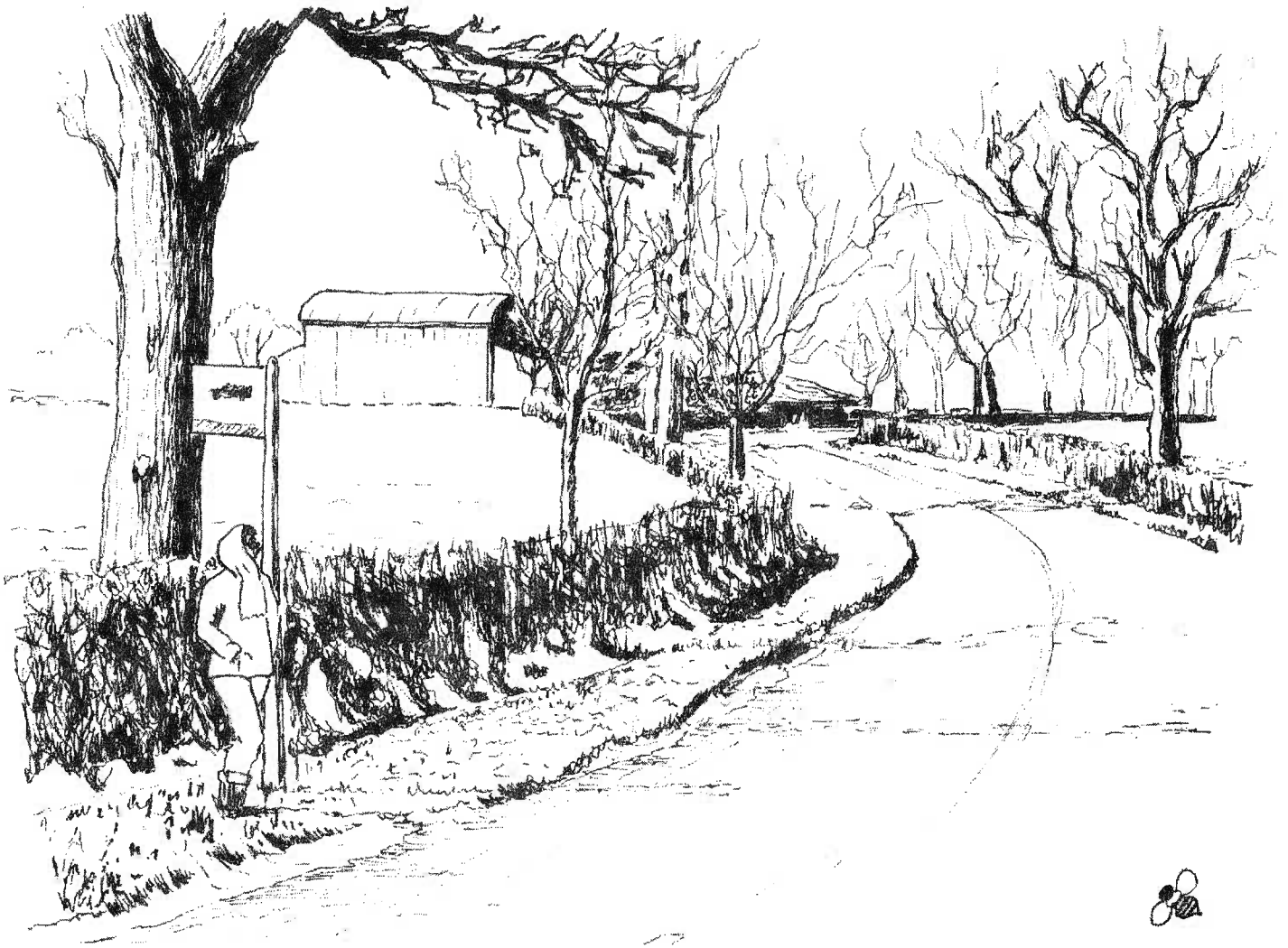


# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 209 ~ February 2002



**INSIDE ...**

***THE BULL AND BUTCHER—THE LATEST—SEE PAGE 2***

***HELP YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL***

***CAT BATHING AS A MARTIAL ART***

Email : [editor@aston-abbotts-chronicle.co.uk](mailto:editor@aston-abbotts-chronicle.co.uk)

# Editorial

## A Quiet Month

There's been relatively little happening here in Aston Abbots during January. Not only have you folks been quiet, perhaps subdued by the excesses of the festive and New Year celebrations, but there are only three weeks between the 'press dates' for the January and February Chronicles so there is precious little village news to report. The big news of the month was, of course, the well-attended parish Council meeting where the Bull and Butchers was discussed. You can read a full report of this meeting on page 5.

I was a bit disappointed at the number of Valentines messages this year. If you were wondering how Valentines Day came about then we have reproduced an article explaining all on page 17.

Enjoy this month's Chronicle!

*Phil*

## STOP PRESS - The Bull & Butcher

25th January 2002.

Today I spoke with Mick Denman of the AVDC planning department. He tells me that the Bull and Butcher application is in abeyance at the moment because AVDC have served notice upon the applicant's agents requiring additional details, specifically with regard to the housing development at the rear of the pub. This is in line with their normal practice in cases where an outline planning application has been submitted within a conservation area.

When more detailed plans have been submitted to AVDC the application will be re-advertised and there will be a further consultation period so that any comments about the revised plans can be lodged. However, it is just possible that the applicants could appeal at this stage, and it is also possible that the applicants could revise the application to counter some of the objections raised.

Mr Denman was keen to reassure our readers of two things. Firstly, the fact that AVDC have asked for additional details does not imply that the application has been pre-judged either way. Secondly, all representations that have been made so far will be taken fully into account when the additional information has been submitted by the applicant. Therefore it is not necessary to lodge further objections, unless the revised and enhanced plans raise new issues.

We'll do our best to keep you informed, but matters can move on quite quickly and The Chronicle comes out only once a month. So please keep an eye out for changes to the yellow planning notices and also notifications of any further Parish Council meetings discussing the matter. Parish Council meetings are publicised on the noticeboard to the right of Bernard's shop.

~ Phil Spooner

# THE CHRONICLE

## Issue 209

### February 2002

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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)...

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~o~

Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 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 Abbots, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

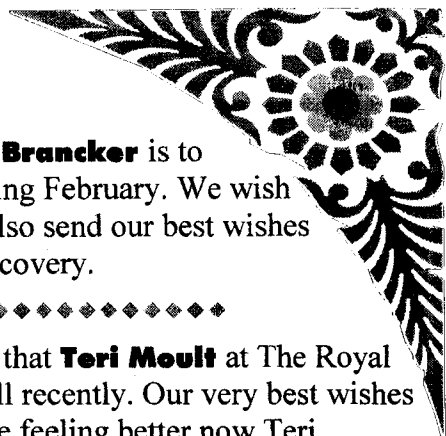
In This Issue

In your February Chronicle ~

- ◆ The Parish Council Discuss The Bull
- ◆ A Former Landlord Writes
- ◆ Astonbury 2002
- ◆ Help Your Local School
- ◆ Cat Bathing As a Martial art
- ◆ A Sundream Holiday—part 2
- ◆ Restaurant Review—The Boot

and much, much more.....

