmen trains that often ran during air raids. Using these trains meant that parents and children got to the College too early and had to wait outside. As the college had no catering facilities, it provided hot Bovril (which was rationed) to revive the early arrivals.

At this time the Junior Department was run by a redoubtable lady called Angela Bull who organised musical plays starring

the students. One such, produced in 1945, had original music written by Dr W Lloyd-Webber (father of Andrew and Julian). It was performed in an underground room at the College. Later the Lloyd Webbers were both students at the Junior Department. After the war the Junior Department was opened up to non-state school pupils who still had to be selected by audition but could come on a fee-paying basis. Students also came in increasing numbers from state schools outside London supported by their Local Education Authorities. Numbers rose and the range of orchestras and lessons increased. Specialist instrumental teachers were employed and the range of musical training provided was expanded and is now probably the most thorough of any Junior Department in England. Today, around 150 teachers provide tuition to over 300 students between the ages of 7 and 18 on Saturdays. Unfortunately funding for most students has now been cut back, only a few children now receive Local Education Authority help. However, a Capital Fund set up by the Department in 1977 does provide bursaries for some students and there are a few Scholarships for outstanding individuals.

Every lesson is taught by a specialist in that subject, students can express a preference for a particular teacher, but this is not always granted. The Department allows each teacher the freedom to teach as they think best, there are no laid down guidelines. The teacher student relationship is therefore very important and can become very strong. Fortunately where the teacher and student do not get on a change can usually be made. Progress is checked annually at an assessment audition where students have a chance to discuss any concerns.

One of the most amazing things about the Junior Department is the sight of 300 odd children and teenagers so busily employed making music. I wonder what the tabloid press would make of it.

~ Sally Palmer



Thwaacckkk!!!

A man was sitting quietly reading his paper one morning, peacefully enjoying himself, when his wife sneaks up behind him and whacks him on the back of his head with a huge frying pan.

Man: "What was that for?"

Wife: "What was that piece of paper in your pants pocket with the name Marylou written on it?"

Man: "Oh honey, remember two weeks ago when I went to the horse races? Marylou was the name of one of the horses I bet on."

The wife is satisfied, apologizes, and goes off to do work around the house.

Three days later he is once again sitting in his chair reading and - *thwaacckkk!!* - she repeats the frying pan swatting.

Man: "What was that for this time?"

Wife: "Your horse phoned."

Roulette

A lady is having a bad day at the roulette tables in Las Vegas. She's down to her last \$50. Exasperated, she exclaims, "What rotten luck! What in the world should I do now?"

A man standing next to her, trying to calm her down, suggests, "I don't know... why don't you play your age?"

He walks away. Moments later, his attention is grabbed by a great commotion at the roulette table. Thinking maybe she'd won, he rushes back to the table and pushes his way through the crowd. The lady is lying limp on the floor, with the table operator kneeling over her.

The man is stunned. He asks, "What happened? Is she all right?"

The operator replies, "I don't know. She put all her money on 29, and 36 came up. Then she just fainted!"

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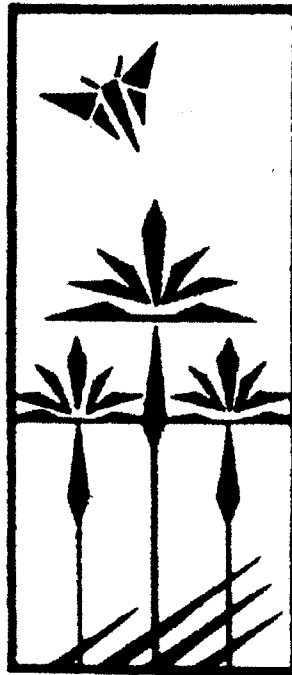
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The Truth at Last!!!

Scholars have long debated the exact ethnicity and nationality of Jesus. Recently, at a theological meeting in Rome, scholars had a heated debate on this subject. One by one, they offered their evidence.

Three Proofs That Jesus was Mexican:

- ◆ His first name was Jesus
- ◆ He was bilingual
- ◆ He was always being harassed by the authorities

But then there were equally good arguments that Jesus was black:

- ◆ He called everybody "brother"
- ◆ He liked Gospel
- ◆ He couldn't get a fair trial

But then there were equally good arguments that Jesus was Jewish:

- ◆ He went into His Fathers business
- ◆ He lived at home until he was 33
- ◆ He was sure his Mother was a virgin, and his Mother was sure he was God

But then there were equally good arguments that Jesus was Italian:

- ◆ He talked with his hands
- ◆ He had wine with every meal
- ◆ He used olive oil

But then there were equally good arguments that Jesus was Irish:

- ◆ He never got married
- ◆ He was always telling stories
- ◆ He loved green pastures

But then there were equally good arguments that Jesus was a Californian:

- ◆ He never cut his hair
- ◆ He walked around barefoot
- ◆ He started a new religion

But perhaps the most compelling evidence was the three proofs offered that Jesus was a woman:

- ◆ She had to feed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was no food
- ◆ She kept trying to get an important message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it
- ◆ Even when She was dead, She had to get up because there was more work to be done.

