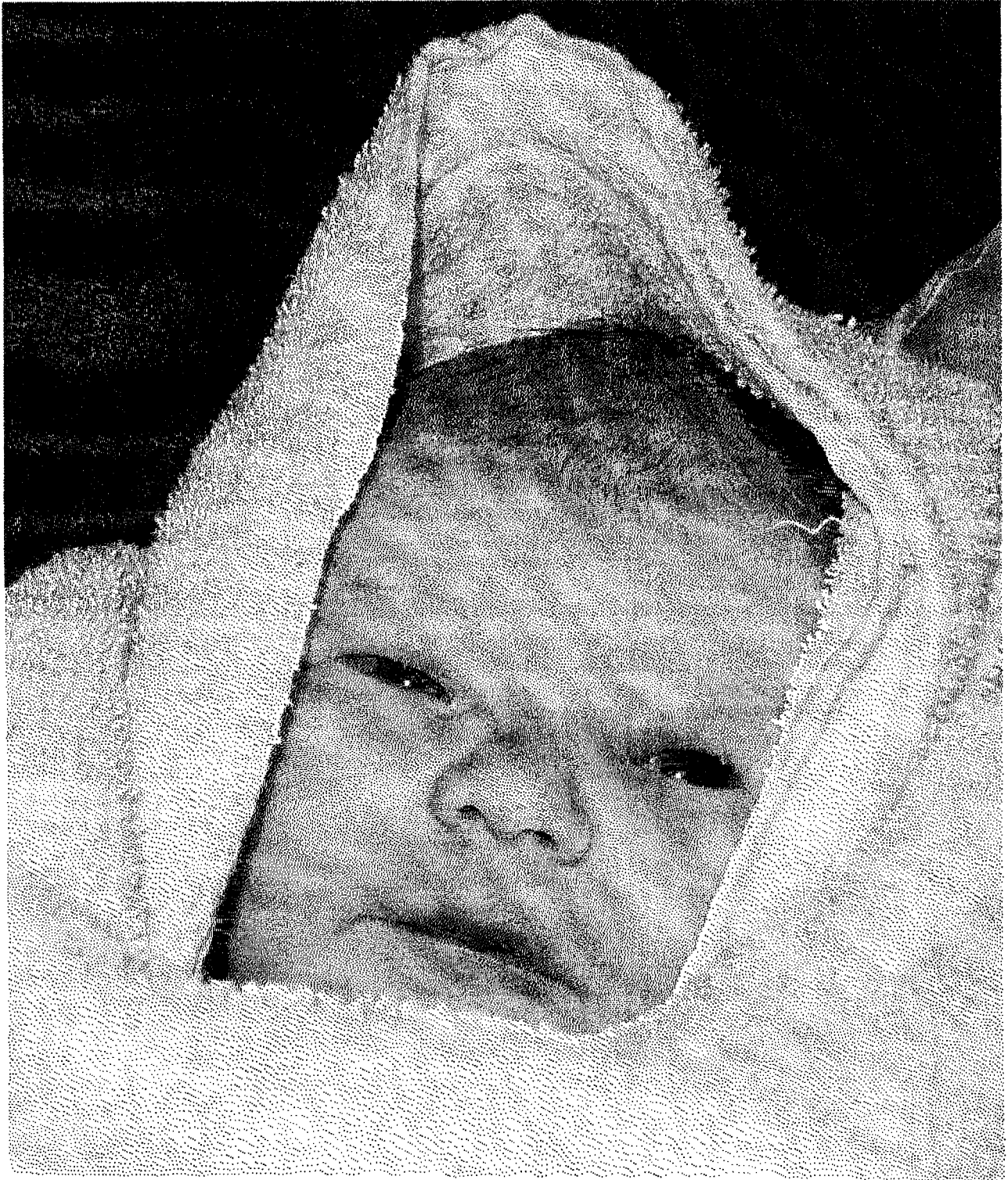


THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 220 ~ February 2003



Our newest reader—Mia Robyn Swain—age just 10 minutes—see page 3

Editorial

Just What Does The Parish Council Do?

Some people seem to have the idea that the Parish Council is perhaps no more than a talking shop preoccupied with streetlights and potholes. Nothing could be further than the truth. It really is local democracy in action.

Sure, streetlights and potholes do get discussed, but more serious issues affecting the whole of our community are also dealt with by the Parish Councillors. These include issues like increased traffic due to AVDC house-building plans, worries about Luton airport expansion and, of course, planning applications within the village.

Two new councillors have just been co-opted—Jackie Farrands and Peter Shorrocks. In May's local elections the size of the council will be increased from five to seven councillors, so two new recruits will be sought. The duties are not onerous—basically attending a two hour meeting every six weeks—and you do not need any qualifications. You just need to be an adult and to have lived in the village for more than a year. Newcomers should not feel reticent—new blood is always very welcome.

This is an ideal opportunity to put something back into the community, which can be very rewarding. If you'd like to know more why not contact our parish clerk Kate Curry on 681137 and ask her for more information.

With that, I'm handing the rest of this month's editorial over to Clare Shorrocks, who has an excellent idea to help our Church.

Phil

Friends Of Aston Abbotts Church

As we all know, Aston Abbotts Church has difficulty in raising the not inconsiderable amount of money demanded by the Diocese each year let alone the money needed to keep the actual building in good repair. At present, urgent work is needed for more than one area, not least rewiring costing in the region of £2000. While very few of us attend church on a regular or frequent basis, there is surely a good case to be made for maintaining the building in good repair, as a church is one of those important aspects of a village, like pubs, shops, and schools which keep a community alive and vibrant. We lost our post office and school long ago, the restaurant has closed and the Bull will shortly follow suit. It is therefore important to do everything we can to keep the church viable.

We are therefore planning to form a "Friends of Aston Abbotts Church" which will be totally independent of not just the Diocese but the Parochial Church Council as well. It will aim to raise funds as needed to keep the church in good repair and will have a separate bank account from the PCC. If you can spare some time to help with this please contact Clare Shorrocks on 681260. You do not need to be a church goer or even a believer, just to believe that all aspects of community life are important.

~ Clare Shorrocks

In This Issue

In your New Year Chronicle ~

- Newbury Racing Trip
- Girl's Happy Hour
- New Year's Eve Party
- 630 Club Christmas Party
- The World's Easiest Quiz
- Parish Council Meeting Minutes

and much, much more.....

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 220

February 2003

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~o~

A note to all would be advertisers -

More than 201 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 21st February 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

Charlie Copping	2nd
Chaya Gupta	3rd
Michael Coleman	4th
Ivy Brandon	5th
Pablo Gutierrez	7th
Vikka Drysdale	7th
Andy Garton	9th
Christopher Ellis	9th
Jack Copping	10th
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
Linda Wheaton	25th

Congratulations to **Andi and Becky Swain** on the birth of their daughter **Mia Robyn**. Mia arrived at 8.20 am on the 16th January 2003 at Stoke Mandeville Hospital - weighing in at 7lb3oz / 3.27kg—and described by Andi as, “Officially a real cracker and all-round gorgeous daughter!” Andi and Becky would like to thank everybody for the pressies, flowers and cards—and for the beers bought at the head wetting for the new dad.

We send best wishes to **Minnie Deggett** of Bricstock who is recovering well after an accident in her home. We hope you are fully recovered soon.

