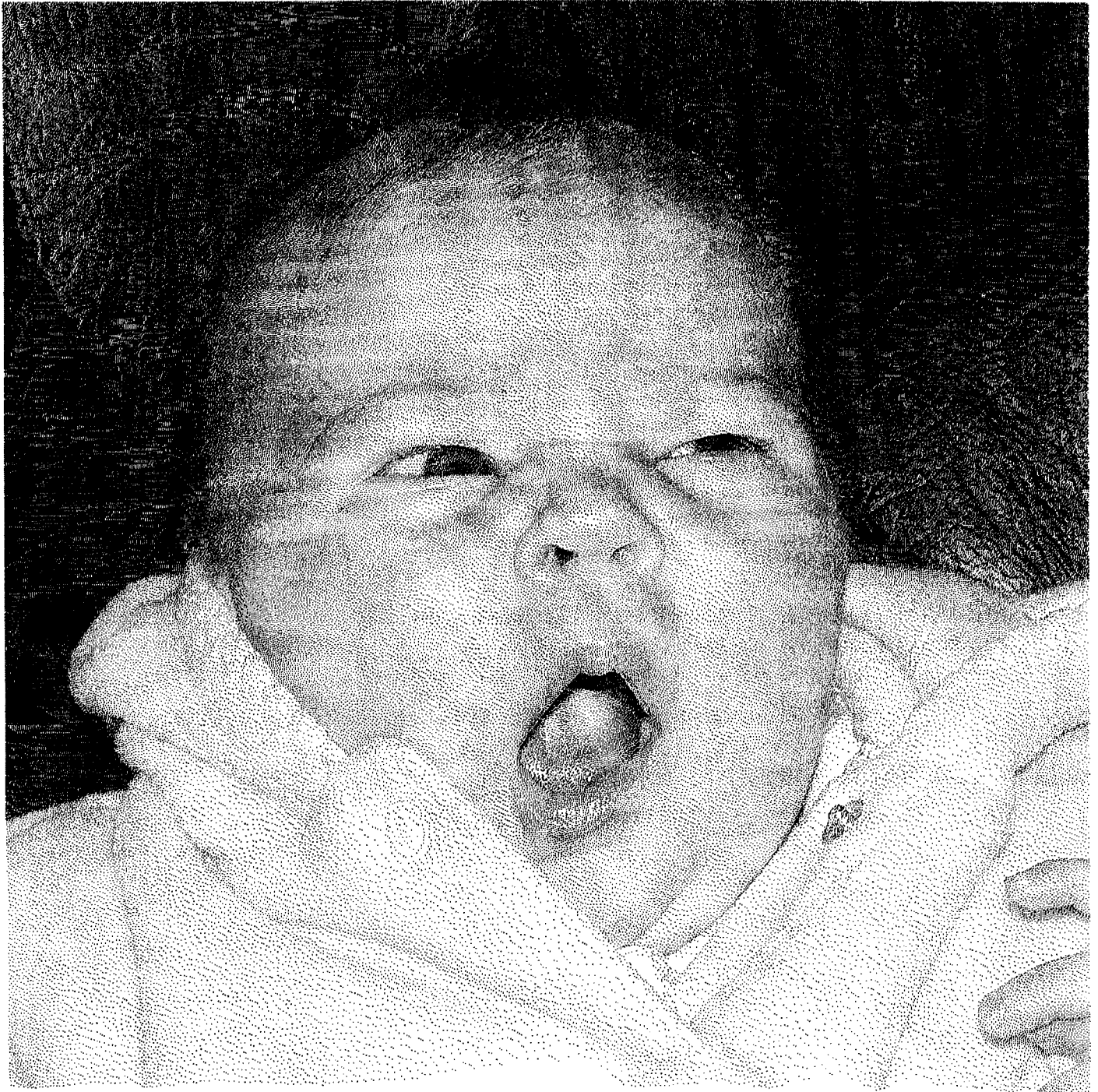


# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 223 ~ May 2003



***A HUGE YAWN AS OUR NEWEST READER LIBBIE  
JUDD SHOWS JUST WHAT SHE THINKS OF YOUR  
EDITOR'S LATEST WITTERINGS***

# Editorial

## Help Needed

In the early days of its publication The Chronicle tended to lurch from one financial pickle to another. Three things brought this fiscal insecurity to an end: support from the Parish Council, fund raising by villagers and the introduction of advertising.

