

# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 218 ~ December 2002



*A Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year to One and All*

# Editorial

## Time Flies

As evenings start to draw in, temperatures start to drop, and our thoughts start to turn, perhaps reluctantly, towards Christmas, I find myself wondering yet again just where the did the last year go? Christmas brings to a close my second year as your editor and, as I look back, I see it was a pretty eventful year, even if it all now seems to be a bit of a distant blur.

2002 gave us the best Astonbury ever; the Fete was once again a huge success and inclement weather failed to dampen spirits at the Jubilee Picnic. The Chronicle reported upon these and also upon the 'antics' of the 630 club. There were serious issues too. During the last year we finally learnt what was planned for the Bull and we all were also horrified at the prospect of a roundabout being built in front of the shop. Bob Wilmott's article drawing public attention to the uncertain outlook for our Church gave further cause for worry and repeated acts of vandalism continue to consume our Parish Council's financial resources. However, the possibility of aircraft on landing approach into Luton passing directly overhead initially met with little apparent concern, although many people have since written objections.

People too were in the news. Alf Parker (Aston Abbotts longest living resident?) reached 90, Sally Turnham opened her home to raise funds and give villagers a chance to see what she has done to the former chapel, and Tony and Margaret Hinds slipped quietly away to Gretna Green and tied the knot after many happy years together. We even had a champion in the village—in alpaca Brooklyn.

All of these events and many, many more were reported in these pages and I'd like to thank everybody who has contributed to The Chronicle in the past year. This is very much *your* magazine and your contributions are always very welcome—whether they be a classified advert, a note for the Peoples Page, a report on a village function, or an article on something of interest—so please keep them coming in 2003.

With that it's time for me to lay down my pen for 2002 and wish you all a

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## And a

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

See you next year!

*Phil*

*In This Issue*

*In your Christmas Chronicle ~*

- *Diwali Celebration*
- *The Old Crocks (the race—not the 630 club)*
- *Shirley Ford Goes River Rafting*
- *Carol Service—New Information*
- *Halloween, Fireworks and Remembrance Sunday*
- *Vic and Christine's Quiz—could you do it?*

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

# THE CHRONICLE

## Issue 218

### December 2002

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~o~

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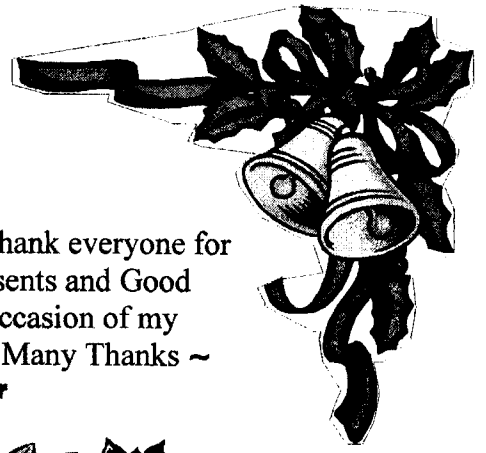
Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2003

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

Ivan Greenaway	2nd Dec.
Phil. Spooner	2nd
Allison Hewitt	11th
Becky Lord	11th
Rosie Manning	12th
Stella Howell	14th.
Jack Turner	15th
Claire Barnett	18th
Derek Ludlam	19th
Michael Ellis	19th
Robert Smith	20th
Nicholas Osborn	25th
Val Smith	25th

### Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their Cards, Presents and Good Wishes on the occasion of my 60th Birthday... Many Thanks ~  
**John Brancker**



### Get well soon!

We are sorry to hear that **Sally Palmer** has had to be admitted into hospital and wish her a speedy and full recovery.



### Farewell

This month we bid farewell to a family who have been a part of Aston Abbotts for 60 years. **Gwen and Paul Kempster** met in 1942 whilst working at Norduck Farm and have lived in the village since then. Their four children **Alan, Chris, Jackie and Shirley** attended our village school. Alan has remained in the village until now and advertises his gardening business in The Chronicle. Gwen has served on the Parish Council for a quite a number of years right up until the present.

Now the family are moving to a larger property in Wales. We will miss them and we wish them all the very best for the future.



### Best Wishes

Hopefully by the time you read this **Percy Humphries** will have had his knee operation. We send our very best wishes and we hope to see him up and hopping around the village before too long.

## Merry Christmas

Special Christmas Greetings and a very big THANK YOU to the distributors who deliver The Chronicle to you each month:

**Margaret Kent**  
**Irene & Freddie Lowden**  
**Carol Spooner**  
**Andy Ford**  
**Chris Fox**  
**Sam Worrall**  
**Ivan Greenaway**  
**Caroline Lane**  
**Andi Swain**

...and, of course, the man who organises the printing and distribution: **Andy Bystra**

**CAROL SERVICE DATE CHANGE—SEE PAGE 9**

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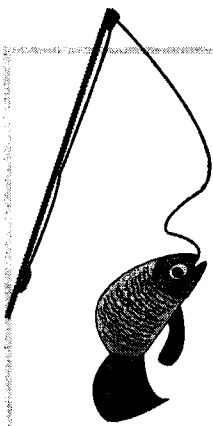
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# In The Village

## Remembrance Sunday

The 'laying of wreaths' at the memorial was kept mercifully short this year since it was raining quite heavily. However, it was not carried out in so much haste as to leave out the reading of the names of those from Aston Abbots who lost their lives in the two 'great wars'. It was particularly poignant to hear that the Paxman family lost three members in the Second World War.

It was nice to see so many in the congregation; especially so many of our youngsters. Once everyone was in the church it became clear that quite a few might have to stand so additional chairs had to be fetched from the church room.

Bob Willmott made the very good point that those mentioned on our war memorial died so long ago that probably no one in Aston Abbots now knows very much about them. Is there anyone out there who would like to carry out some basic research such as where in the village had they had lived, where did they perish, or even what was their occupation??



## Old Crock's 'Race'

I've never been to the 'Old Crock's Race' so when Colin advertised in the Chronicle that he had organised a coach trip to Brighton, I just couldn't resist booking a couple of places.

That Sunday dawned a nice sunny day and the coach proved to be quite luxurious (complete with toilet). So far, so good!!

Only four of us boarded outside the 'Bull' but at Wingrave there was a huge queue, so all of a sudden it was full of people and lots of friendly banter. Not having to drive made for a nice relaxed trip down to the coast but once into the outskirts of Brighton the sun disappeared and the 'heavens opened'. We were 'dropped off' (although in that awful weather, it rather felt like we'd been abandoned) just a hundred yards from 'the lanes' and the nearest sanctuary; a very inviting cafe. We arrived only moderately soaked, but hot buttered toast and coffee restored morale and by the time we had finished this slightly 'enforced' second breakfast, the rain had stopped.

