

# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 208 ~ January 2002



"The paradox is that growth can destroy the peace, space and community spirit of a place - the very things that attracted people to it in the first instance." ~ Margaret Carroll

# Editorial

## A Year Of Change

"2002 has the potential to be a year of change here in Aston Abbotts."

A few minutes after I wrote that sentence the planning application to close the Bull and Butcher arrived. The fact that an application has been made is of little surprise, but I've had to hold off printing speculation and rumours until hard facts emerged. At last we can discuss the issue more openly.

Some of you may not care about the closure of the Bull and Butcher, of course. Some may regard the proposed redevelopment of greater value to the village than the pub, especially if you are not pub-goers. We have another excellent pub and two pubs could be construed as a bit of a luxury in a village of this size. However, this is not the whole story.

The Bull has unique facilities within the locale. It may be in the doldrums now, but many feel sure it could regain its proper place as a popular and well-used pub within the local area, whereas the proposed redevelopment creates another ten dwellings within the village—a sizeable increase in one hit!

The Bull has been a part of this village for longer than anybody can remember. Tradition counts for little in planning matters, but preserving the nature, facilities and spirit of a community does. You have to ask yourself if the closing of The Bull and Butcher is just 'a bit of a shame' or is it more significant than that? Perhaps this is not just about the loss of a pub. There is also a much wider debate here about the nature of the village in which we live. Many of us 'immigrants' moved here because we were attracted to a smaller community. The gradual erosion of village facilities as the village grows little by little quietly changes the village environment—not necessarily for the better. Some growth is inevitable, even desirable, but population growth at the expense of valuable village facilities is surely to be resisted. An article on page 9 puts forward some of the arguments against closure.

The Bull development is not the only change faced by the village. The planning application for the development of the Home Farm Site has been approved and, once again, the builder's trucks will be trundling through the village. That development is just for three houses, but there were several applications to build in Aston Abbotts during 2001 and the success of the Home Farm Application has surely done nothing to diminish the ambition of others. Elsewhere, an A418 committee has been formed and we may soon begin to learn what is planned for this local trunk road.

A friend lives in Holwell, a Hertfordshire village of similar size to Aston Abbotts. Over the last decade or so they have lost their school, Post Office, shop, pub and their Church. Aston Abbotts goes into 2002 with a shop, a Church, a restaurant and two pubs. I wonder what will be left as we approach 2003?

*Thanks to Andy Bystra for the cover idea and drawing—  
and to Sally Clarke for the cover quotation.*

*Phil*

*In This Issue*

*In your January Chronicle ~*

- ◆ Bull and Butcher Redevelopment
- ◆ Bull and Butcher Meeting Report
- ◆ The Cabaret 2001
- ◆ The Merry Mowers
- ◆ Village Hall Update
- ◆ Hot Stuff!
- ◆ A Sundream Holiday

*and much, much more.....*

# THE CHRONICLE

## Issue 208

### January 2002

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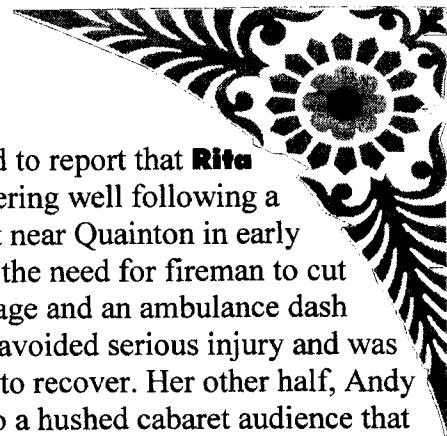
Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2002

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 Abbotts, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

# The Peoples Page



## Happy Birthday

Nicholas Oldfield	2nd
Alan Kempster	5th
Andi Swain	5th
Jane Plested	7th
Sarah Plested	7th
James Clarke	10th
Tony Hinds	13th
Zoe Hinds	25th
David Lewis	28th
Carol Spooner	28th
Anita Parker	28th
Richard Plested	29th
Chloe Oldfield	30th

Thanks to everyone who came to mine and Ivan's birthday party & thanks to everyone for the fantastic presents ~ *Becky*

Hopefully by the time this Chronicle hits the streets **Chaya** and **Shivum Gupta** will be getting over the Chicken Pox that caused them to keep Avi and Poonam up all over Christmas. Get well soon!

**Many thanks!** I would just like to say a very big thank you to everyone who sent 'get well' cards, good wishes, and lovely flowers after my car crash in early December.

Thanks also for the rousing cheer which greeted me when I arrived at the Cabaret. By the way, what an excellent show – top class.

Last but not least, thanks to Andy for waiting on me and driving me around, here there and everywhere to get all the Christmas food and presents. ~ *Rita*

We are very pleased to report that **Rita Robinson** is recovering well following a terrible car accident near Quanton in early December. Despite the need for fireman to cut her from the wreckage and an ambulance dash to the hospital, she avoided serious injury and was able to come home to recover. Her other half, Andy Bystra, explained to a hushed cabaret audience that Rita would be unable to eat with them that evening as she was on a crash diet...

Our very best wishes to young **Sam Worrall** who is well plastered after suffering a broken shin following some over-enthusiastic school football at the end of last term. Far be it for me to suggest that being well plastered at Christmas is traditional for a member of the Bystra clan....

We're sorry to learn that **Clare** from Nashs Farm had a nasty car accident on the Aston Abbots to Cublington road just before Christmas, but very pleased to hear that she was not badly hurt.

Our very best for a speedy recovery to **Sheila Humphries**, recently seen hobbling determinedly in the direction of The Bull following an operation on her foot/ankle.

A special 'Thank You' to **Yvonne, Jayne and Graham** for all their help in walking the dogs while I was in hospital. Both my mother and I are so grateful to them for all their kindness. ~ *Irene & Lyn*

**Poppy Appeal 2001**—The collections in Aston Abbots amounted to £521.42. The area total was £1984.36. Many thanks to those who collected for this worthy cause. A Rawlings P.A.O.

From the sunny shores of Portugal, Ray and Jackie wish you all in Aston Abbots a healthy and happy 2002. We will raise a glass or four to you all at midnight - no doubt you will all be tucked up in bed fast asleep...!! (ho ho). Nellie and Jacko also give barks and licks to all their four footed friends as well.

News on Pine Tops - the contract between us and the builder has been signed. He will start clearing the land middle of January and commence building middle of February. ~ *Ray and Jackie*

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# In The Village - 1

## Home Farm Plans Approved

The planning applications for Home Farm and 3 Ross Road have both been approved. We have no information as to when any development of the Home Farm site will start.

Of course, the new houses are to be built behind the existing Home Farm and Rose Cottage buildings so they will be invisible to all except the residents of Church Row, whose village outlook is about to change forever. The rest of us probably won't even notice they are there.

But hang on a mo! Wasn't that the plan with Nashs Farm—retaining the barns and building the new houses behind? What happened there then? Are we once again to be awakened in the early hours of one morning by the sound of the bulldozers making a “mistaken” unscheduled detour and bursting out through the front of Home Farm house, or (the sold, but empty) Rose Cottage? Let's hope history doesn't repeat itself.

~ Phil Spooner

## Hot Stuff!!

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> was the '630' lads turn to be given a lesson in cooking Indian food by Poonam Gupta. Well, it should have been just lads but since there was some uncertainty about whether Jeff Bannister's fire insurance covered him for cooking at home, Mandy came along instead.

Firstly we were shown how to prepare and cook a 'Goan' style pork curry. There wasn't a single drum of Tesco's curry powder in sight; just dozens & dozens of jars of freshly roasted and ground spices. No fussy measurements either; just some good basic tips and the message to “be individual, enjoy and use your instincts”.

Poonam (and her assistant Avi) made it all look very easy and relaxed and between them they produced a wonderfully aromatic and delicious dish. Their excellent preparation and relaxed style even enabled Poonam (in the middle of cooking the curry) to demonstrate how to make onion bhajis you could 'die for'. They even tasted pretty good when the 'lads' were invited to cook a few. Of course, Ray Wilkinson couldn't resist making his bigger than everyone else!!

This wasn't so much a cooking lesson as a thoroughly pleasant and entertaining morning. It was one of a series of cooking lessons which arose from the 'Promise Auction' when Poonam promised to teach one person to cook an Indian meal. It was immediately evident that many people wanted to bid so she very generously arranged for several groups to be taught. This not only raised a considerable sum for the Village Hall Fund but has prompted the suggestion that the twenty or so people who have now been taught how to cook a variety of dishes, might like to prepare an 'Indian Banquet' to raise further funds. Seems a jolly good idea to me!!! We could have lager as a 'soup course'!!



## Streetlight Plan Switched Off

The plan to erect a new streetlight on The Green has been given the red light. For details see the Parish Council meeting minutes on page 23.

~ Phil Spooner

## Jubilee Grant

The village can apply for a grant to help with a project to mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. Up to £200 is available and this must be matched by the Parish Council, making around £400 in all.

The money must be spent on something sustainable. In other words, we can't blow it on a party, but it must be spent on something that will remain of use to the village in years to come. Suggestions so far have included a new seat on The Green, or possibly something in the children's play area of the recreation ground.