These days our financial position is less insecure. Whilst not exactly rolling in money, The Chronicle's income is just about sufficient to meet the costs of publication and the financial position remains stable.

The bulk of the money now comes from two sources. The main income is from advertising, with the remainder coming from a share of the fete proceeds (not forgetting a few generous donations and the occasional fundraiser).

This year the Annual Parish Meeting voted that The Chronicle should receive 12.5% of the fete proceeds, for which we are truly grateful. This helps to ensure that we can maintain free distribution of our eleven issues a year. We are also grateful to our advertisers for their support. We now have some 40 advertisers and without them there would be no Chronicle.

Ivan Greenaway has looked after the advertising for the last five years and he has done a splendid job. Any business knows that selling your wares is essential, but collecting the cash is equally important. Ivan has been responsible for invoicing our advertisers, politely chasing those who forget to pay, passing the money on to our treasurer and dealing with queries from potential advertisers. Unfortunately heavy work commitments now force Ivan to relinquish these responsibilities, but we would like to extend our grateful thanks to Ivan for his sterling efforts on our behalf.

Of course this means that I am now seeking someone who would be prepared to give up a little time to look after the invoicing of our advertisers. This is an important job that not only helps the Chronicle, but also indirectly helps the village. Ideally the person doing this job should have access to a computer and printer, as this makes the issuing of invoices much quicker and simpler. There is no pay of course (apart from our gratitude), but postage and telephone expenses will be covered.

If you would like to consider helping us out in this way and wish to know more about what is involved, please contact me on 681544.

*Phil*

## ADVERTISING MANAGER

required to look after our advertisers. Details in the editorial above. If you would like to help please phone Phil on 681544.

*In This Issue*

*In your May Chronicle ~*

- Playtex Moonwalk
- Royal Oak Fun Day
- Friends Of St James
- G.N.O.M.E.S.
- Carol Vorderman's Bottom
- Parish Meeting Minutes

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

# THE CHRONICLE

## Issue 223

## May 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)...

...Can you afford not to be in?

~o~

Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 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 Abbots, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

# The Peoples Page



Mervyn King	2 <sup>nd</sup> May
Charlie Bystra	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Harry Bystra	9 <sup>th</sup>
<i>(One year old in 2003)</i>	
Hannah Brandon	12 <sup>th</sup>
Jeff Banister	17 <sup>th</sup>
Callum Hilton	21 <sup>st</sup>
Tom Manning	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Benjamin King	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Milani Drysdale	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Neil Chesher	26 <sup>th</sup>

## Thank You

Thank You to everyone who inquired and sent get well cards cards to Irene and Freddy Lowden at the Old Telephone Exchange. After a spell in Stoke Mandeville Hospital Freddy got home on Friday 26th April. He is making good progress and we hope he will be up and walking about soon.

Just a quick note to thank everyone in the village that has sent me get well messages, cards and flowers. I have been truly overwhelmed with these good wishes and offers of help. Fortunately with Anthony back from college and Nigel's training in housewifery progressing nicely I hope I will not have to take too many people up on their offers.

Thank you all very much,

~ Sally Palmer

## New Arrival

Congratulations to **Zoe Judd** upon the birth of her daughter **Elizabeth May**—to be known as **Libbie**—who was born on the 25th March weighing 7lb 8oz.

We think Libbie's smashing. You can see what she thinks of us on the front cover!

## Operation

We were concerned that **Sally Palmer** had to go into hospital suddenly for a major operation, but we are very pleased to see her up and around the village so soon afterwards. We wish you a speedy recovery Sally.

## Hospital

We are very sorry to hear that **Freddy Lowden** has been in hospital recently. We understand that he is now home and we send our best wishes for a quick recovery.

## Belated Birthday Greetings

A belated happy birthday wish to **Connor Thompson** for his birthday on the 13th April.

## Theft?

We understand police are investigating the disappearance of a crème brulée from the home of parish clerk **Kate Curry** during March. Our boys in blue were noticed taking plaster casts of tyre tracks left outside the house in an effort to identify the type of agricultural machinery or lawn mowing equipment used for the getaway.

## Erratum

In an item last month we referred to Percy Humphreys' sister as Sheila. It should have been Hilda. We apologise for this mistake.