~ Submitted by Shirley Ford

The Winslow Community Bus

Do you ever need the use of a mini-bus, on an occasional or regular basis? The Winslow and District Community Bus is a fourteen-seater mini-bus available for hire to any non-profit making group in the community. It can be hired self-drive or we can supply a driver if available. It has a tail-lift and the capability of carrying up to four wheelchair users. Hire charges are very reasonable, with an hourly hire charge of only £3.00 (min. £10.00) plus the cost of fuel.

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Faux Pas Down Under

A couple of months ago The Chronicle carried Andy Ford's story of his trip to the Australian Olympics. The rest of us made do with watching it on TV.

In an (unsuccessful) attempt to stop commentary gaffs the BBC put up a notice board in the sports team office in Sydney on which blunders were noted. These were some of the best :-

Stuart Storey at the basketball: "He dribbles a lot and his team mates don't like it - you can see it all over their faces"

A high profile member of the Dream Team basketball squad: "I never comment on referees and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat!"

Michael Tucker at the 3 day Equestrian Event: "Here comes Pippa Funnell on Sanyo Mix and Match - lovely sight, I once rode her mother"

David Vine at the Women's Weightlifting Event: "Next up the Bulgarian. She's got a real talent - I saw her snatch this morning and she can definitely win this"

At the Para Olympics Paul Dickenson, headed for the pool where he introduced the 400 metre freestyle relay for amputees by telling us that Bernie Clarke would take the final leg for Britain. And his other classic: "This wheelchair event has really come on by leaps and bounds."

Computer Gender

A Spanish teacher was asking her class whether the word "computer" should be feminine or masculine, as in "el computador" or "la computadora". So she asked the class to air their opinions:

All the male students said the computer should be feminine because:

1. No-one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible retrieval later.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

The women however, decided that it should be the masculine, because:

1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data, but are still clueless.
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they are the problem.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you realise if only you had waited a little, you could have got a better model.

Two elderly Astonians were talking over the garden fence and one said to the other:

"Hey I just bought a new hearing aid the other day, best hearing aid I've ever had. The thing cost over fifteen hundred quid"

"Great!" said the other, "What kind is it?"

"Oh, about 12:30"

Dear Sir...

I'm sure we've all suffered frustration at the hands of our bank from time to time. This is an actual letter sent to a bank in the US. The bank thought it amusing enough to publish in the New York Times.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing the cheque with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations some three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque, and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honor it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire salary, an arrangement which, I admit, has only been in place for eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account with \$50 by way of penalty for the inconvenience I caused your bank. My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to re-think my errant financial ways.

You have set me on the path of fiscal righteousness. No more will our relationship be lighted by these unpleasant incidents, for I am restructuring my affairs in 2000, taking as my model the procedures, attitudes and conduct of your very bank.

I can think of no greater compliment, and I know you will be excited and proud to hear it. To this end, please be advised about the following:

First, I have noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you I am confronted by the impersonal, ever-changing, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh and blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will, therefore and hereafter, no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee of your branch, whom you must nominate.

You will be aware that it is an offense under the postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact Status, which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Justice of the Peace, and that the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in all dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modeled it on the number of button presses required to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further by introducing you

to my new telephone system, which you will notice, is very much like yours.

My Authorized Contact at your bank, the only person with whom I will have any dealings, may call me at any time and will be answered by an automated voice. By pressing Buttons on the phone, he/she will be guided through an extensive set of menus:

1. To make an appointment to see me.
2. To query a missing repayment.
3. To make a general complaint or inquiry.
4. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
5. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
6. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
7. To transfer the call to my mobile phone in case I am not at home.
8. To leave a message on my computer. To leave a message a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated at a later date to the contact.
9. To return to the main menu and listen carefully to options 1 through to 8

The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may on occasion involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration. This month I've chosen a refrain from The Best Of Woody Guthrie: "Oh, the banks are made of marble, With a guard at every door, And the vaults are filled with silver. That the miners sweated for"

After twenty minutes of that, our mutual contact will probably know it off by heart.