# The Peoples Page



## Happy Birthday

Chaya Gupta	3rd
Michael Coleman	4th
Ivy Brandon	5th
Pablo Gutierrez	7th
Vikka Drysdale	7th
Andy Garton	9th
Christopher Ellis	9th
Barry White	9th
Haidee Mogford	13th
Richard Clarke	13th
Paul Hewitt	14th
Dana King	14th
Irene Lowden	18th
Trevor Hall	18th
Frank McManus	21st
Sally Dutton	22nd
Simon Gresswell	24th
Tracey Lovell	23rd
Linda Wheaton	25th
Isobel Hall	3rd March

We hear that **Anne Brancker** is to go into hospital during February. We wish her good luck and also send our best wishes for a very speedy recovery.



We're sorry to hear that **Teri Moul** at The Royal Oak has been unwell recently. Our very best wishes and we hope you are feeling better now Teri.



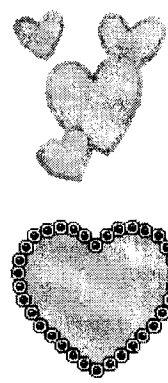
We'd like to wish good luck to **Molly Poulter** who is having an operation. We send our very best and look forward to seeing you up and about soon Molly.



We're pleased to see that **Lyn Clark** is out of hospital at last and we would like to welcome her home and send our very best wishes.



...and commiserations and all the best to **Adie, Ness, Sam, Charlie, Julia King and family, Mrs Ed**, and all of those other Astonians who have been under the weather with one of this winters little "bugs". We hope you are all feeling better now.

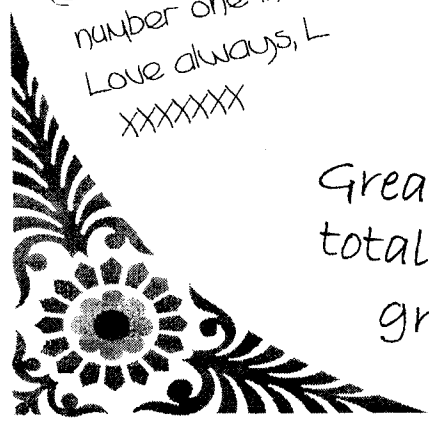


I, Despite  
your herd of other girls  
(and boys) you're still  
number one in my heart.  
Love always, L  
XXXXXX



Great uncle loves  
totally eccentric  
great Aunt

My first begins Valentine, never acts Rash.  
My second Articulate, rather than Brash;  
Learned's my third, a Cambridge degree  
Adding weight to the brain, if not the physique.  
Entertaining, oh yes - the harmonica wails -  
Larry Adler could Never deliver such scales.  
My sixth is Tenacious with gas bills and worse  
My seventh, Informed about poplars and verse.  
Noble's the husband who (mostly) refrains  
From laughing at those who miss buses and trains.  
And now here's the End of this dubious rhyme:  
It's You in Church Row - you are my Valentine!



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# In The Village

## Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2002

The meeting was chaired by Cllr John Sansome. Present were Councillors M. Kent, G. Kempster, T. Manning and Mrs K. Curry (Parish Clerk) Cllr R. Clarke sent apologies. Thirty-one members of the public attended the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: The directional fingerpost from The Green has not yet been reassembled.

### County Council And District Council Matters

District Councillor Peter Cooper mentioned that a focus group has been established to guide planning for improvements to the A418 between Bierton and Rowsham. Complaints have been received that the lay-by, which was occupied by travellers, has yet to be cleaned – Cllr Cooper promised to chase this matter up.

### Planning

01/03062/AOP The Bull and Butcher – Residential development comprising conversion of public house to six flats and erection of four dwellings.

The Chairman opened the discussion by reading a letter from Cllr Clarke, and then asked the other members of the Council in turn for their opinion on the proposals for the development of the Bull and Butcher. Cllr Manning said no one had spoken to him in favour of the application, and quoted the Unicorn in Cublington as an example of an ailing pub which is now thriving. The members of the Parish Council were unanimous in their wish to see the pub remain open, and that they would vigorously oppose the application.

Cllr Sansome then opened the discussion to the floor, with a ten minute time limit. Andy Bystra began with comments on the large volume of peak hour traffic passing through The Green and the poor sight line when turning out of the Bull. He suggested it would be more acceptable to build houses on the land at the back, but retain the Bull as a public house. Phil Spooner said he would also support building behind the pub, but that we must reject this current application. Paul Williams suggested the village should contact CAMRA, who have a vast experience of making representations on proposals to close pubs. Neil Cheshier brought up the issue of road safety, and the fact that we would be losing a significant village facility.

District Councillor Peter Cooper said that he would support the Parish Council and is willing to present what it decides to the committee. He quoted several national and local planning policies which may help present the case. April Curnow commented that she has been approached by the development company with a view to having part of her garden lowered to improve the sightline. Colin Percy, representing the developers, asked Peter Cooper whether there is a need for smaller houses in the area. Mr. Cooper replied that there is a need for affordable housing

generally. Mr. Percy said that Mrs. McManus also owns the land on the other side of the pub, where an alternative access road could possibly be put. Also, the Bull and Butcher is privately owned, not part of a brewery chain. He felt that the Royal Oak could be extended to accommodate greater floorspace (a reply was that the Royal Oak is also in the Conservation Area). Sally Palmer wondered if it was possible that the pub had been marketed at too high a price. She also said she didn't want to lose the facility. Phil Spooner proposed a meeting between villagers and the developer, and Colin Percy said he would be very willing to do this.

The Chairman closed the discussion at that point, and the Council resolved to object to the application.

### Highways

Street light maintenance: Resolved to accept the quotation from Raynesway Construction Southern to service the street lights for a further year.

### Recreation Ground

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

Two quotes have been received for repairs to the small goalposts.

### Training Course For Clerk

The Council agreed to grant the Clerk the sum of £60, being the fee for attending a two-day training course in February.

### Music In Quiet Places

The Clerk said she would be willing to organise this event and liaise with the Church

### Precept

The budget for next year shows a significant increase in spending due to rises in labour and other costs. The cost of grasscutting in particular has soared. Resolved to set a precept of £4500 for 2002-3. This represents a necessary increase of 8%.

### Date For Next Meeting

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2002 - EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG

~ Kate Curry

### The Royal Oak

Last month we stated that Pubmaster had invested in refurbishing the Royal Oak. Gary Moul has pointed out that he and Teri have carried out the refurbishments. We are pleased to correct this error and apologise to Teri and Gary for this mistake.

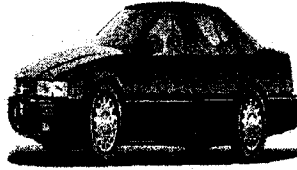
### The Bull and Butcher

Last month we implied that the Bull and Butcher had been offered for sale through only one agent. We now understand that it was also advertised widely in the Bucks press, and possibly further afield. We apologise for any confusion caused.

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## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor

As a previous landlord and resident of the Bull and Butcher Aston Abbots it is with much sorrow I regret the possibility that these premises be closed down in preference to flats and houses. The Bull and Butcher has a very long history. My grandfather occupied these premises in 1912 as a local publican and baker, carried on by my mother and father for over 50 years, bringing up a family of five children.

