

THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 201 ~ MAY 2001



Email us at ~ editor@aston-abbotts-chronicle.co.uk

Editorial

Crime

This month we have crime on our minds here at The Chronicle.

First there was an incident where some lads tried to steal two cars in the village. Fortunately an alert villager spotted them and they fled before the Police arrived.

Then we had the shameful incident of the vandalism in the recreation ground—see page 5. It appears that nobody knows who was responsible for the damage to the storage shed. Although there have been whispers, nobody has come forward with any firm evidence.

Vandalism is a crime. Have no doubt about it. It means damage has been done to somebody's property and it costs money to put it right. Whether the damage is paid for by the Parish Council out of your Council Tax, or taken from the money which would have been spent on village projects, it has taken money from you!

Also, still on the subject of crime, PC Mike Buckle our local Police Officer has sent in some tips on how to deal with bogus callers. You'll find these on page 19.

Finally, in an article on page 21 I look at unwanted callers of a different nature and how to avoid them.

Planes To Start Descent Over Aston?

Luton Airport are looking at a new route which would involve planes starting their descent over the Wingrave and Aston Abbots area. That was just one of the interesting things to come out of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the end of April. Also discussed at the meeting were the A418 redevelopment including the two local bypasses at Wing and Rowsham, the state of our roads, and many other local matters.

If you couldn't get to the meeting you can read a full report on page 15.

Can You Help—Just A Little?

What do you think of our English weather? It's been lousy—hasn't it? Summer is on its way, but in this country that can mean just about anything weather-wise.

Over the last couple of years the sun has shone for our annual village fete. I hope it does so again this year, but the law of averages is against us. One way in which we can protect ourselves against the effects of a wet weather washout is with the raffle.

Liz Greenaway needs some help distributing the raffle tickets. Please see the advert on page 9 and, if you can help a little, please give Liz a ring.

That's it from me this month. Thank you all for your contributions. Enjoy this month's Chronicle—and please keep those articles and news items coming.

Phil

THE CHRONICLE

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May 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 25th May 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.

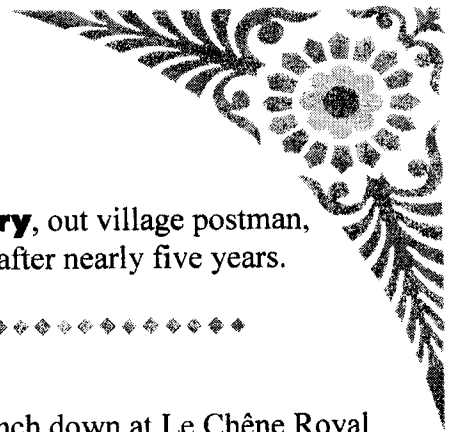
In This Issue

In this month's monster May mag ~

- ◆ Vandalism
- ◆ Bogus Callers
- ◆ Phone Perverts?
- ◆ St George
- ◆ The Eden Project
- ◆ New Orleans
- ◆ The Annual Parish Meeting

and much, much more.....

The Peoples Page



Happy Birthday

Mervyn King	2nd May
Hannah Brandon	12th
Jeff Banister	17th
Tom Manning	22nd
Benjamin King	22nd
Milani Drysdale	23rd

Have we missed your birthday? Let The Chronicle know when it is so we can wish you Many Happy Returns.

A very big thank you to **Peter Knight** for burning the remains of the bonfire on the Recreation ground left over from last bonfire night. He will also be moving all of the non-burnable rubbish to the village skip when it arrives. Thank you Peter.

We hear **Dave Lewis** was a bit startled when he arrived on his scuba diving holiday. He thought the travel agent had said "It's Cuba". Never mind, he sent them an eel-mail about it.

Reminder ~ The Refuse Freighter will be at the Bull and Butcher on Monday 14th May between 12 and 4 pm.

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

Good Luck!

Good luck to **Terry**, out village postman, who is leaving us after nearly five years. (See page 5.)

'Allo 'Allo

They've gone French down at Le Chêne Royal (that's The Royal Oak to you chiens Anglais) where **Louie** le chef is cooking at weekends. Pop in for some fine French cuisine and a m-a-s-s-i-v-e Yorkshire pud when he does a Roast Beef Sunday lunch.

Fishy Business

A little guppy has whispered in our shell-like that **Tony "Cublington" Reese** may no longer be pursuing his mobile catering activities. Once hooked he put his sole in it, but he was cod between a rock and a hard plaice, took a battering and has now had his chips.

Special Birthday?

Family Celebration?

Wedding Anniversary?

Exam Success?

Happy Event?

Why not tell the Chronicle—then we'll tell Aston Abbots. Contact Tracey Hinds or any member of the Chronicle team

Coach outing to the Maze (Oxfordshire)

Monday 7th May Bank Holiday

Depart Aston Abbots 12.30

Book with Colin

Whiz Kids

New cars seem to be the order of the day for the Aston Abbots Whiz kids. First there was **John Whyte** with a gleaming new vatmobile, then **Nigel Palmer** roars past the Chronicle offices in a flash new red sports coupe, and finally we see **John Brancker** has a shiny new Jag S-type parked outside of his house. John wishes it to be known that the V6-engined car - with personalised registration V1aJAGra - is not to be seen as an extension of his manhood.

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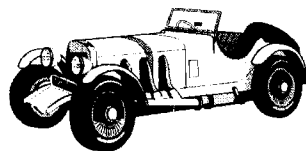
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The above Rally Event is run by the Game Club Charity, which makes donations to individuals and worthy causes within the Aylesbury area where assistance is not covered by any National Charity. If you know of any one who's in need of assistance, for 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

Vandalism

It's sad to report that there has been some vandalism in Aston Abbots.

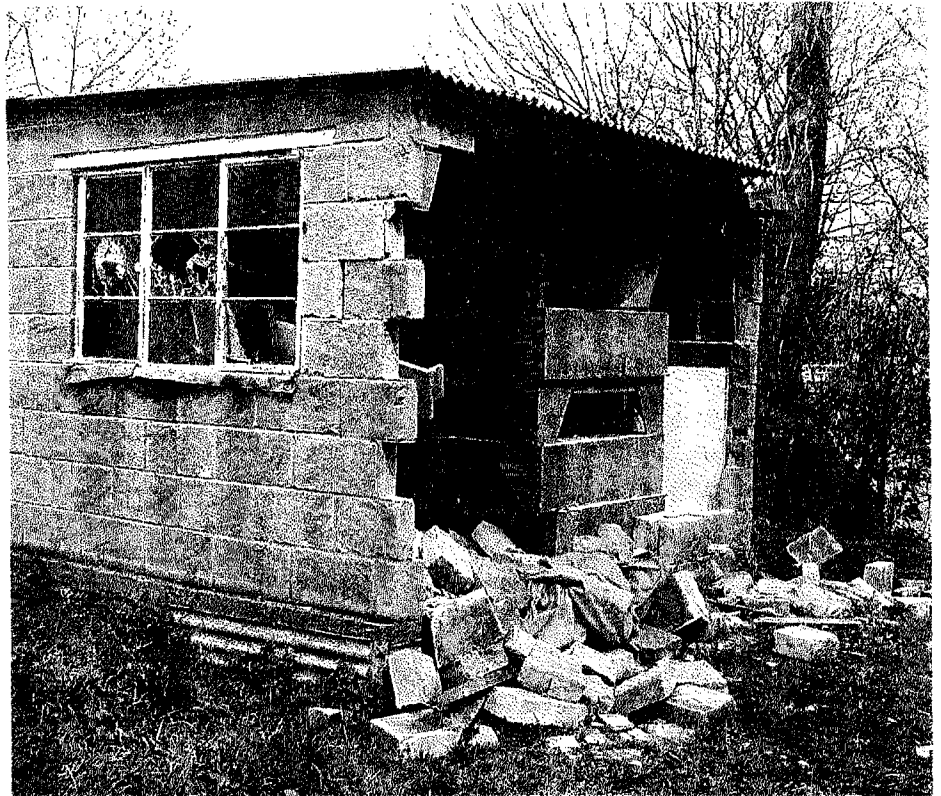
The picture shows the rear of the storage shed on the recreation ground. This is where the stage and props for the cabaret and the Astonbury music festival are stored.

At first a hole was made in the back wall. Then the vandals tore down the whole of the rear wall and broke the window. The lighting equipment was thrown around in the bushes.

The matter has been reported to the Police and the damage has now been repaired. It's cost every Aston Abbots household £2-£3 to effect the repair. That is *your* money!

There was no theft motive—just mindless wanton destruction. Please report any acts such as these so that we can try to ensure that they don't happen again.

~ Phil Spooner



Goodbye Terry

So it's goodbye to Terry, the friendly postman who has delivered our village mail for the last four to five years. Terry told me that he was reluctantly forced to leave this route following reorganisation of the sorting offices.

Many village rounds will now be based at the Stoke Mandeville sorting office. Along with this change the rounds have been redistributed among the postmen. They opt for routes in order of seniority. Unfortunately somebody more senior picked the Aston Abbots round before Terry.

The changes take place in early May and Terry will then start working on a delivery round in Aylesbury. He tells me that he will miss Aston Abbots, "I would have done this round until the cows came home".

I'm sure we will all be sorry to see Terry go and we all wish him luck on his new round and hope that his new customers appreciate him as much as we did.

~ Phil Spooner

Letter To The Editor

Dear Ed

Just a note to thank the person who burned the rest of Guy Fawkes' bonfire on Good Friday. It has made the rec look tidier. Shame that this has been undermined by the malicious damage to the hut containing the staging for the village shows. The whole back wall has been dismantled and the windows in the side broken, leaving glass (together with a broken mirror from inside the hut) lying around. I have to assume that those responsible live in the village though I have no idea of their identity. I can only hope that this sort of criminal damage does not spread as it reflects badly on us all.

~ Regards Sally Palmer

Merry Mowers

The time came round this month (April) for those of us who cut the churchyard grass to have a 'lesson' in the safety and operation of our new 'sit on' mower. It hadn't been run since being delivered last Oct. so of course jump leads etc had to be 'fiddled with'. It's amazing however what a 'few volts' will do; and soon it was running sweetly. After a words of wisdom from Richard Clark we soon had the idea and were quickly cutting swathes through the by now, over long grass.