Belated birthday wishes to **Peter White** who celebrated his birthday on the 8th January. We hope you had a great day Peter.

We were very sorry to hear about the death of **Ray Coates**. Please see page 5.

Our best wishes to **Sally Palmer** who is scheduled to go into hospital for an operation this month.

We are all very pleased to see that **Tony Hinds** operation was successful and he is back home again.

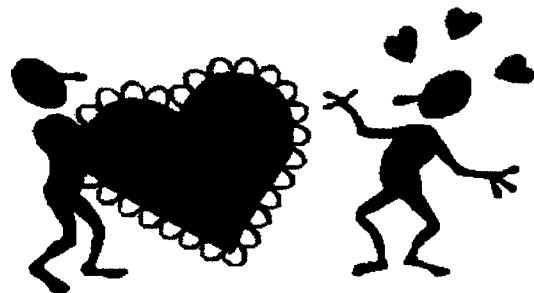
It's very nice to see **Percy Humphries** up and about after major knee surgery. From the way he is now 'dashing' around the village, we conclude the operation was a great success.

We'd like to welcome **Jackie Farrands** and **Peter Sherrock**, who have joined the Parish Council. They replace **Gwen Kempster** and **John Sansome** whom we would like to thank for their past work on our behalf.

Sorry to hear that **Cephus** had a nasty fall whilst shopping in Aylesbury. We hope he recovers quickly and will soon be seen working on his allotment.

We're sorry to hear that **Anne and Dickie Dicken** have been so ill and we're glad you're better now.

ROVERS WERE RED NOW RAV'S ARE BLUE



I'VE WASHED THEM ALL COS I LOVE YOU.

To the 1st man, happy valentines day, love the multiples, keep 'em coming, love J XXX

To the gorgeous, flipping, turning babe, you will be my valentine forever, from the cheeky chipmunk. XXX

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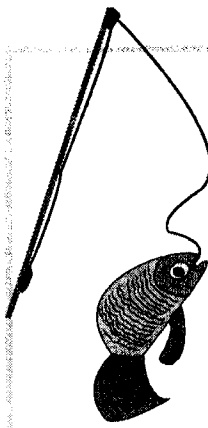
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In The Village

Postscript To 2002 - Newbury

Horse racing is undeniably pleasant in summer, but has never appealed to me in Winter, which is why I've always turned down Tony Hinds offer to go to the November meeting at Newbury.

However, after one particularly heavy session in the pub, I weakened; and at 7.35 am., on the last Saturday of November, found myself at the 'Bull' drinking a beer prior to boarding a coach to Newbury. That bus must have been declared a 'duty free zone' because no sooner were we underway than bottles of Port appeared, were opened and passed around (Why Port at that unearthly hour of the morning??). Of course, I declined such depravity but thoroughly enjoyed

the full English breakfast when we stopped at 'The Fox' at Chieveley.

More decadence as many of the 'die-hards' drank 'alcoholic beverages with their breakfasts—and far worse to come!! Not content to wait until we got onto the racecourse, a collective bet (on 'Marlborough' an absolute 'dead cert'.) of some £90.00 was telephoned through to Tony's bookmaker. Apparently, the 'bookie' was ever so grateful and didn't stop thanking Tony until he put the phone down!! More gambling for money as cards were produced, and still the 'drink' flowed. I have to say, that as an impartial bystander, I was shocked, and all too pleased when it was time to go

onto the racecourse.

As I might have guessed, when we got on the course it was very cold and threatening rain. Nonetheless, there were plenty of stalls selling hot drinks and food and once in the 'stand', it was largely dry and out of the wind.

The regular 'attendees' in our party continually consulted racing papers, and all had very firm views as to which horse just couldn't fail to win each race; they were equally knowledgeable at the end of each race as to precisely why they hadn't won. I was amazed by their knowledge but it was all a bit of a

(Continued on page 11)

Girls Happy Hour

Last year at a party someone suggested, perhaps only half seriously, the idea of starting a 6.30 club for the girls. It was only when later on in the year someone else suggested it too that I began to think that perhaps we should give it a try. For anyone who does not already know what the 6.30 club is, a group of about twenty chaps meet up for an hour or so on Saturday nights for a drink and a chat. It is open to anyone who wishes to join in, and you do not have to attend each week religiously. If you are new to the village it is a very good way of meeting people. Outings and activities are organised throughout the year, often involving both members and their partners. In theory it is open to ladies, in practice it seems to be men only, so why not have a "girls only" equivalent? After all, why should the men have all the fun!

Since women seem to have far more to do than men, (it's down tools and all jobs are abandoned by Phil at six pm on Saturdays here) a better time might be Seven pm onwards, staying for as little or as long as you like, the general idea being an hour or so. Unfortunately many of us work on weekday evenings or have other commitments and the most popular evening seems at present to be Tuesday. I apologise if this does not suit everyone, but that would be an impossible task. The idea is to have an initial get together to see how many people are interested in the first place. Attending every week would not be a requirement, just come whenever you can or want to. The idea is just to have a girls get together—whether it could develop in to more, such as occasional outings, would be open to debate. It would of course be open to anyone in the village as long as they are female! New residents would be especially welcome.

If anyone finds this of interest, the first session will be on Tuesday February 11th. at The Royal Oak from 7 to 8 ish.

If you are interested but cannot make this date or you have any other comments or suggestions then please contact me on 681544 or Jackie on 681182 so that we can keep you informed of any future meetings.

Hope to see you there!

~ Carol Spooner



RAY COATES

Ray Coates was a local lad who grew up, lived and worked around Aylesbury. He came to Aston Abbots in the 90s. He and Jackie soon settled into village life and were often present at village functions, usually helping or contributing. A founder member of the 'Four Fat Blokes' fete barbecue team and a staunch supporter of the 630 club, Ray's trademark deadpan expression coupled with a deliberately over-serious tone of voice was always belied by the wicked twinkle in his eyes.

Although Ray and Jackie moved to Portugal a year ago they retained strong ties with the village. Ray attended the 630 club just a week before Christmas. His sudden death in early January at the age of 55 came as a shock and caused great sadness to all who knew him. He had many friends in Aston Abbots. He will be missed and our sincere and heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Jackie.

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Letters To The Editor

Phil,

First of all let me wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous 2003. I would like to further dispel the rumour that I have had a heart attack—thankfully I am fit and well. I would like to thank everyone for their concern.

We will have closed our doors by the time you read this, our last function being Burns Night. I decided to close the restaurant on 31st January and although I have no firm plans what to do next, at this moment in time we have no plans to move. Thanks to everyone who has supported us over the 18 years we have been open. I would like also to thank the people who enjoyed the New Year celebration for leaving everything so tidy and taking down the decorations, as Brigitte is suspicious and we weren't here to do so by 6th January.

*Juan & Brigitte
The Old Masters*

Dear Phil,

A big "thank you" to Richard Clarke for kindly clearing all the rubbish left behind after the bonfire. Unfortunately it seems that every year the array of non-combustible debris seems to get worse. Many of the items discarded are a hazard to Recreation Ground users, especially children and pets. They are also an eyesore that must be particularly unpleasant for the residents of Bricstock. I echo Richard's plea to restrict the bonfire contents to appropriate materials only.