If you have any ideas about how we should spend this grant, then please contact Kate Curry on 681137. Alternatively, drop a note to The Chronicle and we will pass on your suggestion.

~ Phil Spooner

## OAP Bungalows

Cublington Parish Council have notified Aston Abbots Parish Council of a meeting in January with the housing officer about the allocation of OAP bungalows to people not connected with the area.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would attend this meeting to air their views on allocating housing to non-local people.

~ Colin Higgs

## The Cricket Field

Regular dog walkers will have noticed a new fence and stile fencing off a small area at the rear of The Cricket Field behind The Grove.

We understand that there is a plan to develop a small copse in that area of the field, initially with oak trees and then with “interesting” trees. The fence is to keep the horses from damaging the young trees.

~ Phil Spooner

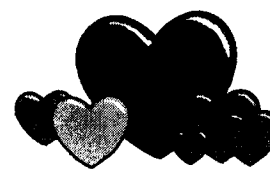


## Valentines Day

Do you love someone? Have you told them? Have you told them often enough?

It's Valentines day next month, so why not send your love message to The Chronicle and we will include it in the February issue. Just scribble a few words (clearly) on a piece of paper and deliver it to The Chronicle or email it to us and we will do the rest. Cryptic, coded or anonymous messages welcome.

Contact details on page 2. Do it now, before you forget!



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# In The Village - 2

## 630 Club Christmas Party

Although planned several months ago, suddenly it was the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. and there seemed to be so much to be done. To start with, our bad planning had resulted in half our members attending Poonam's 'cook-in' that morning. This left just a few hours to decorate the back bar of the 'Bull', find and set up a sound system, buy Christmas crackers etc. Thankfully, as usual, everyone 'pitched in' and it was done in time for a well earned beer before the afternoon nap.

With most members and 'other halves' present, there was a nice 'intimate' atmosphere and by the time most had finished their first drink, the Chinese food (prepared by the King Do in Aylesbury) arrived by taxi. Of course, we had ordered far too much but what with a few electric hot plates and (nearly enough) plates warmed in the 'Bull's' oven, everyone seemed to enjoy a good 'tuck-in'.

Surplus food and debris cleared away, and time for a little 'home-spun' entertainment. Nigel sang and played keyboard so everyone could join in singing a few of the more popular carols. The evening seemed to go rather 'down-hill' then since Tony Hinds (aided and abetted by Lol.) organised teams to play 'silly games' such as 'pass the string and spoon' which turned out to be an excuse for certain 'gentlemen' to take down their trousers. As Kenny used to say "All in the best possible taste!!". All in all, what with good food, company, a 'bit of a sing-song and 'silly' games it was a very good evening. Perhaps we will have to do it all again next year!!

Very many thanks to all who helped to make this an excellent evening and especially Frank and Louise for hosting us.



## 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

Well, that's what the invitation said but in reality it was a combined fiftieth and thirtieth; respectively for Ivan and Becky. However, at least one 'wag' thought it was actually Ivan's eightieth!!!

Wingrave hall was the venue and transport had been thoughtfully laid on. All this plus the combination of a terrific buffet and brilliant band, brought together in a decent sized hall was the magic formulae for a most enjoyable evening – many thanks to Liz, Andi and all who helped organise such a memorable evening.



## A418 Committee

A committee to discuss the future development of the A418 has been formed in Aylesbury. Initially this was just to discuss as far out as Rowsham, but as they are currently surveying for the Wing bypass just southeast of the village it was felt that we should be represented and Tom Manning has kindly agreed to be the Aston Abbots representative. The first meeting is to be on the 11th of January and Tom will keep us informed of any developments affecting us.

~ Phil Spooner

A man goes into the psychiatrist's office dressed only in clingfilm.

The psychiatrist says, "I can see you're nuts."

## The Christmas Carol Service

Bob Willmott started this years Christmas Carol Service by welcoming us to Mothering Sunday. Spotting puzzled faces in a congregation that had filled all but three pews of St James' Church he went on to explain how a BBC film crew had set-up in a church to film a carol service and then taken the opportunity of using their equipment to film the BBC's Mothers Day service at the same time.

Confusion dispelled, the assembled multitude launched forth into a selection of popular Christmas Carols, interspersed by several readings from the Nativity. I have to say that I thought the Carols a little lethargic—they could have been sung with a bit more gusto and quite a lot more joy—but it was an enjoyable hour nonetheless and no doubt we'll do better next year.

As I mentioned before, there were a few spare seats. So why not come along in 2002. Look in next December's Chronicle for details of the service.

~ Phil Spooner

## Merry Mower's Gathering

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, in recognition of another successful year of our keeping the churchyard grass as neat as any in Bucks, the 'Merry Mowers' treated themselves to another 'get-together' to celebrate. This year was to be different though, since the invitation was extended to all those who contribute to keeping 'Aston' as tidy as it is by mowing grass in the village

It was an informal opportunity for those involved to meet for a chat and share a 'beer or two'. Invited guests were the Vicar and his wife, Mr & Mrs Sansome and Richard and Sally Clark. An excellent buffet was provided by 'The Oak' after which Bob Bean thanked all mowers for their good work, RGC for keeping the mower in 'fine fettle' and the Parish Council for awarding the 'churchyard mower's' the contract!!!

Most went home at a 'sensible' time but a few remained and for some obscure reason ended up having a most enjoyable if erudite discussion in literature; personally I blame that 'Director's Bitter' they sell!!



## Village Hall—An Update

Our Legal Correspondent writes:

Our correspondent returned the draft lease to the Solicitors who are acting for the Church Hall Trustees in early November, having made various amendments to the original draft, a number of which were to include provisions recommended by the Charity ACRE (Action with Rural Communities in Rural England) in a book they have produced dealing with the leasing of village halls. At the moment they have not yet let him have their comments on his amendments.

However there are also a number of problems that need to be addressed. In particular:

1. The conveyance by which the property was originally given to the original trustees makes it plain that before granting a lease, the present trustees need to get the consent of the Bishop of Oxford. When their solicitors last

(Continued on page 23)

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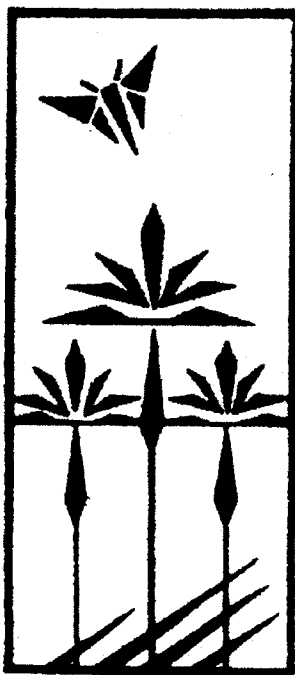
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## The Bull & Butcher—Is This The End?

It's been widely known that all has not been well at The Bull and Butcher for quite some time now. Without any hard facts it has not been possible to print any information in The Chronicle, but a week before Christmas a planning application was filed with the AVDC planning authority and now the matter can be discussed more openly.

When Kate, our Parish Clerk, received a copy of the application on the Friday after Christmas she immediately telephoned to see if I could put an item in the Chronicle. Upon seeing the application I called Andy Bystra and a few others and an impromptu meeting was held that same afternoon. It is a measure of the gravity with which some people view this matter that the first meeting was held within six hours of anyone in the village being aware of the application.

The universal view of the meeting was that the loss of the pub was a bad thing for the village and it should be resisted. It was agreed to call a public meeting so that the village could be made aware of the application and villagers could be given the information necessary to object, should they wish to so do. A very well attended public meeting was held five days later on January 2nd. A report on this appears elsewhere in The Chronicle, but the overwhelming majority were against closure of The Bull.

The Bull and Butcher has been a social focus and part of Aston Abbots for longer than anybody can remember. I do not intend to dwell upon its history, importance and place within the community—this will be saved for a later date—but the remainder of this article sets out the arguments against its loss and the subsequent development of the site. If you agree that this planning application is of no benefit, or even of serious detriment, to the village, then I do urge you to object. The more objections that are raised, the greater the chance of this planning application being refused.

### The Background

Bull regulars have seen the pub's fortunes decline dramatically over the last couple of years. Behind the scenes, the pub was in financial trouble. Trading under the company name McManus Taverns Ltd it traded at a loss of between £1,524 and £14,676 per annum in the years ending March 1998, 1999 and 2000. As a result of these losses the company was wound up in August 2000 and since then the pub has operated a restricted licensed trade with beer being purchased on a cash basis. During this latter period Frank McManus has been employed on a full time basis outside the pub. [Source: Report prepared by Wilbraham Associates, which accompanies the planning application].

The Bull was offered for sale for fourteen months from March 2000. As far as we are aware, it was offered through a single outlet. No sale was made.

There have been persistent rumours that the pub has actually been sold since then, but we currently have no evidence of this. The planning application is in the name of Smith and Latimer PLC of Hemel Hempstead. Their chief executive (according to company financial reports) is Mr C. Percy.