With reasonable care this new mower should reduce cutting times, improve the finish and give many years of use. Of course, there are always complications, and it now appears that due to the terms of the Parish Council's Insurance, all users must receive a modicum of 'in house' training, including reading the manual and hold a current driver's licence.

See our Merry Mower's Pop Quiz on page 19



Strangers at the 'Bull'

That popular group 'Perfect Strangers' were once again booked by Frank to appear at the 'Bull' earlier last month

As usual they provided a good evenings entertainment. Somehow they always seem to manage to play a selection of popular 66/70's music which everyone likes to dance or sing along with; particularly since their music is not played too loudly. They have entertained us on several occasions so perhaps they should now drop their name of 'Perfect Strangers'.



"Old people love to give good advice; it compensates them for their inability to set a bad example."

~ Duc de La Rochefoucauld

In The Village - 2

Nudists In The Pub

When the poster first appeared in the 'Bull', I remember feeling that watching a hypnotist at work wasn't really my idea of an evening's entertainment. However, what with the publicity in the Buck's Herald and local radio, as well as Tony Hinds insistence that it would be at least as good as his 'educational evenings'; how could I resist?

Steve Marshal, the hypnotist, started the evening off with an explanation as to how the process worked and the strict controls and ethics involved. Despite his implied assurances however, volunteers were initially in very short supply. Eventually though, some half dozen or so of us did pluck up courage to go onto the stage where he endeavoured to 'put us under'.

It worked to some extent with most experiencing a very pleasant, relaxing drowsy feeling. At his suggestion, a few even experienced weightlessness in one arm but when he suggested our feet would become unbearably hot – nothing! Well, apart from Bridget Brandon who was 'spotted' standing at the bar, completely shoeless, as if nothing had happened. Clearly she was under the influence – and I don't mean alcoholic!

Bridget turned out to be his 'star' subject, reacting to his various suggestions in an amusing yet totally 'in character' way. Perhaps one of the funnier incidences was when he suggested she would not be able to resist buying a large pair of glasses which allegedly would make everyone she looked at appear undressed. Of course she did buy them, paying him £10.00. Her reaction when she tried them on just had to be seen

to be believed. When his 'demonstration was over, he brought Bridget out of her hypnotic state and (magnanimously so far as she was concerned) gave her £10.00 for being such a good sport! She was mightily pleased!

At the end of his 'act', Steve offered to use his hypnosis techniques to assist those in the audience who wanted help with giving up smoking or the alleviation of stress symptoms. Several took part in this session and it would be nice to hear how they felt they were helped.

Frank and Louise had kindly provided a very welcome buffet but many there were slow to take, being too preoccupied talking about what we had just seen. With just a touch of her shoulder, Steve suggested to Bridget that it was in fact she who had spent all afternoon preparing the food which few were now eating. Immediately she grabbed trays of food and woe betide anyone who did not eat heartily!!

The evening turned out to be extremely interesting and amusing and I for one left with a little more understanding as to just how powerful the power of hypnosis and suggestion really is. Subsequent discussion has indicated that many of our local Doctor's surgeries have approved hypnotists they can call on.

A number of people have contacted The Chronicle to enquire about Andy's recently acquired habit of walking around the village cock-a-doodle-doo-ing at 6.30 every morning. Could it be connected with this event in the pub, we wonder? ~ Ed.

Pool & Darts

On Tuesday 10th April at the Bull and Butcher there was a round robin competition of pool and darts. Eight people eventually turned up and the names were put in a hat to determine the pairs to play each other. There was a £2 entrance fee each, equalling £16 prize money. The pairs were Tony and Lol, Andy and Dean, Adrian and Alan, and Becky and Frank.

Each pair had to play three games of pool and three of darts. Andy and Dean went off to a flying start winning one game of pool and two of darts. Adrian and Alan lost all their games at pool, but won all their darts. Frank and Becky won all their pool but lost all their darts. Tony and Lol won two games of pool and one of darts.

As each pair scored an equal three points there were no winners or losers - so we decided to donate the £16 to the Church room fund.

~ Tony Hinds

Dog Poo

I know it's difficult walking our dogs whilst the footpaths remain closed, but it is not pleasant when the pathways and verges in the village are strewn with dog muck, So could dog walkers please make sure that they clear up after their dogs.

There is a bin for dog muck in the recreation ground, so please use it. Remember – children play there.

~ Phil Spooner



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In The Village - 3

St Georges Day

This year the 630 Club celebrated St George's Day with a traditional roast beef dinner at the Bull and Butcher. For the first time the event was restricted to only 630 Club members and their partners. Not for exclusivity, but simply to keep the numbers down for reasons of comfort and practicality when serving.

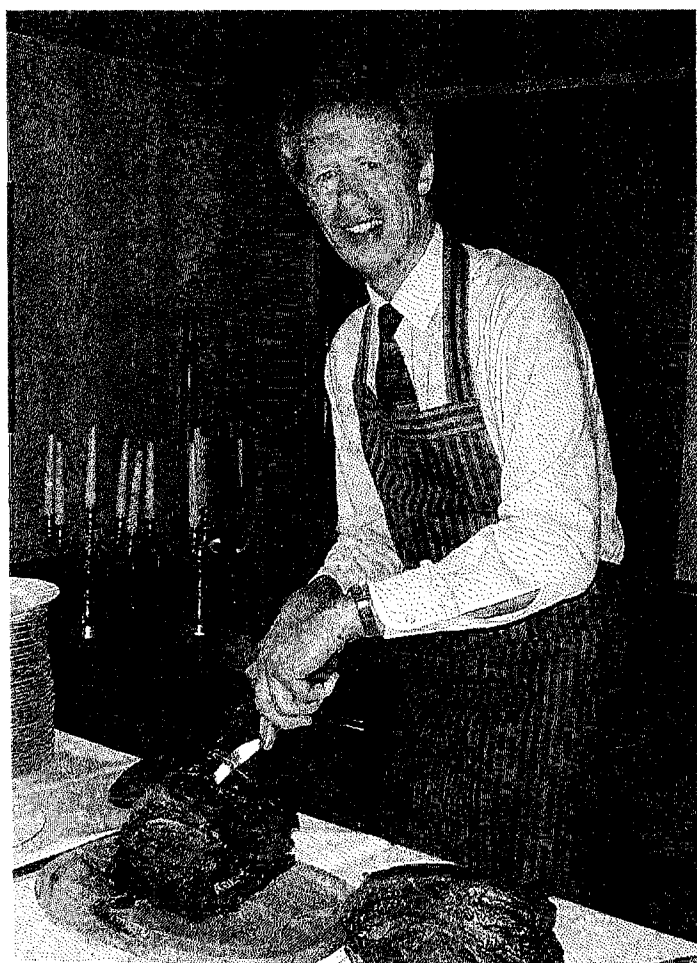
Following drinks in the front bar of the Bull we walked through to the rear where two long tables had been laid out and nicely decorated. As we took our places, Ray Wilkinson said grace:

*Jesus Christ, Quite Divine,
who turned the water into wine.
Please forgive us foolish men,
while we turn it back again.*

After a starter of pate or prawn cocktail the roast beef was paraded in to the song "The Roast Beef Of Old England". The beef had been especially purchased by



Tim Peacock (left), Phil Spooner (centre) and Avi Gupta (right) prepare to carry in the beef at the 630 club St Georges dinner. Picture by Ivan Greenaway.



Tony Hinds carves the beef

Tony Hinds from Keith Plested in Quainton, where he works. Of course, he applied his expertise and made sure it was the very best beef and that it had been well hung before cooking.

Tony set to the carving with gusto, the girls bought out mountains of roast potatoes and fresh vegetables, and before long we were tucking into one of the best roast beef dinners that I can remember having for a very long time. I must say Tony, that beef was superb!

Those who had room for dessert ate some apple pie and one or two even pigged out on a selection of cheese and biscuits. Then the port was passed... and passed... and passed... and passed...

So many thanks to Tim Peacock for organising this superb dinner - and to those who helped him. And a special word of thanks to Frank and Louise at the Bull, and the girls who helped with the serving, for looking after us so magnificently and ensuring that it was such a delightful evening.

*I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:
Follow your spirit; and, upon this charge
Cry God for Harry! England and Saint George!*
(Henry V act 3)

~ Phil Spooner

By the way, the rear bar of the Bull and Butcher (where the St Georges dinner was held) makes an excellent function room with full bar facilities for parties and celebrations. So, if you're planning a function, why not give them a call on 681520.

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The Cublington Calendar - A Reply

We have a reply to last month's Cublington Calendar article ~

It's May in Aston Abbots, and the nights are getting lighter,
And still them folk who pen harsh tales aren't getting any brighter.
With words of silly goings on 'bout neighbours down the road,
At least Cublington's village trademark isn't a flat squashed toad.

To suggest we built a Church without windows was a mishap,
The consensus of opinion here, that's a load of old clap trap.
What you may not realise friend, I can assure you for certain,
No windows means no rails, and no forkin' out for curtain.

So we're no fools if you think we are, we just happen to be thrifty,
Well you have to be with a population of just three fifty.

And to suggest Amy took out her stairs 'cos her house was built so low,
It shows you're talking tosh mate, 'cos she has a bungalow.
You said we had a wheelbarrow that ended up with rabies,
Wrong again, it was a bicycle; it's since had five babies.

To say we had to move the Church, well we haven't got that in us,
Though I swear I saw it move the once, when I was full of Guinness.
So don't try and cross us pal, 'cos in Cublington we've have a custom,
Which is, them folk from Arson Abbots, we just don't trust 'em.

Anyway, you have silly customs, like bow ties, front bar, six thirty,
But then you are very old, old men, (I wouldn't dare to call you dirty).
And when you want a decent singer, you come and poach our man,
Oh, I don't suppose you're interested in a thirdhand fish and chip van?