I would also like the Chronicle to pass on our continued thanks to Colin Higgs who we regularly see picking up litter from all around the village. If only some other people could be a little more considerate!

Before Christmas one of our dogs fell victim to a less thoughtful person who had discarded bottles on the pavement and kerbside near the Royal Oak. The resulting broken glass, which I failed to see one dark morning, sliced a large chunk from my dog's leg. The incident caused pain and distress to the dog and resulted in two vets appointments which cost almost £100. So my plea to those inclined to drop litter is to please spare a thought for innocent victims, like children, pets & wildlife (as well as Colin, who clears up after you!) and make the effort to find a bin.

*Liz Clarke
The Acorns*

Phil,

Good luck to Mike Wenble when he appears in Countdown (Chronicle, January). Let's hope he doesn't come up against a 100 letter anagram like the following:-

"In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life turns rotten" is an anagram of the following:-

"To be or not to be: that is the question, whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune."

And one for football supporters in Nash Farm:-

When the new stadium was built at Wembley in 1923 for the FA Cup Final it was fitting that the cup was won by West Ham United as their name is an anagram of "The New Stadium".

*No Fog Curfew
Fleas Okay*

Phil,

After a nostalgic visit to Aston Abbots I wanted to congratulate you and your contributors for an excellent and informative Chronicle.

*John Halsey
Over Kellet, LA6 1DG*

PS We are delighted to be known as the Halseys!

Thank you for your kind words, John. They are much appreciated.

Your letters are always welcome, whatever the subject. Write to us at the address on page 2, or email us if you would prefer.

Heathrow on our doorstep?

Just one day after the close of the public consultation period for Luton Airport's proposed new flightpath over Aylesbury Vale, the Airport announced it was looking to expand its runway facilities to accommodate 500,000 air traffic movements and 80 million passengers per annum (ppa). That's bigger than Heathrow with a 3rd runway! Luton currently handles 7 million passengers or 100,000 air traffic movements p.a.

Local politicians and community groups, including PAVAN (Protect Aylesbury Vale Against Noise) are furious – and not only at the projected increase in traffic, but in the way the airport announced their plans.

During the consultation for the proposed flightpath, PAVAN warned residents that Luton could expand to 30 million ppa, as published in their own Development Brief. Luton rubbishes PAVAN's figures, saying that it would be far too expensive and an engineering nightmare to try and expand that much and that we were scaremongering. Obviously we weren't scaremongering enough.

But to release the plans when consultees had considered the new flightpath on previous figures, and after the Government had closed the consultation period for airport expansion in the south east of England in general, is cynical, sneaky, and downright dishonest.

Luton's plans affect more than Aylesbury Vale, and PAVAN is joining with other amenity groups and elected authorities to fight the airport.

For more information, please contact PAVAN at Rachel@pavan.me.uk, or call 01525 240950.

In the meantime, we must not lose sight of the flightpath issue. PAVAN and other consultees – that includes area parish councils – are awaiting answers to questions posed to Luton during the process. Then there will be a series of Open Meetings in the Vale prior to Luton allowing consultees another chance to comment. Then Luton will submit a formal application to the Directorate of Airspace Policy (a division of the Civil Aviation Authority) some time in the spring.

Luton hope to be flying the new flightpath in the spring and to commence building work on the new runways as soon as they can get planning permission. PAVAN has other ideas.

*Submitted by Rachel Webb
PAVAN
01525 240950
Rachel@pavan.me.uk*

S. J. LEE

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New Years Eve Party At The Old Masters

My abiding memory of the first time we celebrated New Year at the Old Masters, was that of having a great meal followed by champagne and at midnight, having to eat a grape each time the church clock chimed; apparently an old 'Spanish custom'. I've quite deliberately never repeated the experience, since by the following morning all those grapes had given me a dreadful hangover.

By Christmas 02, it was clear that plans were being hatched for New Year to again be spent at The Old Masters. However, since Juan and Bridgett would be celebrating the occasion in Spain, there seemed to be little danger of having to repeat the 'thing with the grapes' and subsequent risk of 'grape poisoning'.

The Old Masters proved to be a wonderful venue for this year's event, particularly after 'The Team' (both John's, Dee, Anne, Alison, Dave, Lol, Clare, Francesca & Bob) had added their decorations and 'loaded' buffet table to the restaurant.

By ten o'clock all seventy five or so 'guests' had arrived and judging from the number of people dancing and the general 'hubbub' were clearly enjoying themselves.

Thanks to the extra large TV screen, glasses were raised and toasts drunk at the precise time, followed by an immediate rush to be the first to wish friends a Happy New Year.

Very many thanks to all who made this a truly great occasion; not least of all Juan and Bridgett at The Old Masters.



The picture above shows Sheila and Percy Humphreys, and that below is John Brancker and Neil Chesher.

Pictures by Ivan Greenaway



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Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 15th January 2003

Present

T.Manning (Chairman), R.Clarke, M.Kent, J.Farrands and Mrs K.Curry (Clerk). Two members of the public attended.

Apologies were received from Peter Shorrocks, County Cllr Brenda Jennings, and District Cllr Peter Cooper.

Jackie Farrands was co-opted onto the Council and welcomed by the Chairman.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed. Matters Arising included the news that the burnt out shed outside the entrance to Badgers Oak Farm is still there. There was some discussion regarding the use of the 'Recreation Ground' fund held by the Parish Council.

County Council, District Council & Police Matters

P.C. Mac McCully was at the meeting and introduced himself. He said that Aston Abbotts has a very low crime rate, with no break-ins reported to the Police during the past six months, although there was some car crime just before Christmas. Richard Clarke offered a vote of thanks to P.C. McCully for the help he gave the village with the Fete last summer.

No one was present from either the District or County Councils.

Comments From The Floor

Local roads – drainage grips are still blocked on many routes, causing flooding during wet weather.

Dog fouling, particularly in Chapman's Alley and on the Recreation Ground, is still a problem.

Aston Abbotts Ladies Club

23rd Jan. 16 members were present. After a short business meeting, the Club decided against a theatre trip because of lack of interest, but would have a trip to Frosts Garden Centre at Woburn, followed by a lunch. Members would use their own cars for transport. Date to be arranged.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Mrs. Evans from Dunstable who gave us a talk about Dunstable from 1700 to 2000. She was very interesting and knew her subject well. She was thanked by Shirley Ford.

Tea was served and the raffle was won by Daphne Rogers,

~ Shirley Ford

(Continued from page 5)

mystery to me, so, not to show my ignorance I simply and quietly placed bets on horses with nice names..

More bottles of Port on the way home followed by a very nice curry at the 'Bull'.

All in all, a very pleasant though rather long day. I have to say though, winning so much money just didn't seem morally right so I donated it all to my favourite charity.

Thanks Tony – lets do it again some time.

PS. That nice horse 'Marlborough' allowed Tony's bookie to keep the £90.00



Footpaths outside The Birches and the Old Chapel have not been repaired, and there is a hole in the road outside 16, The Green.

To Set The Parish Precept For 2003 - 2004

The revised budget prepared by the Clerk was discussed and the Council RESOLVED to set a precept for 2003 – 2004 of £4700. This represents a rise of approximately 5%.

Planning

02/03274/APP Badgers Oak Farm, Cublington Road. Change of use of barns to stables (retrospective). Resolved to make no comment on this application.