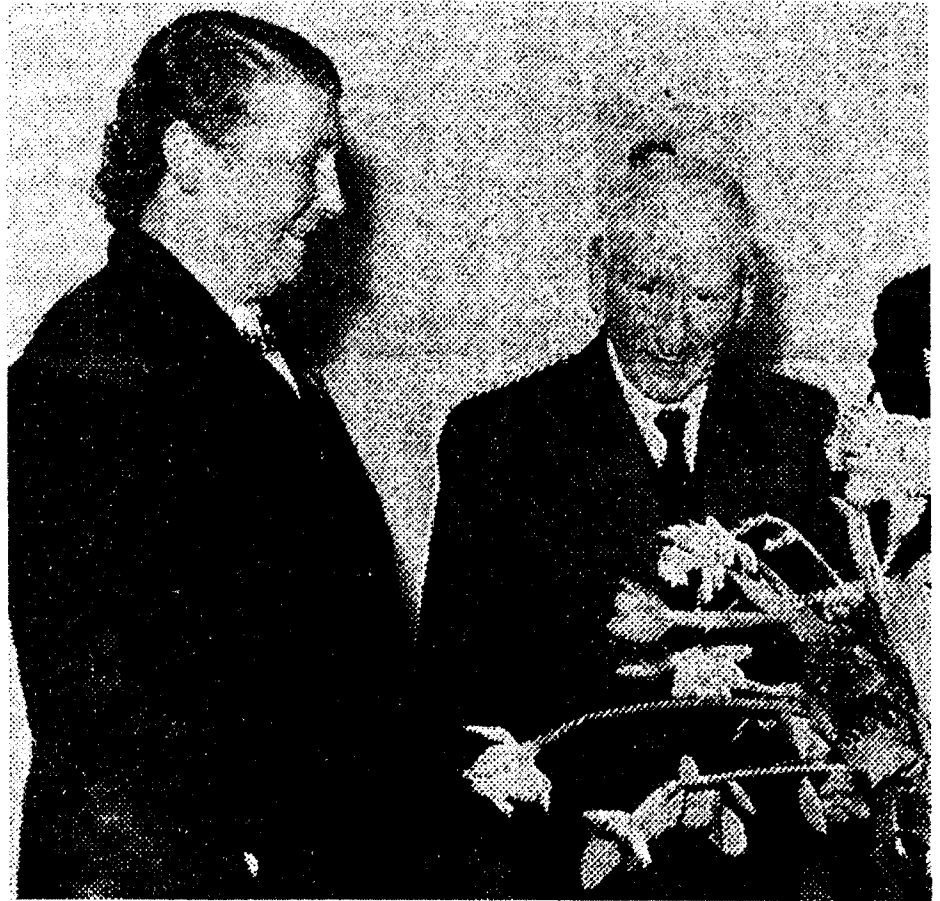
My father was also a great athlete, representing England in the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm and winner of an Olympic Bronzed medal amongst many other medals on display in the Saloon Bar.

Many other happy memories come to mind. When President Benes occupied the Abbey Aston Abbots his staff shared the bakery with my father and used the pub. Many other moments many of my old customers could relate.

I most sincerely hope the Bull and Butcher remaining as a pub is strongly considered. It has my backing.

Yours Faithfully,

Frank Humphreys—ex landlord.



The picture shows Frank's parents Mrs and Mr Tommy Humphreys being presented with a silver rosebowl marking Tommy's 50 years as landlord of the Bull and Butcher



## Jumble Sale

The 1st Wingrave Scout Group will be holding a Jumble Sale at the Wingrave Scout Hut, which is situated at the end of Chiltern Road in Wingrave, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February between 1pm and 3pm. Whilst we are not making a house to house collection in Aston Abbots, if you do have any items of jumble for collection please call Nigel Palmer on 681152.

## Astonbury 2002

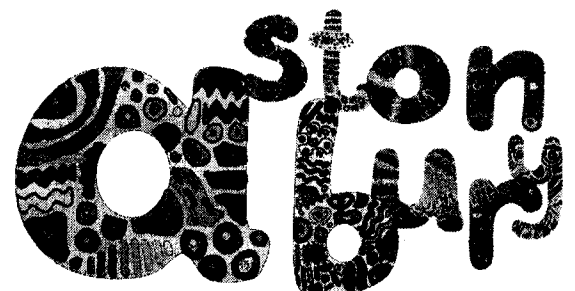
Yes, this event will appear for the third year in a row and time to pray for a rain free evening. This years show will be 'under new management' as we try to learn from all the experiences of last year.

We will keep you up to date with ongoings, starting with a management team meeting which will happen in February.

If you wish to volunteer for any of the behind the scenes activities or indeed be part of the show, then contact either Andi Swain, Nigel Palmer or Neil Chesher. [see contacts on page 26—Ed]

This years show promises to be even bigger and better, providing we can persuade the Dewhursts and the Dickens to loan us their back garden yet again

Although yet to be confirmed the working date is the 13th July



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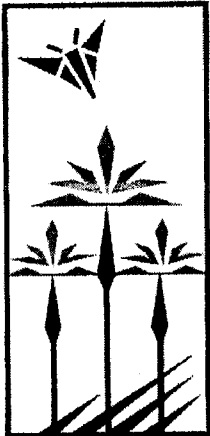
*<http://my.genie.co.uk/bystra>*

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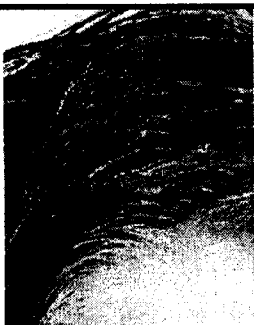
*[adrian.bystra@talk21.com](mailto:adrian.bystra@talk21.com)*

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## Restaurant Review : The Boot of Soulbury

The Boot in Soulbury used to be a fairly large traditional village pub. It was recently closed and refurbished and now has a restaurant occupying three quite sizeable rooms. It retains a bar area which now feels more like a wine bar than a pub, however they still serve a decent bitter. When I last looked in, there were oak beams everywhere, however the walls and the beams have now been painted yellow (Neil please note) which has made the whole place much brighter, clean and modern looking than previously. One of the rooms does tend to echo a bit that apparently makes the customers shout at each other, but we certainly did not experience this.

The bar and tables are a trendy light oak colour – designed to attract yuppies according to our very friendly waitress. However, even though Sally and I could hardly be classed as yuppies, we certainly did not feel out of place here. The background music was in no way intrusive. We could see into the extensive kitchen from the bar area which was obviously large enough to meet the requirements of the restaurant covers very efficiently.

The Boot has a printed 'a la carte' menu and also a selection of fresh fish chalked daily on the blackboard. The grilled fresh

fish came inclusive of new potatoes or fries and salad or fresh vegetables and, whilst main courses priced on the main menu excluded vegetables, most would fall within the price range £11-£14 including these side orders. The 'a la carte' menu comprised mainly traditional dishes given a modern, trendy twist. So how did the food and service measure up?

A basket of fresh salty bread arrived very quickly and our starters arrived well before we had been able to do this much damage. Sally had ordered a warm 'flavoursome' cheese tartlet (served with beetroot and red onion) that came astride a mountain of crisp varied salad, and I went for Fricasse of Mushrooms (cooked in red wine with a hint of garlic), quite delicious.