The lanes, are very seductive and immediately sent Rita into a 'shopping frenzy' taking us well into lunch time. With the sun shining, a pleasant stroll along the prom. resulted in the discovery of 'The Plaza', a very pleasant restaurant near to 'The Grand'. With strains of live jazz coming from within and a very tempting menu, it was impossible to resist. As it turned out, the food and wine really were good, leading inevitably to a few brandies, coffee's and the sudden realisation that it was almost time to catch the coach. Oh well! Perhaps we'll go again next year to see the Old Crock's!



## Cabaret Is A Sell Out

The Aston Abbots Cabaret is on Saturday 7th December and starts at 7.30 with Dinner. The show commences at 9.00 pm. This year Mr David Lewis has kindly agreed to be compere. No doubt the team have lots of great entertainment and fun in store for us.

However, we regret that the event is now Sold Out!

## Halloween

Heaven help those in Aston Abbots who failed to stock up on chocolate 'goodies' prior to the 31st Oct. As soon as it was dark, the village abounded with the phantom and elusive shapes of ghosts and ghouls, the living dead, mummies and witches. Grown-ups cowered in their houses fearing the dreaded knock on the door. Lesser mortals just didn't open their door, risking fearful retribution and serious risk of pranks being played on them.

Since it was Thursday, it seemed a good idea to escape all this 'haunting' and go to the pub for a curry. However, the 'Bull' afforded little protection from Halloween since it was decorated with cobwebs, spiders and lit almost exclusively with candles (so what's new!!!). Well done Frank and Louise for joining in the 'spirit' of the moment.



## Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning

What with me trying to catch up with some gardening after all the wet weather, and Rita deciding this would be the day to make the Christmas cake, we were quite late getting to the 'Legion' coffee morning. However, once there it was clear that it had been quite well patronised; the coffee wasn't bad either. With the 'bring and buy', the raffle and sale of refreshments a useful sum was raised for The Royal British Legion.



## Ladies Club AGM

The Aston Abbots & Cublington Ladies Club AGM. was held on the 7th Nov. in Aston Abbots church room. Our new Officers are Chairman—Joan Alexander, Programme Secretary—Shirley Ford, Treasurer—June Brine, Minute Secretaries—April Curnow and Daphne Bissell, Social Secretaries—Avril Bradley Davis and Audrey Stephenson.

Business completed, members paid their subscriptions and enjoyed biscuits and tea.

~ Shirley Ford.

## Fireworks

The bonfire just didn't stand a chance. Oh! Sure, villagers had done well to build it up with plenty of burnable household rubbish, but since it had rained continuously for the days preceding 'Bonfire Night', it seemed very unlikely it would ever light. By 6.30 however, and some sort of a miracle (or was it several gallons of diesel), at least half of it was alight but rather smoky. (I do hate having to inhale my own garden rubbish, let alone other peoples!!).

Promptly at 7.00, and thanks to cash from our Parish Council and the generosity of those who donated fireworks, the display started. It was spectacular from start to finish although this year the fireworks were, well! er, 'explosive' to say the least; seemingly much noisier than in previous years. Nonetheless it was a very good evening and certainly all the children seemed to enjoy it [and this adult ~ Ed], so, very many thanks to Lol. and the 'lads' who made this another memorable Guy Fawkes.



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## Quiz & Slide Show

Very many thanks to Christine and Vic. Scott for once again giving us a very entertaining and interesting slide show. The topic this time was Venice and Verona, and as usual the quality of the photography (not to mention the 'banter' between Vic and Christine) was first class. There followed a short break for supper which had been provided, followed by 'that quiz'! This time, it was in four parts, the questions in each part (allegedly) more difficult than the previous. However, so far as our 'team' was concerned, they were all pretty difficult. It was all very entertaining and good fun and such was the generosity of our hosts that they made sure each of the teams won a prize (in the case of ours, it was the 'booby')

Thanks again to Vic and Christine and all who helped to make this such an enjoyable evening. £99 was raised for the church.



So for those of you who couldn't make it, here are a few of the questions. Can you hack it? How many can you get right?

1. Of what Central American country is Managua the capital of?
2. Name the river which flows through Prague?
3. Aster is the Latin name for Michaelmas Daisy; What is the Latin name for Chrysanthemum?
4. What county is Marsworth in?
5. What river flows through Northampton town?
6. What is the highest peak in England?

Answers on page 21

**STUCK FOR IDEAS for a present for Aunt Maud? How about a book? There are still copies of "Aston Abbots 1000-2000, a Village History" available and, at just £5 for a fully illustrated 115 pages, it is not just a really good read, but a bargain too.**

**Ring Clare Shorrocks on 681260 for your copy and relax—problem solved!**

## Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> Ladies Club.

Sixteen members were present. by Joan Alexander our new president welcomed members and thanked Jane Brine for all her hard work she had done over the past three years as our previous Chairman. Margaret Kent was thanked for preparing the hall and providing tea and biscuits.

Chairman's comments;- "Our Carol Service is to be held in St James Church on December 19<sup>th</sup> [now the 13<sup>th</sup>—see page 9]. Evelyn Griffiths from Cublington is to be asked to play the keyboard, collection to go to the Church funds, Margaret Kent to organise food for the tea amongst A.A. members.

With the business over, Joan Alexander welcome the speaker, Mrs Anne Barratt who is Customer Liaison Officer for Silverlink trains. She started by giving us a potted biography of her life and how she got her present job. She covered many aspects of her working life, especially the different travel offers. She was thanked by Jean Bliss. Margaret Kent and Doreen Powis served tea. Raffle winners were Mary Morris, Audrey Stephenson and Doris Powis.

~ Shirley Ford

## House Hold Appliance Blues

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"A GOOD OLD BOY"

~ John Brancker

## Car Vandals

During the past few weeks a spate of car vandalism has occurred in the village in the Lines Hill, The Green and Church Row areas mainly in the early hours of the morning. Please be vigilant. Lock your cars and take valuables out. "Don't give them an easy ride."

~ Colin Higgs

## Library Van

Please ensure that you use this valuable service. It is under review. USE IT—DON'T LOSE IT.

~ Colin Higgs

Details of the library van visiting times and locations can be found on page 29 ~ Ed

Seasons  
Greetings

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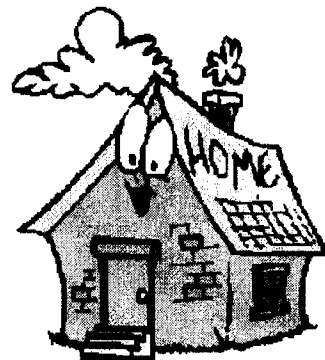
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## Aston Abbotts Diwali Festival

I think it may be the first time that Diwali (pronounced De-var-lee) has been celebrated here in Aston Abbotts, but Astonians need little excuse for a party.

Diwali is a Hindu festival welcoming Ram and Sita out of the forest and celebrating the Hindu new year. This year it was celebrated in the Church Room in an evening event organised by Avi and Poonam Gupta and their friends. As Avi (one of the only two *bona fide* Indians present) put it, "We're going to celebrate it like we do back home... in Essex!".