02/03275/APP Badgers Oak Farm, Cublington Road. Creation of manege (retrospective). Resolved to make no comment on this application.

02/03297/APP 4, Church Row, Aston Abbotts. First floor side extension. Resolved to make no comment on this application.

Recreation Ground

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

The next meeting of Aston Abbotts Parish Council will be on Wednesday 26th February 2003 at 8 pm in the Church Room. Everyone is welcome to come along.

~ Kate Curry, Parish Clerk

Two TV aerials meet on a roof - fall in love - get married. The ceremony was rubbish but the reception was brilliant

A man walked into the doctors and said "I've hurt my arm in several places". The doctor said "Well don't go there any more"

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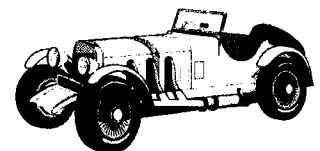
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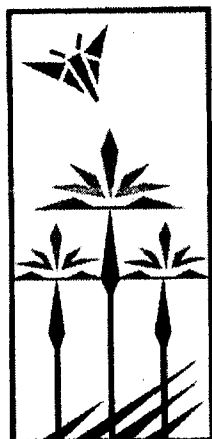
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630 Christmas Party

I don't know why we continue to call it a Christmas Party when it's deliberately held in the middle of January; intended as a 'Rather Dreary Time Of The Year Party' (Perhaps 'Christmas Party' trips off the tongue more readily!). Anyway, on the 11th Jan., members decorated the function room at the 'Bull' with lights still warm from having been removed from Christmas trees, compromising pictures of previous parties (Courtesy of our Ed.), candles and other table decorations and enough crackers and party poppers to make Saddam think twice about attacking.

A 'Most Outrageous Bow Tie' competition organised by 'Wilkie' was a great success with the majority of members wearing pretty innovative creations. The prize winner was Lol Hinds, although nobody; certainly the judges, realised just how 'outrageous' his entry was until he dropped his trousers. Well! The organiser had said there would be no rules!

A raffle raised over £150; with the highly sought after prize, a bottle of Bollinger, going to Geoff & April.

There followed a substantial buffet provided by Louise with additional 'puds' by April, Rita, Carol and Vanessa.

Of course, nothing could have prevented 'Chesh' writing, a '630 song' taking the 'mickey' out of members. We knew he would, so by way of 'gentle retribution', a poem suggesting several reasons why he always turns up late on a Saturday night was written and read by 'yours truly'.

Despite having only been discharged from hospital that afternoon, Tony Hinds ensured we played 'Silly games' until it was time to 'dance the night away' to Lol's disco.

Everyone seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the evening so many thanks to Frank, Louise, Rob and Wendy for looking after us so well. Also to all who helped set up and clear away the following morning.



Geoff Curnow with his highly imaginative bow tie.

In the picture below you can see the three bow tie competition finalists—from left to right Peter Shorrock, Lol Hinds (Neil Cheshier judging) and Andy Bystra.

Words by Andy Bystra—pictures by Ed.



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Chesh's 630 Christmas Party Song—and Andy's Reply!

An Aston Abbotts party wouldn't be complete without one of Neil Cheshier's songs—and this years 630 Christmas party was no exception.

This time he came up with this little ditty sung to the tune of 'The Quartermaster's Stores'.

However, Andy Bystra felt that, as Neil was forever taking the mickey out of the rest of us, some kind of response was in order. His poem in response is reproduced on the right

To the tune of 'The Quartermaster's Stores'....

Chorus

Now the 6.30 Club is the place to be
Where Frank gives away beer for free

Let's go to the Pub
To the 6.30 Club

Now the Beer, Beer
Sometimes it is queer
In the pub, in the pub
Now the Beer, Beer
It's too bloody dear
In the Bull and Butcher pub

There was Wilk, Wilk
Bow ties made of silk
In the club, in the club
There was Wilk, Wilk
Pretending Beer is milk
In the 6.30 club

Chorus

And old Spooner, Spooner
Wished he'd joined it sooner
In the club, in the club
Spooner, Spooner
He ain't no sort of Crooner
At the 6.30 Club

Then there's Aidi, Aidi
Tried to smuggle in a lady
To the Club, to the club
Aidi, Aidi
Like his father, very shady
In the 6.30 club, The 6.30 Club

Chorus

Of course there's Andy, Andy
Thinks he's bloody handy
In the club, in the club
Yes Andy, Andy
Only comes here for a shandy
To the 6.30 Club

Chorus

So here is Bob, Bob
He's always on the job
Before the club, and after club
Yes it's Bob, Bob
The only Rhyme is Nob
At the 6.30 Club

Then there's me, me,
But I'm really 6.50
It's my club, it's my club
Yes its me,me
The one and only 6.50
At the 6.3.0 club

Chorus Twice to finish

Well! Thank you Chesh, that song was great
Though we didn't expect anything second rate
And we all would have thought; - Hey what's amiss!
If you hadn't contrived to take the piss.

My challenge to you most certainly lit
Your rhythmical style and razor like wit
Like a hungry old trout; you rose to the bait
And a disrespectful ditty; just could not wait

Our six thirty club is a growing band
We've even got our own 'brief', here, on hand
So don't you upset us or make us 'blue'
We might have to instruct him, you to sue.

But tell us 'matey' - and tell us true
Have any of us offended you?
For you never arrive here, before six fifty
Are you that tight!!; or plain, bloody thrifty?

Some of us think we know the reason
Convinced it's not just downright, treason
Could be your age? - do you need more rest?
Or just can't quite come;- to depart a warm 'nest'?

One school of thought, with a sense of derision
Felt you may have a dose of terminal indecision,
And cannot quite choose; or don't even dare
Pick that yellow bow tie, you're just dying wear.

Guesses, and theorems; many were posed
But now we all know; - and the matter is closed
The facts are before us and we have to be fair
It takes twenty minutes to comb all your hair!

The World's Easiest Quiz

Inspired by a newspaper quiz, Peter Shorrock has compiled "The World's Easiest Quiz". He says that passing requires 10 marks, but I think you should all get at least 16!!

1. How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
2. Which country makes Panama hats?
3. From what animal do we get catgut?
4. In what month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
5. Of what is a camel's hair brush made?
6. After what animal are the Canary Islands named?
7. What was the first name of King George VI?
8. What colour is a purple finch?
9. From where do Chinese gooseberries originate?
10. How many are there in a baker's dozen?
11. What sort of animal is a Bombay duck?
12. What colour is a Rhode Island Red?
13. In what month are Oxford University May balls held?
14. What sort of animal is a slow-worm?
15. How many towns comprise the Five Towns about which Arnold Bennett wrote?

16. What sort of geographical form is the Isle of Dogs?
17. What colour is hunting pink?
18. What colour is red tape?
19. What is Adam's ale?
20. From where did Stilton cheese originally come?

All done? Then check your answers on page 19

~ Peter Shorrock

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SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2003

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Tel/Fax: 01296 681436

Headteacher: Mrs S. Leggett BEd (Hons)



What an exciting Autumn Term at the School! Thank you to everyone for welcoming me into the life of the community and supporting me in my first term as Headteacher. As the term draws to an end I thought I would share with you some of the highlights and tell you about some of the future developments. This is not a complete list by any means as the staff and children have been extremely busy.