Then you have your 'Astonbury' in a field, just due south,
Looking at the state of you, I think you started the foot and mouth.
Then to finish off there's that village hall. Now that extension is a farce,
Whoever thought that one up really is talking out their shoes.

~ The Cublington Codpiece

FETE

YOUR FETE NEEDS YOU!!!

OUR GUARANTEE OF MAKING MONEY IN THE EVENT OF POOR WEATHER ON FETE DAY IS THE RAFFLE. THE TICKETS WILL BE PRINTED SOON AND I NEED HELP IN MAKING SURE THAT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE IN THE VILLAGE HAVE A STOCK OF TICKETS TO SELL TO FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES.

CAN YOU HELP??

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DISTRIBUTE (NOT SELL) TICKETS AND COLLECT THE MONEY AROUND A SMALL AREA OF THE VILLAGE, PLEASE CONTACT ME. EVERY LITTLE HELPS. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

**LIZ BARLOW, 682605,
NASH'S FARM**

The Mole and Chicken

The Mole and Chicken at Easington is the sort of pub that you come across by accident in the mist and can then never find again. So armed with a good map, Phil (*Ed*), Carol, Sally and I set off in search, but even so I missed one vital turning in Long Crendon and narrowly avoided returning to Aylesbury by another route. Lucky that it was still daylight! The number of cars parked outside on a Thursday evening paid tribute to its continuing and well-deserved popularity.

Inside the welcoming fire roared and cast shadows over the oak beamed interior. We ordered drinks from the bar and surveyed the extensive menu neatly arranged on the blackboards, before settling down to our table. There was a choice of eight starters priced at just under £6-£7. Phil and I chose grilled Crostini topped with smoked fish and creamed cheese, while Sally selected the sautéed King Prawns with garlic and chilli sauce, and Carol picked the roasted Field Mushroom stuffed with spinach and topped with melted cheese. All were pronounced to be excellent.

I counted a choice of eighteen main courses, including vegetarian dishes, all priced at just under £9-£13. Anyone with a large appetite could have indulged in the house speciality; Mammoth honey roasted Half Shoulder of Lamb. Sally said that she used to feed a family of four with a joint this size, so thinking of my waistline, I opted for pan-fried calves liver, onions and mushrooms served in brandied cream; quite delicious. Sally and Carol chose a delicate Guinea Fowl served with pork-herb stuffing, wild rice and mushrooms in a red wine

sauce, while Phil went for a Thai prawn curry. Fortunately that was also on the menu, as he wasn't driving. A selection of nicely cooked vegetables was included within the price of all main courses.

The wine list was quite extensive, offering over 30 different wines from a number of countries. The Cuvee Jean Paul house wine came at £9.35 and most of the others were under £20. We indulged in a rather excellent smooth tasting bottle of Fleurie.

There hardly seemed to be room for sweets, but I managed a poached pear served in a citrus coulis tastefully decorated with star-fruit slices and kumquats.

To sum up, the ambiance is great although some tables are perhaps a little cramped. However, this maintains the informal atmosphere as the Mole and Chicken is very much a pub serving excellent food and certainly does not have pretensions of being a high-class restaurant. The service was quick and attentive but not too rushed. Two of the waitresses hailed from Canada and on the previous occasion I visited, an Antipodean waiter served us. The menu choices were varied without being too extensive, whilst the presentation of the food scored very highly. The total bill came to £120 for four including all drinks and we left a well-deserved tip. A 10% service charge is normally only added to bills for parties of five or more. It is absolutely essential to book in advance, especially at weekends (Tel: 01844 - 208387). We will return before too long and perhaps next time I won't get lost!

~ Nigel Palmer

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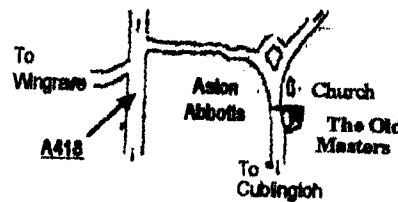
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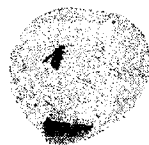
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Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 11th April 2001

The meeting was chaired by Cllr John Sansome. Apologies were received from Cllr Linda Sutton and PC Mike Buckle and two members of the public attended. The minutes of the last meeting were read and signed as a true record.

Comments From The Floor

It was noted that Wingrave Road will be closed for resurfacing from 17th to 20th April.

Further complaints were made regarding the car which is frequently parked at the bus stop outside the Bull and Butcher, making it difficult for buses to pull in. The Clerk said that Highways are aware of the problem and road markings have been requested.

County Council And District Council Matters

District Councillor Peter Cooper explained that the new format of the District Council would be in place from 10th May. This will consist of a leader and a "cabinet" of ten councillors.

The PC wholeheartedly backed the stand taken by the County Council, led by Bill Chapple, on the issue of Foot and Mouth Disease, involving keeping all footpaths in the county closed for the time being.

The A418 is currently being surveyed with a view to applying for planning permission to go ahead with the Rowsham by-pass.

Brenda Jennings, our County Councillor, was not present at the meeting.

Pharmaceutical Services In Wing

Planning permission is being sought to open a pharmaceutical shop in Wing.

Both the doctors' surgeries in Wing are objecting and have

asked for support. Resolved to object to the application.

Planning

01/00409/APP Conversion of barn to dwelling at Oxleys Farm. The PC had no comment to make on this application.

Burston Ridge Farm. The applications for retention of the existing mobile home and erection of a bungalow are being decided by committee. The outcome is not yet known.

Highways

Repairs to the fingerpost from The Green are not yet complete and no completion date has been given. The Clerk will endeavour to hurry things along.

Recreation Ground

There is a large quantity of bonfire material left over from November 5th. However, it cannot be burned until it has dried out.

The shed in the children's play area has been vandalised; so has the back of the large storage shed.

Other Matters

Perfect Village Sunday – we will apply to host the Silver Band again this summer.

Best Kept Village Competition – Aston Abbotts will be entered again this year.

The PC agreed to host the children's entertainment offered by AVDC for July 30th.

Date Of Next Meeting

16th May 2001 (Annual meeting) at 7.30pm in the Church Room. Everyone Is Very Welcome To Come Along

~ Kate Curry

Noises Off

Recently Nigel and I went to the excellent new theatre at Milton Keynes to see "Noises Off". This production sported a superb cast led by Peter Egan and Patricia Hodge but including other well known actors and actresses from TV such as Jeff Rawle, better known as George in Drop the Dead Donkey. The play centred on the rehearsals for, and performance of one play, "Nothing On".

The first act was designed to give us an idea of what the play should have been like, but also allowed us to find out about the cast and their off stage relationships and habits (eg drink). Peter Egan, acting as Director, attempting to lick his cast into shape with only limited success.

In the second act the play is now On Tour, and we see the behind stage antics of the cast as the play is performed in Ashton Under Lyne approximately one month later to what we can only imagine to be a bemused audience. Needless to say nothing goes to plan with hilarious consequences. Aden Gillett gave a marvellous physical performance from this point on.

In the final act we see the play again, this time from the correct side. The Tour has now reached Stockton on Tees and has been going for 10 weeks with no noticeable improvement. Now the actors' personal lives, incompetence in their chosen profession and foibles intermingle with the play they are trying to perform

to bring chaos and confusion.

In short, a good old British farce with a slightly novel presentation. Great fun but don't order coffee for the interval, ours was cold. Stick with the yummy ice cream.

Milton Keynes

Theatre offers a wide range of shows and plays from top class professional musicals and plays to local amateur productions. Tickets are much less than you would pay in London. If you become an individual Friend (£15) you can get many specially discounted tickets (typically 2 tickets each with £5 off for Monday or Tuesday evenings) and advanced booking facilities. We have been several times and it is always full. We're off to see Alan Ackbourne's play "Confusions" next. Review to follow.

~ Sally Palmer



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The Eden Project

Question: What do you do with a massive pit filled with slimy, coolant-green water sitting bleakly beneath a desolate heap of china clay slag?

Answer: Turn it into a modern day Garden of Eden (albeit tinged with a hint of Star Wars).

Welcome to the Eden Project. A remarkable feat of vision, determination and modern construction, and a shining example of how the Lottery Millions *can* be well spent.

Finding ourselves in Cornwall for the Easter Hols, we decided to pay a visit to this new project about which we had heard so much. Just a few miles out of St.Austell, Eden is in the heart of china clay country, carved out of a disused, drained pit. It's name - the Eden Project - reflects the fact that this is not a theme park or attraction, but a working living theatre of plants (and people), a conservation exercise and lesson in environmental awareness.

But enough of the "PR" blurb - what is Eden really like? In a word, breathtaking. The approach to the site from the main A road into a series of small car parks gives no hint of the spectacle awaiting beneath, the nature of mining meaning that unless you are on the brim of the pit you can see nothing. And so turning a corner from 'Apple' car park (all named after every-day fruits) we halted in our tracks to take in the sight below us.

In the depths of the crater, looking like a Sci-fi programme about living on Mars are the biomes - the 'largest geodesic lean-to conservatories in the World'. These huge structures are made from 625 eleven metre hexagons of transparent foil blown up into pillows and sitting on some 230 miles of scaffolding (a World record). The structure is amazing.

Walking down from several hundred feet above the crater floor, you can only marvel at the construction, the massiveness of it all. The surrounding walls of the crater still very much resemble a china clay pit as the huge variety of trees and plants on the hillside are very immature, having been planted only a few months ago; these too form part of the Eden project, comprising close to 40 separate "exhibits" of everything from Wild Cornwall to Tea, Mustard and plants for beer and brewing. I suspect that most visitors over-look these areas at present.

Once you reach the final rim above the crater it's time to part with your readies - £9.50 per adult (not sure about children's prices but certainly lower) - before walking the final 100 metres or so to the biomes. A word of warning - the trek down is a long one (even longer coming back-up) but there is a land train for those who can not face the walk!