When it came to the main course, being somewhat conservative, I opted for whole Sea Bass while Sally chose the Red Drum fillet. Yes, it is a fish, with nice firm flesh, but we are still none the wiser as to its origins. Both came grilled and topped with the butter of the day. Vegetables of the Day turned out to be green broccoli and green courgette. Both nicely cooked, but Sally would have preferred to see a hint of a different colour as well. Red Peppers? Yellow Tomatoes? Pink Aubergines?

We chose a bottle of Chilean white wine

that was quite refreshing to the palate. The price of wines on the extensive list started from just over £10.

Sally chickened out of a sweet course, however I, mindful of the excesses of Xmas, declined the offer of Spotted Dick and selected an Eton Mess (a gorgeous mixture of meringue, cream and strawberries). Our final bill (for two) came out at £51.60 before service, all tips being entirely at the customer's discretion. All in all an enjoyable meal with excellent service and we certainly intend to return before long. The Boot serves lunch and dinner Monday to Saturday and lunch on Sunday. For reservations call 01525 – 270433.

~ Nigel Palmer

"In politics, stupidity is not a handicap." ~ Napoleon Bonaparte

"If at first you don't succeed, failure may be your thing." ~ Warren Miller

"If you think you're too small to make a difference, you've obviously never been in bed with a mosquito."  
~ Michelle Walker

"Human beings are the only creatures that allow their children to come back home." ~ Bill Cosby

## THE CHRONICLE

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

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

## Scouts Promise

Vic and Christine Scott might not have bargained for a roomful of Boy Scouts when they offered (at the promises auction in aid of the Church Room improvements) to give a talk and slide show to a group. But they duly came along to the first Wingrave Scouts meeting in January and entertained everyone, adult gatecrashers included, with a slide show and quiz about New Zealand.

Vic talked us through some beautiful photographs of New Zealand wildlife and scenery, including a volcano, hot springs, rainforest and seashore. The house wall made of glass bottles and the delinquent mountain parrots that snap off car windscreen wipers aroused particular interest!

Christine's quiz was won, after a stewards' inquiry, by Chris and James Ellis.

An excellent evening, and many thanks to Vic and Christine.

~ Caroline Lane

## Annual Parish Meeting

This is a public village meeting (not a Parish Council meeting) to discuss matters affecting the village. It will be held on Wednesday 24th April at 8pm in the Church Room. All welcome.

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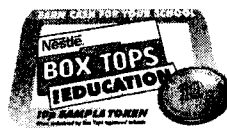
## Your Local School Needs You!

have jointly taken over the administration of several schools promotions on behalf of Wingrave CE School, for example the Walkers Free Books for Schools scheme. Those parents with children attending the school will already know about these schemes but could I ask for the help of those villagers who don't or who may have recently moved to Aston Abbots. There are currently three schemes either underway or about to start and are as follows:

**Free Books for Schools** .by collecting the tokens to be found on special packs of Walkers crisps (including Quavers, Monster Munch and French Fries) and inside copies of the Sun and News of the World newspapers, the school can redeem these for books of the school's choice from a selection catalogue. In previous years the school has collected 27,200 tokens and received 134 free books. Tokens will appear in the newspapers everyday until 1 March and on crisp packets until the end of March.

**Nestle Box Toes for Education** .again by collecting and redeeming the tokens on Nestle cereal boxes, the school can this time earn cash—10p for every token. The

current scheme will run until the end of March and recommence in September. Tokens can be found on such cereal boxes as Shredded Wheat, Cheerios, Shreddies, Nesquik, Grahams, Clusters, Golden Nuggets and many more. At the moment we have 144 tokens to bank.

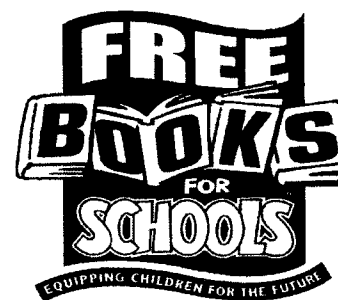


**Sainsbury's Equipment for Schools** . under this scheme points can be awarded to a nominated school every time a Sainsbury's Reward Card is used (1 point for every £10 spent). The points will then go towards free equipment for the school from computers and books to science and sport equipment. If you are a Reward Card holder and would like to support the school you must first register. This can either be done online at [www.sainsburys.co.uk/equipmentforschools](http://www.sainsburys.co.uk/equipmentforschools) (for which the school will receive 10 bonus school points) or by simply completing a coupon obtainable from me. Once you have registered you need do nothing more; school points will then automatically be awarded to Wingrave School when you use your card between 30 January and 24

April. Your Reward points will not be affected. The school's current points balance is 708.

So that the school can continue to benefit from these excellent schemes, could I ask you to collect as many tokens as possible and either pass them to a family that you know has children at Wingrave School or, alternatively, pop them in my post box at No 1 Abbey Cottages, Moat Lane. Please encourage your friends, family and colleagues to collect wherever possible too. If you, or you know someone who wants to support the Sainsbury's scheme, please give me a call.

*Sondra Dickason  
No 1 Abbey Cottages, Moat Lane  
Tel: 682249*



### YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

**JOHN SANSOME (Chairman)**  
Longmoor Farm ~ 681010

**KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)**  
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane ~ 681137

**TOM MANNING**  
5, Little Mollards, Twelve Leys, Wingrave ~ 682455

**GWEN KEMPSTER**  
53 The Green ~ 681310

**MARGARET KENT**  
6 The Green ~ 681454

**RICHARD CLARKE**  
Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

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

County Councillor  
**BRENDA JENNINGS**  
25, The Green, Soulbury ~ 01525 270610

### Things You Didn't Know— WD-40®

- Norman Larsen, president and head chemist at the Rocket Chemical Company, developed a water displacement formula on his fortieth try, naming it WD-40.
- The aerospace industry needed a product to eliminate moisture from electrical circuitry and to prevent corrosion on airplanes and Atlas Missile nose-cones. The newly developed WD-40 worked so well, engineers working at the Rocket Chemical Company began sneaking it out of the plant for home use on squeaky doors and stuck locks.
- WD-40 became available to the public in 1958, and in 1961, a sweet fragrance was added to overcome the smell of the petroleum distillates. In 1969, the Rocket Chemical Company was renamed the WD-40 Company, after its only product. The WD-40 Company makes the "secret sauce," then sends it to packagers who add the solvent and propellant.
- In 1964, John Glenn circled the earth in Friendship VII, which was covered with WD-40 from top to bottom.
- The WD-40 Company went public on the NASDAQ exchange in 1973. The initial 300,000 shares, available at \$16.50, closed that same day at \$26.50.
- WD-40 makes over a million gallons of the "secret sauce" every year.
- WD-40 can be found in four out of five American homes.

"WD-40" is a registered trademark of the WD-40 Company.

*~ From wackyuses.com*

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## A Sundream Holiday—Part 2

*Shirley and Andrew continue the story of their cruise dream holiday*

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

Breakfast from the Lido Café was enjoyed on the sundeck, after which we lazed around on sun loungers until 10.00 am. A fresh change of clothes and it was time to leave the ship for trips ashore. Andrew and I had decided to 'split up' for the day as he wanted to go on a mini submarine and explore the local sea bed at Coziemel Mexico. The Atlantis submarine that he went on holds 48 people plus 3 crew. Passengers sit back to back with a porthole each through which to view the underwater scene of coral, fish and plants. The sub operated at a depth of 160 feet and interestingly, the seabed was white; covered with lime. There are ten of these mini subs around the Caribbean and 6 million people have enjoyed rides in them. Andrew returned to Sundream at 4 pm. saying it was an amazing experience.