Our ICT suite has now been finished. We have 15 flat-screened P.C.s for children (one between 2) and a teacher tutor computer so that the teacher can access the screens of the children's computers. All 16 machines are networked and linked with the internet. At the same time as completing the suite, we decided that we would have all our classrooms cabled so that children could access the internet from their classrooms as well. There is internet access in the library too so that children can research information effectively, greatly enhancing the teaching of all subjects. We have also gained a portable interactive white board and projector so that this can be used by classes during the daily lessons. We are committed to providing our pupils with an education that prepares them for the technological society of the future.

Literacy and Numeracy

During this term we have been receiving 'focus' support for both literacy and numeracy from the authority. This has been very stimulating for teachers and children - the consultants have been sharing their expertise, working alongside teachers and pupils in the classrooms and providing professional development for teachers during staff meetings and training sessions.

Creative Arts

Whilst we have been focusing on the three Rs we have not let the creative arts diminish. Just before Christmas the curriculum was enhanced by music workshops led by Theatre in the Village Company - Silk & Steel. Class 5 joined with other schools at Brookmead School for a 'Festive Come and Sing' morning and the whole school participated in a B.T workshop which developed speaking and listening skills.

Our infant department treated us to 'The Best Gift of All' which was a fantastic performance and the Junior School hosted a super evening of Christmas Celebrations.

Sport

Each week the school offers a varied programme of sporting activities - netball, football, country dancing and short tennis. In the Spring term there will also be cross-country practices. We have just received sponsorship from Perkins for a new football strip which is great news.

Links with the Community and Church

We have taken part in the Wingrave Village Appraisal with children producing information leaflets about their likes and dislikes of living or coming to school in Wingrave - skate parks are very popular!

The whole school attended Wingrave Church for our Harvest

Festival Celebration. This year we took the theme of the 'Good in the world'. The church was beautifully decorated with the children's prayers and thoughts. Children also took part in the Christingle Service on the 15th December.

My thanks go to Siv Tunnicliffe for organising these events and for supporting teachers in the delivery of the Religious Education Curriculum. Siv has worked with year 6 children looking at Religion in the community focusing on what it means to be religious, prayer and worship. She has also worked with year 4 children on 'Symbols in the Christian Faith'.

We continue to maintain and improve links with Wingrave Pre-school and Brightstart Nursery.

School Association

The dedicated School Association has organised numerous events this term including Parents' Disco, 2 children's discos, Bonfire & Fireworks Night, Christmas Bazaar. These events are great fun and raise a lot of money for school. Thank you to all the members of the P.T.A

Extra Curricular Activities

Alongside sporting activities the school offers a varied programme of other clubs to cater for all interests. We have a French, textiles, chess, computer, recorder and board games club. We are developing links with Aylesbury High School - specialist language college and hope to become one of their partner schools. The High School help us by providing resources to use in our French Club.

School Buildings

The exterior of the building has been receiving a face-lift - roof repairs, painting, new guttering and windows. In the Spring term we hope to begin redecorating areas inside the school.

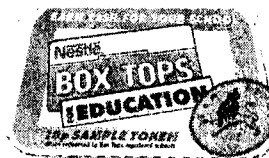
In the Spring term we hope to improve the environmental area by the car park and improve the Courtyard area by providing more seating, game activities and planting areas.

Plans for the future

We have plans to develop an outdoor learning environment for the Reception children in the area outside class R and class 1. We are hopeful that this work will begin in the summer term. We would like to purchase some large climbing apparatus so that older children could benefit from this facility too.

I hope this gives you a 'glimpse' of some of the aspects of a very busy school life. We do have a few vacancies in some of our year groups, so if you know of anyone moving into the area please encourage them to contact the school. May I wish you all the best for 2003.

~ Sandra Leggett. Headteacher



Help the school—see Schools Promotions on page 23

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**Saturday
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**Sunday
9.30am - 1pm.**

A Canadian Dream

Shirley Ford continues the story of the trip to Canada that she and Andrew undertook last year.

Sept 10th

Woken up about 6am. by the high pitch whistle of Elks wandering around the bungalows. However, we had to be up anyway and on the coach by 7.15 to travel to Jasper Railway station to board the Rocky Mountaineer train. The sunrise was beautiful and the mountains had halos of pink and orange clouds. We boarded at 7.30 and wow!! What luxury. Each carriage had seats for 48 people, pullout tables and comfortable armchairs. Our steward, Alex gave us an introductory talk as we pulled out of Jasper. He then served us breakfast; all the time telling us about the scenery we were passing through. His knowledge of the Rockies was amazing.

The train comprised seventeen carriages, and the last two were 'parlour carriages' where you could take photos. Alex always gave us five minutes warning of something worth photographing.

We were offered food and drink every two hours and saw the occasional black bear and osprey nests as we travelled along. Arriving at Kamloops at 5.00 we found coaches waiting to take us to our hotel. Kamloops is spread over several hills and designated as a city with a population of 78,000. The North and south Thompson rivers meet there.

At 6.00pm. 28 of us were picked up and taken to a local theatre called Forsters,

where tables had been set in the auditorium for an evening meal. We knew that we were to see a musical western based on the life of a real train robber named Billy miner who lived in Kamloops. The show lasted an hour after which we returned to the foyer and a delicious buffet. It was then early to bed because we had to be in the hotel lobby at 6.30 the next morning in readiness to board a coach to take us back to the Rocky Mountain train.

This time, coaches had been added (making 24 in all). Once settled, Alex served breakfast but we had to wait 20 minutes just outside Kamloops while a freight train of 100 wagons crossed the tracks ahead of us.

Alex was again a mine of information about the areas we were passing through, following maps and pointing out places of interest. The Rockies were beautiful, trees just beginning to change colour. Our two days on the train was an unforgettable experience. We pulled into Vancouver at 4.15. catching a coach to our hotel, the Rosedale, which was to be our base for the next four days. We were delighted with our suite which was eight floors up and comprised a sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom.

After an evening meal in the hotel, we found the hotel's laundrette, washed a few cloths and watched TV. Most of the programmes were devoted to the first anniversary of September the 11th Twin towers disaster.

Thurs 12th

Bit of a 'lie in' this morning, breakfast, then onto the coach which was to take us on a sight seeing tour of the city and Stanley park. We stopped at a farmer's market and bought cheese rolls, grapes and apples for lunch. I have never seen such huge peaches, tomatoes, grapes, blackberries and strawberries in my life. After lunch, we took a two hour guided tour in a 'trolley car', seeing different places to our morning tour. Vancouver is a beautiful city, with lovely parks, nice shops and restaurants and so much of interest to see.

Back to the hotel for a 'wash and brush up', then onto a coach at 5pm. for a trip through the city to see the Capilano suspension bridge which is 400 yards long and 250 feet high and bridges the Capilano valley. Most of our group walked across and back but I 'chickened out'! Then it was onto Grouse Mountain, some where we travelled by ski cable car to the top (some 5000 feet high) seeing two baby black bear in a large enclosure on the way.

From the top of the mountain, the countryside looked lovely. We enjoyed further panoramic views out of the windows of the restaurant on top of the mountain and a nice meal seeing the lights of Vancouver as it got dark. It was magical! We caught the 9.00 cable car back down, a ten minute ride back on the coach to the hotel; a lot of very tired people.