And so to the biomes. The moment you enter the grass-covered section between the two main areas you are transported away from Cornwall to far warmer climes; the day we visited it was

27C+ (low 80s Fahrenheit) as you walked in and very, very steamy. The walkway snakes up and down through the biome, traversing steep hillsides covered in plants and trees more at home in Tropical Africa, South America and the islands of the Indian Ocean. The greenhouse is large enough (55m high) for the entire Rain Forest to grow to it's absolute full potential; we saw everything from Chewing Gum and Rubber (so many varieties) to Pineapples (a real surprise here), Coffee, Sugar and Rice.

Over 2,000 species of plants are housed in this biome, continually watered by a central river and a multitude of "mistlers" spraying water constantly. The air temperature ranges from 18C to 35C at different heights and locations to provide a perfectly realistic growing environment. In truth, the place is *so* realistic you really notice the absence of monkey shrieks and other jungle noises!

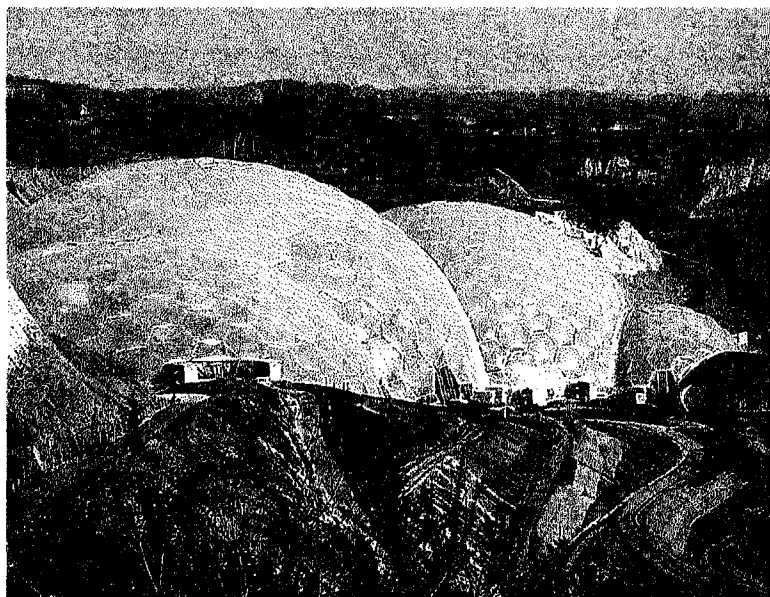
Leaving the Humid Tropics Biome behind, we moved into the Warm Temperate Biome of plants from the Mediterranean, California and South Africa where the temperature is a little lower and the air a lot drier. On a slightly smaller scale than the first biome, the plants here are more

familiar to most of us - citrus, peppers, olives and peas, and a few not-so-well-known ones like cork, tobacco and cotton. There are desert areas - very sparse at present - and a real expectancy of fragrances and colours yet to come.

Not surprisingly, all of the plants - inside and out - are at the very earliest stages of their growth, with most confined to ground level and only hinting at how magnificent they will look once fully matured. Many of the areas have been designed by local artists and incorporate sculpture and other features, and incredible attention has been paid to every detail. The plants are well documented and mostly labelled with descriptions of habitat and so on; but this is no plant "zoo" - there is no standard labelling and no excess of information; it is a spectacle, a work of art, as much as anything (though there are plenty of Latin names scattered around to test Vic and Christine!).

So what did we think? Truly, truly amazing, both the construction and its contents. True, some that I have spoken to were a little disappointed at the 'immaturity' of the plant-life, but I guess that's what comes of a society used to theme parks with everything transplanted ready-made from outside. Make no mistake, now really is the time to make your first trip to the Eden Project to be able to fully appreciate it's progress in later years, especially as they are continuing to add new environments and buildings. Eden is in its infancy, but that simply guarantees that you will see something very different year after year. We will certainly be going back next year.

(Continued on page 16)



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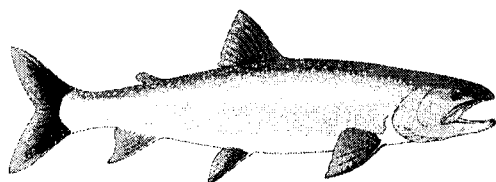
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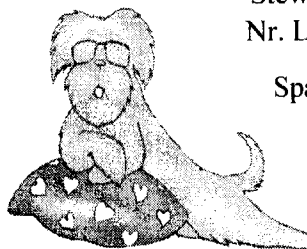
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The Annual Parish Meeting

The annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 25th April in the Church Room.

Present were John Sansome (Chairman), Kate Curry (Clerk), Brenda Jennings (County Councillor), Peter Cooper (District Councillor), and 19 Parishioners.

The meeting commenced at 8pm.

Apologies were received from PC Buckle.

Minutes of previous meeting

These were read, agreed and signed.

Thanks

John Sansome started the meeting by extending thanks to a number of people:

- Gordon Smith for acting as clerk at a number of previous village meetings.
- Peter Knight for mowing the green for the princely sum of 1p per year, and also for clearing up the bonfire rubbish.
- The churchyard mowing gang (the Merry Mowers) for their efforts in keeping the churchyard looking neat and trim.
- Colin Higgs for his additional mowing duties and also for keeping tabs on the potholes.
- Clare Shorrock and the Aston Abbots History Society for the wonderful history book they had produced.

Police And Neighbourhood Watch

Neil Cheshier reported to the meeting on the vandalism to the storage shed in the Recreation ground and the damage to the equipment contained within it. He said the matter had been reported to the police and expressed dismay that neighbours may have heard something but did not report it. Vic Scott said that only a day previously he had caught four boys trying to light a fire behind the shed. These boys had been younger boys, not teenagers and, although he did not recognise them, he thought they were village kids.

Neil Cheshier pointed out that the shed might have collapsed after the rear wall had been broken down, injuring the children and leading to a possible claim against the Parish.

The meeting called for more vigilance by the Neighbourhood Watch, but Gordon Smith pointed out that despite valiant efforts by our village Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator the village normally showed considerable apathy towards the scheme, as we were fortunate in suffering low crime rates.

Tom Manning offered to find out if there is a new local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator in the police, as the previous one had left last year.

The Church Room

Tom Manning said that the most people would have been aware of the results of the vote in The Chronicle, when an overwhelming majority supported the redevelopment of the Church Room. He would shortly be calling a meeting at which he would instruct the architect to obtain building regulation approval and then fund-raising ideas would be sought and vigorously explored.

The Chronicle

Phil Spooner reported that the Chronicle had just celebrated its 200th issue. It remained as strong as ever, having carried a wide variety of articles over the previous year.

It had been a matter of great regret that Andy Swain's job prevented him from continuing as editor. He had been doing a marvellous job and Phil Spooner proposed a vote of thanks. Andi received a round of applause.

Financially the Chronicle is stable. Although around three pages of advertising had recently been lost through no particular fault, sterling efforts by Ivan Greenaway had brought in at least two pages of new adverts, largely making up the shortfall. If the Parish Council grants and the fete contribution could be maintained at previous levels then the financial future for the Chronicle should remain secure.

There is to be a 200th issue celebration and fund raising party for The Chronicle to be held in the Bull and Butcher on May 12th.

The future of The Chronicle looks good, with 33 advertisers in the current issue and many regular contributors. Phil Spooner expressed a desire to increase coverage of village activities like the Ladies Club and the Church and said that he thought we had always had a magazine to be proud of and he hoped that this would continue.

Fete 2000

Gordon Smith reported that last year's fete had taken a total of £3206.67 and that the profit was £2593.78, which is believed to be the highest ever made. The fete has grown enormously over the years and it was now felt to be as big as it could ever get. This means that everybody's help is needed. Parking is going to become a serious problem in the future and it didn't work well in 2000, with the first incidences of 'parking rage' that Gordon had ever encountered.

Fete 2001

Gordon Smith reported that Barbara Bellingham had valiantly stepped in to fill the position as fete co-ordinator. Plans are now well advanced for the fete to go ahead on July 21st.

We may be able to use Dicky Chapman's field for parking this year, if the tenant farmer agrees.

Distribution of the fete proceeds were discussed and it was unanimously agreed by the meeting that distribution should remain the same as last year:

Church Room	52.5%
Church	35%
Chronicle	10%
Toddlers Group	2.5%

The Recreation Ground

It had been suggested that the main gate should be locked to prevent unauthorised tipping on the bonfire site. However, that is not currently a big problem and the Parish Council decided it would be a bad idea as it stops access by emergency services in the case of an accident.

The small shed in the children's play area is still scheduled for demolition. A new contractor will be doing the mowing this year. Ivan Greenaway pointed out that the extra strip of land next to the Rec was not being maintained and had not yet been

cut this year. Shirley Ford asked for a baby swing in the play area and Tom Manning replied that a swing currently away being repaired would be a box swing when returned.

District Council Report

Peter Cooper said that he had now spent two years representing the District Council in our area. Peter explained that the District Council were changing to a Cabinet-style system and he thought that it should speed up the decision-making processes.

There is a definite plan to improve the Aylesbury to Milton Keynes link road. This *will* be done - and sooner rather than later. In this area we have the last bits of sub-standard A road and two areas need particular attention – the Wing and the Rowsham bypasses.

The style for the link road will be a 10 metre wide single carriageway, like the Leighton Buzzard bypass. The route will use the existing road corridor wherever possible, so reducing the need for it to charge across farmland as previously proposed. This could happen within 10 years, possibly within five years.

Peter Cooper pointed out that the increase in Council Tax attributable to the District Council was just £5 per household for a Band D property.

Colin Higgs raised concerns over why it took so long to re-allocate empty bungalows in the village. Peter Cooper agreed the current system is not very good and said it will be improved over the coming year. There will be changes to reduce both the bureaucracy and the costs involved in unnecessary refits.

In response to a question from Andy Swain, Peter Cooper said that the Rowsham bypass would go to the west of Rowsham, by the shortest route.

County Council Report

Brenda Jennings said that she had been our representative on the County Council for eight years and would like to continue. Brenda also talked about the new cabinet structure and explained her involvement in some of the Council committees.