The Church Room was transformed with a multitude of Indian fabrics and decorations. The gentle smell of joss sticks wafted past and lights burned all around (traditionally some people put decorated candles/lights in their windows for Diwali). One villager said to me, "Never has the Church Room been decorated more beautifully".

Poonam and her helpers served delicious Indian food whilst DJ Avi manned the decks and prepared us for the entertainment to come.

Appetites sated, Avi explained that it was traditional to gamble at Diwali. John Whyte was nominated as cashier (is he the only one in the village who can count) and put in charge of a huge stack of Monopoly money, which was

purchased for the gambling. Poonam got a game of Jackpot going and enthusiastic, noisy and adventurous betting quickly ensued.

Step forward Mr David Lewis. *Three times* he had a perfect sure-fire hand, *three times* he bet everything on it, and *three times* he lost! (See the back page.)

Eventually it was realised that Dave had nothing left to lose, so the game folded. Producing sticks, Avi and Poonam proceeded to teach us how to stick dance.

Although Avi denied it, I am a little suspicious that the stick dancing might have had some fertility ritual aspect to it—so watch the Peoples Page carefully next August folks!

My stick dancing attempts were made more difficult by a certain lady villager who wandered around sticking her stick between the legs of all the gentlemen. I shall not name and embarrass you madam, but if you try that with your alpacas they'll bite your fingers off! An extra element of danger was added by Dave Lewis who, still smarting at his fleecing at cards, insisted upon whacking his sticks together so hard that bits of wood flew in all directions, spearing unwary dancers.

As if that was not enough, after the stick dancing we danced to Indian

pop music until we dropped (or fell over).

The evening raised £310 for the Church Room fund (much of it from Dave Lewis) and our thanks go to Avi and Poonam (and their helpers) for organising such a fun and unusual evening. This is probably the first time that Diwali been celebrated in Aston Abbotts—I certainly hope it's not the last.

~ Phil Spooner



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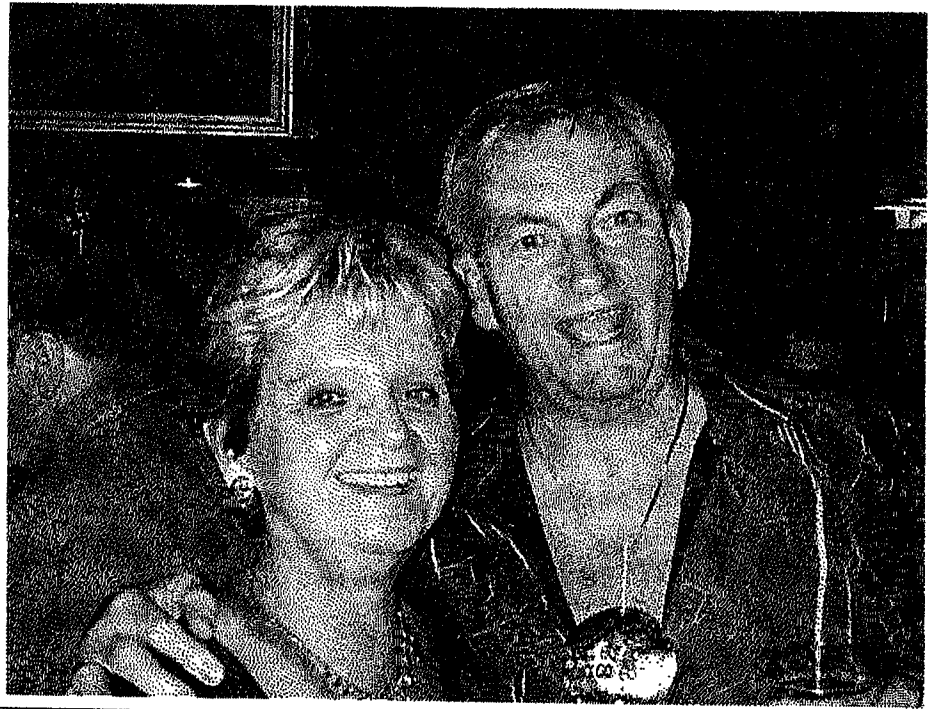
John Brancker (pictured right with Anne) threw a party to celebrate his 60th birthday at the Bull and Butcher in November.

Naturally, Neil Cheshier produced one of his "tribute" songs, with wicked, wicked words. A fine buffet was served by The Bull and the disco was provided by Lol, with help from Dave Lewis.

Tony Rees made a welcome singing return to Aston Abbots after his Spanish sojourn and it was a pleasure to once again hear his gravelly tones belting out a range of popular hits

Yet again Aston Abbots proved it knew how to party, with one well-known local magistrate partying so hard she was reportedly left nursing a broken toe and cracked sternum! Happy birthday John!

~ Phil Spooner



## Farewell to Alan

Friends of Alan Kempster's attended his 'farewell to Aston Abbots' party at the Bull on Sat 16<sup>th</sup>; and what a party it was. Of course, Neil had written a great song for the occasion, probably his first with a sense of poignancy! Though a somewhat sad occasion, with good food, music and 'ale', it seemed that everyone just wanted to dance the night away; and that's exactly what happened.

A brilliant party Al. and we all wish you and your family well in your new life in Wales



And here is that song written by Neil, sung to the tune of the BeeGee's Massachusetts.

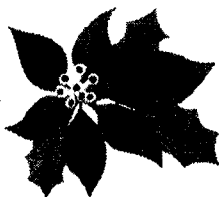
*Alan Kempster's leaving Aston Abbots  
Will.... any one know that he has gone  
As the gardens run wild in Aston Abbots  
Then you will see... that he has really gone  
Alan's the quiet man... of Aston Abbots  
Never would say a Boo Hoo... to a goose  
When he moves all the way to Welsh Wales  
There'd better not.... be sheep on the loose  
We will miss you when you leave this village  
Hope you will be back again some day  
Alan Kempster is leaving Aston Abbots  
But Aston Abbots will never leave him  
Alan Kempster's leaving Aston Abbots  
Alan Kempster's leaving Aston Abbots*

## Seasonal Chess

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse.

"But why?" they asked, as they moved off.

"Because," he said, "I just can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."



## Carol Singing

We hear that last Christmas John Brancker (pictured above) went carol singing around the village.

He wasn't doing too well, and eventually he ended up around Nash's Farm and outside the house of Neil Cheshier where he started off by softly singing *Away In A Manger*.

Neil came to the door, clearly moved. Spurred on by the unexpected show of emotion John carried on singing his favourite carols. By the time he had finished his very best rendition of *Silent Night* tears were pouring down Neil's cheeks as he blubbered uncontrollably.

Quite shocked John said, "Well I never would have believed it! You're really just a soft-hearted old sentimentalist aren't you?"

"No!" cried Neil, "I'm a musician!"