~ Shirley Ford

The Easiest Quiz—The Answers

8. Crimson
9. New Zealand (The Latin name is "Aotearoa" - it is also called the kiwi fruit)
10. Thirteen
11. A fish (it is a dried fish used in curry, usually the bummalo)
12. Brown (A kind of chicken)
13. June
14. A (legless) lizard
15. Six (Tunstall, Burslem, Hanley, Stoke, Longton & Fenton - now all part of Stoke on Trent)
16. A peninsula
17. Red
18. Pink
19. Water
20. Leicestershire (It was originally sold to travellers at a coaching inn in Stilton, which is in Cambridgeshire)
7. Albert (dog)
1. 116 years (1337 - 1453)
2. Ecuador (Nobody knows why they are called after Panama. Possibly they were first exported to Europe from there?)
3. Sheep or horses (The intestines of cats were never used. No-one knows the reason for prefix "cat". Possibly it was a joke based on the noise made when a stringed instrument was played by an inexperienced musician?)
4. November
5. Squirrel fur (Possibly camel hair was used originally)
6. Dogs (From the Roman "Canariae Insulae" - "Canariae" is derived from the Latin word "Canis", meaning a dog)
7. Albert

"I believe in looking reality straight in the eye... and denying it." ~ Garrison Keillor.

Beery Theory

One afternoon at the Cheers bar, Cliff Clavin was explaining the Buffalo Theory to his buddy Norm.

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this...A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first.

"This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the group keeps improving by regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells.

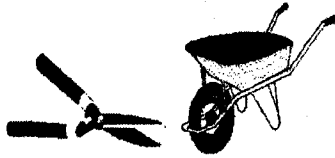
"Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. And that's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

Justification at last!!!

~ submitted by Dickie Dicken

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School Excuses

Here are some excuse notes from parents (including original spelling) collected by schools from the US.

1. My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.
2. Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
3. Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
4. Please excuse Gloria from Jim today. She is administrating.
5. Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
6. John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
7. Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
8. Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.
9. Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.
10. Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.
11. Please excuse Pedro from being absent yesterday. He had (diahre) (dyrea) (direathe) the... [words in ()'s were crossed out.]
12. Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.
13. Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.
14. Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
15. I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wear.
16. Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.
17. Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.
18. My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent a weekend with the Marines.
19. Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.
20. Please excuse Mary for being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps.
21. Gloria was absent yesterday as she was having a gangover.
22. Please excuse Burma, she has been sick and under the doctor.
23. Maryann was absent December 11-16, because she had a fever, sore throat, headache and upset stomach. Her sister was also sick, fever and sore throat, her brother had a low grade fever and ached all over. I wasn't the best either, sore throat and fever. There must be something going around, her father even got hot last night.
24. Please excuse little Jimmy for not being in school yesterday. His father is gone and I could not get him ready because I was in bed with the doctor.

Shipwrecked!

Ed finally decides to take a vacation. He books himself on a Caribbean cruise and proceeds to have the time of his life - until the boat sank. He found himself swept up on the shore of an island with no other people, no supplies...nothing... only bananas and coconuts.

After about four months, he is lying on the beach one day when the most gorgeous woman he has ever seen rows up to him. In disbelief, he asks her, "Where did you come from? How did you get here?"

"I rowed from the other side of the island," she says. "I landed here when my cruise ship sank."

"Amazing," he says. "You were really lucky to have a rowboat wash up with you."

"Oh, this?" replies the woman. "I made the rowboat out of raw material I found on the island. The oars were whittled from gum tree branches. I wove the bottom from palm branches. And the sides and stern came from a Eucalyptus tree."

"But, but, that's impossible," stutters Ed. "You had no tools or hardware. How did you manage?"

"Oh, that was no problem," replies the woman. "On the south side of the island, there is a very unusual strata of alluvial rock exposed. I found if I fired it to a certain temperature in my kiln, it melted into forgeable ductile iron. I used that for tools and used the tools to make the hardware." Ed is stunned. "Let's row over to my place," she says.

After a few minutes of rowing, she docks the boat at a small wharf. As Ed looks onto shore, he nearly falls out of the boat. Before him is a stone walk leading to an exquisite bungalow painted in blue and white. While the woman ties up the rowboat with an expertly woven hemp rope, he could only stare ahead, dumbstruck. As they walk into the house, she says casually, "It's not much, but I call it home. Sit down please. Would you like to have a drink?"

"No, no, thank you," he says, still dazed. "Can't take any more coconut juice." "It's not coconut juice," the woman replies. "How about a Pina Colada?"

Trying to hide his continued amazement, he accepts, and they sit down on her couch to talk. After they have exchanged their stories, the woman announces,

"I'm going to slip into something more comfortable. Would you like to take a shower and shave? There is a razor upstairs in the cabinet in the bathroom."

No longer questioning anything, Ed goes into the bathroom. There, in the cabinet, is a razor made from a bone handle. Two shells honed to a hollow ground edge are fastened on to its end inside of a swivel mechanism. "Wow! This woman is amazing!" he muses, "What next?"

When he returns, she greets him wearing nothing but vines-strategically positioned-and smelling faintly of gardenias. She beckons for him to sit down next to her. "Tell me," she begins suggestively, slithering closer to him, "We've been out here for a really long time. You've been lonely. There's something I'm sure you really feel like doing right now, something you've been longing for all these months. You know..." She stares into his eyes.

He can't believe what he's hearing: "You mean..." he swallows excitedly, "You mean... I can check my email?!"

~ Submitted by Adam Shorrock

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Rectors Report

For several years the people in Aston Abbots have been talking about resurfacing the church path. One of the major problems is that the edges of the path have collapsed, and we need to find some form of edging that will conceal the gradient of the grass bank. Ideally it should be something that is very low cost and also low maintenance.

Last year there was a scheme put forward to utilise some of the old grave stones to make an attractive path, together with some concrete slabs. Sadly this idea proved rather expensive, although we haven't quite given up on it yet.

The main path at Cublington Church was laid about fifteen years ago with modern paving bricks. These have bedded in quite well, and we are at the stage of trimming back the grass that seems to want to invade and cover them.

In Wingrave, the Church paths were laid by the Victorians with very heavy york stone slabs. It was a great sadness to discover one morning that about half of the slabs on one path had been stolen.

We hope that the temporary path will be satisfactory for the time being.

Having the stones stolen does make the mind focus. "What is so important about a path, anyway"? One of the important features of a path is that it makes you want to walk along it. It offers an invitation to find out what it is at the other end.

The Church path says something about the journey of life. For it is the path that we travel to our Baptism. It is the path we walk on our Wedding Day, and it is the path along which we travel on our final journey. (Or is that just being sentimental?).

The path provides a link between where we are and where we are going. There is a danger that we spend so much time and energy being where we are and trying to enjoy and make sense of what we are doing, that we forget that we are supposed to be moving on along the pathway of life.

Maybe it is not such a bad thing to stop and think about that path and where it is leading us.

~ Bob Wilmott

Schools Promotions

Wingrave School continues to benefit from various promotions schemes, for example Tesco's Computers for Schools, Nestle's Box Tops for Education, Persil's Get Creative, Leighton Buzzard Observer Target Stamps etc and one which has recently commenced, Walkers' Free Books for Schools. This is the 5th year that The Sun, News of the World and Walkers have joined forces to give schools a chance to collect tokens in exchange for free books. Last year Wingrave collected 4,500 tokens and received 26 books, making a total of 160 books over the past four years.