On a more serious note, we come to the matter of cost. As your bank has often pointed out, the ongoing drive for greater efficiency comes at a cost - a cost which you have always been quick to pass on to me. Let me repay your kindness by passing some costs back.

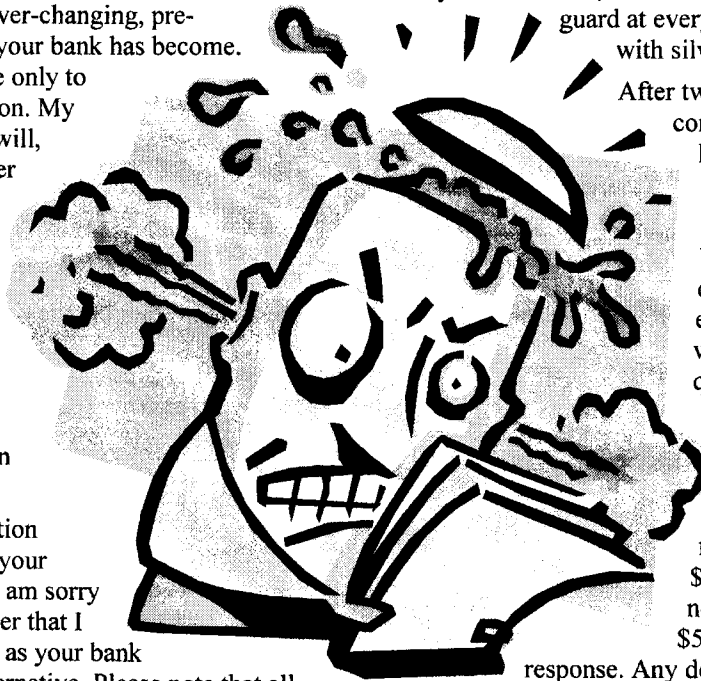
First, there is the matter of advertising material you send me. This I will read for a fee of \$20/page. Enquiries from your nominated contact will be billed at \$5 per minute of my time spent in

response. Any debits to my account, as, for example, in the matter of the penalty for the dishonored cheque, will be passed back to you.

My new phone service runs at 75 cents a minute (even Woody Guthrie doesn't come free), so you would be well advised to keep your enquiries brief and to the point. Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

Your humble client,
Garry Hargreaves

~ submitted by Dickie Dicken



Rector's Report

The thought occurred to me the other day about a possible link between the habit of politicians to put their feet in their mouths and the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease. Both are doing enormous damage to our country. The trouble is that I have to think and write from the viewpoint of having little actual knowledge of either politics or animal husbandry - I am an outsider who has only seen what he has seen and read what others have written.

It seems clear that Foot and Mouth Disease is further destroying our farming community - a community already weakened by BSE, adverse weather and over-regulation. It has other 'knock-on' effects through closing down the countryside to tourists and visitors, and the precautionary destruction of vast quantities of unaffected animals.

Watching those pyres burn on the television made me wonder whether this was not like some primitive sacrifice to the gods. Here, in these vast fires, are being offered the lives of countless animals in the hope that somehow the disease will not spread further. And, as I write, the end does not seem to be in sight - despite what the politicians may be saying!

But the idea of sacrifice led my thoughts to another picture. Might this terrible disease, coming as it does on top of other problems, be similar to the plagues in the Old Testament? Is it a punishment being meted out because we have become too clever for our own good?

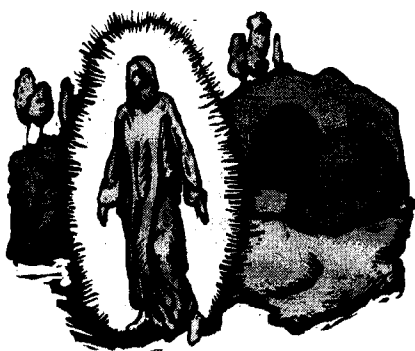
Our politicians seem to have established a system for themselves where even the most obvious errors of judgement are explained away or ignored. Where donations seem to be encouraged and welcomed. Where what we have always understood to be deceit, bribery and corruption have now become acceptable. Is this perhaps a sign of a society that has lost its way?

If that is so, then the solution seems to be little different from the solution required in Old Testament times. We need to face up to the sinfulness and wrongdoing in our world. We need to repent and turn again to God.

The good news is that we can return to a better way of living. There will always be disasters of one kind or another - but, in his love, God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us. Jesus came and took the punishment that we deserve. He died for our sin on the Cross, and in rising again from the dead, he gave us the opportunity to rise above the sordid and squalid standards that belong to our human existence and to live as children of God.

As we come to another Holy Week and Easter, perhaps we should remember that the plague of Foot and Mouth disease could be another call for us to turn away from sin and to turn to Christ - and to do it before it is too late!