The application is for outline planning permission for "Residential development comprising conversion of public house to six flats and erection of four houses". The entire development will comprise 10 dwellings, sixteen car parking spaces and five garages on the 0.8 acre site. The existing Bull and Butcher building (the shell) will be retained, but the inside will be converted into the six flats. The houses will be

constructed on the car park and waste land behind. Access to the development will be via the existing pub car park entrance. There is a map of the development on page 11.

The application is supported by a 9 page report, prepared by Wilbraham Associates, which, at first glance, argues cogently that the pub is not viable and puts forward measures to tackle poor site access etc. Although the report initially looks a little intimidating, it should be remembered that it is written with one aim—to convince the planning authority to grant the application. There are many points upon which it can be challenged.

Although only a single application has been made, the proposals have two separate areas of concern: the de-licensing of the pub and the development of the site.

### De-licensing of the Pub

This is the crucial issue. If the pub is closed and de-licensed then it is largely irrelevant whether or not the developers build five flats/houses or ten. Only the amount of traffic will be affected—the visible impact on the village will be largely the same regardless of the number of dwellings.

The developers claim that it would be "technically feasible" to convert the building back to a pub at a later date (this is a planning requirement). In reality, this will be impractical.

### Once the pub is gone—it is gone forever!

We all feel sorry for Frank and Louise's loss of their business, but this is about *our* pub. Pubs are at the heart and soul of a community's social activities and, as such, are worth fighting for.

### Reasons for Objection

Loss of amenity to the village, because :

*continued on  
the next page...*

To make an objection, you should write to:

Mick Denman  
AVDC Department of Planning  
66 High Street  
Aylesbury  
Bucks  
HP20 1SD

Quote planning Application reference

01/03062/AOP

Conversion of the Bull and Butcher  
public house in Aston Abbots to six  
flats and erection of four houses

Objections must be received by January 21st at  
the latest. Be clear about your objection(s).  
Anonymous letters will be ignored.

- The Bull and Butcher is at the heart of the village, not just geographically but also as a meeting place used by many active members of the community.
- The Royal Oak, although excellent and well-loved, is predominately a restaurant with a small bar area no larger than the average living room. This is inadequate for a socially active village like Aston Abbots. The Bull and Butcher has two bars and a restaurant area.
- The Bull and Butcher has a bar/function room, which is used regularly for village parties and other public and private events. It would not be possible to stage these events in the Royal Oak due to lack of space.

New traffic movements generated by the development will occur at rush hour when the village is being used as a short cut by motorists.

The development is sited within a conservation area, but the outline application does not provide adequate detail about the plans.

There is a restricted view when emerging from the site access road. Not only will this be unsafe during rush hour, but the proposed sight-line improvements appear to involve land not owned by the developers.

Plans to develop the land at the rear of The Bull and Butcher have been turned down in the past.

The development has a very high density of dwellings for the size of the site.

The applicants claim the pub is not viable, based upon the fact that it made a loss over the last three years losses. This is nonsense. There are a whole host of factors that can cause a potentially viable business to make a loss. Direction, enthusiasm, product quality, producing the required product, advertising and promotion, management—these all play a part. Making a loss does not prove that it is not possible to make a profit. Many failing businesses are turned around by a new team with new ideas. Other village pubs make a profit, so why

can't the Bull and Butcher? Would Pubmaster have invested in refurbishment of the Royal Oak if they thought it impossible to make a profit in Aston Abbots?

The claim that it is not possible to sell the pub is open to question, as only one agent has been tried, despite their continued failure. Was the asking price realistic?

### How Do You Object

Write a letter, using your own words, to Mick Denman at the address in the panel above, stating your objections to the proposed development. If you can, please send a copy to the Parish Council.

Letters must be received at AVDC by the 21<sup>st</sup> of January at the latest

### Help With Letters

Should you require help with letters of objection, please contact either Phil Spooner on 681544 or Andy Bystra on 681690 for assistance.

Please write and object—you CAN make a difference!

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

■ Parish Council Meeting ■

■ Wednesday 16th January ■

■ Church Room 8.00 pm ■

■ The Bull & Butcher redevelopment ■

■ will be discussed at this meeting. ■

■ *Members of the public are welcome* ■

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

## Doctor's Doodles

*The following quotes were taken from actual medical records as dictated by physicians.*

By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart had stopped and he was feeling better.

Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

The patient states there is a burning pain in his penis which goes to his feet.

On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.

She has had no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.

The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1983.

Patient was released to outpatient department without dressing. I have suggested that he loosen his pants before standing, and then, when he stands with the help of his wife, they should fall to the floor.

The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.

Discharge status: Alive but without permission.

The patient will need disposition, therefore Dr. Blank will dispose of him.

Healthy-appearing, decrepit 69-year-old male, mentally alert but forgetful.

The patient refused an autopsy.

The patient has no past history of suicides.

The patient expired on the floor uneventfully.

Patient has left his white blood cells at another hospital.

Patient was becoming more demented with urinary frequency.

The patient's past medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 lb weight gain in the past 3 days.

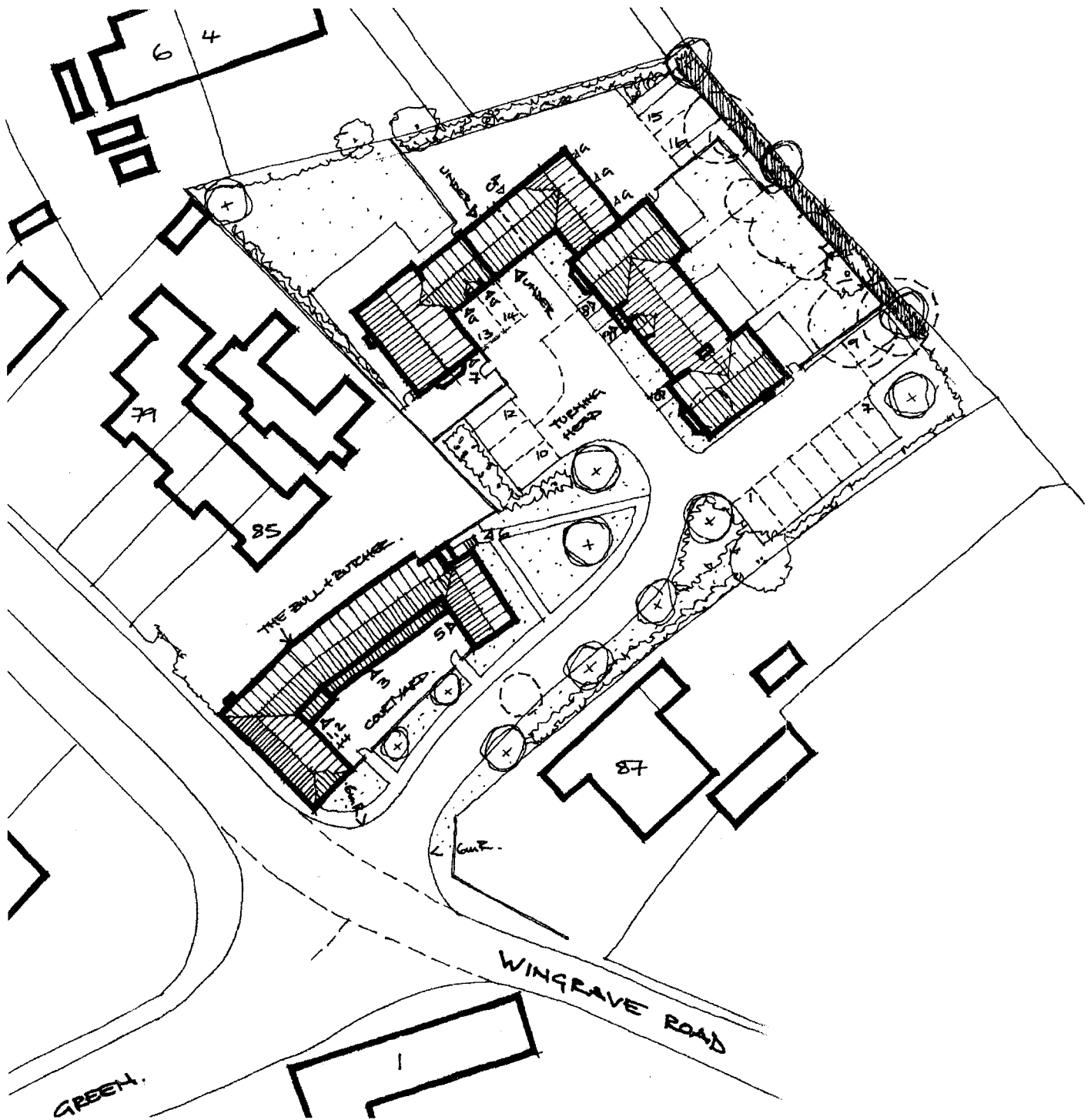
She slipped on the ice and apparently her legs went in separate directions in early December.

The patient experienced sudden onset of severe shortness of breath with a picture of acute pulmonary edema at home while having sex which gradually deteriorated in the emergency room.

The patient left the hospital feeling much better except for her original complaints.

~ Richard Lederer, Ph.D. "Fractured English."