Tokens are already appearing in The Sun and News of the World and will start appearing shortly on Walkers crisps and snacks. Plus look out for tokens on special packs of Quavers, Monster Munch, French Fries, Squares, Footballs, 3Ds and Wotsits from March for a limited period. The collection period is from now until the end of June.

Under the Nestle scheme 20 bonus tokens were recently earned (during a special banking period) bringing our current total to 320 (giving the school £32 cash), which is already more than our grand total last year. There are still two months to collect under this scheme and tokens from any of the above schemes

Ode To A Chip Van

Aston Abbots doesn't have a monopoly on village poets. The poem below is reproduced, with permission, from the January Cublington Crier.

For those who don't know the story: Singer Tony Reese—star of the Aston Abbots cabaret and Astonbury and a welcome friend here in Aston Abbots—made a brief career diversion into the takeaway food business. Unfortunately, it didn't work out as planned and his large blue and white mobile restaurant spent the last year parked outside his house in Cublington.

Now read on...

It started one November day
At the bottom end of Ridings Way
The tow truck came and took away
A 'landmark', so the locals say
And now all you will ever see,
is the spot where the chip van used to be

Some folk clapped and cheered and partied
"At last" they said, "it has departed"
But life's not the same for you and me
Now there's just oil where the chip van used to be

The smell of haddock has dispensed
Joe Missen, they say, is much less tense
Not a picked egg or a mushy pea
On the spot where the chip van used to be

Jan loved that van, and Gillian too
The chip van on one side, on the other, the view
The view will remain, that forever they'll see
But on the road side, a void, where the van used to be

It was easy to find folk while it was there
"Straight on at the chip van", they said, without care
But now when you want to find Valerie
"It's straight on, where the chip van used to

To me it was a friend, like a view, or a tree
Or a picture that hangs in the lavatory
But no more that friend will ever I see
Just the place where the chip van used to be

We said farewell to singer To-ny
Who took Sue afar to live in Stewkley
They would have stayed, but couldn't bear to see
Their spot where the chip van used to be

So when passing strangers ask to see
A bit of local history
There's only one place (between you and me)
That's the spot where the chip van used to be

It's the end of an era, but don't be forlorn
We don't really miss things until they're gone
The chip van has gone; never again will we meet
But I hear there's a new takeaway in Silver Street.

~ Anon

that you, your friends or neighbours can donate to the school would once again be much appreciated. You can either pass them on to someone who attends school, use the collection boxes at school or in the Wingrave shop or give to me at No 1 Abbey Cottages, Moat Lane, Aston Abbots. Thank you for your continued support.

~ Sondra Dickason 682249 on behalf of Wingrave School

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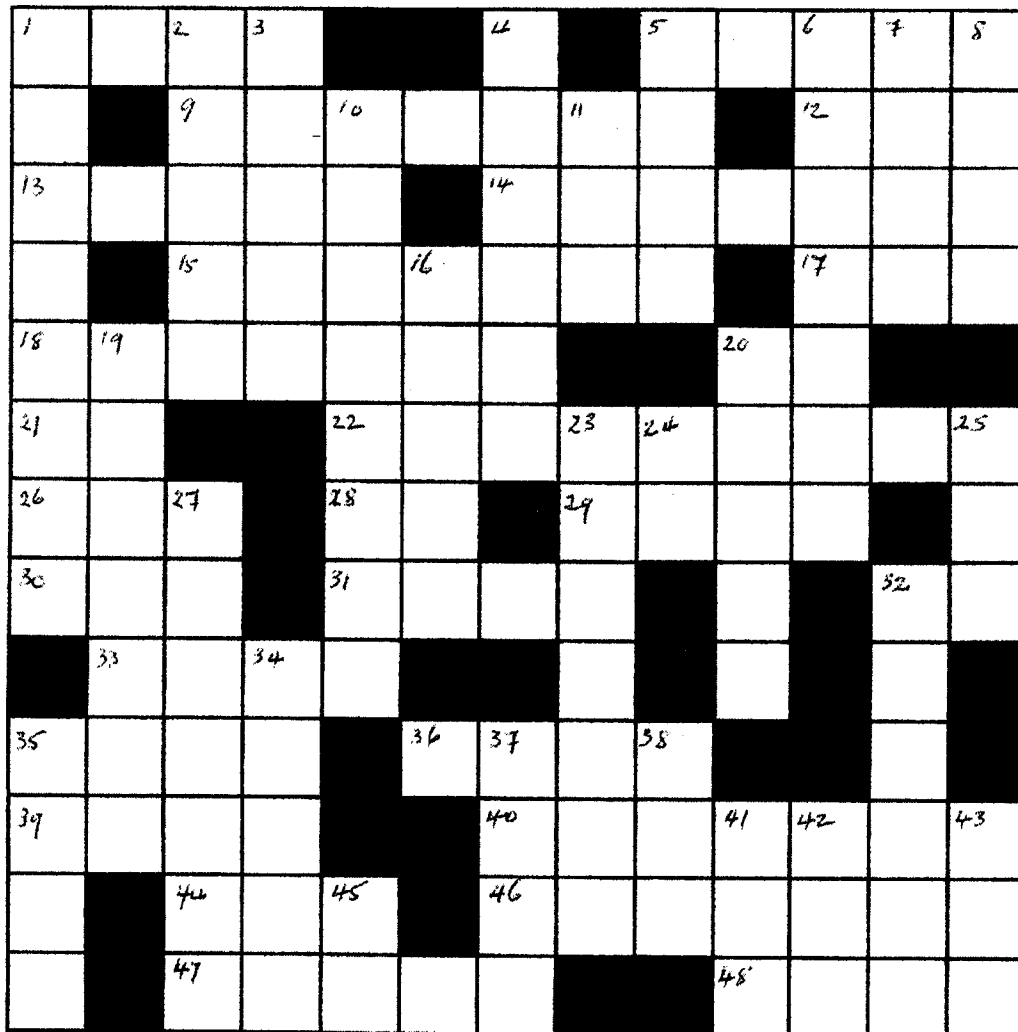
Aston Abbotts

For further information or a brochure call us on:

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The Chronicle Crossword

February 2003



ANSWERS TO JANUARY

ACROSS: 1 Luton. 5 Foreign. 11 Opus. 12 Elapse. 13 Compared. 16 Ilex. 17 Knurled. 18 Aces. 19 Leer. 20 Obese. 21 Duty. 23 Orion. 25 Luther. 28 Placate. 32 Tress. 33 Lana. 34 Err. 36 Erse. 37 Angst. 39 Red Sea. 41 Idles. 42 Apr. 43 Bye. 45 DSO. 46 Abyss. 48 Arrange.

DOWN: 1. Locked. 2 Upon. 3 Tumult. 4 Osprey. 5 Feed. 6 Old. 7 RA. 8 Epicentres. 9 Isles. 10 Geese. 14 Ale. 15 Reroute. 18 About. 20 Oil. 22 Uplands. 24 Arse. 26 Hereby. 27 Essays. 28 Plaids. 29 Anglo. 30 Case. 31 Errata. 35 Rep. 38 Tsar. 40 Drag. 44 Esk. 47 Be.