~ Bob Willmott



School Grounds Project

Notice Board

Thanks to a generous grant from the Wingrave Community Association we have been able to purchase a notice board. This is situated at the parents' collection point by the courtyard in the school grounds. The board is for both school and community use. Notices to advertise school or village events can be put up any time during the school day, please call at the office for the key. We are sure that this board will be well used and another valuable method of communication both within and between the villages.

Surveys

Many members of years 3,4, 5 and 6 spent an afternoon surveying the grounds to see what we already have and how it is used. Other members drew up questionnaires which were completed by several members from every class. From this we are able to draw up ideas about what we would like in the grounds.

Chequerboard garden

This has now passed the planning stage and the digging and slab laying by members of class 6 is about to start. We are very grateful for a generous donation which has enabled this project to proceed. We hope that class 6 can enter this organic gardening project into the Greenfinger's Challenge which is run by the Royal Horticultural Society and the Tidy Britain Group.

Wild Life Garden

We were fortunate to receive a visit from Cheryl Scott of the Aylesbury Countryside Management Project. She provided the school with a bat box, a bird box, an inspection slab and an insect nesting box. These have been placed around the grounds and will form an good foundation to our planned nature trail.

Cheryl was also able to give us advise on how to develop our present wildlife area and pond.

Playground

Thanks to fundraising energies of the lunchtime staff from the jumble sale and the Easter Bingo on Wednesday 4th April we hope soon to be able to purchase some equipment for use during playtime.

A suggestion which came up several times from the questionnaire was a giant chess/draughts set in the courtyard. This sounds great fun and very appropriate for a school with an active chess club. We shall be looking for sponsors for this!

The school grounds project co-ordinators are very grateful for the support that has already been given and the many offers of help. We shall be calling on these as areas of work begin. Please do keep in touch with any offers of financial help, materials, time or good ideas. School Office 681436

*Pam Pickering, José Ricketts, Jane Muir, Keith Bell
Wingrave School*

"All those who believe in psycho-kinesis raise my hand."

"I almost had a psychic girlfriend, but she left me before we met."

"Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?"

~ Steven Wright

Andy and Helen Welcome You to

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Tel: 681696

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Monday - Friday 9am - 5:30pm
Saturday 9am - 12:30pm

Tel: 681011

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Are you, like a **LARGE** proportion of the population, over-weight, lethargic and fed up with yourself?

Would you like to:

- Lose weight**
- Have more energy**
- Feel fitter, healthier and rejuvenated**

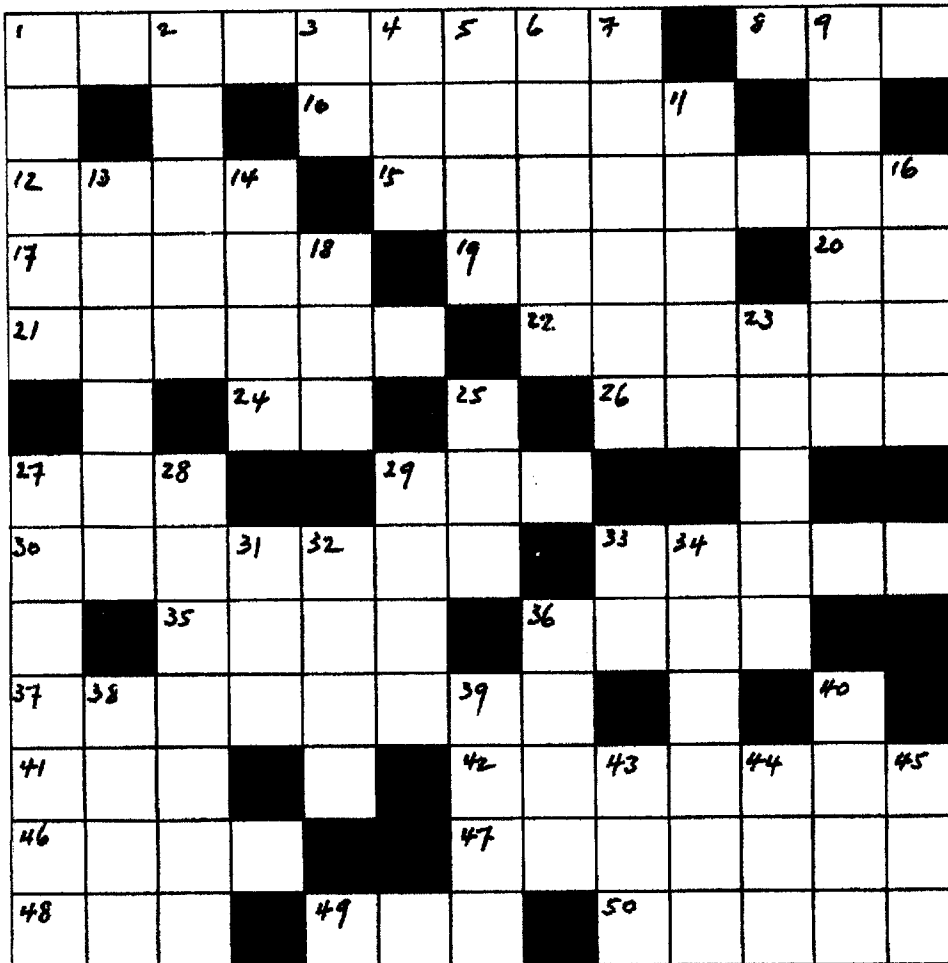
Well - I lost 1 ½ stone over Christmas and the New Year with a unique diet and nutrition plan and feel a new person. It seriously is one of the best things that has ever happened to me.