**don't forget to tell us about your birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions and so on - so we can send you a greeting. contact details on page 2.**

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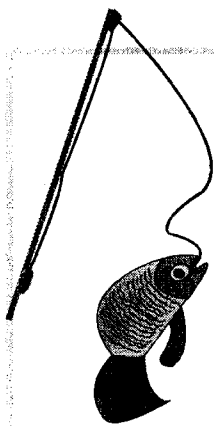
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# In The Village

## Rita's Coffee Morning

Dozens of villagers, young and old, turned out for Rita's coffee morning in aid of The Friends Of St James. Business was brisk and there was a late rush as thirsty litterblitzers turned up towards the end.

Clare Shorrock manned the bring and buy stall and sold just about everything that she could get her hands upon, leaving Rita and Andy scrabbling to nail down their precious possessions before bargain-hunters waltzed off with them.

Rita had put on a lovely spread of cakes and biscuits and I suspect quite a few people will have skipped lunch that day. However it was Andy Bystra's Lardycake that proved the most popular, with its combination of gastronomical gorgeousness and cholesterol calamity. Not only did people come back for more, but Andy also took around a dozen orders for Lardycakes to be delivered over Easter, thereby raising even more money.

The very successful morning and lardycake sales raised about £174 for our Church. Well done Rita.

~ Phil Spooner

## Playtex Moonwalk

will be taking part in the 2003 Playtex Moonwalk - the world's only power walking marathon that takes place at midnight, in London on May 10th 2003. This is no ordinary marathon...as we complete the marathon, quite appropriately in decorated bras. (Pictures available depending on how generous you are!)

The event is organised by and in aid of the health charity "Walk the Walk," which supports the fight against breast cancer by granting its funds raised to Breakthrough for Breast Cancer for research and the Bristol Cancer Help Centre - for cancer care.

I would be so grateful for any sponsorship or donations, however small, to this most worthy cause. If nothing else, spare a thought for me tramping the streets while you are all safely tucked up in bed.



If you would like any further information, please contact me on 681525, or call in at Horseshoe Cottage, Church Row. Thank you.

~ Helen Harbottle

Come on Aston Abbots, Helen will be grateful for any donations or sponsorship. If Helen is to do the Moonwalk in a bra she needs your support ~ Ed.

## Litterbilitz

Our annual litter blitz was a huge success with sixteen people joining in and collecting twenty two bags full and a car radiator, pet bed, old radio, tyres and catalogues. Many thanks to everyone who helped. DON'T DROP IT, BIN IT.

~ Colin Higgs

## Royal Oak Fun Day

Whatever it is - cancel it! Teri and Gary are hosting a charity day in aid of Cancer Research at The Royal Oak on that day—and you are invited to join in the fun



In the morning many girls from the pub will be participating in the 'Race For Life' to be held at Waddesdon Manor. Then it's back to the Oak where the fun begins in earnest. Everybody is hoping for fine weather to allow a barbecue outside. There will be a tug of war competition, bouncy castle, coconut shy, raffle, disco and band.

The Oak have already collected many prizes for the raffle (see page 11 for a list of some of them) and would love to receive more from kind locals and local companies. The more prizes that are donated, the more tickets sold, the more 'dosh' collected for children with Leukaemia and Cancer Research.

If you would like to help before the day then please pop into the pub to donate prizes, buy a raffle ticket or, if you really think you can hack it, why not put your name down for a tug of war team. There will be several teams (for girls as well) and entry is just a pound a time. It's all for a very good cause! Of course, you could also pop in and sponsor one of the girls in her Race For Life and help them raise even more.

The fun will begin at 3.30 on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>. Full details are on page 11. All of this is in aid of charity, so do come along and help raise money for Cancer Research – and have some FUN while doing it!

~ Phil Spooner

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life started with just 600 women taking part in Battersea Park in 1994. From these humble beginnings it has grown to become Cancer Research UK's biggest fundraising event. Since 1994 they have welcomed 590,000 women to 380 events across the UK - raising a massive £35 million for Cancer Research UK!

Sponsored by Tesco, Race for Life is celebrating its 10th birthday in 2003. To celebrate, they're aiming to bring 300,000 women together to raise £17.5 million for Cancer Research UK - so please join in and help everybody make the 10th anniversary the biggest and best yet!