## Bull & Butcher Redevelopment—The Plans



The plans above show the original Bull and Butcher building with six numbered entrances for the proposed six flats. On the land at the rear is the L-shaped block of four houses—three of three bedrooms and one of four. The five garages are marked with a 'G' and an 'underpass' is provided through the building for access to three of these. Small gardens are provided for the four houses, but none for the flats. Of the sixteen parking spaces, two (numbers 8 and 9) terminate the access road at the rear of the development. These could be removed in the future to allow access to the field behind.

The only access to the development is from the Wingrave Road and, as you can see, it will not be good visibility even with the proposed road improvements, which appear to use land belonging to 87 The Green.

Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 16th January  
Church Room 8.00 pm

There will be one further opportunity to voice opinions about this development at this meeting.

*Members of the public are welcome*

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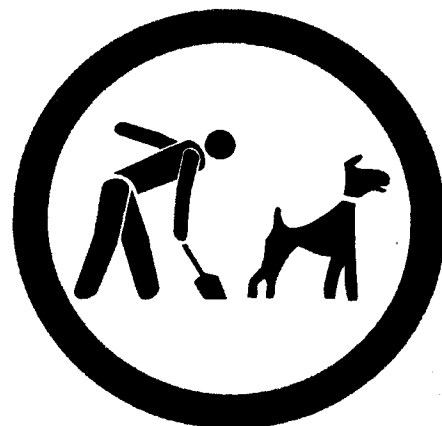
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## Bull & Butcher Development Meeting—January 2nd 2002

These are informal minutes of a meeting held in the Church Room on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2002 to discuss the proposed closure of the Bull and Butcher and its redevelopment. Phil Spooner and Andy Bystra chaired the meeting, which commenced at 8.10 pm. Approximately 65 villagers were present.

Phil Spooner started with a welcome and introductions of himself and Andy Bystra. Apologies for absence were received from John Sansome, Liz Clarke and Carol Spooner.

Phil Spooner gave a 60-second summary of the planning application, explaining that it was to de-license the pub and convert it to six flats and also build four houses at the rear. He explained that the application was supported by a separate report setting out arguments in favour of the development. Although the application speaks of smaller 'affordable' housing units there is no evidence that these will be low-cost housing for local people and without some form of housing association or trust they clearly will be sold for the highest price achievable. Phil also explained that the application was not detailed and it could be the opening gambit in a lengthy process.

Phil then went on to talk about objecting to the application, explaining that there are two main issues – the de-licensing of pub and the development at the rear – and that many felt that the key issue is the de-licensing of pub as this represents a serious loss to the village. He also pointed out that with the pub gone the site is bound to be developed, as the building and its land are too valuable to be allowed to fall into disuse and disrepair. Despite the strong arguments put forward by the developers, saving the pub is not a lost cause as there are many grounds for objection and the Local Plan probably supports retaining the pub as a village facility. There are three initial routes of attack open to the village, should they wish to fight the proposal: rebut the applicant's report, convince the Parish Council of the village's opposition so that they will strongly oppose the application, and make individual objections. He then talked briefly about how to make an individual objection.

Phil then went on to talk about the need for enthusiasm. It is too easy to be apathetic and think that there is no point in fighting big development companies. If this happens the village will be bricked over by stealth, house by house. He urged that villagers are not being asked to do much, just make an objection if they disagree with the proposal. Phil Spooner told everybody "We can make a difference – you can make a difference."

Phil then explained that Andy Bystra was working on a rebuttal to the developer's report and invited him to present his findings.

Andy explained the issues covered by the developers report and then went on to deal with some specific points. He started by comparing the facilities available at the Bull and The Royal Oak and pointed out that it does not have a function room or a single large restaurant area for parties. He said informal measurements showed that Aston Abbots would be left with around 16% of the bar area that we now enjoy.

The Bull and Butcher has exceptional bar, restaurant, function, B&B and car parking facilities and it would be a shame for the village to lose such a valuable amenity.

Andy then went on to discuss the financial position of the pub, including its losses and the winding up of McManus Taverns in August 2000. It was strongly felt that the failure of one landlord to make a profit did not prove non-viability of the pub as claimed by the developers, and another management team with

different ideas might well make it work.

Andy then went on to deal with the traffic and access issue, pointing out that this is an extremely hazardous junction and the development would create most of the new car movements at peak rush hour times. He proposed that a study of traffic movements past the site access should be made and passed on to the planning authorities and the police. There was strong support for this.

In addition, Andy pointed out that several parts of the report could not be addressed until proper detailed plans were available.

The meeting was then opened to the floor for comments. There was general agreement on most of the points raised and a show of hands showed the overwhelming majority in favour of trying to retain the pub. A few of the individual comments were:

- Percy Humphreys told the meeting that his father had once owned the land behind the pub and planning permission to build a bungalow had been refused on several occasions.
- Linda Sutton suggested that the village should club together and buy the pub.
- Ray Wilkinson pointed out that negotiation is always better than confrontation and suggested a meeting with the developers. There was general agreement that this might be a good thing. A number of people volunteered to be involved, but in the end it was felt appropriate that this should be discussed and possibly sponsored by the Parish Council.
- Geoff Curnow angrily pointed out that the plans for improving access to the development appeared to involve using a part of his front garden and he has not even been approached on this issue.
- Shirley Ford objected strongly to being overlooked by the new development.

Other comments included the view that the claim it is not possible to sell the pub as a 'going concern' is open to question as only one agent has been tried and we have no way of knowing if a realistic price was being asked. As one comment from the floor pointed out, "You can not sell anything". Were the claimed 116 enquiries from genuine interested parties or just from the selling company's website?

Phil Spooner then finished the meeting by making a number of points. First he asked people to get their objections in by January 21<sup>st</sup>. Then he asked that villagers should attend the Parish Council meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January if they can. He said he and Andy would be willing to help anybody with letters of objection as long as they were in their own words. Finally he warned people to be on their guard for amended applications and said that we should be prepared for the pub to close its doors at some time in the future, before this issue is resolved. Reading the quotation about growth that appears on the front cover of January's Chronicle, he said he thought that a little part of this issue is about the type of village we live in and, after thanking everybody for coming, the meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

Following the meeting some handouts on How To Object were distributed.

~ Phil Spooner

Parish Council Meet. Wed Jan 16th. Church Room. 8 pm.

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# Letters To The Editor

## Queen's Golden Jubilee

Dear Editor,

Alex and I think that the village should organise a "street" party on the village green.

Surely villagers could be persuaded to cook various dishes so that a good meal could be provided free?

It should be at midday on the green, followed by competitions and entertainment on the Rec for children—and a bonfire and baked potato in the evening.

ALL FREE!

We feel that often the ratio of "fun had" to "money spent" is in reverse order.

Drink seems to be very important to many villagers—OK, bring your own!

The emphasis should be on:

1. Children
2. Older Villagers
3. No Cost

Our views.

~ Peter and Alex Knight

*Thank you for the excellent suggestions. Somebody else has suggested to me that a street party could be held in the part of The Green that goes up around past Nashs Farm, as that would be easier to close off and safer for the children. It would also be closer to the Rec.*

*I agree wholeheartedly with your suggestions for the emphasis—especially having fun and entertainment for the children. Perhaps someone from the Toddler's Group has some ideas? No doubt the 'not quite so old' will party on in the evening anyway.*

*However, to make it work as a free event will require quite a lot of people to help out and contribute and, sadly, there has been little response to my pleas for ideas so far. Come on Aston Abbots. ~ Ed*

## A Letter From Portugal!!

*The following is a heavily précised version of a letter received from Ray & Jackie:-*

Well it's great waking up each morning knowing that the weather is going to be kind and that we are able to sit out on the porch for lunch. The mornings start off misty and a bit overcast, but the sun burns off the mist making for a great day. However, once the sun goes over the hill, then it is time to batten down the hatches and light the wood burning stove.

The builder will start building in February. However, a JCB has already appeared and cleared away most of the foliage and undergrowth, also the driveway entrance has been started. The licence to build has been obtained and has to be displayed for all to see. If you were partially sighted it would be easy to read, it's something like 3'x2' in size,

We obviously were the talk of Anseriz since two old gentlemen who slowly made their way up the hill to where the JCB was at work took great delight in discussing the situation at length. Our ears were burning that night; we presumed that we were the talk of the village and obviously will be for sometime to come.

## Carol Singing

Dear Ed

On the Wednesday before Christmas a group of ladies could be heard treating the village to some Festive singing. Those residents not fortunate enough to be attending other Xmas festivities tried various methods to get us to go away, mainly cash payments. Juan, at the Old Masters, tried plying us with Spanish Champagne and nuts. Louise and Frank, at the Bull & Butcher, tried mince pies before John Brancker found the solution, which was to buy us all a drink.

A total of £90 was given to swell the coffers of the Village Hall Fund. Thank you to all who made donations and we are sorry we could not get round all the village!