## Xmas Festivities in Aylesbury

- ✦ Friday 6th - Sunday 8th December Continental Market in the Market Square.
- ✦ Saturday 7th December - all day Family Fun Day at Bucks County Museum Free activities for all the family.
- ✦ Sunday 8th December - Charity Market in the Market Square.
- ✦ Sunday 8th December - Lantern Procession (5.30pm) and Mayor's Carol Service at St Mary's Church (6pm)
- ✦ Sunday 15th December - Christmas Farmer's Market (10am - 2pm)
- ✦ Thursday 19th December - Rotary Carol Concert in the Market Square (7pm)
- ✦ Saturday 14th December to Sunday 5th January - Dick Whittington Panto at the Civic Centre.
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## No Hiding Place

*It's been a year since Ray and Jackie Coates left the village and emigrated to Portugal where they are building a new home, but nobody gets away that easily and Anne and John Brancker have finally tracked them down.*

During the last week of October we took a flying trip to Portugal (Well it's a long way to walk!), the main reason being to take a look at the coastline between Lisbon and Oporto. While we were there we also viewed several properties as we are considering buying a holiday home in the area.

Anyway...we couldn't go all that way and not be the first to bag the honour of visiting Jackie and Ray. We left our Pousada outside Coimbra and took the scenic route inland and upwards into the very heart of the country. Pine forests, twisting roads and tiny rural villages took us all the way, until we met Jackie and Ray at an arranged spot on route, as the final part of the journey would have proved difficult. We arrived to a typically "Jackie and Ray" welcome, as you can imagine they were hospitality itself .... They had booked us in for lunch at a beautiful hotel up in the hills, which had recently been completely rebuilt by two Dutchmen and was absolutely charming. The food and rooms

were first class (if any one is thinking of going that way).

After an excellent lunch they took us on a tour of the area ending up at their soon to be finished home. As you can see from the pictures it will be quite magnificent, with views to die for.....When we saw the house it was about four weeks from completion, so barring accidents they should be nicely settled in by Christmas.

They send their love and best wishes to everyone.

*~ Pictures and words by John and Anne Brancker*



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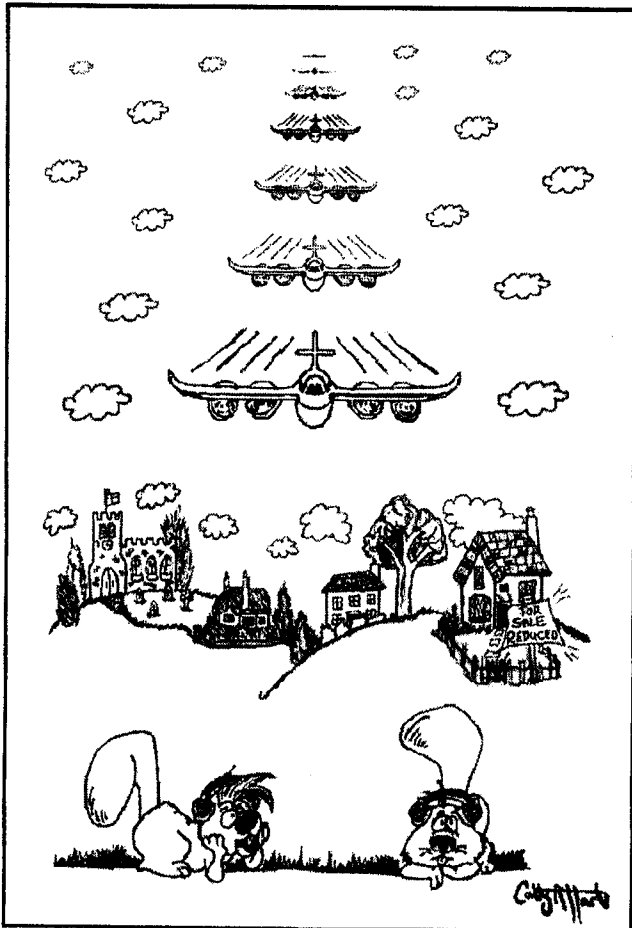


## Proposed New Flightpath - What Now?

December 2<sup>nd</sup> is officially the end of the informal consultation process for Luton Airport's proposed new flightpath over Aylesbury Vale at 3,500 - 5,000 feet.

### What can we do about it?

1. If you haven't written to your Parish Council to tell them what you think about the proposals, *do it now!* More information about Luton's proposals and sample letters are



"I told you to write that letter to say NO to the New Flight Path!"  
"SORRY LOVE, I CAN'T HEAR YOU!"

available from PAVAN (Protect Aylesbury Vale Against Noise) at 01525 240950 or [www.pavan.me.uk](http://www.pavan.me.uk)

2. If you want to do more, then contact Luton Airport whenever you hear a noisy plane, or a series of planes. The more we complain, the more they will get the message that we don't like planes flying at 6000 feet, so there's no way we will tolerate planes at 3500 feet! Luton's noise hotline is 01582 395382, or [noise@london-luton.co.uk](mailto:noise@london-luton.co.uk). To decide if it's a Luton plane, check the direction of flight - roughly east-west or maybe turning south over AA. Luton planes are lower than Heathrow's, and Luton flies at night more often (11pm - 6am).

### What happens to all our letters?

Luton should examine every submission from the consultees and produce a question and answer document based on villagers' concerns.

The airport says it will send representatives to as many community meetings as they can. This seems a cock-eyed consultation process - consulting with communities AFTER the official end of the consultation period - and PAVAN has taken this up with the airport and with the Directorate of Airspace Policy (DAP - a division of the Civil Aviation Authority.)

Luton may decide to submit an amended document to the DAP (who will decide whether the new flightpath will go ahead). PAVAN has asked Luton and the DAP whether the consultees can review and comment on any amended plans before they are submitted.

The DAP can either accept Luton's proposals, reject them, or refer them to the Secretary of State for Transport for a final decision. Should the proposals be accepted, PAVAN will consider all available options to have the decision overturned before the route becomes operational (summer 2003). Should the proposals be rejected, then we might have a celebratory drink (or two ....)

~ Rachel Webb, PAVAN (cartoon by Cathy Hart)

Kate Curry our Parish Clerk tells me that she has received quite a lot of letters from villagers and now she will be writing a formal response from our Parish Council to the consultative body. ~ Ed

## Grey Stereotype Counted Out By The 'Colourful' Accountant

The image of the dull, grey accountant has been shattered by a survey that claims to have evidence that they are more interesting and adventurous than other people. They are more likely to socialise, they watch less television and enjoy more sex, according to a 'monotony monitor' aimed at exposing those whose life was more rut race than rat race.

A hundred people in different jobs kept a diary for a fortnight to show how they spent their time. Hairdressers spent most time in front of the television, watching up to 36 hours over ten consecutive evenings, followed by advertising executives. Construction engineers went to the gym the least. They also went to bed the earliest.

All admitted to lethargy when it came to a social life, watching television nine nights out of ten rather than drinking or meeting friends. Most of those surveyed (60 per cent) could not name a single highlight to their day, although secretaries sited "office gossip".