As far as the A418 is concerned the County Council recognise that bringing in the Stoke Hammond to Linslade bypass will increase traffic in Wing, so the next priority will probably be the Wing bypass. Brenda Jennings said that despite rumours to the contrary she could assure us “Absolutely no definite route for the Wing bypass has been decided upon”. Very hopefully there would be a Rowsham bypass and the County Council

were doing all they could to make the A418 safer.

The County Council are aware that rain and frost during this hard and wet winter have caused a lot of damage to the roads, but now that the weather is improving technicians should be out repairing them.

Brenda is on the Luton Airport Consultative Committee and says that she has fought long and hard for Bucks. The committee has received many letters from Bucks residents and these are very important. A new approach route is being looked at favourably at the moment, and this comes out further over Bucks. Aircraft will be at a greater height, but Brenda told us that descent would now start over the Aston Abbots and Wingrave area!

Gordon Smith said that he felt the village had been neglected by the County. The examples he cited included poor road repairs, lack of road sweeping, lack of verge cutting and inadequate gritting during the winter. “To me, it feels like County neglect,” said Gordon angrily.

Gordon’s comments lead to Brenda Jennings taking a lot of flak over potholes and the poor condition of the roads. To sum up a heated debate John Sansome said that we paid our taxes, any self-respecting road engineer would take care of these potholes, and it was up to the county to fund it.

Any Other Business

Vic Scott voiced his dismay over the dumping of a large rolled-up carpet on the land of the Old Vicarage. He said this was just one of a number of incidents, including complaints to AVDC over the extensive restoration work being done to the property, which were not in keeping with the way in which Aston Abbots normally welcomes newcomers. It was particularly sad as the owner of the Old Vicarage had been generous in his donation of land for the Church Room renovations.

Neil Chesher pointed out that the Astonbury open-air music event would take place on Saturday 7th July at Norduck House.

John Sansome said that the signpost on the green had still not been repaired as the man contracted to do the work had failed to complete it, so we had asked him to send it back. He asked if anybody knew of someone who could undertake this repair work.

The meeting closed at 9:43pm.

~ Phil Spooner

Best Kept Village Competition

Once again Aston Abbots has entered the “Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition”. This year a selected winner of the competition will be entered for the “Village of the Year Award” co-sponsored by Calor Gas and the Daily Telegraph. Each county is allowed to nominate one village, and the winner will receive a cheque for £3000, with further awards or £500 each to villages winning in certain criteria.

So, this year there is even more incentive to keep the village neat and tidy. Judging will take place during the first two weeks in June, followed by a final inspection in early July.

~ Kate Curry

(Continued from page 13)

Practical Advice: Eden is located 5 miles North of St Austell, Cornwall off the A391. There are regular bus connections from St Austell railway station and there seemed to be coach trips from just about every town within a 50 mile radius. Get there early (10.30 / 11.00 a.m.) to avoid the worst of the crowds as there were over 13,000 visitors each day over Easter and the ticket queue was over an hour by lunch time. The best tip is to buy your ticket from a local tourist office (same price) thus avoiding the long queue. **And do go!**

~ Andi Swain

New Orleans

I think it was when I sneaked out of school, across the road to Haggis Hatfield's house and heard Louis Armstrong records for the first time that I decided to give up playing drums in the School jazz band and to start to learn the trumpet. At the same time I read great stories about the birth of jazz in New Orleans at the start of the 20th century. As my interest in jazz music increased so too did this dream of one day going to New Orleans. Going to see the places where Louis Armstrong, Kid Ory and King Oliver used to play, standing where some of the giants of music had played, until they all left for Chicago. And so it happened, together with Anita, we flew to Houston in Texas and then drove to New Orleans. We arrived on Good Friday, with some trepidation, which was less to do with Anita's navigation than the fact that I had booked the hotel over the Internet, so I had no idea what it was like or if I had really got a booking.

"Biggest and best bedroom I have ever seen", she said (She doesn't get out much!) Well, so far, so good, a result.

We then consulted the city guide and decide to walk to the French Quarter, which is where it all happens. So down Gravier Street across Loyola, across South Rampart Street (Yes, Brancker, I have taken the pictures to prove I was there), turn left across Canal Street and into the French Quarter. Small narrow streets with balconies and trailing plants. Hot, sticky, it is 87 degrees! Past the House of Blues. Turn up St Peter Street and past the Preservation Hall. This is one of the true last bastions of real jazz and there was a queue forming already. 5 Dollars to get in, no booze, no food, no seats, no booking, no ventilation, no stage, no worries.

We hit the waterfront. The mighty Mississippi. Big laden barges being pushed 4 abreast and 4 long, very impressive. 2 paddle wheel steamers Creole Queen and the Natchez.

Then you suddenly realise Americans are crazy when you see moored alongside are 2 barges laden with RV's (those big bus-like things, huge motorised caravans). There had to be 30 RV's, all neatly parked diagonally on the barges and the people were aboard. Rather than driving to locations (the normal thing for an RV) they had been loaded on these barges and had sailed around the tributaries of the Mississippi.

I turn round and find Anita talking to some curious American, (she has this strange habit). "Is my mother annoying you", I said. He didn't get the joke (Nor did Nita), however he was happy and recommended a good restaurant back in St Peter Street, the Gumbo Shop.

This was our first try out of Cajun and Creole cooking. One of the nice things about the USA is that most things are in a song somewhere. So summoning up my Hank Williams I ordered Jambalaya, Crawfish Pie and Filet Gumbo. Quite good. I want a dark beer, so I get Voodoo Booze! ...America!

We came out and it was dark and the people were still queuing at the Preservation Hall.

We were not prepared for Bourbon Street, which runs at 90 degrees to St Peter. Suddenly there was music, people, noise, colour and..... well,.... just wow... it was wild!

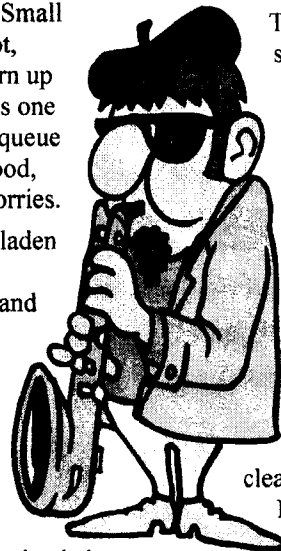
As we walked around we could hear all types of music, Cajun, Jazz, R&B, Blues, Rock, Karaoke. It was just everywhere and every bar seemed to have a band.

So in we went, small place, grubby, thin, about 20 people but here was a guy playing fantastic guitar and making a show of it. Suddenly he does a complete Jimi Hendrix 'Purple Haze'. All it costs is a drink for 2, about 10 dollars. Leaving there we move down the road, past the 'Gentlemen's Club' (I wasn't allowed in!) into a bar with a real jazz band, maybe 40 people. The band sit to play, very authentic. Again 10 or 12 dollars and you could sit there and listen to your hearts content. Across the road a 7 piece R&B band giving it some welly, on down the road and the Crazy Cajun looks to be the Eric Clapton of the Accordion world.. The bands seemed to change every 3 hours.

Lots of shops selling Mardis Gras stuff. Great colour, really good buzz and then jet lag hit and I had to find a wheelbarrow to get Anita back to the hotel.

Back the next day exploring the other areas, desperately trying to avoid shops, since Anita is prone to do her startled ferret act and make an unannounced right and vanish without trace.

Lovely areas in the French Quarter with each street being different and you realise their chequered past when you see many French and Spanish names to know that this place has changed hands a few times, the last being as part of the Louisiana Purchase, by the USA.



That night we board the Creole Queen paddle wheel steamer for a Dinner jazz trip down the Mississippi, but we had to wait for the wedding party to get on board. Yes, a full-scale wedding was taking place that night... Americans!

Nice return trip of about 3 hours with a very good tenor sax player leading the band. Strange thing, absolutely no pleasure craft to be seen on the Mississippi.

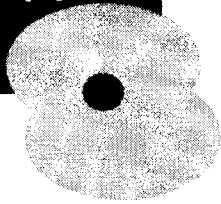
The night is completed by a further prowling around Bourbon Street. Get into Preservation Hall, band starts to play, have to leave quickly, Anita complained about the lack of retail opportunities. Easter Sunday dawns, very hot, clear blue sky. From the hotel window we can see the New Orleans marathon taking place as thousands of runners go by.

We had heard there was an Easter parade, so arrived at Jackson Square to find the gentry of the French Quarter parading down the road in open carriages drawn by mules. Southern belle clothing, big hats and they are handing out Easter bunnies, flowers and beads, they went straight to church followed by the poshest restaurant in the whole of town. Back to Bourbon Street where the main parade is gathering, it is led by 12 identical green and yellow Harley Davidsons with Sirens going, lights flashing. These are the Shriners, some Jerusalem sect (strange place America). Any way, there are a succession of floats, jazz bands, dancers, rock bands...oh.... and 8 elderly black men dressed in black suits but parading with what looked like bright yellow ostrich wings (I thought they were stripper's fans). The parade goes right round the French Quarter and back to Bourbon Street where, on completion, some of the jazz bands just cannot stop playing and combine together for a final enthralling session on the street. As the parade goes by the people on the floats are throwing out chains of beads to everybody, another Mardi Gras tradition. Fantastic atmosphere, such great fun. Have to keep to the side of the street in the shade.... so hot!

(Continued on page 21)

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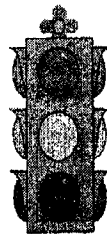
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Our Coach Trip this year is to
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Whatever you call them, do not let them into your home.

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ONCE INSIDE YOUR HOME THEY WILL STEAL WHATEVER THEY CAN.

IF YOU ARE NOT EXPECTING THEM THEY ARE PROBABLY NOT GENUINE.

If someone calls at the door with this story **ASK THEM FOR IDENTIFICATION.** If they are genuine they will have an ID card with a photograph. On the card there will be a number you can phone to check them out. **ALWAYS DO THIS.** They will not mind and it will save you from the heartache of being robbed.

These people see senior citizens as a soft and easy target. **LETS PROVE THEM WRONG!**

Some Helpful Tips

DON'T leave your door unlocked

If you have a door chain **USE IT**

If you need to call out the utility companies make an appointment and **USE A PASS WORD** that only they will know.