The diet is completely natural with no hormones, drugs or synthetic substances. In the most unlikely event that the diet does not work, you have a **30 day money back guarantee**.

Ring me (Mary) on **01296 681218** for further details. It could change your life – believe me.

The Chronicle Crossword

April 2001



Answers to March ACROSS

1 Brill. 5 Beading. 11 Lana. 12 Bonfire. 13 Anchor. 15 Etna. 17 Honour. 18 Etch. 19 Cher. 21 Gore. 23 Hose. 24 Heed. 26 Festivity. 29 Martin. 30 Mo. 31 Arson. 33 IC. 34 Find. 36 Song. 37 Bat. 39 Its. 40 Adamant. 42 Only. 43 Tibet. 44. Deny. 45 End

DOWN: 1 Blanch. 2 Ran. 3 Inches. 4 Lahore. 5 BO. 6 Energetic. 7 Aft. 8 Diner. 9 Irate. 10 NE. 12 Brother. 14 On. 16 Shaky. 20 Hovers. 22 Odin. 25 Estimate. 26 Fangs. 27 Imitate. 28 Ton. 29 Monty. 32 Solls. 34 Fame. 35 Dated. 37 Baby. 38 Joy. 41 Din.

ACROSS

- 1. WW1 bomber (9)
- 8. London Symphony Orchestra (abbr 3)
- 10. Spoiled (6)
- 12. Den (4)
- 15. Amazing, great (8)
- 17. Fire raising (5)
- 19. Retain (4)
- 20. Barrister USA (2)
- 21. Pancakes (6)
- 22. Rushed (6)
- 24. Extra terrestrial
- 26. Entrances to rooms (5)
- 27. Eggs (3)
- 29. Road material (3)

- 30. FINE BET (anag 7)
- 33. Large birds (5)
- 35. Girl's name (4)
- 36. Small plant (4)
- 37. Gambling game (8)
- 41. Russian Astronaut. Christian name (3)
- 42. Brought about (7)
- 46. Fruit (4)
- 47. Illkept, shabby (7)
- 48 Cathedral town (3)
- 49. --- Maria (3)
- 50. Main artery (5)

DOWN

- 1. Shrub/small tree (5)
- 2. Din (3)
- 3. Before noon (2)

- 4. Rested (3)
- 5. Arduous journey (4)
- 6. Made a mistake (5)
- 7. ARE RED (anag 6)
- 9. Arachnid (6)
- 11. Drunkard (5)
- 13. To come (6)
- 14. PORE (anag 4)
- 16 Rotters (4)
- 18. Mesh (3)
- 23. Made with drill (5)
- 25. Rug (3)
- 27. TORE BUD (anag 7)
- 28. Regular payment (7)
- 29. Lean (4)
- 31 Fish (3)

- 32. Escaped (4)
- 33 Depart (2)
- 34. Portugese currency (6)
- 36. Bill of fare (4)
- 38. Spoken (4)
- 39. To weary (4)
- 40. Eft (4)
- 43. DAN (anag 3)
- 44. ___ blimey ! (3)
- 45. Same as 43 (3)

Compiled by Don Bellingham

NO JOB TOO SMALL

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- Hospitals
- Collections
- Evenings Out



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Minibus



Tel: (01296) 688739 or 681013

NO JOB TOO LARGE

Ask for details of our shopping trips.