My trip was to be to the ancient Mayan city of Tulum. It started with a trip across the bay from Coziemel Island to the Mexico mainland, a sea journey of 30 minutes and landing at Playa de Carmen. About 80 people from Sundream were there and we were met by a tour guide who organised us into one long 'crocodile' and walked us up the main high street to a public car park. We boarded coaches, the guide introduced himself and off we went to the site of the Mayan city, just over 1 hour away. Leaving Playa de Carmen with its shops selling silver, gold, tanzanite jewellery and watches (with little or no tax on them) we were amazed to find that within half a mile, we were driving through a very deprived area. Here, there was very sub standard housing and ramshackle and near falling down buildings were being used as fish shops, butchers and garages. Such a contrast! Much of the remainder of our journey to Tulum was through flat countryside; a lot of scrub land and no trees more than 8 feet tall.

Arriving at Tulum we were guided to a 'road train' which was to take us down to the site. Unfortunately though, as soon as we started to walk around the remains of this ancient city, the heavens opened and it rained hard for ten minutes. We were all soaked to the skin.

Some keen types carried on looking at the site but most of us made our way back to the road train and Tulum centre where there were shops and cafes and we could at least buy some postcards.

We arrived back at Playa de Carmen at 5.15 but had to wait an hour and a half before boarding our boat back. So we decided to 'hit the shops' and found a lovely restaurant where I had coffee with some friends. At the appointed time we again were walked crocodile fashion back to the ferry boat and Cozumel Island. We finally returned to Sundream at 8.00 pm. Just enough time for a quick wash and change and to join Andrew in the dining room for evening dinner.

Afterwards many people went up on the decks to see the lights of Cozumel sea front before the boat sailed out of the harbour at 10.00 pm. We turned in. What a day!

**Wed Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>**

This was to be one of our days at sea so after breakfast, we spent the morning around the pool; well that was until a crew member organised a morning trivia quiz (including a prize). After lunch we explored different areas of the ship having afternoon tea and cakes on the sundeck. Our dinner

companions that evening included the a couple celebrating their silver wedding anniversary. Some of the waiters serenaded them and presented them with a cake which they shared with all of us on our table. A memorable meal, following which we adjourned to the South Pacific bar for a great show celebrating aspects of song and dance.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov.**

We sailed into Tampa Florida at 6.00 am on Thanksgiving Day. All 1200 passengers had to fill in immigration forms and show their passports to American immigration officers. This was a lengthy process taking some 3 hours to clear everyone. Various tours had been arranged and Andrew and I took a coach trip to a nearby shopping mall and beach. Tampa is the third largest port in America and is a very modern city with skyscrapers and business areas. We drove through attractive estates of bungalows, and chalet style homes. Many buildings had the stars and stripes flags flying and our guide said most of these had been up since September the 11<sup>th</sup>.

As it turned out, only a few shops and eating places were open at the St Johns shopping mall. However, we were able to do some shopping for presents and found a fish restaurant on the sea front. Here we ate our lunch watching pelicans dive for fish. We spent more time on Madieiva Beach relaxing, watching the sea, people and a variety of birds including cranes. By now the temperature was over eighty so we left the beach and found a bar with a veranda and huge (and much appreciated) cooling fans where we enjoyed ice cold beers until it was time to pick up our coach for the return journey. We arrived back at Sundream at 4.30 where we discovered that those who had not taken tours but had decided to take themselves around Tampa, found everywhere closed because it was Thanksgiving Day.

*~ Andy and Shirley Ford*

### WINGRAVE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> March 2002

In the school hall

Doors/Bar open from 7.00pm

For 7.30pm start

TICKETS £ 7-50

incl. meal

Tickets from Wingrave Village Shop/School Office

\*\*\*\*\***Limited tickets**\*\*\*\*\*

**!! Don't be disappointed, book your table now !!**

Maximum 8 per team

Individuals welcome

We look forward to seeing you.

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a flyswatter. "What are you doing?" She asked.

"Hunting flies" He responded.

"Oh!, Killing any?" She asked.

"Yeah! 3 were males and 2 were females", he replied

Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell?"

"3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone".

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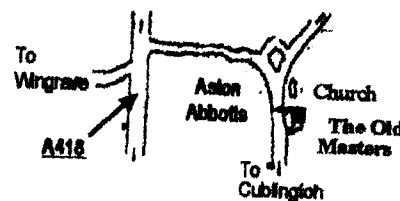
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## Valentine Day 2002

~~~~~  
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or

*Fresh Fruit Platter*

or

*Old Masters Game Mix Vol au Vent*

or

*Piquillo Peppers filled with Prawns and Ratatouille  
served with a sweet red pepper sauce*

~~~~~

*Home Made Sorbet*

~~~~~

*Tournedos Bordelaise*

*Fillet Steak cooked to your preference served on a garlic crouton  
with a Bordelaise sauce*

or

*Grilled Fillet of Plaice with Prawns  
lemon juice and parsley*

or

*Pheasant Forestiere*

*boned & braised with onions, garlic, juniper berries, bacon, herbs,  
chestnuts and wine*

or

*Pancake filled with Fresh Spinach & Pine Nuts,  
in a béchamel sauce with a hint of nutmeg served with a beetroot coulis*

~~~~~

*New Potatoes and Biarritz Potatoes*

*A Selection of Fresh Seasonal Vegetables*

~~~~~

*Desserts of the Day*

~~~~~

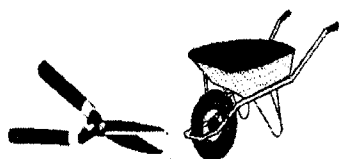
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## Police Advice ~ Burglar Alarms

THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE



Most burglaries are committed by opportunist burglars, and they tend to avoid houses fitted with burglar alarms. The sight of an alarm bell box outside a home has been proved to discourage break-ins. The law requires that an alarm bell cut out after 20 minutes. Before the bell box stops ringing, it is likely that the neighbours or police will have contacted a keyholder to switch it off.

It is important to remember that an alarm is not a substitute for good locks. Basically, an alarm consists of detector devices, the control panel and a bell box. The most difficult part of the installation is the wiring, and it is here that the DIY amateur can find trouble.

There are two ways in which you can install an alarm. First, you can have a system professionally installed by a company affiliated to an independent inspectorate. These are NACOSS (National Approval Council for Security Systems), SSAIB (Security Systems & Alarm Inspection Board) AISC (Alarm Inspectorate & Security Council Ltd) and Integrity 2000.

If you intend to have a system professionally installed you should - Check the address and credentials of the company. Find out if the company is subject of an independent inspection process and from which organisation? Find out if the installation of an alarm is a requirement of your insurance company. If so, is the company acceptable to your insurer? See if the company rep. can provide a list of police rules for occupiers of premises with alarms and written

confirmation that the alarm and company are acceptable to the local police for the transmission of alarm messages from new installations? Seek written quotations from at least two alarm installers. Does the quotation specify that the installation will be to British Standard 4737 or BS 7042, or if it is a wire free alarm BS 6799, include the terms of maintenance and monitoring contacts? Does the company operate a 24 hour call-out service and emergency attendance within 4 hours.