## G.N.O.M.E.S

At the end of a long and tiring day,  
Some of us girls go out to play,  
Maybe there's time for a bubble bath soak,  
Then about 7.30 its off to the Oak,

We meet for a drink and a bit of a natter,  
Perhaps more of the former and less of the latter,  
(although this is debatable)

After an hour or two we depart for our homes,  
This motley selection of ladies called G.N.O.M.E.S!

Every Tuesday night, about 7.30 pm. at The Royal Oak, a varied group of ladies meet up. Everyone is welcome, be it old timer or newcomer, so come on, make your escape and become a G.N.O.M.E.!

~ Carol Spooner

## CHILTERN HILLS VINTAGE VEHICLE RALLY 2003

- SUNDAY, 18th MAY -

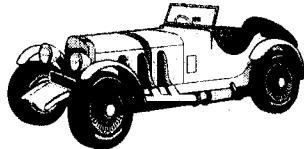
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## Fete 2003

**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2.00 PM**

We are now well underway with preparations for this year's fete. However, we still need additional help, in particular we need somebody for the coconut shy and also help with collecting items for the stalls the week prior to the fete. If you can help with either of these, please phone Jackie on 681182.

We also require large used yoghurt and cream cartons to cut up to make labels for the plant stall. If you can collect these, please would you pass them to Clare Shorrock at Oak Farm House.

The next fete meeting will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 8.00 pm in the Church Room.

~ Jackie Farrands

### Is Liz The Weakest Link?

Watch out for Liz Barlow of Nash's Farm, who is due to appear on BBC TV's The Weakest Link program on Monday May 12th. Is Liz the weakest link? You'll have to watch the program to find out.

### Where Are The Recycling Bins?

Because of the Bull and Butcher redevelopment the recycling bins had to be moved. They can now be found at the back of The Royal Oak's car park. Our thanks to Teri and Gary for allowing them to be kept there

### Refuse Freighter

The Village refuse freighter will be parked on The Green (where the mobile library stops) on Monday 12th May from 12 noon until 3 pm.

You can put household waste in the freighter, but hazardous or commercial waste, or building rubble, will not be accepted.

### Ladies Club

#### April 3<sup>rd</sup>

17 members were present at today's meeting in the Church Room. Apologies of absence were received followed by a short business meeting. Members settled down to enjoy an afternoon of competitions organised by Avril Bradley Davis – a fun afternoon. 1<sup>st</sup> prize was won by April Curnow and the 'booby' prize was won by Jean Biss.

Today's tea hostesses, Jutta Bowie and Daphne Bissel, served tea and biscuits and the raffle prize was won by June Loder.

#### April 17<sup>th</sup>

16 members attended today's Ladies Club meeting in the Church Room. Following apologies of absence were and a short business meeting, the Chairman introduced Mrs Evelyn Clark from Oving who had come to give us a talk and slides about Woburn Abbey where she is a guide and book restorer. It proved to be a very interesting talk and the accompanying slides beautiful. She was warmly thanked on behalf of the members by June Biss.

Tea hostesses today were Jean Biss and Jutta Bowie and the raffle prize was won by Ivy Brandon.

~ Shirley Ford

## Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 9th April 2003

Present: T.Manning (Chairman), R.Clarke, J.Farrands, M.Kent, P.Shorrock and Mrs K.Curry (Clerk). Three members of the public attended.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

### Matters Arising

- Speed Indicator Device (SID) – A number of volunteers have stepped forward to man the device as a result of the advert in the Chronicle. Peter Shorrock agreed to act as coordinator, and the Clerk will go ahead and book it for a week.
- The Post Office is conducting a survey to explore the viability of reopening a part time post office in Aston Abbotts.
- Further quotes are being sought for the repairs to the playground equipment.

### Clerk's Report

- The Clerk explained to the Council that the accounts for the years ending April 2000 and 2001 would now have to be fully audited due to an error on the part of the Audit Commission. This is unavoidable, and is likely to cost the Council around £200.
- The Council has been successful in its bid to host a 'Music in Quiet Places' concert this year. It will take place on May 24th.

### County & District Council, & Police Matters

- Peter Cooper (District Councillor) spoke about the introduction of Broadband Internet to the area.
- No-one was present from the County Council or Police.

### Comments From The Floor

- The new footpath in Wingrave Road is nearly finished, to the delight of local pedestrians.