~ Deirdre, Alison, Rita, Ann, Sally, Brigitte x 2 and Anthony

## Curry Lessons

Dear Ed,

Thank you Poonam for your brilliant idea of auctioning a promise to provide a lesson in the art of Indian cuisine. Not only did it prove so popular that Poonam had to give the lessons in several sessions, raising a substantial amount of money for a very good cause, but it also instigated a momentous occasion in our household. Phil's idea of cooking is, A) putting the rice on or B) putting something in the microwave. He once cooked me a steak and kidney pie. I think if my memory serves me right it may have been in 1979. So, imagine my excitement when he ordered me to get the list of ingredients (his idea of shopping is a mercy dash to the post office when he has run out of Fosters) and insisted on cooking a Goan pork curry, so delicious had this been when prepared by Poonam. Well it was not quite up to her standard (she freshly grinds the spices as opposed to using Tesco's Garam Masala) but it was still lovely.

So, I am looking forward to delightful meals in the future, but somehow I think the novelty will soon wear off. Nevertheless, thank you Poonam for your inspirational idea.

~ Carol Spooner

*I object! It was 1983. ~ Ed*

It is certainly a question of being exceedingly patient and not letting their seemingly lackadaisical attitude get to you. It took three hours to open a Bank account.

We plan to go to Coimbra next week where there's a 'Makro' supermarket. It's a vast place where you can buy absolutely anything. The other redeeming feature is that there's an excellent Chinese restaurant which helps 'replenish' the weary feet after slaving around with a trolley

Thank you all again for your cards and letters, and send our love to all in AA.

~ Ray & Jacky

"If you can talk brilliantly about a problem, it can create the consoling illusion that it has been mastered." ~ Stanley Kubrick

"It's not enough to succeed. Others must fail." ~ Gore Vidal

"You cannot have everything. I mean, where would you put it?" ~ Steven Wright.

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*They're just good friends—honest! Neil Chesher (left) and John Whyte in the 2001 Cabaret. Picture by Ivan Greenaway*

The cast for this year's show was far smaller than normal, with two new welcome faces, Lynn Manning and Rachel, demonstrating considerable vocal talents. The compere for the evening, Andy Swain, was in particularly jovial mood as his football team West Ham had beaten some obscure Northern football club 1-0, although I don't think they had anything to do with the Christmas Show. The chaps, both in their collective sketches and in individual performance, were outstanding and, dare I say, this year, in my opinion, the show was far more disciplined, much tighter, and almost seamless from act to act.

The actors had discovered the art of rehearsal? Big Bill Brancker's adaptation of the "Pub With No Beer" struck a chord with many regulars (of which pub I do not know). [You can read the words to *The Pub With No Beer* on page 19—Ed] Rachel, one of the new acts to the show, but not new to singing to live audiences, was outstanding, as indeed was Lynn "in leather" Manning, Nigel Palmer's accountant's rendition of the Christmas Carol showed just what could be done with a large organ. John Whyte's range of songs he can cover is indeed a talent - and John Brancker's rendition of Frank Sinatra again highlighted how this year's show was an altogether polished performance.

John Whyte's lecture on the sexual habits of the village of Aston Abbots was as ever interesting and seemed to cover most

people attending the show other than himself, so your intrepid reporter sought Deirdre's views. The only printable comment was that apparently he talks about it a lot but that's about it. Andy Bystra's view of the village (and indeed the many other titles he had prepared for us) I am not sure should appear in a family magazine, though. I have but one question "Why did the two nuns want to go back the same way?"

If anybody has photographs of the "Teddy Bears Picnic" sketch I would be particularly interested. I'm sure John Whyte's staff would love to put it on their website. Dave Lewis, as ever tail end Charlie so always the difficult act, particularly as a stand-up comic. Some brilliant jokes, but have you noticed how you can never remember them? Maybe something as important as his sketch is the fantastic effort he puts into making all the electrics and various gismos work at the appropriate time.

One act I have saved till last, and which for me was a particular high point of the show, Neil Chesher on the saxophone. Anybody who was there will long remember that performance. Over the Christmas holidays I am hoping to do an interview with Neil for the magazine, hopefully hi-lighting the trials and tribulation of his saxophone lessons. I mention too Robert Bean for getting all the parts in the right place at the right time and,

*(Continued on page 19)*

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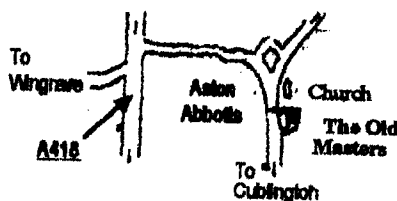
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(Continued from page 17)

just as importantly, getting them cleared away. And again, as far as performances were concerned, Andy Swain, an act in his own right as MC for the evening.

With the demand for tickets for what is a very small village hall show (showing the urgent need for the proposed building of the planned alterations), John Whyte's sterling efforts in balancing demand for tickets over the space available is a thankless task, which prompts one or two points for consideration. Should we go back to standard audience format - i.e. rows of chairs and tables and a bar - and return the stage to the end of the hall - i.e. between the kitchen and the main door? This would mean the stage and surrounding area would take less room. People sat to the left of the stage, as it is currently located, have a very poor view and likewise those between the kitchen and main door are either sat in howling draft or constantly in the way of the performers as they come from the changing room onto the stage. Points for discussion maybe?

However, in a fantastic evening enjoyed by all, even though the show over ran by 60 minutes nobody seemed to mind or notice - the latter possibly being the best compliment we can give our thespians.

~ W de G

*This year's cabaret raised approximately £390, which goes towards the printing costs of The Chronicle and other village causes. Our grateful thanks to all who took part, not just as performers but also as organisers ~ Ed*

### View from A Bee

Having 'volunteered' to do some minor artwork on the Sat. afternoon, it was interesting to see the huge amount of work which goes into setting up the 'mini stage', lighting and increasingly complicated sound equipment.

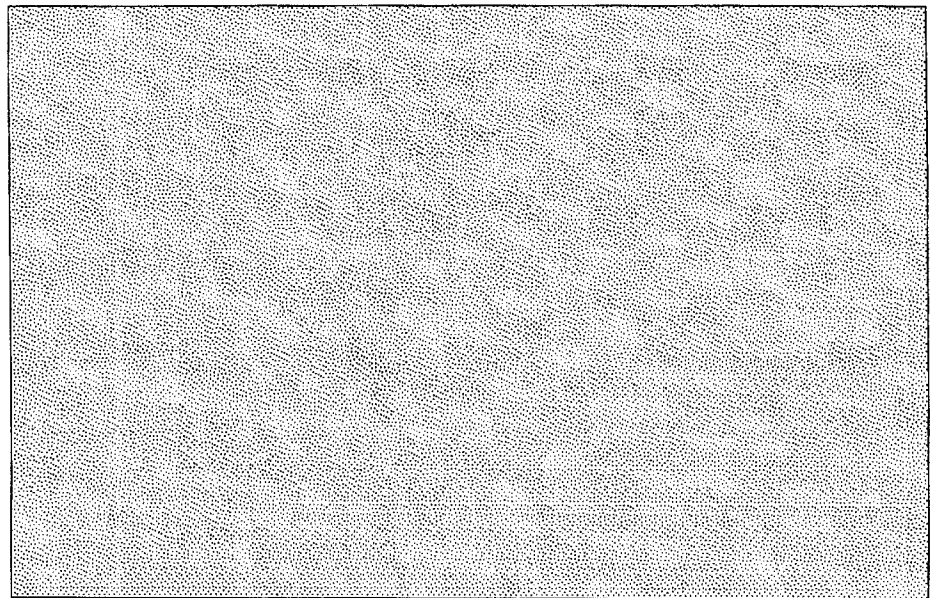
Regrettably, we couldn't be there for the picnic style 'eats'. However, arriving just in time for the start of the show, it was clear that everyone was in the mood to enjoy themselves. This Cabaret had been planned with even more care than before, and, as the evening progressed, it was very evident that all the acts had been thoroughly rehearsed. The net result was an extremely enjoyable evening and the realisation that we have an amazing amount of talent in the village. Considering the huge amount of work which had gone into producing such a good show, it's a great pity we don't have a Village Hall big enough to 'comfortably' house a larger audience. I understand the relatively small number of tickets available (a good proportion of which are needed for the 'artistes') could have been sold several times over.



A man hasn't been feeling well, so he goes to his doctor for a complete check-up. Afterwards the doctor comes out with the results.

"I'm afraid I have some very bad news," the doctor says.  
"You're dying, and you don't have much time left."

"Oh, that's terrible!" says the man. "How long have I got?"  
"Ten," the doctor says sadly.  
"Ten?" the man asks. "Ten what? Months? Weeks? What?!"  
"Nine...Eight...."



Neil Chesher (left), Nigel Palmer, John Brancker and John Whyte performing the cabaret finale of *It's Not Unusual*, as seen through compere Andi Swain's super-duper smoke machine. Picture by Phil Spooner.

## The Pub With No Beer

It's lonesome away from your kindred and all  
By the camp fire at night where the wild dingoes call  
But there's nothing so lonesome morbid or drear  
Than to stand at the bar of a pub with no beer.

Now Black Frank is anxious for his next load to come  
There's a worried old look on the face of his Mum  
He gets O-so-kranky when the regulars joke  
That they're going down the road for a beer at the Oak

Then the butcher strides in covered in blood and guts  
He walks to the bar, then scratches his nuts  
But the smile on his face quickly turns to a sneer  
When the barmaid say's, "Tony! The pubs got no beer".