It's a lot to take it, but it may save you money in the long run. **If you have any doubt call the Crime Reduction Officer for free impartial advice on 01296 396000.**

Secondly you could install a system yourself, for as little as £200, however, it may not provide the same level of protection as a professionally installed system. You should only undertake installation only if you are an experienced, competent DIY enthusiast.

The best type of system to install yourself is a radio alarm system which are easier to install, but cannot be connected to the police. They have one clear advantage - no wiring is necessary. Properly installed and set up, transmitters may be placed on windows and doors sending a signal to a receiver which will sound an alarm.

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

## Not Like it Used To Be

February 14 is Valentine's Day. Although it is celebrated as a lovers' holiday today, with the giving of candy, flowers, or other gifts between couples in love, it originated in 5th Century Rome as a tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic bishop.

For eight hundred years prior to the establishment of Valentine's Day, the Romans had practiced a pagan celebration in mid-February commemorating young men's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The celebration featured a lottery in which young men would draw the names of teenage girls from a box. The girl assigned to each young man in that manner would be his sexual companion during the remaining year.

In an effort to do away with the pagan festival, Pope Gelasius ordered a slight change in the lottery. Instead of the names of young women, the box would contain the names of saints. Both men and women were allowed to draw from the box, and the game was to emulate the ways of the saint they drew during the rest of the year. Needless to say, many of the young Roman men were not too pleased with the rule changes.

Instead of the pagan god Lupercus, the Church looked for a suitable patron saint of love to take his place. They found an appropriate choice in Valentine, who, in AD 270 had been beheaded by Emperor Claudius.

Claudius had determined that married men made poor soldiers. So he banned marriage from his empire. But Valentine would

secretly marry young men that came to him. When Claudius found out about Valentine, he first tried to convert him to paganism. But Valentine reversed the strategy, trying instead to convert Claudius. When he failed, he was stoned and beheaded.

During the days that Valentine was imprisoned, he fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer. His love for her, and his great faith, managed to miraculously heal her from her blindness before his death. Before he was taken to his death, he signed a farewell message to her, "From your Valentine." The phrase has been used on his day ever since.

Although the lottery for women had been banned by the church, the mid-February holiday in commemoration of St. Valentine was still used by Roman men to seek the affection of women. It became a tradition for the men to give the ones they admired handwritten messages of affection, containing Valentine's name.

The first Valentine card grew out of this practice. The first true Valentine card was sent in 1415 by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time.

Cupid, another symbol of the holiday, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards.

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## Cat Bathing As A Martial Art

Some people say cats never have to be bathed. They say cats lick themselves clean. They say cats have a special enzyme of some sort in their saliva that works like new, improved Wisk - dislodging the dirt where it hides and whisking it away.

I've spent most of my life believing this folklore. Like most blind believers, I've been able to discount all the facts to the contrary, the kitty odors that lurk in the corners of the garage and dirt smudges that cling to the throw rug by the fireplace.

The time comes, however, when a man must face reality: when he must look squarely in the face of massive public sentiment to the contrary and announce: "This cat smells like a port-a-potty on a hot day in Juarez."

When that day arrives at your house, as it has in mine, I have some advice you might consider as you place your feline friend under your arm and head for the bathtub:

Know that although the cat has the advantage of quickness and lack of concern for human life, you have the advantage of strength. Capitalize on that advantage by selecting the battlefield. Don't try to bathe him in an open area where he can force you to chase him. Pick a very small bathroom. If your bathroom is more than four feet square, I recommend that you get in the tub with the cat and close the sliding-glass doors as if you were about to take a shower. (A simple shower curtain will not do. A berserk cat can shred a three-ply rubber shower curtain quicker than a politician can shift positions.)

Know that a cat has claws and will not hesitate to remove all the skin from your body. Your advantage here is that you are smart and know how to dress to protect yourself. I recommend canvas overalls tucked into high-top construction boots, a pair of steel-mesh gloves, an army helmet, a hockey face mask, and a long-sleeved flak jacket.

Prepare everything in advance. There is no time to go out for a towel when you have a cat digging a hole in your flak jacket. Draw the water. Make sure the bottle of kitty shampoo is inside the glass enclosure. Make sure the towel can be reached, even if you are lying on your back in the water.

Use the element of surprise. Pick up your cat nonchalantly, as if to simply carry him to his supper dish. (Cats will not usually notice your strange attire. They have little or no interest in fashion as a rule. If he does notice your garb, calmly explain that you are taking part in a product testing experiment for J.C. Penney.)

Once you are inside the bathroom, speed is essential to survival. In a single liquid motion, shut the bathroom door, step into the tub enclosure, slide the glass door shut, dip the cat in the water and squirt him with shampoo. You have begun one of the wildest 45 seconds of your life.

Cats have no handles. Add the fact that he now has soapy fur, and the problem is radically compounded. Do not expect to hold on to him for more than two or three seconds at a time. When you have him, however, you must remember to give him another squirt of shampoo and rub like crazy. He'll then spring free and fall back into the water, thereby rinsing himself off.

(The national record for cats is three latherings, so don't expect too much.)

Next, the cat must be dried. Novice cat bathers always assume this part will be the most difficult, for humans generally are worn out at this point and the cat is just getting really determined. In fact, the drying is simple compared to what you have just been through.

That's because by now the cat is semi-permanently affixed to your right leg. You simply pop the drain plug with your foot, reach for your towel and wait. (Occasionally, however, the cat will end up clinging to the top of your army helmet. If this happens, the best thing you can do is to shake him loose and to encourage him toward your leg.) After all the water is drained from the tub, it is a simple matter to just reach down and dry the cat.

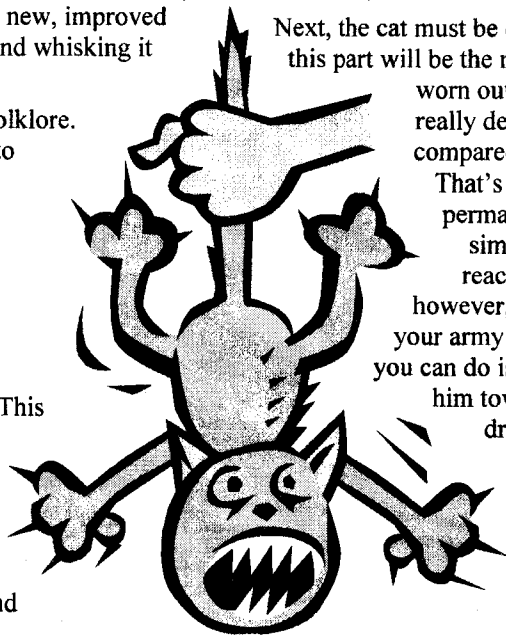
In a few days the cat will relax enough to be removed from your leg. He will usually have nothing to say for about three weeks and will spend a lot of time sitting with

his back to you. He might even become psycho-ceramic and develop the fixed stare of a plaster figurine.

You will be tempted to assume he is angry. This isn't usually the case. As a rule he is simply plotting ways to get through your defences and injure you for life the next time you decide to give him a bath.

But at least now he smells a lot better.