### Planning

- 03/00709/APP Land Adj Longmoor Farm Cottage, Cublington Road – erection of stables. Resolved to make no comment on this application.

### Highways

- To consider quotations for trimming the trees on The Green. Resolved to accept the quote from Mr. Lambourne.
- Cublington Road has now had the litter cleared by AVDC. We will now ask whether the Weedon Road could also be done.

### Recreation Ground

- Safety check – children's play area: up to date.

### Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Aston Abbotts Parish Council will be on Wednesday 14th May 2003 at 8 pm in the Church Room.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG

~ Kate Curry, Parish Clerk

# S. J. LEE

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# Friends of St. James

## News

### About Us

The Friends Of St James is a group dedicated to raising money to support our church. All of the money raised will go directly to our church, to aid in its upkeep and its survival.

### Rita's Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everyone who came and spent at **Rita's Coffee Morning** which raised £144.50 – and special thanks to Andy Bystra who's magnificent **lardy cakes** raised an extra £30.

### Market Stall

We have booked a **market stall** in Aylesbury for Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> and are planning to sell a wide variety of goods such as gifts, cakes, preserves, garden produce, baskets of bulbs, herbs, dried flower arrangements, etc.. If you can help to stock or man our stall we will be grateful for any contributions – more of this nearer the time.

### So Far...

With the addition of former donations our new bank account has £844.50 in it, which means that work on the rewiring will be starting very soon. We have still to raise £1200 for this, not to mention other work which will need doing soon, so please continue supporting our efforts.

~ Clare Shorrock

## Music in Quiet Places Concert

We have two **concerts** planned to take place in the church. One will be given by the Wingrave Singers on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> but first we have been lucky enough to be chosen to host one of this year's "**Music in Quiet Places**" Concerts. This will take place on **Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>** and will be given by "Aquarius", a chamber group consisting of flute, viola, 'cello and harp led by Robert Secret.

The concert itself starts at 7.30 but will be preceded by a **free Historical Village Walk**, starting at 6.00 from the Church entrance conducted by Colin Higgs and taking in the grounds of the Abbey amongst other better known sights.

Tickets for the concert cost £6.50 for adults, £3.50 for concessions and £2.50 for children under 16 and Passport to Leisure holders. These concerts are sponsored by AVDC who donate 20% of the takings to us.

During the interval a **buffet supper with a glass of wine** will be served in the Church Room at an additional cost of £2 – all of which will benefit the Church. If you would be willing to help with preparing the food or could help to serve it please contact Clare Shorrock.

Tickets for the concert and the meal are also available from Clare Shorrock on 681260. Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of St. James".

# 100 Club



Leaflets are now being distributed about our **100 Club** so if you want to take part in the monthly draw with the possibility of winning **£65** (provided 100 people take part) just fill in the form and write out a cheque for £15 (for 12 monthly entries) payable to "Friends of St. James". If you have no form or more than one person in the house wants to take part then use the form below and return it to Colin Higgs. The first draw will take place on the first Sunday in June. Winners names will be printed in The Chronicle.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. NO: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

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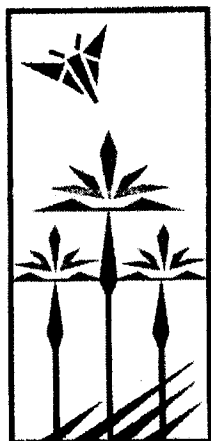
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# Aston Abbotts Parish Meeting 2003

The annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd April in the Church Room at 8 pm.

Present: Chairman of the Parish Council (Tom Manning), Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting (Kate Curry), Peter Cooper (District Councillor), and 17 parishioners.

## Minute 1

Apologies were received from PC Print and County Councillor Brenda Jennings.

## Minute 2

Minutes of previous meeting were approved by the Meeting, and signed by the Chairman.

## Minute 3

Matters arising – none.

## Minute 4—Police and Neighbourhood Watch.=

No one was present to report to the meeting. Colin Higgs commented that cars are being parked in the bus stop outside the Bull and Butcher.