Alpaca Ivan, covered in sh\*t and flies  
He takes off his wellies, wipes the sweat from his eyes  
But when he is told, he says "What's this I hear?  
I've trudged 50 flaming miles and this pub's got no beer".

There's an old mutt called Jasper, for his master he waits  
But Black Frank's inside drinking scotch with his mates  
He hurries for cover and cringes in fear  
It's no place for a dog round a pub with no beer...

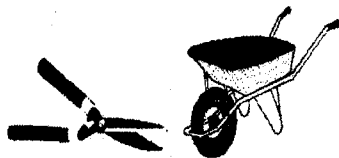
Now Wilko the German, first time in his life  
Went home cold sober to his darling wife  
As he walked in the kitchen she said, "Achtung mine dear!"  
Then he breaks down and tells her the pubs got no beer...

It's lonesome away from your kindred and all  
By the camp fire at night where the wild dingoes call  
But there's nothing so lonesome morbid or drear  
Than to stand at the bar of the Bull with no beer....

*Written and performed at the cabaret by John Brancker, based on the original Pub With No Beer by Slim Dusty*

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## Police Advice

### THAMES VALLEY POLICE



As another new year begins, this is a timely reminder to think about the safety of your home. A lot of us work long hours, leaving in the morning while it is still dark and returning home in the evening still in darkness. And because your house has been in darkness while you have been at work - it is quite possible that you may come home to a ransacked house.

By doing a few simple things, you may prevent your house being burgled and stop all those presents you received at Christmas from being taken. The first thing you need to do is make your house look as though it's occupied, when it is not. Leave a radio on, tuned into radio four or something similar, have some of your table lamps connected to time switches, so they will come on when it gets dark. Fit outside lighting with infra-red sensors, which will come on should anyone approach your house. Make sure

that all expensive items, such as computers, video recorders etc are out of sight.

I can't guarantee that your house will not be burgled, but burglars will break into a house which is obviously empty compared to one where they cannot be sure. Hopefully you will make sure that your house is the one that looks as though someone is at home and not the one that is in darkness. These precautions won't cost you a fortune, but they may save you losing one, if they prevent your house from being burgled.

Next month's article will be about fitting an alarm to your house.

If you wish to discuss anything relating to this article, or any other matters, please contact me on the telephone number below.

*PC Mike Buckle, Wing Police Office  
Tel.no: 01296 396163*

An old couple were sitting on the porch one afternoon rocking in their rocking chairs. All of a sudden the old man reaches over and slaps his wife.

She says, "Well what was that for?"

He says, "That's for 40 years of rotten sex!"

She doesn't reply and they start rocking again.

All of a sudden the old lady reaches up and slaps her husband.

He says, "Well what was that for?"

She says, "That's for knowing the difference!"

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YOU HELP  
ONCE IN A  
WHILE?**



Vale Volunteers is a charity which exists to promote and support voluntary activity across the Aylesbury Vale district. Nearly 300 local groups are looking for people with a little spare time, who are able to make a real difference. They become involved with clients, offer administrative assistance, drive, serve on management committees, or help in a number of other ways-

Not everyone, however, can commit to volunteering on a regular basis. Busy parents, people already working long hours and teenagers juggling school and part time jobs have until now not been able to become volunteers. If you fall into one of these groups there is now a way that you can help too!

This New Year Vale Volunteers is introducing a different volunteering scheme called 'Time to Time'. This will allow anyone who would like to help the community but who is short of spare time to give perhaps one or two days a year to a good cause. They will register with us, and we will then get in touch when an organisation has need of extra help - for example at a fete, special performance or a flag day. There will be absolutely no obligation to help, but people registering as 'Time to Timers' might just like to give a couple of hours or half a day on a one-off basis to those charities which are important to them.

If you would like to register as a 'Time to Time' helper please give us a ring on 01296 337456. Those up-to-date with the new technology can also get in touch via the web site at [www.valevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.valevolunteers.org.uk) and email us direct on [valevols@bucksnet.co.uk](mailto:valevols@bucksnet.co.uk). If you have a little more time to give, then you can ask for our list of volunteering opportunities, which gives details of the wide variety of voluntary work available in the Aylesbury Vale area. Our address is Vale Volunteers, Hoseworth House, Oxford Road, Aylesbury HP19 3EQ.

## CHILTERN HILLS VINTAGE VEHICLE RALLY 2002

**- SUNDAY, 19th MAY -**

**AT WESTON ROAD, ASTON CLINTON**

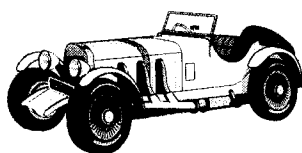
TRADE STANDS - AUTOJUMBLE

REFRESHMENTS - LICENCED BAR

FAIR - AND QUAD BIKES  
FOR KIDS

500 ENTRIES IN 2001

ALL CLASSES OF VINTAGE  
VEHICLES WELCOME



**WOODLANDS FARM, ASTON CLINTON**

**01296 631666**

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.

**Woodland Flowers**  
by **Margaret Jarvis**  
Tel/Fax: 01908 503502 Mobile: 0403 197799

Thrift Wood, Buckingham Rd, Whaddon  
Milton Keynes MK17 0EQ

**Wingrave Netball Club**

meets at Wingrave School Every Saturday morning for fresh air, fun and a little exercise!

9.30 - 10.30 Informal, Fun Netball

10.30 - 11.00 League players practice  
(All welcome to stay)

Newcomers are VERY welcome! Bring sturdy trainers, a drink and a smile :-)

\*cost £1.50 \*14yrs and over

*For more info, call Sandy (01296) 688952/Olivia 681359*



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## Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Official minutes from the meeting held on 12th December 2001. The meeting was chaired by Cllr John Sansome. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

### Comments From The Floor

Lines Hill has not been added to the gritting list, there is flooding on Wingrave Road opposite the allotments and leaves have not been cleared from the roads.

### County Council And District Council Matters

A letter from County Councillor Jennings, concerning various Highways issues, was read to the meeting.

### Planning

The applications relating to 3, Ross Road and Home Farm have both been approved.

### Highways

Proposed new streetlight – The clerk has received six letters and four telephone calls opposing the installation of a new light on The Green. As no comments had been received in support of the plan it was resolved not to proceed.

Fingerpost on The Green – We now have all the parts except the third arm. The post can now be replaced along with the other arms. The third arm will then be fitted when it arrives.

### Recreation Ground

Safety check – children's play area – nothing to report.

Grasscutting - Four quotations for mowing the Recreation

Ground in 2002 have been received.

Cllr. Sansome reported that pegs for the goal nets have been purchased, and the goals are due to be reconstructed soon.

### Golden Jubilee Grants

We are eligible for a grant of £200 from AVDC, but the PC must match this amount. The possibility of replacing the climbing frame or adding another seat on The Green will be investigated.

Date For Next Meeting; Wednesday 16th January –  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG

~ Kate Curry

(Continued from page 7)

- wrote they had not so far approached him.
2. The Charity Commission has advised the writer that it is likely that the consent of the Charity Commissioners will also be needed. Again, the Trustees' solicitors had not, when they last wrote, contacted the Commission
  3. There is a title problem to be sorted out, and the ball is in the Trustees' solicitors' court. If no satisfactory answer is forthcoming, then it may be necessary for a defective title indemnity policy to be taken out to protect us, before we start spending large sums of money on the Hall. Such policies are quite common and your correspondent would guess that one would have to pay a single premium of between £250 and £500 to bring such a policy into effect.

We'll bring you more news as these issues progress ~ Ed

# Man and the Environment



Pollution, climate change, environmental damage; it's in our newspapers every day. Take a look at how we exploit our environment and the consequences; fossil fuels, electricity generating, mines, quarries, farming and more.



Six meetings at Wingrave School  
Starting 8pm Monday 21st January  
Course fee £18

Course tutor Joanna Bourne

For more information contact Tim Dimmock 681926

**WEA**  
Wingrave Branch

# THE CURRIES AT NO. 51



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**Aylesbury (01296) 681218**



## A Sundream Holiday—Part 1

Shirley and Andy Ford have been on a wonderful Caribbean cruise holiday. In the first part of their article they tell us how they joined the ship and made friends on board.

### Day 1

Our holiday in the sun began on a grey November Sunday morning November 18<sup>th</sup> when we flew from Gatwick to Montego Bay, a flight lasting some eighteen hours. It proved to be a 'not uneventful flight since halfway across the Atlantic we had to endure some very bumpy turbulence. It lasted for two hours, during which we had to remain in our seats with our seat belts fastened. God help you if you needed to use the toilets as they were kept securely locked. As you can imagine, as soon as we were allowed to undo our seat belts there was a rush to the nearest loo.

We landed at Montego Bay exactly ten hours after leaving Gatwick and as soon as the doors were opened the heat hit us. It was eighty five degrees outside, quite a contrast to England. Passing through 'emigration' wasn't too bad but with three hundred and fifteen passengers on board, all with several cases, it was some forty five minutes later before we had reclaimed ours.(ours were of course the last!).