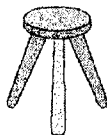
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Mrs Gillian Alexander -
01296 681104

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Aston Abbotts Parish Council

A Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 28th February in the Church Room. John Sansome chaired the meeting, and apologies were received from Margaret Kent and Gwen Kempster. There were no representatives from the District or County councils present.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed. The only comment from the floor was relating to the continued poor state of repair of the local roads. The council discussed whether to request a grit bin for The Green, but decided this would look unsightly. It would probably be better to ask the Council to deposit a pile of salt by the side of the road at the beginning of winter, so that it would not be visible by spring.

Streetlights

Resolved to accept the quotation from Raynesway Construction to service our streetlights for a further year.

Luton Airport

A consultative document was circulated so that the P.C. will have the chance to comment on the proposed new flight paths from Luton Airport.

The Accounts were approved and correspondence circulated, the meeting closing at 8.50 pm.

NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL AT
8PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM – EVERYONE IS
WELCOME TO COME ALONG

~ Kate Curry

Affordable Housing and the Future of your Village

Saturday 28th April 2001 at Hambleden Village Hall (between Marlow and Henley)

The event aims to raise awareness about the need for affordable housing in rural communities across Bucks, Oxfordshire and Berks and also how to get housing for your community, who can help you and what is involved.

You can visit a recently opened Rural Housing Trust affordable housing project in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the borders of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Also learn how your village could benefit from the government funding for affordable housing announced in the recent Rural White Paper and about the types of schemes and types of houses that have been built and how local people can be helped.

You will discover how your parish council and other village groups can identify the needs, and find suitable sites, for local affordable housing. You can get some practical advice and hear of the positive effect on communities in work undertaken by the Housing Enabler in Kent.

To book your place (£5 per person) or find out more contact Jane Gilbert, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council on 01865 883488.

This event is organised by: Buckinghamshire Community Action, the Community Council for Berkshire, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, the Rural Housing Trust the Diocese of Oxford, Churches National Housing Coalition, the Associations of Local Councils in Berks, Bucks and Oxon and the Federation of Women's Institutes for Berks, Bucks and Oxon.

1st Wingrave Scout Group

Beavers

We are delighted to have Jan back after his recent injury and with the Colony at full strength his support is greatly appreciated!

The Beavers are now looking forward to the District quiz and the St George's Day Parade in April and with two weeks off for the holidays it is certain to be a busy time when we return.

For details about Beavers or to register interest please contact Jan Antiosewicz on 681430.

Cubs

Once again a busy and varied programme.

Pam Pickering and Siv Tunnicliffe came to talk to the Cubs about the Country and Cultures of Sweden, we were treated to a whole display of festivals and a feast of special food made especially for the boys by Pam. (delicious!)

We also went ten-pin bowling at Jardines, to prepare for the Cub bowling tournament, most of the pack came to both and thoroughly enjoyed it.

We were very lucky to go to one of the few private Planetariums in England, it was at a school in Rickmansworth. A long trek in an evening, but very interesting, the boys were able to see Venus and Jupiter through a telescope before going inside to the show, followed by question time. We will be spending time building models of planets in order to put them into perspective. For more information about Cubs contact Akela: Fran Pollard 01296 625454

~ Julia Ellis

Hoover and Fridge wanted—see the Classified ads inside the back cover.

The Friends of Florence Nightingale House Tel: 01296 429975

WANTED PLEASE!

Easter Eggs

(any size - small or large)

for our

Easter Egg Tombola

in aid of the Aylesbury Hospice at Florence Nightingale House

on Saturday 7 April

at Grange School, Aylesbury
Please bring your eggs to the Friends' Office, 5 Manor House Close, Manor House, Berton Road, Aylesbury

Thank you!

HELP LINE...HELP LINE

Driving you to the Doctor, picking up prescriptions and so on.....



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

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- Tutor currently teaching in Cublington, references can be supplied

Please phone Malcolm Burrell for further information telephone



01525 221413



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

JOHN SANSOME (Chairman)

Longmoor Farm ~ 681010

KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)

2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane ~ 681137

TOM MANNING

5, Little Mollards, Twelve Leys, Wingrave ~ 682455

GWEN KEMPSTER

53 The Green ~ 681310

MARGARET KENT

6 The Green ~ 681454

LINDA SUTTON

Sadlers Farm ~ 681413

District Councillor

PETER COOPER

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham ~ 681250

County Councillor

BRENDA JENNINGS

25, The Green, Soulbury ~ 01525 270610

THE CHRONICLE

Advertising rates per annum

FULL PAGE	Back £ 70
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HALF PAGE	Back £ 40
	Inside £ 25
QUARTER PAGE	Back £ 25
	Inside £ 15
EIGHTH PAGE	Back £ 15
	Inside £ 10
Front page 1/8 th size per month	£ 5
OTHER SIZES	Inside £ 10