## Minute 5—District Council

Peter Cooper made the following comments:

- There is to be a District Council Election on May 1st. Mr. Cooper said he hoped everybody would use their vote.
- He expressed dismay that the Police Station at Wing now seems only to operate on a part time basis. Calls to the Police are now channelled through an Information Centre at Kidlington.
- Luton Airport – the latest information is that the second runway planned for Luton will probably now not go ahead. This is, however, a separate issue from the 'Flightpath' one.
- The District Council has a 'Vision for Aylesbury'. They want to stop it being a 'dormitory' town by bringing industry into the area along with the planned Major Development Areas. The town centre will also be redeveloped soon.
- Local transport system – the A418 is to be upgraded and rail links improved. Aylesbury may also have its own 'Park and Ride' scheme introduced.

## Minute 6—Church Room

Tom Manning told the meeting that progress has continued to be slow due to legal problems. He said that the planning permission for the improvements will expire on November 9th 2004, and new legislation regarding disabled access to halls will be in place by October 1st 2004 (this legislation would mean the Church would be unable to continue to let the Church Room). Tom thanked Peter Shorrocks for all the legal work he has done so far, and this was unanimously endorsed.

Peter Shorrocks said that the good news is that the Trustees have now been registered at the Charity Commission – however, there are still complicated legal procedures to be dealt with, which could foreseeably result in costs up to £3000.

Liz Barlow commented that it was sad that the village has just lost both the Old Masters Restaurant and the Bull and Butcher Pub. It would be a great pity to lose the Church Room as well.

## Minute 7—The Chronicle.

Phil Spooner said that the circulation remains static at about

200 issues, and costs have been covered this year. Two thirds of the income is from advertising, with the remainder coming from the Fete. Advertising is healthy at present and the cash flow is good. He proposed a vote of thanks to Ivan Greenaway, who is stepping down as advertising manager after 5 years. A replacement for Ivan is now being sought. Thanks were also offered to Andy Bystra (distribution), John Whyte (bank account) and everyone else who helps with or contributes to The Chronicle.

Phil asked the meeting to approve the Chronicle retaining its share of the Fete proceeds, as it is such an important part of the village. The Chronicle will celebrate its 20th Anniversary next September.

Tom Manning offered a vote of thanks to Phil Spooner for all his hard work, which was carried unanimously.

## Minute 8—Fete 2002

Gordon Smith reported that the Fete made a profit of £2567 last year. It was a most enjoyable day, for which special thanks must go to the organiser, Barbara Bellingham. Barbara has stepped down as organised this year, and the meeting welcomed Jackie Farrands as new organiser for this year's Fete, which will take place on 26th July.

Votes of thanks were given to Shirley Ford and Pam Hewitt, who have also stood down from the committee after many years of service.

## Minute 9—Fete 2003

After some discussion, it was agreed to distribute the proceeds as follows:

- a) Church - 35%
- b) Church Room Restoration Fund - 50%
- c) Chronicle - 12.5%
- d) Toddlers - 2.5%

## Minute 10—Recreation Ground Account

Tom Manning told the meeting there is around £3500 in this account, which is held by the Parish Council, but was originally raised by people in the village. The Parish Council is seeking a mandate from the village to use the money for essential maintenance and repairs to the children's play equipment on the Recreation Ground. This was unanimously agreed.

Richard Clarke proposed that some of the money raised at the Fete be allocated to the Recreation Ground Account. After some discussion the meeting agreed to reinstate this contribution next year.

## Minute 11—Litterblitz

Tom Manning said that this year's Litterblitz has been organised for Saturday April 10th, and urged people to turn up and help.

## Minute 12—A.O.B.

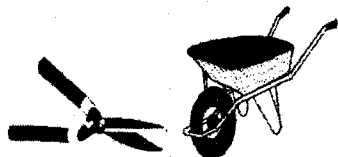
1. The recycling bins, which were outside the Bull and Butcher, are now in the car park of the Royal Oak.
2. Liz Barlow asked whether the Recycling collection could happen weekly instead of fortnightly.
3. The Chairman proposed votes of thanks to Peter Knight for mowing The Green, The 'Merry Mowers' for mowing the Churchyard and Colin Higgs for generally keeping the village neat and tidy. These were unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

~ Kate Curry, Parish Clerk

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## Carol Vorderman's Bottom

As threatened a couple of months ago, here is the inside story on life in the *Countdown* studio. My intention to build the suspense by not revealing how I got on has been thwarted by the vagaries of the Chronicle publishing deadline. By the time you read this, either you will have seen my appearances and therefore know how I did, or you've missed them and probably don't care anyway. (For the record, I won two games, and lost the third on a tie-break).