By contrast, accountants watched less than an hour's television in two weeks. They had sex an average of six times in a fortnight, compared with the average three, and most played some kind of sport. Nearly half socialised at least once or twice a week and more than half went to the gym. They also went to bed later and were the keenest to change their routine.

Researchers said the face of finance had changed so much that accountants often had front-office roles, inter-personal skills and the presence to succeed outside number-crunching, making them more sociable. They also had become the "champions of making life more enjoyable".

The survey was conducted by Lindemans, the wine producers. The wife of a well-known Aston Abbotts accountant declined to comment.

~ Spotted in the Daily Telegraph by Sally Palmer and sent in by Nigel Palmer (accountant)

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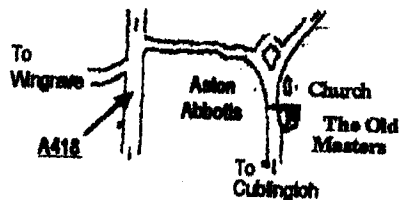
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## A Canadian Holiday

### Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> Sept

Bang on the stroke of 8am. we left our hotel at Banff to go to Jasper. It rained at first but then, following the appearance of a double rainbow, we enjoyed glorious sunshine. A two hour journey saw us at a place called Lake Louise. Walking down through trees, we turned a corner and there was the lake plus Victoria Mountain and the Victoria glacier in all their glory. What marvellous scenery! Just by the lake is a very grand hotel called Châteaux Louise. It has a nice restaurant where we had the best hot chocolate drink ever whilst chatting to a middle age couple from New Zealand.

Next, it was onto the Athabasca glacier ice field in Jasper National Park. This journey took us through amazing scenery; mountains, lakes and wild animals such as Black Bear, Mountain Sheep, Deer and Elks. At 1.00, a special coach picked us up at the Columbia Ice field Centre, taking us up a long and winding road to where we were to change onto a 'snow bus' fitted with huge tyres; this was to take us up onto the Athabasca glacier. It was a great experience, our driver come guide was a little French girl called Marie; all of 5 feet tall but quite an expert in handling the snow coach and giving such

interesting facts and figures about glaciers. Once out of the 'coach', we spent time walking or (in some cases) trying to play football on the ice.

Back on the road then for a 50 k journey to a place called Horseshoe Falls where we all admired the falls and a very good group photo was taken. After a short ride, we stopped alongside the Athabasca river and ten of us left to go 'river rafting'. This was something new for Andrew and I. We donned yellow plastic ponchos and life jackets and slid over the top of the raft into position, with our feet tucked under a line and holding a cord around the top of the raft. A young man with oars in the middle of the raft steered us. It all started quietly enough but soon we met some very lively waves and had to hang on. We floated down river for an hour and a quarter, smoothly sometimes but on occasions rather 'hairy'. It was marvellous experience and great fun. As we completed the journey we saw a male elk plus his harem of four females. Our coach was waiting for us and took us to our accommodation at Jasper House Bungalows where we were to stay for the next two days.

### Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Leaving Jasper at 8.00am, we had a two and a half hour journey to Miette Hot

Springs. However, the main topic of conversation was about the male elk and six of his female 'friends' who had wandered around the previous night making the most unbelievable screeching sounds. Nobody slept and nothing could be done to shut them up.

On our way to Miette, we passed through Athabasca valley seeing Elks, Squirrels, Mountain Sheep and Ospreys. Around the stones of lake Patricia, we saw Widgeon, Teal and a Blue Heron. Our guide talked about all aspects of the ecology of Jasper National Park He was without doubt one of the most knowledgeable and interesting people I have ever listened to.

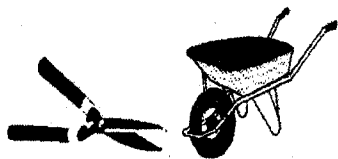
Following a quick lunch in Jasper we boarded the bus to Lake Maligne for another informative boat cruise on the green waters of the lake and amid spectacular scenery. By this time we were ready to return to our pine bungalows for the evening meal. The evening ended by having to pack our cases ready to move on in the morning. However, not before enjoying a camp fire sing song where people toasted marshmallows, played 'horseshoes' or lawn bowls until it was time to 'turn in'.

~ Shirley Ford



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## Rectors Report

have to admit to being slightly bemused – or perhaps that should be confused. I was walking through Friars Square the other day, and at the side of “Santa’s Grotty” was a small archway in which was the tail of a dragon. Now I cannot think for the life of me what the dragon has to do with the Christmas story.

Maybe this is yet another Christmas “peripheral” that I shall just have to learn to accept. I have grown accustomed to accepting reindeer and robins – which are fairly gentle, non-threatening additions to the Christmas story.

It made me wonder which story I was meant to be thinking about. Maybe this dragon is part of the story of St. George, our Patron Saint. For that is a story about evil (depicted by the dragon) being overcome by good (St. George). Perhaps the dragon could be there as something to breathe fire and melt the symbolic snow – suggesting that Christmas requires us to demonstrate relationships that are not as chilly as they can sometimes be. I cannot bring myself to think of the dragon as being “one of Santa’s little helpers”.

But that, of course, is only one element of the “Christmas fun and festivities”. Perhaps the dragon really has a significant part to play in what has now largely become the “feast of consumerism”. This is a season that is characterised by greed.

It is part of the “gimme, gimme” culture in which we live. Happiness comes from spending more and more on ourselves, and to a lesser extent from the presents

that we receive.

But maybe the dragon is intended to remind us of a presence rather than presents. Sadly the idea of presence is something that we often miss at Christmas. For Christmas is about the presence of God. God taking our human nature, becoming weak and vulnerable

like us in Jesus, the baby of Bethlehem.

The dragon’s presence seems rather sinister, but the presence of the Christ child is the greatest present that we could wish to receive.

Happy Christmas.

~ Bob Willmott



### The Friends of Whitchurch Surgery Coffee Morning and Christmas Raffle Draw

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Cake Stall

Bring & Buy

### Quiz Answers

Here are the answers to Vic and  
Christine's quiz ~  
1. Nicaragua 2. Vitava  
3. Chrysanthemum 4. Bucks  
5. River Nene 5. Scaffold  
So how did you do? Bratty or booby?  
Maybe see you there next year?

### Three Wise Women

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise **WOMEN** instead of three wise **MEN**, don't you?

They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and... brought practical gifts!!!

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## 1st Wingrave Brownies

The Brownies started the Autumn term working on dancer, jester, communications and conservation badges. During the badge testing evening the testers were entertained by some excellent country dancing supervised by Snowy Owl. We also watched poetry, acting, dancing and gymnastics by the jesters. As the Brownie pack is very full we were only able to enrol one new member this term, we welcomed Sophie Earwicker.

After half term we had an evening visit to Blackberry Farm, the RSPCA centre at Quainton. We were told about the procedures involved when an animal first arrived and the careful checks made before adoption. We visited the small mammals, dogs and cats and fell in love with a few of the residents!

In December we shall be having a workshop given by Helliebellies Puppet Show. Helen Booth and friend will demonstrate and help us work creatively with hand puppets.