*~from an anonymous internet source*



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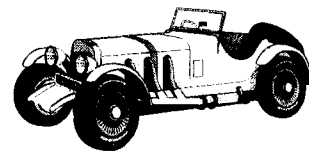
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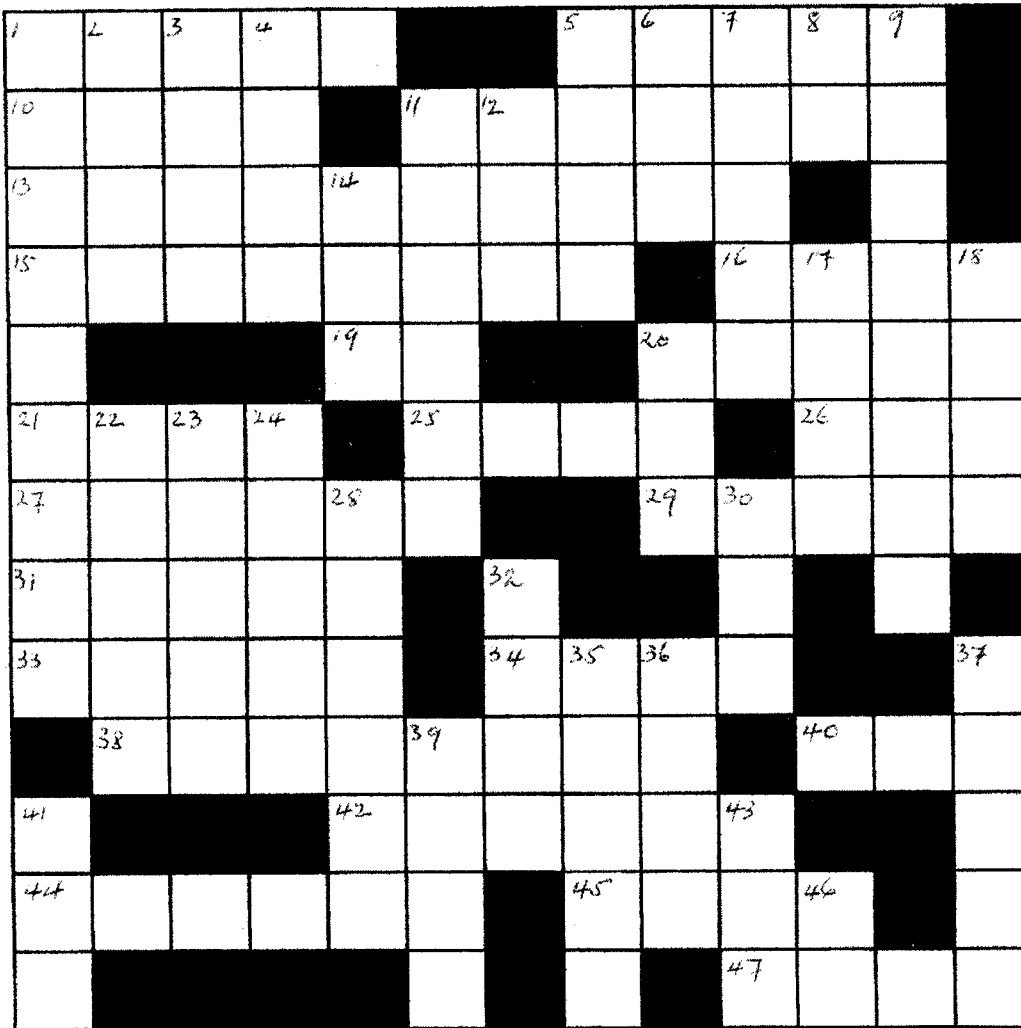
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# The Chronicle Crossword

February 2002



**Answers to January**

**ACROSS:**

1 Stoke Hammond. 11 Oxo. 12 Inept. 13 Ambridge. 14 Hard. 15 RA. 16 Eerie. 18 Sting. 21 Orate. 24 Hid. 25 Via. 26 English. 29 Root. 30 Seat. 31 Ecl. 34 Ins. 35 Lloyd. 36 Sling. 38 Memo. 40 Toucan. 42 There. 46 Shrine. 47 Area. 48 Add. 49 Element.

**DOWN:**

2 Tom. 3 Oxbridge. 4 Koran. 5 Hide. 6 Anger. 7 Meer. 8 MP. 9 Other. 10 Duration. 17 IOU. 18 She. 19 Tinsmith. 20 Gait. 22 Avoid. 23 Eats. 27 Languid. 28 Helen. 32 Elm. 33 Loot. 37 Nora. 38 Mae. 39 Wren. 41 CND. 43 Ham. 44 Ere. 45 Eat.

**ACROSS:**

- 1&1 down Nearby town 5/9
- 5. Brazilian dance (5)
- 10. Level (4)
- 11. Sloping print (7)
- 13. SIGN IN TIME (an 10)
- 15. Discretion, tact (8)
- 16. First garden? (4)
- 19. Ladies' club (2)
- 20. - - - - of mind (5)
- 21. SEAT (an 4)
- 25. ITEM (an 4)
- 26. Decoration (3)
- 27. Make certain (6)

- 29. Pup; give birth to (5)
- 31. Relating to outer space
- 33. Contests with weapons between two people (5)
- 34. Very long periods (4)
- 38. Reddening of skin (8)
- 40. Obtain (3)
- 42. Flints (6)
- 44. Cuts (6)
- 45. Amphibian (4)
- 47. Small alcoholic drink 4

**DOWN:**

- 2. Always (4)
- 3. Bill of fare (3)

- 4. Girl's name (4)
- 5. TEAS (an. 4)
- 6. - - - G (3)
- 7. Skinflint (5)
- 8. Before Christ (2)
- 9. Gathering (8)
- 11. Light (6)
- 12. Muscular spasm (3)
- 14. Novel (3)
- 17. MADE (an 4)
- 18. Turnip (4)
- 20. Not many (3)
- 22. Follow (5)
- 23. Flower (5)

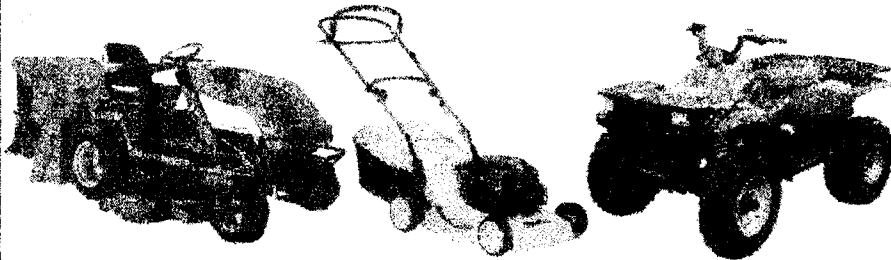
- 24. Ill tempered (5)
- 28. Duty list (6)
- 30. Belonging to him (3)
- 32. Remove skin (4)
- 35. Leaves out (5)
- 36. Treaty organization Atlantic (3)
- 37. Tempest (5)
- 39. - - - - pipe (4)
- 41. Donkey (3)
- 43. Owned (3)
- 46. Small doctor (2)