Seasonal, short term, or one-off ads are also accepted at these rates

St James Church

Church Services

1st Apr	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion (note change)
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service
8th	08.00	Wingrave	Prayer Book Style Communion
	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Palm Sunday Family Service
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
12 th	20.00	Wingrave	Maundy Thursday Eucharist
13 th	10.00	Aston Abbots	Three Parish Good Friday Service
	18.00	Wingrave	Wingrave Churches Together Service
15th	10.00	Wingrave	Easter Communion
	10.00	Cublington	Easter Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Easter Communion
22nd	10.00	Cublington	Three Parish Communion
29th	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
6 th May	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service

Church Sidesmen

1st	Mr A Ford
8th	Mr J Hartnet
15th	Church Warden
22nd	Service at Cublington
29th	Mr G Kemp

Church Flowers

14th/15th	Everyone requested
29th	Mr C. Higgs

Sunday Readings

1st Apr	Lent 5	Philippians 3.4-14; John 12.1-8
8th	Palm	Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 19.28-40
15th	Easter	1 Corinthians 15.19-26; Luke 24.1-12
22nd	Easter 2	Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31
29th	Easter 3	Revelation 5.11-14; John 21.1-19
6th May	Easter 4	Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30

From The Registers

Baptism	11th March	Jade Bone at Wingrave Benjamin Lewington at Wingrave
	22nd Feb 26th	Marie Chandler at Amersham Sean Arman at Cublington and Amersham
	27th	June Gurney at Aston Abbots

ST JAMES CHURCH ASTON ABBOTTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rev Bob Willmott	681623
Gordon Kemp	681763
Shirley Ford	681865
Ann Goodman	681763
Andrew Ford	681865

Thank You

The PCC wishes to say a big thank you to all those people who gave so generously towards the purchase and installation of the new heaters for the church. They are now up and running so why not drop in, you will be assured of a 'warm welcome'

We couldn't have done this without your help - so once again thank you!

~ Gordon Kemp

Teddy Bear's Picnic

Please note that we have unfortunately had to cancel the teddy bear's picnic and parachute jump which had been planned as part of the Flower Festival on the 6th May. The Flower Festival is still going ahead.

~ Gordon Kemp



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What's On in April

- Thursday 5th** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm
Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room 10.00-12.00
- Sunday 8th** Palm Sunday
- Tuesday 10th** Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm .
Also;- Aylesbury Vale Holiday walk The Green 11.15 am.
And;- Floral class Church Room 7.00 pm.
- Wed 11th** Parish Council meeting. Church Room 8.00 pm.
- Friday 13th** Good Friday (Hot cross buns)
- Sunday 15th** Easter Day Parish Communion 11.15
And;- Village footpath walk. Meet the Green 2.00 pm
- Thursday 19th** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm
Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room 10.00-12.00
- Monday 23rd** St George's Day
- Tuesday 24th** Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm
- Wed 25th** Annual Parish Meeting. 8 pm. Church Room. Everybody Welcome
- Thursday 26th** Bingo in The Church Room 7.30pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ~ 25TH APRIL

This is a public meeting, separate from the Parish Council, and is an opportunity for anybody to have a say in village affairs. 8 pm in the Church Room

Everybody is welcome to attend

Book These Dates

- Sat 5th & Sun 6th May** Flower Festival (sorry, no Teddy Bears Picnic)
- Monday 7th May** Bank Holiday
Coach outing to the Maze (Oxfordshire)
Depart Aston Abbots 12.30. Book with Colin
- Saturday 12th May** The Chronicle's 200th issue party—see ad in this issue
- Sunday 10th June** Open Garden's Day.
- Saturday & Sunday 21st – 22nd July**
Festival Weekend – The Fete.

Easter Prize Bingo

Wingrave School Hall - in aid of the School Grounds Fund
Wednesday 4th April

7.30 pm for 8.00pm start

Raffle

50p entrance - includes refreshments



Classified Ads

HOOVER & FRIDGE WANTED Does anyone have an old "hoover" that the Scout Group could have, in order to keep our new headquarters clean? We also need a fridge for the kitchen. Please contact Nikki Reeve ~ 681372 ~ 1st Wingrave Scout Group

DUMMIES WANTED Tailor's Dummies, Bridal Dresses and Christening Robes are needed for a display at the fete. If you can lend any of these items for a day please contact Clare Shorrock on 681260

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle.



The Mobile Library Service

The Mobile Library visits the village on alternate Tuesdays. The dates are always shown in the Chronicle 'What's On' section but here are a reminder of the times:-

The Green, Aston Abbots	10.25am - 10.55am
Wingrave Road, Aston Abbots	11.00am - 11.15am
Oxley Farm	12.55pm - 1.10pm

For further information or enquiries, contact Buckingham Library on 01280 813229

Please use the service or we will lose the facility!