If you have a caller at the door **ASK THEM TO COME BACK WHEN YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

Before answering the door **LOOK OUT OF**

THE WINDOW

DON'T let **STRANGERS** do work on your home or in your garden.

If you are in doubt **TELL THEM YOU ARE CALLING THE POLICE.** We would much rather check them out than have to come after you have been the victim of crime.

It is common for these people to send **YOUNG CHILDREN** up to the door. Do not fall for their story. They do not care about your feelings and will steal what they can....money..jewellery electrical goods.

IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE CALLER RING THE POLICE

Some useful numbers

Aylesbury Vale Council	01296 585858
Local Police	01296 396163
Emergency	999

~ PC Mike Buckle

From a recent Bucks Herald:

● **AN 87-year-old woman threw a bogus worker out of her home in High Street, Wing on Monday. The man, who claimed to be doing work to the upstairs flat, said he needed to turn off the water before he pushed his way into her house at about 7.15pm. He shoved the old lady into her hallway, then grabbed her clothing, before she was able to push him out of the house and phone the police.**

The Merry Mowers Pop Quiz

A few pages back Andy Bystra told of the training session on the new sit-upon lawnmower. This time the majority of people missed the more obvious obstacles, such as the church, and as nobody fell off the only real incident worth noting was a certain Mr Bee de-tyreing the vehicle on a gravestone. Thank you to Aston Abbots grass-cutting supremo Richard Clark for a very speedy repair.

Now that the new mower is here I believe that the group are to approach the Parish Council with a request for a new grassbox-mounted CD autochanger, complete with four speakers and a graphic equaliser. Then they will be able to accompany their mowing with a special compilation CD of popular grass-cutting tunes, including :

1. I Can't Let Maggie Mow
2. Help Me Rake It Through The Night
3. Heart Of Grass
4. One Mowment In Time
5. Don't Leaf Me This Way
6. Here I Mow Again
7. I Will S..scythe
8. I Shear You Now
9. Should I Stay Or Should I Mow
10. Turfing USA
11. I Should Have Mown Better

12. I Think We're A Lawn Now
13. I Want To Rake Up With You
14. Grass In Pocket
15. Is There Something I Should Mow
16. If You Leaf Me Now
17. Mowny Mowny
18. The Lawn and Winding Road
19. Papa-Ooom-Mow-Mow
20. Rake Me Up Before You Go Go
21. Wind Me Up (Let Me Mow)
22. You'll Never Walk A Lawn

...and, finally, 'Died In Your Arms' by The Cutting Crew.

So Who Recorded Them?

So you think you know your pop music, eh? OK - who had the original hits with the pop songs featured above? Many were UK number ones. I bet few of you can get them all, though. The answers are on page 25 when you give up.

~ Phil Spooner



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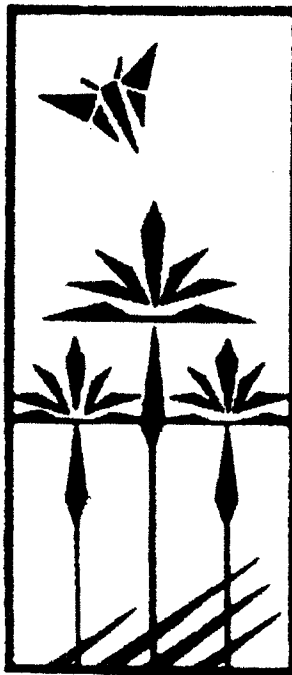
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Phone Perverts ?

These days it is not uncommon to hear of old people falling prey to burglars, conmen, violent attacks and even perverts. When my 81 year-old widowed mother-in-law, an Aston Clinton resident, started to receive strange phone calls she became increasingly worried. Only a few months ago her partly disabled elderly friend came face-to-face with a burglar and now she was worried that someone might be trying to find out when she was in. When things like this happen it can be extremely unsettling for old people living on their own.

The pattern of the calls was always the same. The phone would ring, mum-in-law would answer, and then the caller would hang up. She had the good sense to dial 1471, but this told her only that the number had been withheld.

Discussing this with her friends, she discovered other elderly old ladies who were getting the same worrying phone calls, so we decided to try to do something about it.

I approached a group of email contacts connected with telecommunications to ask what I could do about this. The answers I got were not what I expected. The consensus is that one of the most likely culprits for these frightening phone calls is probably... British Telecom itself!

British Telecom is just one of a number of major telesales operations who use an automated dialling process. To avoid telesales operators sitting there twiddling their thumbs waiting for phones to be answered, a computer dials several random numbers in a specific area before a telesales operator finishes the previous call. If the person dialled answers the phone before an operator becomes available the computer waits a few seconds and then disconnects the line. This apparently came to light some months ago on an investigative radio programme that attempted to trace the source of these calls and discovered that the culprit (in their case) was British Telecom. I'm sure many of you reading this have received unsolicited phone calls from BT's telesales operation trying to get you to try another tariff, Friends And Family, or something similar.

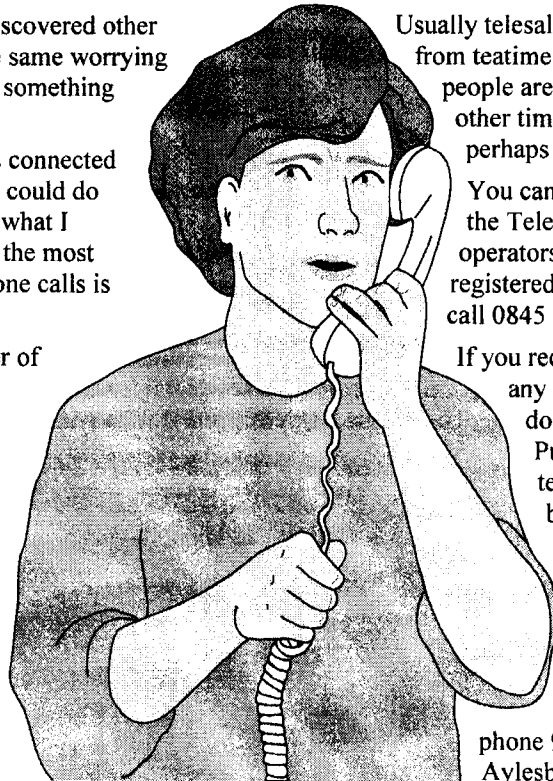
Discovery of this particular culprit explained the strange reaction Carol had received when she had contacted BT about the worrying calls. BT had suggested that it might be a telesales

operation but when Carol asked if the number could be traced they just gave a wry laugh.

So if you receive strange phone calls, where the caller says nothing and hangs up after a few seconds, maybe it's not a burglar, maybe it's not your husband/wife's secret lover, maybe it's not a weirdo, maybe it's not a pervert, maybe it's just dear old British Telecom or one of their telemarketing cohorts with an anti-social marketing practice that has been frightening quite a few old ladies in the Aylesbury area.

Stopping Unwanted Calls

Now down to business - what to do about unwanted and malicious phone calls?



Usually telesales calls are made in the early evening from teatime onwards because this is when most people are in. If you are receiving odd calls at other times, especially during the night, then perhaps the reason could be less "innocent".

You can stop telesales calls by registering with the Telephone Preference Service. Telesales operators are legally bound not to call numbers registered with the TPS. Registration is free - just call 0845 070 0707.

If you receive a malicious call do not enter into any conversation. Even if the caller is silent do not attempt to get the caller to speak. Put the handset down beside the telephone and leave it for a few minutes before silently hanging up. This will deny the caller any "pleasure" that they might gain from your response and it may discourage them from calling you again.

If you're frightened by malicious calls then contact the police. Don't phone 999; contact the local police in Aylesbury on 396000. If you are unsure about the calls you receive, then telephone BT's advice line which is a Freephone number - 0800 666 700.

Finally, you could consider purchasing a phone with caller display, or a separate caller display unit. These are not very expensive (but there is a small monthly fee of around £1.50 for the service) and they show you the number of the caller before you pick up the phone. Then you can choose to simply ignore withheld numbers.

~ Phil Spooner

(Continued from page 17)

They have closed off some of the roads for Easter Sunday and these have been taken over by other bands. There is a blues band with slide dobro guitar, a really laid back jug blowing country-ish band, a black lady singing blues and playing mandolin and many others

So we return down Decatur Street and for once my guard had dropped and Anita was off like a shot into the shops. Took hours to find her and prise her fingers off the clothes rail.

We walked everywhere in New Orleans, and were impressed by the level of visible police presence everywhere and how easily accessible everything was. We avoided some of the more obvious danger spots So back home via the Alabama beach,

several plantation houses, swamps, echoes of the civil war and Houston.

Ah yes... Houston, that's another story about the search for the mall and Anita's navigation, Ask her!

New Orleans was wonderful and fulfilled all my long held dreams. We had a great 4 days there and as the song says

*Way down yonder in New Orleans
In the land of the dreamy dreams
It's a garden of Eden
You Know what I mean?*

Yup, I do.