Compiled by Don Bellingham

# LAWNMOWERS

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# St James Church

## Church Services

|                     |                    |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb | 10.00 Wingrave     | Parish Communion               |
|                     | 10.00 Cublington   | Family Service                 |
|                     | 11.15 Aston Abbots | Morning Service                |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>    | 08.00 Wingrave     | Prayer Book Style Communion    |
|                     | 08.45 Cublington   | Parish Communion               |
|                     | 10.45 Wingrave     | People's Praise                |
|                     | 11.15 Aston Abbots | Parish Communion               |
| 13 <sup>th</sup>    | 20.00 Wingrave     | Ash Wednesday Service          |
| 17 <sup>th</sup>    | 10.00 Wingrave     | Parish Communion               |
|                     | 10.00 Cublington   | Family Communion               |
|                     | 11.15 Aston Abbots | Parish Communion               |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>    | 08.45 Cublington   | Parish Communion               |
|                     | 10.00 Wingrave     | Parish Communion               |
|                     | 11.15 Aston Abbots | Parish Communion               |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar | 08.45 Cublington   | Parish Communion * Note Change |
|                     | 10.00 Wingrave     | Parish Communion               |
|                     | 11.15 Aston Abbots | Morning Worship                |

## Sunday Readings

|                     |                  |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb | 2 before Lent    | Romans 8.18-25;<br>Matthew 6.25-34 |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>    | Next before Lent | 2 Peter 1.16-21;<br>Matthew 17.1-9 |
| 17 <sup>th</sup>    | Lent 1           | Romans 5.12-19;<br>Matthew 4.1-11  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>    | Lent 2           | Romans 4.1-5,13-17;<br>John 3.1-17 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar | Lent 3           | Romans 5.1-11;<br>John 4.5-42      |

## Church Sidesmen

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb   | Mr A Ford     |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb  | Mt G Kemp     |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb  | Mr J Hartnett |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb  | Mr C Higgs    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> March | Mr A Ford     |

## Church Flowers

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb                | Mrs Dogget     |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb               | Miss A Goodman |
| Then <i>no</i> flowers during lent |                |

## Rectors Report

Over the last few weeks I have been trying to focus my thoughts on the role of the School in these Villages. Our Village School in Wingrave serves all three villages – even though some parents choose to send their children to other schools.

What should be the relationship between the Church and the School, and the Village and the School? What difference should it make that our School is, by its constitution, a Church of England School?

There has been a School in Wingrave since 1846 (at least) and the records tell of both good and bad times. Many years ago Cublington School was amalgamated with Aston Abbots School, and subsequently the children were transferred to Wingrave when the School moved from the Community Centre to the new building in the 1980s.

But is it still the same school that it was? Now that the Government has put in so many initiatives – the National Curriculum, Literacy and Numeracy Hours, League Tables, and all the rest. What is there left that makes our School significantly different from any other school in the country?

The School is what it is largely because of the quality of the teaching staff and their ability to get the best from the children. Much as we might wish otherwise, some children are going to do better at school than others. There are, as there always has been, children who are encouraged by their parents – and others

whose parents do not appear to show much interest in their children's education.

But that is not the whole story. For the School exists in a community – and its relationships with the whole community are very important. For the school reflects the life of the community in which it is set. Whilst its relationship with the Church is important, that is only one (although significant) strand among many in a very complex web of relationships.

The link with the Church is largely historic – because a hundred and fifty years ago, the Church and the Community were much more closely connected than they are today. But the School still relies on our support!

~ Bob Willmott

## 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 |

## The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

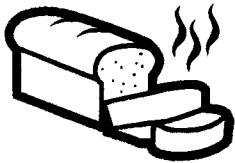
|                           |                         |                  |                        |                            |               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 630 Club                  | 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 Mout           | 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 February

|                      |                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thurs 7th</b>     | Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm.                                                                                                   |
| <b>Monday 11th</b>   | Rambiers Club AGM. 13 Moorlands. Wing. 8 pm                                                                                          |
| <b>Tuesday 12th</b>  | Pancake Day<br>also ~ Coffee Morning. Church Room. 10.30—12 noon<br>also ~ Mobile Library. The Green (10.25) & Wingrave Road (11.00) |
| <b>Thursday 14th</b> | Bingo. Church Room. 7.30 pm                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sunday 17th</b>   | Rambling Club members meet at Eggington. 2 pm                                                                                        |
| <b>Thursday 21st</b> | Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm                                                                                                    |
| <b>Sunday 24th</b>   | Village footpath walk. The Green. 2 pm                                                                                               |
| <b>Tuesday 26th</b>  | Mobile Library. The Green (10.25) & Wingrave Road (11.00)<br>also ~ Floral Class. Church Room. 7 pm                                  |
| <b>Wed 27th</b>      | Parish Council. Church Room. 8 pm                                                                                                    |
| <b>Tues 5th Mar</b>  | Aylesbury Vale Transport Meeting. Train/bus queries to Colin on 681343                                                               |

## BOOK THESE DATES

**Saturday 16th March.** Wingrave School Association Quiz. See the advert on page 13.

**Friday 22nd March.** Cheese and Wine Quiz Evening. Church Room. 7.30 pm

**Wednesday 26th April.** The Annual Parish Meeting will be at 8 pm in the Church Room. This a public meeting.

## NOTICES

Dog mess has been seen in Wingrave Road. Remember, if you are caught letting your dog foul the footpaths it's a £1000 fine. *Please* clean it up.

## Classified

**MAMMAS & PAPPAS PINE COT BED**, ex cond £35 (instructions included). Sondra Dickason ~ 682249

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**LITTLE TIKES GRAND COUPE CAR**, yellow/turquoise, inc spare parts, vgc £15 (instructions included). Sondra Dickason ~ 682249

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

## ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

### ~ PROGRAMME FOR 2002 ~

|                           |                                                                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                                    |



## MOBILE LIBRARY - 2002

**ASTON ABBOTTS THE GREEN 10.25-10.55**  
**ASTON ABBOTTS WINGRAVE ROAD 11.00-11.15**

### Dates for 2002 :

Jan 15, 29, Feb 12, 26, Mar 12, 26, Apr 9, 23,  
May 7, 21, Jun 18, Jul 2, 16, 30, Aug 13, 27,  
Sep 10, 24, Oct 8, 22, Nov 5, 19, Dec 3, 17

For further information or enquiries, please contact:

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Buckingham  
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Telephone: 01280 813229  
Fax.: 01280 823597

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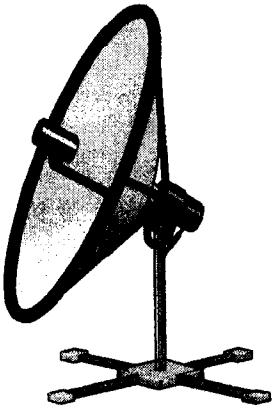
# GRAFFITI

MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR—  
HELL DO BOTH, GET  
MARRIED

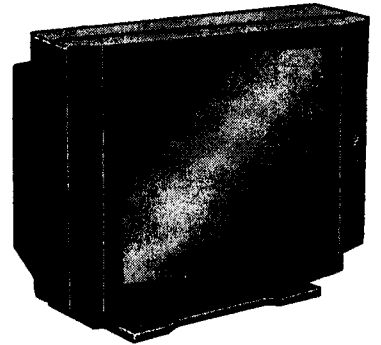
- seen in a Women's restroom

# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

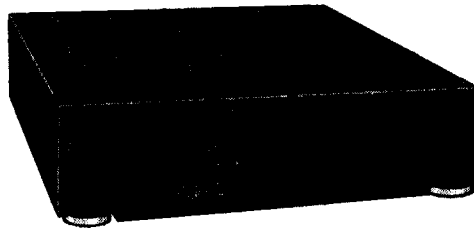


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on the party  
circuit