After some careful thought and discussion the Brownies have chosen the Royal National Lifeboat Institute as our charity for this year. On Tuesday 17th December we shall be carol singing around part of Wingrave.

Please support us, we do sing as loud as we can but we are aware that our singing voices are not heard from all the houses we visit!

Next term the programme will include our annual pack holiday and we hope to be able to welcome some more Brownies into the pack several of whom have had to wait patiently for a place.

~ Jane Muir Brown Owl



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**KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)**  
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**TOM MANNING**  
5, Little Mollards, Twelve Leys, Wingrave ~ 682455

**GWEN KEMPSTER**  
53 The Green ~ 681310

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

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## New Brownie Leaders Required

Since I announced that I would be leaving Brownies next summer I am pleased to say that I have had a response. Julie Churchill who is already a trained Guider has said that she would be happy and willing to take over the Brownie leadership. However, as Julie is a full time District Nurse, she can only take on the Brownies provided she has a team to work with her.

I am therefore still looking for adults who would be willing to become assistant Brownie leaders to help organise and run the meetings. You do not have to be a parent.

The Brownie unit can only remain open next September if there are at least two further leaders. I do hope that people will come forward before we have to make a decision about possible closure.

~ Jane Muir, Windmill Hill Farm, 681513

## America's Cleverest President

An airplane was about to crash; there were 5 passengers on board but only 4 parachutes.

The first passenger said, "I'm Kobe Bryant, the best NBA basketball player, the Lakers need me, I can't afford to die...." So he grabbed the first pack and left the plane.

The second passenger, Hillary Clinton, said, "I am the wife of the former president of the United States, I am also the most ambitious woman in the world and I am a New York Senator and a potential future president." She just took the second parachute and jumped out of the plane.

The third passenger, George W. Bush, said: "I'm President of the United States of America, I have a great responsibility being the leader of a superpower nation. And above all I'm the cleverest President in American history, so America's people won't let me die." So he put on the pack next to him and jumped out of the plane.

The fourth passenger, the Pope, says to the fifth passenger, a 10 year-old school boy, "I am old and frail and I don't have many years left. As a Catholic I will sacrifice my life and let you have the last parachute."

The boy said, "It's OK your holiness, there's a parachute left for you... America's cleverest President has just jumped out with my schoolbag."

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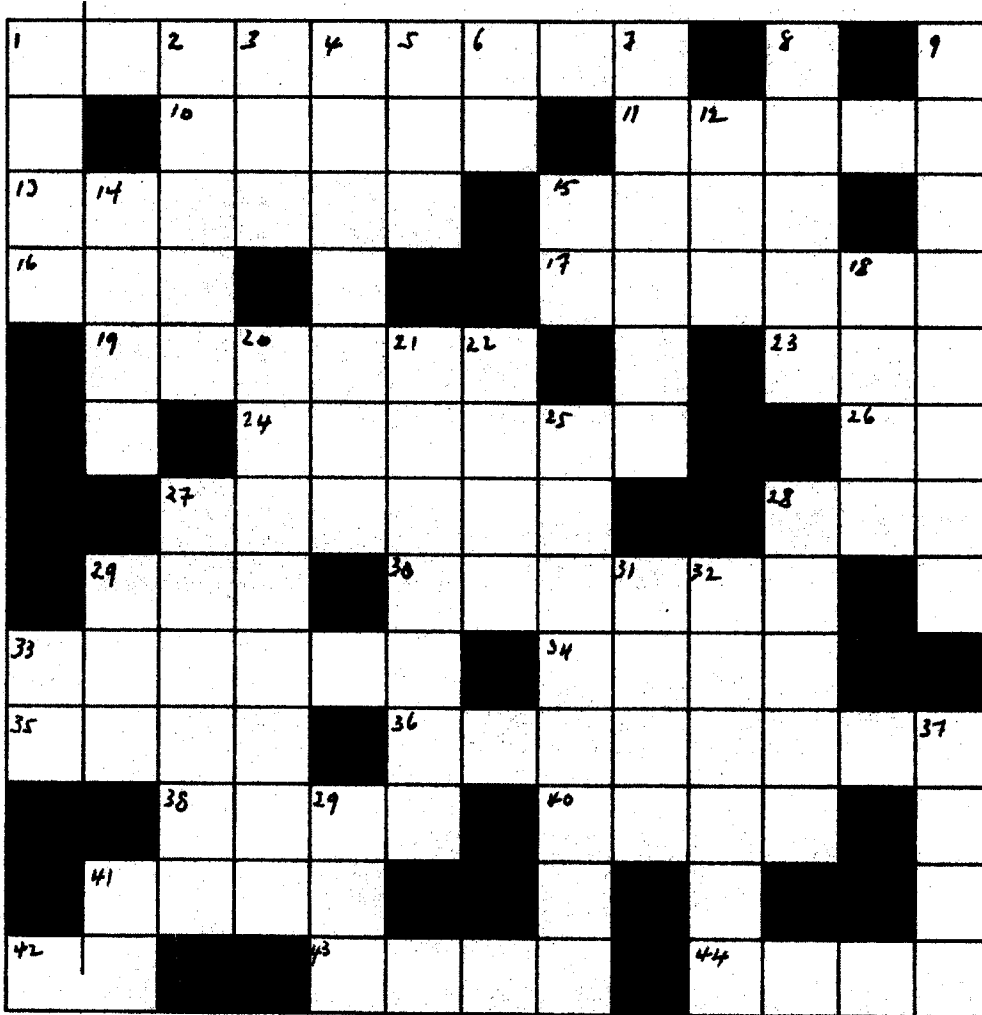
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# The Chronicle Crossword

December 2002



Answers to November

ACROSS: 1 Weedon. 6 Van. 8 Ova. 9 Porter. 11 Retasted. 14 Sxit. 15 Tractors. 16 Boer. 17 Trees. 20 Lure. 21 Shot. 22 Mess. 23 Sternly. 25 East. 26 Bias. 27 Ail. 28 As. 29 Acne. 30 By. 31 Stacks. 34 Ace. 36 Ten. 37 Nightmare. 41 Erodea. 42 Ma. 43 Lay. 44. Estelle.

DOWN: 1 Worthy. 2 Ever. 3 Estables. 4 Oysters. 5 Hoda. 6 Vex. 7 Arise. 9 Per. 10 Terror. 12 Acoustic. 13 Tore. 14 Error. 17 These. 18 Etna. 19 Slyly. 21 Stan. 22 Master. 23 Sic. 24 Liberal.