A coach awaited to take us to the docks and the cruise ship 'Sundream' which would be our home for the next fourteen days. Once on board we checked in during which our cases were taken to our cabin for us. Andrew and I were most impressed with the cabin.

Having unpacked and 'freshened up' we dropped in at the 'My Fair Lady' bar for a much needed and enjoyable 'pre dinner' drink. We soon found the restaurant which was called the King and I. Here we thoroughly enjoyed our first meal on board whilst the ship left the dock, giving us a wonderful, moving panoramic view of the lights of Montego Bay whilst we ate our meal.

### Day 2 (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.)

We awoke to a warm sunny morning, and had a very good breakfast in the same restaurant as the previous evening.. The ship by this time was in the Grand Camen Bay and preparations were being made for a tour of the island. We were soon ferried ashore to what was to prove to be a very interesting island.

The first stop on our minibus tour of the island was a rum distillery where I bought two 'rum cakes' as presents. Our next stop was Hell!!! This seemed to comprise a post office and gift shop in front of spectacular Limestone rocks, now blackened by age and weather; quite a sight to see.

There are a number of new developments on the island such as lovely new hotels, holiday and business centres and 'up-market' golf courses. On the Eastern side however, we saw the severe damage caused by hurricane Michelle. One house had been completely destroyed and many more badly damaged. This was an island of contrasts with tourism and the wealthy banks highlighting the many areas of deprivation.

Back on the ship we had lunch on the sun deck at the Lido Café, then relaxed on lounge's until it was time to get ready to attend the 'Captain's Cocktail' party. This was held in the 'My Fair Lady' lounge where had our photo taken with the Captain and enjoyed the complimentary drinks.

Dinner was served at 6.30 in the restaurant where we found we were to share a table with a Cypriot husband and wife who had a business in London, a retired farmer and his wife from Somerset and a couple from London who were celebrating their silver wedding anniversary. We became good friends and after the meal went along to a cabaret where we were entertained by singers, dancers and a comedian called Allan Brown.

To be continued.

~ Shirley Ford

"Its been a rough day. I got up this morning .... put on a shirt and a button fell off. I picked up my briefcase and the handle came off. Now I'm afraid to go to the toilet."

~ Rodney Dangerfield

## Bucks Association for Partially Sighted People

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HAVE YOU GOT TIME TO SPARE?

DO YOU ENJOY HELPING OTHERS?

We are looking for volunteers who can share some time with people living in the surrounding area who have sight problems. They really would appreciate occasional visits for a friendly chat.

We will provide you with the necessary training and full support is always available.

INTERESTED?

TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE CONTACT JENNY ARKELL ON 01296 487556

Registered Charity No: 203345

## The Dotty Dictionary

**Abdicate** (*v.*) to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

**Balderdash** (*n.*) a rapidly receding hairline.

**Circumvent** (*n.*) the opening in the front of boxer shorts.

**Coffee** (*n.*) a person who is coughed upon.

**Esplanade** (*v.*) to attempt an explanation while drunk.

**Flabbergasted** (*adj.*) appalled over how much weight you have gained.

**Flatulence** (*n.*) the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

**Frisbeetarianism** (*n.*) The belief that, when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck there.

**Gargoyle** (*n.*) garlic-flavored mouthwash.

**Lymph** (*v.*) to walk with a lisp.

**Negligent** (*adj.*) describes a condition in which you absent-mindedly answer the door in your nightie.

**Oyster** (*n.*) a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddish expressions.

**Pokemon** (*n.*) A Jamaican proctologist

**Rectitude** (*n.*) the formal, dignified demeanor assumed by a proctologist immediately before he examines you.

**Testicle** (*n.*) a humorous question on an exam.

**Willy-nilly** (*adj.*) impotent

**M<sup>c</sup>CONVILLE**

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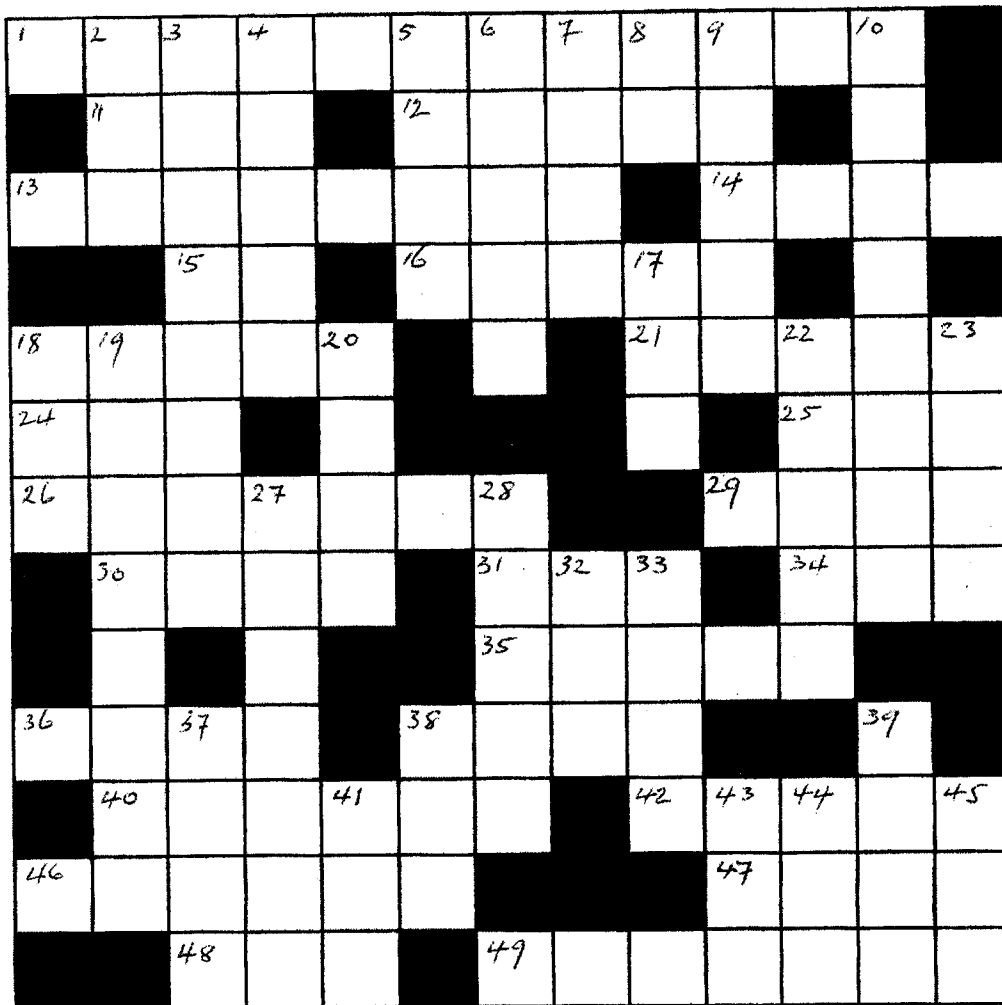
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# The Chronicle Crossword

January 2002



**Answers to December**

**ACROSS:**

- 1 Marsh. 5 Gibbon 11 Adam.  
 12 Cranes. 13 Radar. 15 Lean.  
 16 Irate. 18 Need. 20 Utmost.  
 22 Ale. 24 Ass. 26 Passenger.  
 28 Go. 29 Dean. 30 LSO. 31  
 Emu. 33 Myrrh. 40 Est. 35  
 Elsa. 37 Owners. 38 En bloc.  
 41 Shape. 42 Inca. 43 Lasts.  
 44 Echo. 45 OT. 46 Marsh.

**DOWN:**

- 1 Marriage. 2 Ada. 3 Radius.  
 4 Smart. 6 Ice. 7 Bran. 8 Bane.  
 9 On. 10 Needless. 14 Ramp.  
 15 Lesser. 17 Today. 19 Eagle.  
 21 Tsar. 23 Erotic. 25 Some-  
 what. 27 Enhances. 32 Ulmas.  
 33 Mares. 36 Sept. 37 Oslo. 38  
 En. 39 Bach. 40 Oboe. 42 Isa.