CRICKET FOR GIRLS! (AND BOYS)

Starting on Sat. 7th April 2001
9.30am (till 11am)
at Cublington Cricket club

Cublington CC is running boys teams at U13 and U17 ages in 2001 and for the first time intends to provide coaching for girls aged between 11 and 16. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please feel welcome to come to our first coaching session on 7th April at Cublington Cricket Club. We have 5 qualified coaches (including one lady) with excellent facilities. We hope to be able to arrange one or two friendly fixtures during the season.

- ◆ Net practice areas
- ◆ One artificial surface on main square
- ◆ 5 qualified coaches
- ◆ One senior Sunday XI and one senior midweek XI
- ◆ U13 & U17 Boys XI's

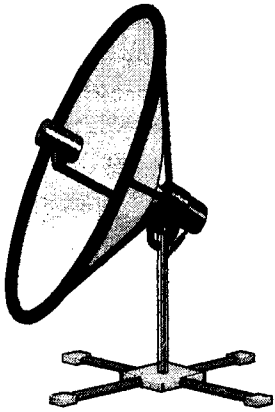
Phone: Sam Rushmere -681891 or Steve George - 682367
Email: gp61@dial.pipex.com

ALL Welcome.

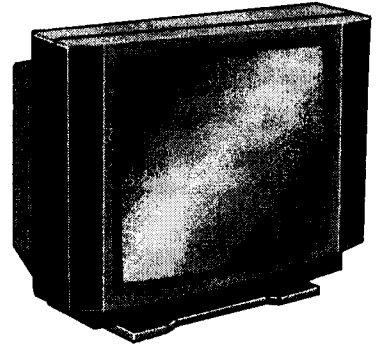
First session free, then £2 per week (or £25 for the whole season)

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

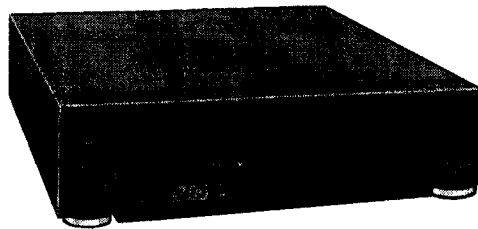


T.V. VIDEO AND
SATELLITE
SERVICING AND
GENERAL REPAIR



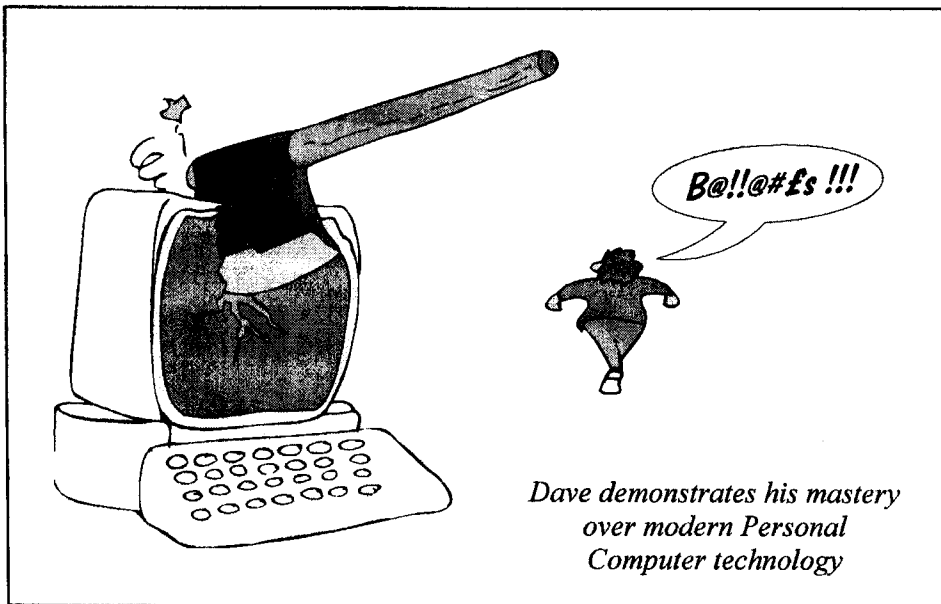
RENTALS, NEW
AND USED SALES

MOST MAKES
REPAIRED
THE SAME
DAY



NO CALL OUT
FEE WITHIN
ASTON
ABBOTTS

PHONE DAVE LEWIS
ON 01296 682126



FRIENDLY
SERVICE