ACROSS: 1. Popular Soap Opera (9)  
 10. RUSES (an  
 11. Likeness (5)  
 13. SLY IMP (anag 6)  
 15. Eager; Expectant (4)  
 16. Boy's name (3)  
 17. Armour (6)  
 19. Despot (6)  
 23. -- de Janeiro (3)  
 24. ONE HUG (an 3)  
 26. Curriculum Vitae (2)  
 27 Clever (6)  
 28. US General & President (3)  
 29. Before )3)

30. Artillery soldier (6)  
 33. AN HEIR (anag 2&4)  
 34. European coin (4)  
 35. To plan 4)  
 36. STORM TEN (an 8)  
 38 Marries (4)  
 40. These are taught at school (4)  
 41 A supermarket chain (4)  
 42. Electrical current (2)  
 43. Rugs (4)  
 44. AILS (an 4)  
 DOWN:  
 1. Compass point (4)  
 2. Relation (5)

3. Knowledge through non normal channels (abb 3)  
 4. Dependent (7)  
 5. Arid (3)  
 6. '- you like it ' (2)  
 7. One of 8 parts (6)  
 8. Bet (6)  
 9. Local town (8)  
 12. French Me (3)  
 14. Greek letter (4)  
 15. -- well (2)  
 18.-- one's wounds (4)  
 20. SEE TREND (an8)  
 21. Sugary sweets (7)

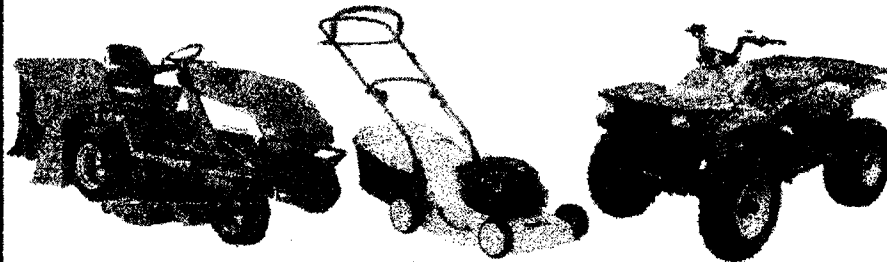
22. Ballet dancer's skirt (4)  
 25. Army ranks (8)  
 27. Darts ( 6)  
 28. Presses (5)  
 29. Fish (4)  
 31. Lack of feeling (4)  
 32. Builds (6)  
 33. -- sauce (2)  
 37. Earth (4)  
 39. Flood barrier (3)  
 41. Electric current (2)  
 43. Rugs (4)  
 44. Travel on sea (4)

Compiled by Don Bellingham

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## Church Services

1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	10.00 Cublington	Family Service
	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15 Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	18.00 Wingrave	Advent Carols
8 <sup>th</sup>	08.00 Wingrave	Prayer Book Style Communion
	08.45 Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00 Wingrave	People's Praise
	10.00 Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
13 <sup>th</sup>	20.00 Aston Abbots	Carols & Readings
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15 Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	10.00 Cublington	Christingle
	18.00 Wingrave	Christingle
22 <sup>nd</sup>	08.45 Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	15.00 Cublington	Carols & Readings
	18.00 Wingrave	Carols & Readings
24 <sup>th</sup>	18.00 Wingrave	Blessing the Crib
	23.00 Wingrave	Midnight Eucharist
25 <sup>th</sup>	08.45 Cublington	Christmas Communion
	10.00 Wingrave	WCT Christmas Service (Meth)
	10.00 Aston Abbots	Christmas Service & Communion
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 Wingrave	Three Parish Communion
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Cublington	Family Service
	10.00 Aston Abbots	Morning Worship

## Church Flowers

1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	No Flowers
7 <sup>th</sup> / 9 <sup>th</sup>	No Flowers
13 <sup>th</sup> —29 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas decorating as requested
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2003	Mr C Higgs

## Sunday Readings

1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Advent	1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37
8 <sup>th</sup>	Advent 2	2 Peter 3.8-15; Mark 1.1-8
15 <sup>th</sup>	Advent 3	1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Advent 4	Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38
29 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas 1	Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.15-21
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Christmas 2	Ephesians 1.3-14; John 1.10-18

## From The Registers

### Baptism

27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Shannon Hughes at Aston Abbots
27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Lucy Carter at Wingrave

### Funeral

11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	George Kennedy at Cublington & Crownhill
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## Church Sidesmen

1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Mr A Ford
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mr G Kemp
13 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)	Mr J Hartnett Mr C Higgs
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mr C Higgs
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr G Kemp
Christmas Day	Church Warden
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2003	Mr A Ford

## Carol Service Date Change

Our ever popular Village Carol Service featuring The Rowsham Band is to be held on **FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> December** in St James Church at 8 pm.

## 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	Toddlers Group	Claire Greswell	682949
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	681011
Fete Coordinator	Barbara Bellingham	681689	Wingrave School	Office	681346
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave Stores	Andy & Helen Hall	681696
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000	Whist Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681685			
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343			

*Please let us know of any errors or omissions*

**Andy and Helen Welcome You to**

# WINGRAVE POST OFFICE STORES

**NEWSAGENT • GENERAL STORE • OFF LICENCE**

**PHOTOCOPYING • VIDEO CLUB**

**DRY CLEANING AGENT • CASH MACHINE**



## OPENING HOURS



### SHOP

Monday - Saturday 6am - 7pm

Sunday 6am - 1pm

Tel: 681696

### POST OFFICE

Monday - Friday 9am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

Tel: 681011

**DAILY VILLAGE NEWSPAPERS DELIVERED IN WINGRAVE AND ASTON ABBOTTS**

**MAGAZINES ORDERED AND SAVED**

**CONFECTIONARY • ICE-CREAM • GREETINGS CARDS • WRAPPING PAPER**

**FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES • FRESH BREAD & MILK DAILY**

**CASH MACHINE IN THE STORE • FRESH BREAD COOKED ON THE PREMISES**

# What's On In December

- Sunday 1st** Advent Carols with the Wingrave Singers at Wingrave Parish Church
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Mobile Library at The Green, Wingrave Road and Oxley Farm  
*also* Aylesbury Vale Transport Meeting. Civic Centre. Bus and train queries to Colin please.
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting, Church Room. 8 pm.
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** Shopping Trip to Portsmouth. Fare £10. Departs the Bull and Butcher 7.50 am. Book with Colin on 681343.  
*also* Christmas Cabaret—Sold Out!
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>** Rambling Club members meet. Tesco, Tring Road, Aylesbury at 2 pm
- Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>** Whist Drive, Church Room. 7.30 pm.
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup>** The Aston Abbots village **CAROL SERVICE** with Rowsham Band at St James Church 8 pm. Please note this new date!
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>** Rambling Club members Christmas Dinner at Hunt Hotel, Linslade. 7pm
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>** Aylesbury Farmers Christmas Market. 10—2 pm.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>** Mobile Library at The Green, Wingrave Road and Oxley Farm
- Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Bingo. Church Room. 7.30 pm
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup>** Day Communion with Carols. St James Church. 10 am.
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>** Rambling Club members meet. Tesco, Linslade at 2 pm
- Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Jan** Whist Drive, Church Room. 7.30 pm.