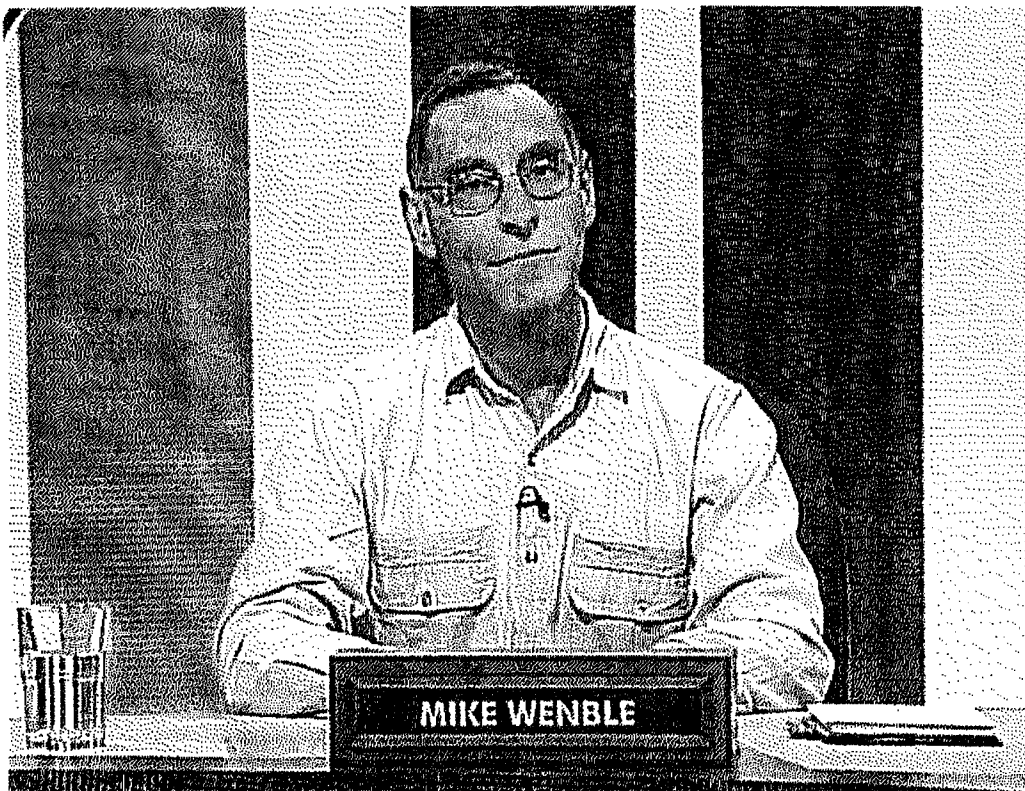
Five programmes are recorded in a day, and so I arrive at the YTV studios in Leeds at 12:30, as instructed. Jill was with me in her role as chief supporter. A couple of minutes later, while we are waiting in reception to be collected, Richard Samson of Dictionary Corner walks in. Jill's day is made; she thinks he's gorgeous.

We are taken to the Green Room, where the incumbent champion and two other challengers are already waiting. My first appearance is scheduled to be the third recording of the day – the Wednesday show – so I have time to assess how well my potential opponents are handling their nerves and to decide which of them I don't want to face.

I had been told to take several changes of clothing, so as to maintain the appearance that the shows are recorded on consecutive days. These are checked for acceptability – no stripes or checks allowed – then it's down to make-up. Carol Vorderman and the guest of the week, Lesley Graham, are already there. Carol is very pretty, and more petite in real life than she seems on TV. (She's got a big bottom and wears too much make-up – JW). After a light dusting, it's back to the Green Room. As I make my way back, a portly gentleman is ambling down the corridor towards me. It is Richard Whiteley himself. I introduce myself to him, and he asks me if I am feeling nervous. I tell him that I'm not, which is quite true – the whole experience is already beginning to have a slightly surreal, out-of-body feel, and after all the months of waiting I'm looking forward to it.

Recording starts at 1:30, so off we troop to the studio to watch the first show. The studio audience, largely consisting of, shall we say, more mature individuals, is already seated, and being 'worked' by the warm-up man, Dudley, an old-style club comedian from Lancashire. The studio is bigger than it appears on television, (or maybe it's just that we have a small TV set), and it also looks rather less garish and more permanent in real life.