~ Neil Chesher

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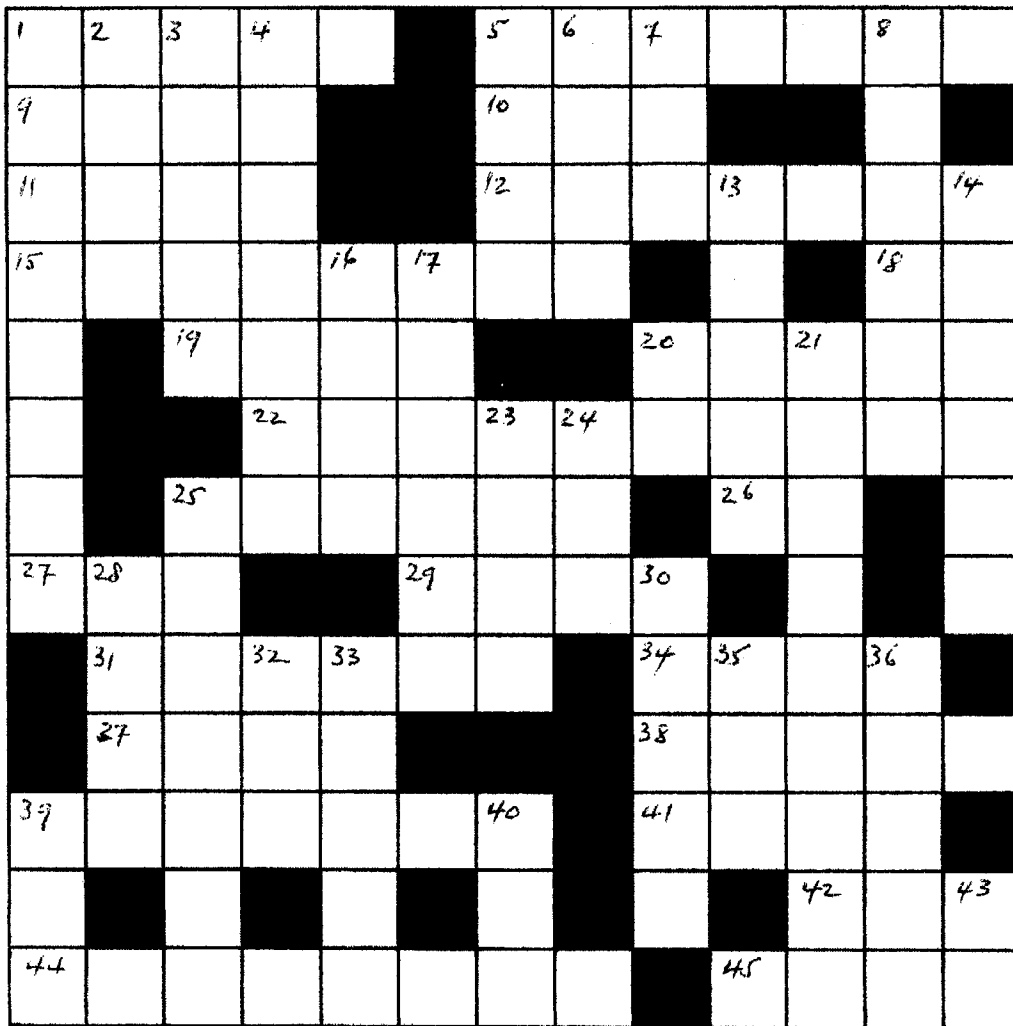
Well - I lost 1 ½ stone over Christmas and the New Year with a unique diet and nutrition plan and feel a new person. It seriously is one of the best things that has ever happened to me.

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

The Chronicle Crossword

May 2001



Answers to April

ACROSS: 1 Lancaster. 8 LSO. 10 Marred. 12 Lair. 15 Terrific. 17 Arson. 19 Keep. 20 DA. 21 Crepes. 22 Dashed. 24 ET. 26 Doors. 27 Ova. 29 Tar. 30 Benefit. 33 Geese. 35 Nell. 36 Moss. 37 Roulette. 41 Uri. 42 Induced. 46 Date. 47 Run-down. 48 Ely. 49 Ave. 50 Aorta.

DOWN: 1 Lilac. 2 Noise. 3 Am. 4 Sat. 5 Trek. 6 Erred. 7 Rercad. 8. Spider. 11 Dipsa. 13 Arrive. 14 Rope. 16 Cads. 18 Net. 23 Holes. 25 Mat. 27 Obtrude. 28 Annuity. 29 Tilt. 31 Eel. 32 Fled. 33 Go. 34 Escudo. 36 Menu. 38 Oral. 39 Tirc. 40 Newt. 43 DNA. 44 Cor. 45 DNA.

ACROSS

- 1. Burrowing animals (5)
- 5. Country (7)
- 9. Ebony (Poetic 4)
- 10. Rod (3)
- 11. Biblical sailor (4)
- 12. NEW AURA (an 7)
- 15. NEAT CITY (an 8)
- 18. Printer's measure (2)
- 19. A drawback (4)
- 20. To fold (5)
- 22. Fairytale heroine (10)
- 25. Thread weight (6)
- 26. Compass direction (2)
- 27. Head part (3)

- 29. Pour copiously (4)
- 31. To tease, joke etc (6)
- 34. Level (4)
- 37. Frame for coffin (4)
- 38. Dressed to the ---- (5)
- 39 Choral composition (7)
- 41. Gels (4)
- 42. Women's army unit (3)
- 44. Weirdness (8)
- 45. Instead (4)

DOWN

- 1. Local village (8)
- 2. Musical instrument (4)

- 3. Lends (5)
- 4. Improve (7)
- 5. TUBA (an 4)
- 6. Lots (4)
- 7. Period (3)
- 8. Wheat e.g. (6)
- 13. Part of U.K. (5)
- 14. Involve (6)
- 16. Adam, son (4)
- 17. Light (6)

- 20 Public relation (abbr 2)
- 21. LENT ME ALE (an.9)
- 23. Animal (4)
- 24. Before (3)

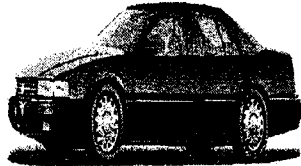
- 25. RARE DIN 9an7)
- 28 Singing group (4)
- 30. High scoring intelligence test club (5)
- 32. Mesh (3)
- 33 Retinue (5)
- 35. Compete (3)
- 36. Egg containers (5)
- 39. Actor's prompt (3)
- 40. Donkey (3)
- 43. Compass point (2)

Compiled by Don Bellingham

NO JOB TOO SMALL

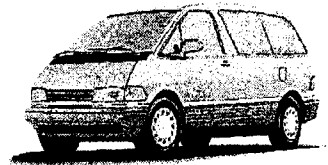
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Rectors Report

There has been some discussion recently about the fact that the number of people who come to Church on Sunday seems to be in decline.

I am never very sure how to respond to this kind of argument, because there are so many factors that may be considered as potential causes - assuming that the statistics are necessarily true in the first place!

One line of argument is that it is all the fault of the clergy. It is true that the clergy sometimes may be at fault - simply because none of us is perfect, and I suspect that the Archangel Gabriel himself might have difficulty maintaining some congregations!

Some have suggested that the fault may be caused by the elderly - simply that those who have in the past been regular worshippers are not being replaced when they are no longer able to come to church. The next generation does not find the church as attractive an activity as the previous one did.

Then again we have to remember that we are living in a world that has changed beyond all recognition in the last fifty years. Increased mobility, family

breakdowns, Sunday sport and trading are just four of the potential reasons for less people being in church. Single parent families, changing work patterns, and increasing legislation have all made an impact.

There was a suggestion many years ago that the way to get children to church was to give them a job to do. "It is not the boy who is holding the candle, it the candle that is holding the boy!" The Children's Act has made that a virtual impossibility - apart from the potential danger involved with hot wax and naked flames (a Health & Safety Issue).

Of course, there is no end to the excuses that can be lined up to refute the argument. But the thing that always strikes me as strange is that the criticism usually comes from people who are on the fringe of Church life and from those who never come at all, rather than from those who are regular worshippers.

If you come to church three or four times a year, how can you know that less people are now coming? Unless you are there with the congregation, you stand guilty of being one who isn't being counted! It is hardly fair to sap the morale of those who do come whilst you stay away. Our

morale would be much better if you came and joined us in the regular worship of Almighty God, the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists.

There are very few people who can actually do anything about the number of people in church - and one of them is **YOU!**

~ Bob Willmott

Pop Quiz Answers

Here are the answers to the Merry Mowers Pop Quiz on page 19.

1. The Honeybus
2. Gladys Knight And The Pips
3. Blondie
4. Whitney Houston
5. The Communards
6. Whitesnake
7. Gloria Gaynor
8. Jon & Vangelis
9. The Clash
10. The Beach Boys
11. Jim Diamond (UK No 1 in 1984)
12. Tiffany (UK No 1 in 1988)
13. Boris Gardner
14. The Pretenders
15. Duran Duran
16. Chicago
17. Tommy James and the Shondelles
18. The Beatles
19. The Rivingtons
20. Wham
21. Cliff Richard
22. Gerry And The Pacemakers (later hits by Elvis & The Crowd)



1st Wingrave Scout Group

Beavers

The Beavers ended the term by welcoming back Jan, who has been away since last autumn with a bad back, it's lovely to see him back in action.

They also held a leaving party for Hazel (Sue Ascott) who has left after a number of years running the colony, we wish her good luck and would like to thank her for all the effort and hard work she has put in during her time as Beaver Leader.

Cubs

The Cubs finished the term by concentrating on their badge work, as a consequence a large number of badges were awarded at our last pack meeting, well done boys.

We have continued along the theme of planets, making models of the major planets, which will be on display in the new hut. We should be able to award the Astronomers badge to most of the cubs soon.

Scouts

We are sorry to say that Andy (our old leader) has resigned from the scouting world and we would like to thank him for the time and effort he has given. Over the last couple of weeks Jeff Pollard has kindly agreed to step in as a temporary leader until we can find a new leader. Also we have been planning our meetings for the next couple of weeks including badgework, a cooking evening and various outings. Our next meeting will be in the hut. (Daniel Smith)

David Schwienberg remains as an assistant leader.

Group Scout Leader

Mick Jeffery, after a great many years with the Group, firstly as a Cub Scout Leader and more recently as our Group Scout Leader, has decided to leave. Having moved away from Wingrave some years ago he has shown great commitment to the group by remaining involved with the scouts for so long. Having helped to secure the new hut and to get it fit for the boys to use, he felt this was an appropriate time to move on.

We would like to thank him for all the time and effort he has put into the Group and wish him good luck for the future. Camp wont be the same without you Merek!

If anyone is interested in finding out more about Scouting, or in coming along to help with any of the sections we would love to see you.

Phone: Julia Ellis 681118

Fran Pollard 625454

We are delighted to report that after a great deal of hard work by a small but dedicated group, our Scout hut is now ready to be inhabited. The sections will all be meeting back at the hut as from the start of this term, we are particularly pleased to be able to have Beavers there too.