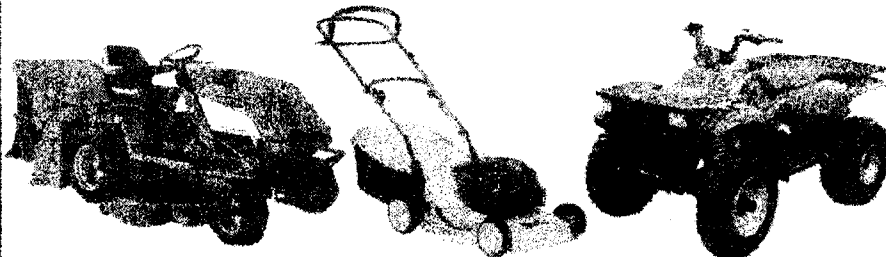
- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Across: 1. Cooking fat (4). | 28. -- gas (2) | 48. WEAN (an 4) | 20. Weird (5) |
| 5. Local town (5) | 29. Refers to air (prefix 4) | DOWN: 1. To free (8) | 23. Hobby (7) |
| 9. Culinary herb (7) | 30. Feed (3) | 2. Flowers (5) | 24. Common verb (2) |
| 12. Boy' name (3) | 31. Fish (4) | 3. Mass of snow (5) | 25. Affirmative (3) |
| 13. Bowl (5) | 32. -- & when (2) | 4. Tangos (6) | 27. Never ending (7) |
| 14. Sewing tools (7) | 33. Fool (4) | 5. Parts of foot (4) | 32. State without proof (6) |
| 15. Belongings (7) | 35. CARE (an 4) | 6. REAL LOG (an 7) | 34. Use again (5) |
| 17. ATE (an abbr. 3) | 36. Strip of potato (4) | 7. TEEM (an 4) | 35. So be it (4) |
| 18. Renew; replace ((7) | 39. Bill of fare (4) | 8. Concert party (4) | 37. On camel's back (4) |
| 20. For example (2) | 40. Referees (7) | 10. Compelled (8) | 38. Post script (3) |
| 21. Indefinite article (2) | 44. Donkey (3) | 11. Mesh (3) | 41. Investment (3 ab.) |
| 22. Soft fruit 9) | 46. Communication (7) | 16. Wipe out (5) | 42. Raced (3) |
| 26. Definite article (3) | 47. Relax effort (3&2) | 19. Improve (7) | 43. To stitch (3) |
| | | | 45. Small street (2) |

Compiled by Don Bellingham

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St James Church

Church Services

2 nd Feb	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Cublington	Family Service
	10.00 Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
9 th	08.45 Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00 Wingrave	People's Praise
	10.00 Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
16 th	10.00 Cublington	Family Service with Communion. Combined service for all three Parishes.
23 rd	08.45 Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Aston Abbots	Morning Service
2 nd Mar	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Cublington	Family Service
	11.15 Aston Abbots	Parish Communion

Please Note that there is no service at St James Church on Sunday 16th. There is instead a combined service at Cublington.

Church Sidesmen

2 nd	Mr A Ford
9 th	Mr J Hartnett
16 th	No service (combined service at Cublington)
23 rd	Mr G Kemp
2 nd March	Mr A Ford

Church Flowers

1st/2 nd	Mr I Belgrove
8 th /9 th	Mrs Loader
15 th /16 th	No service (combined service at Cublington)
22 nd /23 rd	Donated
1 st /2 nd March	Mr C Higgs

Sunday Readings

2 nd Feb	Presentation	Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40
9 th	4 before Lent	1 Corinthians 9.16-23; Mark 1.29-39
16 th	3 before Lent	1 Corinthians 9.14-17; Mark 1.40-45
23 rd	2 before Lent	Colossians 1.15-20; John 1.1-14
2 nd Mar	1 before Lent	2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9

From The Registers

Marriage

28th December Greg Panter & Liz Wesley at Wingrave

Funeral

13th January Peter Day at Amersham & Wingrave

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	Parish Clerk	Kate Curry	681137
Bingo	Doris Scutchings	681243	Parish Council Leader	Tom Manning	682455
Bull and Butcher	Frank & Louise McManus	681520	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Busses	Arriva	468730 or 423445	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Chronicle Advertising	Ivan Greenaway	682605	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Chronicle Editorial	Phil Spooner	681544	Rector	Reverend Bob Willmott	681623
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Church Room Redevelopment	Tom Manning	682455	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Room Hire	Doris Scutchings	681243	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
Coach Trips	Colin Higgs	681343	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Shop (Osborn's)	Bernard Osborn	681233
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	Toddlers Group	Claire Greswell	682949
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

- Thursday 6th** Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm.
Sunday 9th Rambling Club meet at Calverton. 2 pm.
Tuesday 11th Mobile Library at The Green, Wingrave Road and Oxley Farm.
Rambling Club Members AGM at 13 Moorlands, Wing. 8 pm.
Girls Happy Hour. The Royal Oak. 7 pm. All girls welcome. See page 5
Thursday 13th Bingo. Church Room. 7.30 pm.
Thursday 20th Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm.
Saturday 22nd Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm. In aid of Church Funds.
Sunday 23rd Village footpath Walk. Meet at The Green. 2 pm.
Tuesday 25th Mobile Library at The Green, Wingrave Road and Oxley Farm.
Floral Class. Church Room. 7 pm.
Wed 26th Parish Council Meeting. Church Room. 8 pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings.
Sun 2nd Mar Rambling Club members meet at Mursley. 2 pm.



Thursday evening Curry Nights will recommence at the **Bull & Butcher** on the 6th Feb. If sufficiently well supported, it is planned to introduce a regular Thai evening commencing in March. Please let Louise know if you are interested in coming along.

BOOK THESE DATES

PANCAKE COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 4th March
Church Room, 10.30—12 noon

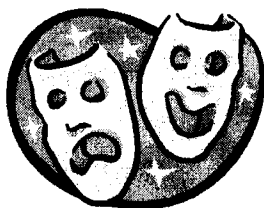
OPEN GARDENS DAY

Sunday 8th June
More details later

Festival Weekend and Fete
Sat/Sun/ 26th/ 27th
July

Murder Mystery Dinner

- Murder at the Manor
- Whodunit?
- 29th March at 7.30pm
- In the Community Centre
- Two course meal provided
- Tickets £10 from Village Shop or School
- Get a table together, watch the dénouement and play detectives from your seats!
- In support of Wingrave School Association



Classified

GUINEA PIG HUTCH ~ Length—3 ft; height—2 ft; depth—1 ft 3 in and **GUINEA PIG RUN** ~ length—4 ft (triangular end when up; folds flat; hardly used). £15 the pair. Phone Gordon Smith : 682373

DIRTY WINDOWS

There is a possibility of a new window cleaning and general maintenance service coming to Aston Abbots.

We are conducting a survey to calculate the interest for this service.

Please call 682126 and let us know your requirements...

... and watch this space for future developments.

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



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The Chronicle reveals all! You know what turns Dave on! But just who is this mystery woman trying to lead our Dave astray? Drawn irresistibly... like a moth to a flame... like a donkey to a carrot... like a 630 club member to a beer... poor Dave has eyes only for ~~two~~ one things... our Dave just cannot resist the lure of a miniature bottle of Baileys. He'll go anywhere... do anything for a ~~*~~ tippie!