**ACROSS:**

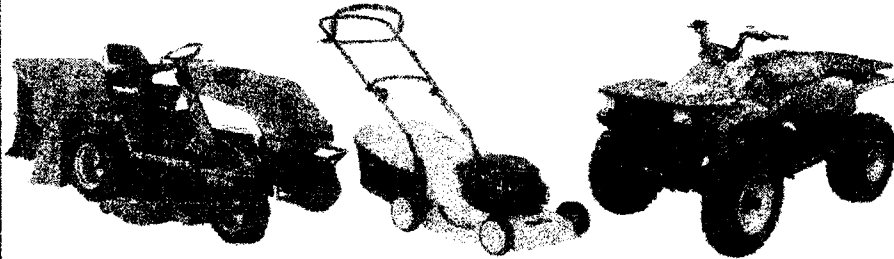
- |                          |                       |                          |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Local village (5&7)   | 31. Fish (3)          | 4. Sacred book (5)       | 28. Girl's name (5)                     |
| 11. Used in gravy (3)    | 34. --- & outs (3)    | 5. Secrete (4)           | 32. Tree (3)                            |
| 12. Awkward (5)          | 35. Boy's name (5)    | 6. Ire (5)               | 33. Booty (4)                           |
| 13. Radio village (8)    | 36. GINS (An. 4)      | 7. ---- kat (4)          | 37. Girl's name (4)                     |
| 14. Difficult (4)        | 38. Note (4)          | 8. Tony Blair is one (2) | 38. --- West (3)                        |
| 15. Royal Academy (2)    | 40. Bird (6)          | 9. Alternative (5)       | 39. Bird (4)                            |
| 16. Weird (5)            | 42. In that place (5) | 10. DRAIN OUT (an 8)     | 41. Nuclear disarmament<br>campaign (3) |
| 18. Nettles do (5)       | 46. Sacred place (6)  | 17. Debt (3)             | 43. Meat (3)                            |
| 21. Make a speech (5)    | 47. E.g. acre (4)     | 18. Female (3)           | 44. Before (3)                          |
| 24. Concealed (3)        | 48. Append (3)        | 19. Metal worker (8)     | 45. TEA (an 3)                          |
| 25. By way of (3)        | 49. MEET LEN (an.7)   | 20. Way of walking (4)   |   |
| 26 'A' level subject (7) | <b>DOWN:</b>          | 22. Dodge (5)            |   |
| 29. Part of plant (4)    | 2. Boy's name (3)     | 23. Consumes (4)         |   |
| 30. Chair (4)            | 3. EX DOG RIB (an 8)  | 27. Apathetic (7)        |   |

Compiled by Don Bellingham

# LAWNMOWERS

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# St James Church

## Church Services

6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Worship
13 <sup>th</sup>	08.00	Wingrave	Prayer Book Style Communion
	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	People's Praise
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Wingrave
	10.00	Cublington	Family Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
27 <sup>th</sup>	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service

## Church Sidesmen

6 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. A Ford
13 <sup>th</sup>	Mr C. Higgs
20 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. G Kemp
27 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. J Hartnett

## Church Flowers

1st/2 5th/6th	(Donated)
12th/13th	Mrs A. Dickens
19th/20th	Mrs Bean
26th/27th	Mrs Hartnett

## 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 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Epiphany	Eph. 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12
13 <sup>th</sup>	Baptism of Christ	Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21-22
20 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 2	1 Cor 12.1-11; John 2.1-11
27 <sup>th</sup>	Epiphany 3	1 Cor. 12.12-31; Luke 4.14-21
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Candlemas	Heb 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

## From The Registers

Funeral 14<sup>th</sup> Dec Thomas Reynolds at Wingrave

## Rectors Report

They say that riding a bike is something that you never forget.

I cannot vouch for the truth of that statement because I have not tried to ride a bicycle for a very long time. I do know that the last time that I tried, the muscles in my legs were quite sore for a day or two.

But, as some of you now know, I can play the trombone. I hadn't played one since I left school more than forty years ago, but I was surprised how quickly I remembered. Naturally, my technique is a bit rusty, and I do not have as much puff as when I was a teenager, but I can still manage some, if not all, the notes.

The strange thing about playing the trombone again was that I remembered the people with whom I played. From that school band there are three who are now clergyman – the other two played Euphonium and French Horn. Another works as a sound engineer for the BBC – at least I think he does, because I sometimes see his name in the credits at the end of programmes. The drummer was, I seem to remember, killed in a rather nasty road accident. My teacher was a trumpet player who played in the BBC Concert Orchestra. In a school where discipline was very strict, he insisted that nobody called him 'Sir'. "If you won't call me 'Bill', I shall not talk to you!" was his usual opening line.

Christmas and New Year often make us remember people we have met in the past and the events that we have shared together. We may wonder what has become of them – where are they now? Do they remember us? Shall our paths cross again?

One thing is for certain, and that is that God never forgets us. We may think that we have put our faith and our religion very much in the past. But when we come to it again, we find that, like riding a bike (or playing a trombone), God is still there, and he has not changed. His love for us is as strong as ever.

Happy New Year

~ Bob Willmott

## The Aston Abbots Telephone List

630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
A418 Committee	Tom Manning	682455	Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229
Astonbury	Andi Swain	682651	NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Line	0845 46 47
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Old Masters Restaurant	Juan and Bridget Gutierrez	681432
Bingo	Doris Scutchings	681243	Parish Clerk	Kate Curry	681137
Bull and Butcher	Frank & Louise McManus	681520	Parish Council Leader	John Sansome	681010
Busses	Arriva	468730 or 423445	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Chronicle Advertising	Ivan Greenaway	682605	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Chronicle Editorial	Phil Spooner	681544	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763	Rector	Reverend Bob Willmott	681623
Church Room Redevelopment	Tom Manning	682455	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Church Room Hire	Doris Scutchings	681243	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moul	681262
Coach Trips	Colin Higgs	681343	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	Shop (Osborn's)	Bernard Osborn	681233
County Councillor	Brenda Jennings	01525 270610	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	681011
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Wingrave School	Office	681346
Fete Coordinator	Barbara Bellingham	681689	Wingrave Stores	Andy & Helen Hall	681696
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Whist Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000			
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681685			
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343			

*Please let us know of any errors or omissions*

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# What's On In January

Sun 6th	Rambling Club members meet Cublington cross roads. 2.00 pm.
Thurs 10th	Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm
Sat 12th	Rambling Club Members New Year Party Gt. Brickhill 8.00 pm.
Sun 13th	Village footpath walk The green 2.00 pm
Tues. 15th	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd
Wed. 16th	Parish Council Meeting Church Room 8.00 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.
Thurs. 17th	Bingo in The Church Room 7.30pm.
Thurs. 24th	Whist Drive in the Church Room 7.30 pm.
Sun 27th	Rambling Club members meet Mursley 2.00 pm.
Tues. 29th	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd Also Floral class, Church Room 7.00 pm

## NOTICES

### BOOK THESE DATES;-

Tuesday 12 Feb. Pancake coffee Morning

Sat/Sun 20th/21st July. Festival week-end—the fete.

### ALLOTMENTS

Please note that rents are now due.

### WHIST

We are looking for new members to join our Whist Club. If you can play, why not come along to the Church Room at 7.30 on Thursday 10th Jan

## Classified

**ELTEX Greenhouse Heater (Propane)** Complete with Thermostat control, 37mb regulator, changeover switch, all necessary fittings, One part filled and one empty cylinder. £50. Jack Turner, 28 The Green.

**VALENTINES!** Don't forget to send us your Valentine messages for inclusion in February's Chronicle. Messages must arrive by Friday Jan 25th at the latest please.

**CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE** in The Chronicle. Up to 50 words—just drop it in or email us and we'll do the rest.



### MOBILE LIBRARY - 2002

**ASTON ABBOTTS THE GREEN 10.25-10.55**  
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*Dates for 2002 :*

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May 7, 21, Jun 18, Jul 2, 16, 30, Aug 13, 27,  
Sep 10, 24, Oct 8, 22, Nov 5, 19, Dec 3, 17

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# GRAFFITI

*Seen on the wall of a women's public lavatory ~*

*MY HUSBAND FOLLOWS  
ME EVERYWHERE*

*NO I DON'T!*

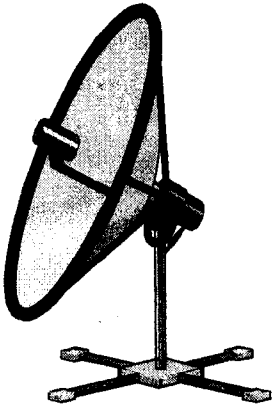
### ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

~ PROGRAMME FOR 2002 ~

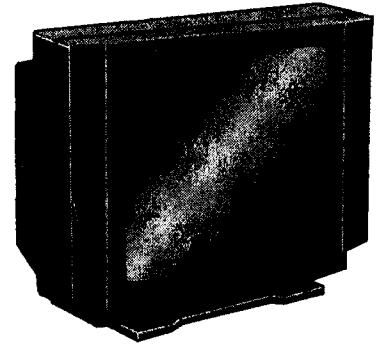
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Ian Pearce "Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen"
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Isobel Bartholamew "Botanical Art through the Ages"
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Hugh Grainger "Ghost Stories"
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mr G Atkins MBE "Virginia in May"
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Lunch
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs Barbara Taylor "Nepal, A grandmother goes to Mount Everest"
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Social Afternoon
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	A visit from Miss Whipps
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr Barry Oxley, RSPB "Red Kites"
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Etherly Gutteridge "Portraiture"
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Peter Vernon "Australia, Ayres Rock"
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Club Outing
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Party

# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS



T.V. VIDEO AND  
SATELLITE  
SERVICING AND  
GENERAL REPAIR



RENTALS, NEW  
AND USED SALES



**LOOK 'ERE YOU LOT!  
I DON'T WANT NONE  
OF YOU BUZZARDS  
TALKING ABOUT  
WHAT MY MISSUS  
EARNS. IT'S NONE  
OF YER BLEEPING  
BUSINESS. GOT  
THAT? 'RIGHT!**

**DAVE LEWIS  
01296 682126**