## CHRISTMAS BUSES

<b>Christmas Day</b>	No Service
<b>Boxing Day</b>	No Service
<b>New Years Day</b>	No Service
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup> - Tue 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Saturday Service (except Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> ) Additional bus 07.40 Aston Abbots to Aylesbury

## Classified

### RUSHED OFF YOUR FEET IN THE WEEKS LEADING TO CHRISTMAS?

Then let me help out with cleaning, ironing, household chores, typing, dog walking, cleaning out the rabbit, raking leaves, lifts to/from the shops, assisting with festive preparations, wrapping presents, etc. £5 per hour or by agreement. Call Sondra Dickason on 682249.

### NEEDED URGENTLY—ONE SOCK

One sock is required to complete a lifetime collection of two. No holes please. If you can help please contact Dave Lewis on 682126.

# BUCKINGHAM MOBILE

## MOBILE LIBRARY - 2002

<b>ASTON ABBOTTS THE GREEN</b>	<b>10.25-10.55</b>
<b>ASTON ABBOTTS WINGRAVE ROAD</b>	<b>11.00-11.15</b>
<b>ASTON ABBOTTS OXLEY FARM</b>	<b>12.55-13.10</b>

### Dates for 2002 :

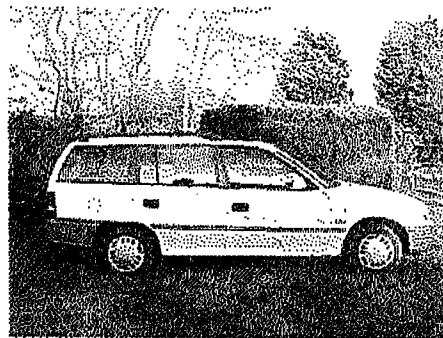
Jan 15, 29, Feb 12, 26, Mar 12, 26, Apr 9, 23,  
 May 7, 21, Jun 18, Jul 2, 16, 30, Aug 13, 27,  
 Sep 10, 24, Oct 8, 22, Nov 5, 19, Dec 3, 17

For further information or enquiries, please contact:

Buckingham Library  
 Verney Close  
 Buckingham  
 Bucks MK18 1JP  
 Telephone: 01280 813229  
 Fax: 01280 823597

[www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries/lima\\_lib\\_mobiles.stm](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries/lima_lib_mobiles.stm)

**FOR SALE VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE.** L reg, (1993) Good Condition. M O T until April 2003. Taxed until January 2003. £1100. Telephone Adrian on 688428



**CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE** in The Chronicle. Up to 50 words—just drop it in (The Birches ~ 50 yards from the Royal Oak on the other side of the road) or email it to us..

**BABY SITTER AVAILABLE** in Aston Abbots. Contact Claire Biddle on 681102.

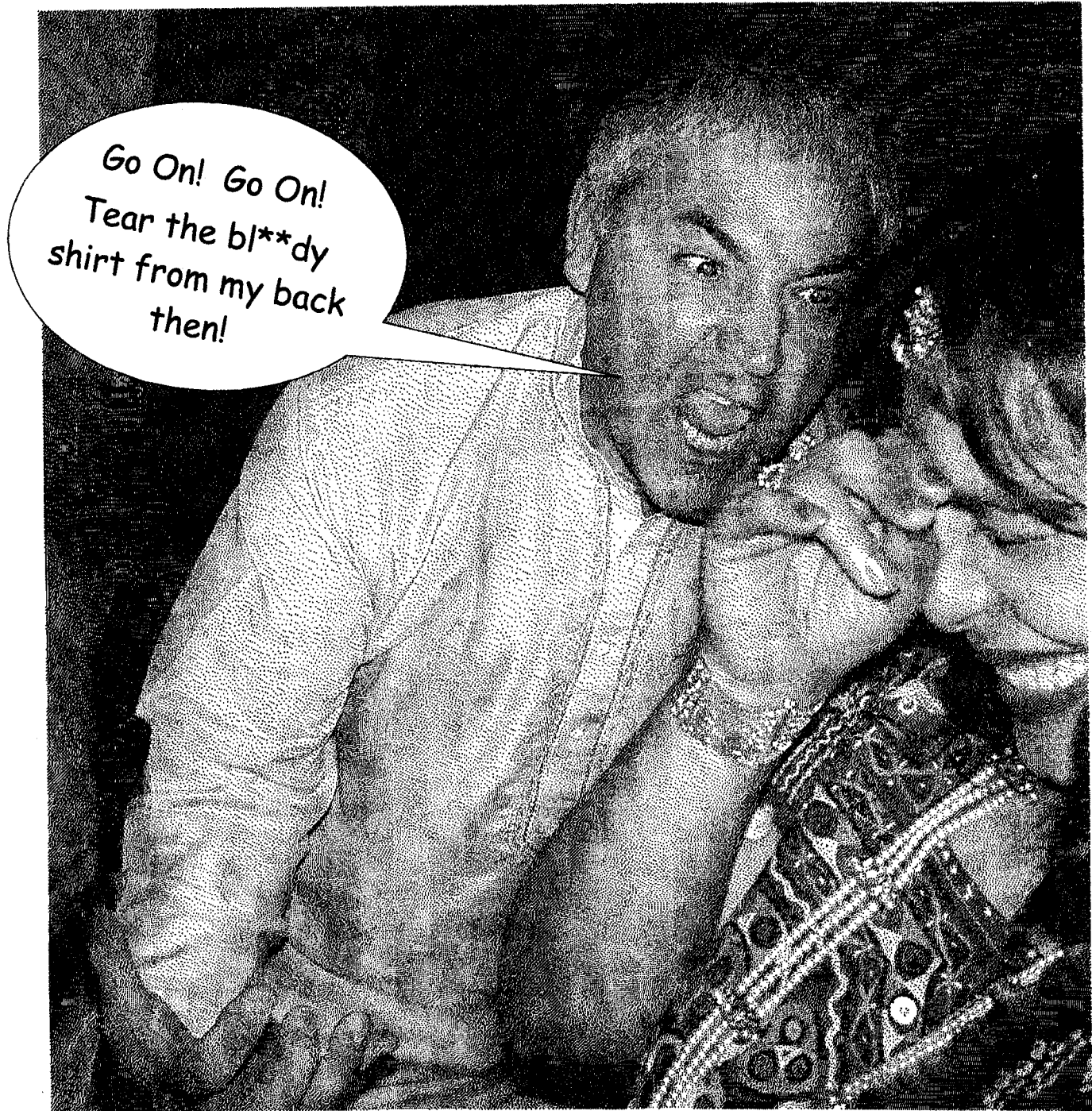
The Aston Abbots Toddler Group meet every Thursday morning between 10 and 12 in The Church Room. Contact Claire Greswell on 682949 for more information



# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS Tel: 01296 682126

## DAVE LEWIS LOSES HIS SHIRT !!!



*A furious and frustrated Dave Lewis remonstrates with 'banker' Poonam Gupta after losing his shirt, his house, his car, his wife's car and his wife - not once, not twice, but THREE TIMES on sure-fire no-lose hands of cards whilst playing Jackpot at the Diwali celebration on November the 2nd.*