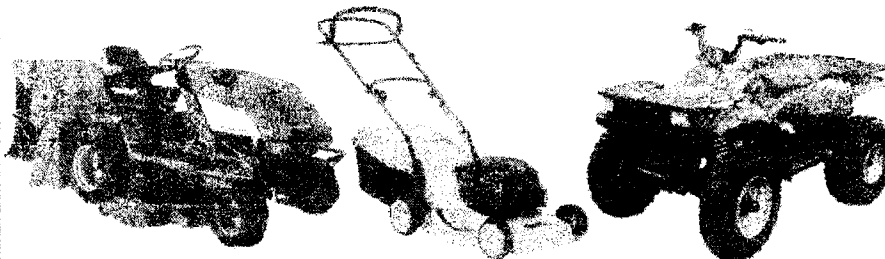
~ Julia Ellis

Cooker, pram/bike wheels and paint wanted—see the Classified Ads inside the back cover

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St James Church

Church Services

6 th May	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Morning Service
13 th	08.00	Wingrave	Prayer Book Style Communion
	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Family Service
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion
	20 th	10.00	Wingrave
	10.00	Cublington	Family Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion
27 th	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion
3 rd June	10.00	Aston Abbotts	Three Parish Communion

Church Sidesmen

6 th	Mr A Ford
13 th	Mr J Hartnet
20 th	Mr C. higgs
27 th	Mr G Kemp
June 3 rd	Mr A Ford

Church Flowers

5/6 th	Flower Festival
12/13 th	Mr C. Higgs
19/20 th	Mr I Belgrove
26/27 th	- Donated

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

Sunday Readings

6 th May	Easter 4	Revelation 7.9-17; John 10.22-30
13 th	Easter 5	Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35
20 th	Easter 6	Revelation 21.10,22-22.5; John 5.1-9
27 th	Easter 7	Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17.20-26
4 th June	Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21; John 14.8-17,25-27

PCC AGM

The PCC held its AGM in the Church Room last Month.

The secretary reported that funds had been raised last year by two quiz evenings, a table top sale, open gardens, sponsored cycle ride, concerts and harvest sale, as well as a very successful festival weekend.

Chairman, the Rev Bob Willmott reported on the fabric of the church and that a new heating system had been installed. Some tiles needed replacing on the nave roof above the porch.

The following members were elected to office: Mrs Shirley Ford (churchwarden); Miss A Goodman (secretary); Mr G Kemp (treasurer). The remaining PCC were re-elected.

A quote is to be obtained for kerbing the Church path from the gate to the porch. Another was awaited for trimming the hedges.

~ Colin Higgs

Whitchurch Surgery

1st April 2001

Dear All,

I am quite overwhelmed by your generosity and I would really like to thank everyone who contributed to my leaving present. I shall buy a really nice piece of antique furniture with the £5600 raised. Possible ideas are a 4 poster bed or a bureau. It will be a real luxury to look round for something, and now of course I shall have time to do so.

I could not have wished for a nicer area, with nicer people and with nicer patients. It's been a real pleasure. There are things I won't miss about the job, form filling, bumph to read, but the individual patient contact I know I will miss.

As you all seem to know by now, I'm moving to the Isle of Wight, and I'm looking forward to a very different life, but I know I shall look back with very fond memories.

Thank you all and I wish you Good Health

Dr Vivian Roberts.

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What's On in April

- Thursday 3rd** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30 pm
Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room 10.00-12.00
- Saturday 5th** Flower Festival St James church 2 – 5.00 pm.
- Sunday 6th** Flower Festival & teas St James Church 2 – 5.00 pm.
- Monday 7th** (Bank Holiday) Coach outing to the Maze (Oxfordshire)
- Tuesday 8th** Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm .
Also;- Fete Meeting – The Old House 8.00 pm.
- Saturday 12th** Bingo – in aid of the British Legion Church Room 7.30 pm.
Also;- Chronicle Party. Admission by ticket only.
- Monday 14th** Village refuse Freighter at the Bull and Butcher
- Tuesday 15th** Aylesbury Vale Transport Meeting at Buckingham (Bus & train queries to Colin Please)
- Wed 16th** Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting Church Room 7.30 pm.
- Thursday 17th** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30 pm
Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room 10.00-12.00
- Tuesday 22nd** Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm.
- Thursday 31st** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30 pm

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 – The Bull & Butcher 12.30. Fare £6.00 Book with Colin

Saturday 12th May The Chronicle's 200th issue party—see ad in this issue

Sunday 10th June Village Open Gardens 2 – 6.00pm (teas in the Church Room). Gardens which will be open include Oak Farm, 11 The Green, The Old House and The Abbey.

Saturday 7th July Astonbury open-air music event at Norduck Farm.

Saturday & Sunday 21st – 22nd July
Festival Weekend – The Fete.



Classified Ads

COOKER WANTED Does anyone have an electric cooker that the Scout Group could have? Thank you for all the wonderful offers of Hoovers, we are now well equipped. We also need **pram or bicycle wheels** for the Cubs to make Roman Chariots and “odds and sods” of **paint** for decorating (all colours wanted). Please contact Nikki Reeve ~ 681372 ~ 1st Wingrave Scout Group

4 WHEEL DRIVE FOR SALE. Honda HRV 4 wheel drive, 1.6 manual, 3 door, V Reg (Sept 99), 21000 miles, FSH (Honda), tax to August, excellent condition, £10950 ono. Telephone Becky on (Aston Abbots) 682651

TESCO COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS. Andi Swain has a large wadge of these vouchers. If anybody can use them please contact Andi on 682651.

BMX BIKE. Kaptana. Good condition. Rear pegs. Suit 8-10 year olds. £45. Phone Sam on 688429.

Notices

Dustbin collection

Refuse collection will be on Fridays 11th May and 1st June and not on Thursdays due to the Bank Holiday

Churchyard

Would people tending graves please not plant flowers beyond headstone slabs as this makes mowing very difficult.

Best kept village

We are entering this competition again this year so please do your best to ensure hedges are trimmed early and litter picked up (even if it wasn't you who dropped it.

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 Shorrock on 681260 if you can help

Raffle Ticket Distribution If you could help distribute a few books of raffle tickets in a small area of the village, please contact Liz Barlow on 682605.

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.

BABYSITTING

Hayley and Sarah - Reliable Babysitters. Please phone Hayley on 688597 or Sarah on 681740

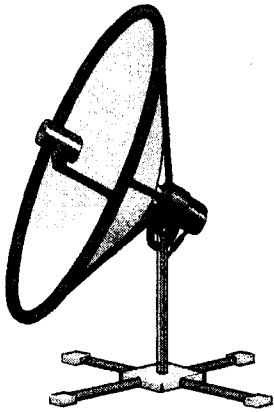


“I don't want to achieve immortality through my work... I want to achieve immortality by not dying.” - Woody Allen

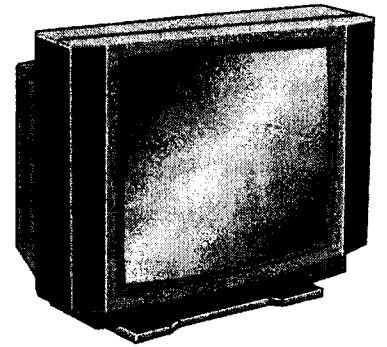
“Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia.” - Charles Schultz

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OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

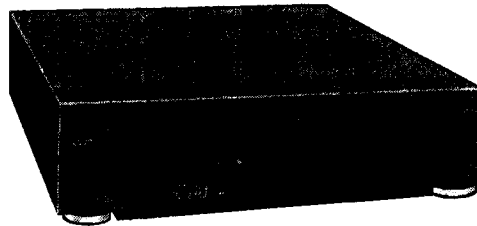


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SERVICING AND
GENERAL REPAIR



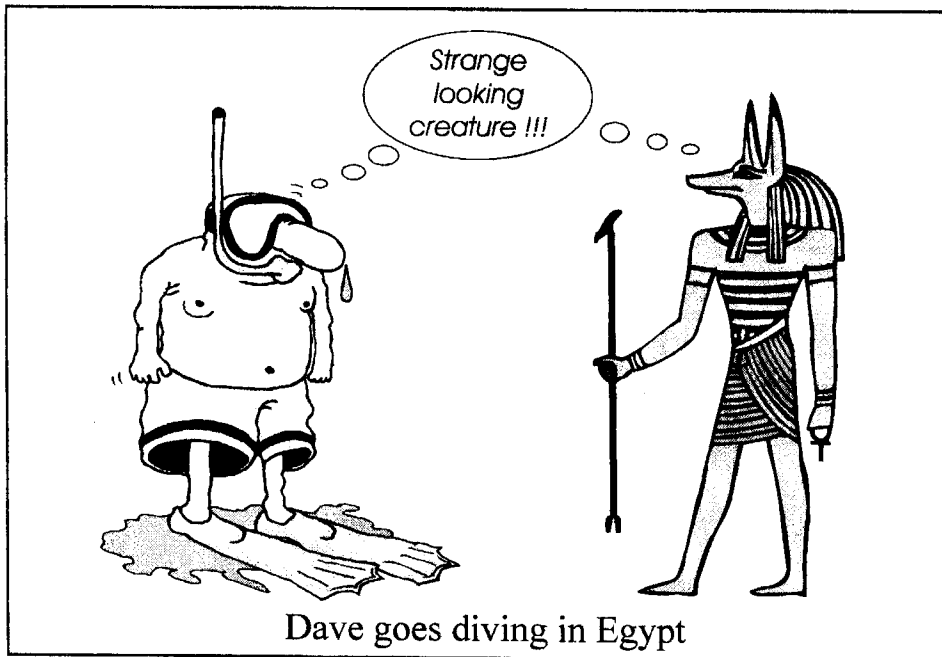
RENTALS, NEW
AND USED SALES

MOST MAKES
REPAIRED
THE SAME
DAY



NO CALL OUT
FEE WITHIN
ASTON
ABBOTTS

PHONE DAVE LEWIS
ON 01296 682126



FRIENDLY
SERVICE