The contestants and Dictionary Corner take their seats and are miked up. Then Richard strolls in, has a few words with the audience, and sits down to study his card with the challenger's potted biography and the corny pun. Finally, Carol comes in and takes her position by the letters board. There are five or six cameramen, a floor manager and some other technicians on the



*Astonian Mike Wenble appearing on Countdown on April 23rd*

studio floor.

It takes just under an hour to record a 45-minute programme. This includes time for 'pick-ups': odd bits that they re-shoot because the director's not happy. For example, in one of my numbers rounds, I make a baby error, multiplying 125 by 4 and coming up with 600. Carol doesn't spot this, and carries on writing up my incorrect 'solution'. On the re-take, she points out my mistake straight away. Mostly, however, the programme flows just like you see it on the telly, with unscripted banter between Carol and Richard.

The first programme is over, and the challenger has won. I am moved from the back row of the audience to the 'hot seat' at the front, so that the camera can turn to me at the end of the second programme when Richard asks me if I've got the conundrum. (As it happens, I have, which surprises me so much that I clean forget to give Richard my carefully prepared ad lib answer that "I'm still working on yesterday's").

The new champion wins the second game, a close and high-scoring affair. She would have lost it but for her challenger having the 8-letter word "MISRATED" disallowed. As he also had spotted, but not offered, the word 'MARDIEST', which, unlikely as it may seem, would have been acceptable, he is mightily peeved.

A short tea-break follows, and I change my shirt. Back in the Green Room, the other two contestants of the day have arrived, and I have the opportunity to size them up.

Then it's my turn. Richard has spotted on my biography card the fact that I juggle, and asks me about that to put me at my ease. I offer to teach him how to juggle, but he declines. The nagging fear that I might be the victim of a whitewash disappears when I score points in the first round. Although I then fall behind, a good run towards the end of the second half

*(Continued on page 21)*

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After the wedding festivities Lou-Anne prepares herself for bed and the expected "knock" on the door. Sure enough the knock comes, the door opens and there is Morris, her 85 year old groom ready for action. They unite as one. All goes well, Morris takes leave of his bride, and she prepares to go to sleep.

After a few minutes, Lou-Anne hears another knock on her bedroom door, and it's Morris. Again he is ready for more "action". Somewhat surprised Lou-Anne consents for more coupling. When the newlyweds are done, Morris kisses his bride, bids her a fond goodnight and leaves. She is set to go to sleep again, but you guessed it - 85 year old Morris is back again, rapping on the door, and is as fresh as a 25 year old ready for even more "action". And once again they enjoy each other.

As Morris set to leave again, his young bride says to him, "I am thoroughly impressed that at your age you can perform so well and so often. I have been with guys less than a third of your age who were only good once. You are truly a great lover, Morris".

Morris, somewhat puzzled and embarrassed, turns to Lou-Anne and says, "You mean I was here before?"

## News Flash!

CNN/Reuters: News reports have filtered out early this morning that US forces have swooped on an Iraqi Primary School and detained 6th Grade teacher Mohammed Al-Hazar. Sources indicate that, when arrested, Al-Hazar was in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a set square and a calculator. US President George W Bush argued that this was clear and overwhelming evidence that Iraq indeed possessed weapons of maths instruction.  
~ sent in by Mike Wenble



A sign spotted in the US

Confucius Say... "War doesn't determine who's right. War determines who's left."



# WIN CASH!

EVERY MONTH—SEE PAGE 9

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## Rectors Report

It's been a funny kind of a war. I am not sure that I can make much sense of what has taken place. For the arguments that were put forward were not very convincing and did not receive the support of the United Nations. The fighting seemed to be very one sided – although with the fire power of the United States, that was perhaps inevitable. And now we are left with a country that is a mess.

The comprehensive looting that has taken place was perhaps only to be expected in a country that no longer had any infrastructure. Putting things back together is going to be a massive task – but where does one start?

One of the things that struck me is that these battles have been taking place on sites that have been significant in the past. Mossul, for example, is reputedly the site of the Biblical city of Nineveh. You may remember that it was to that city that Jonah was sent to warn the people to turn from their wicked ways. Jonah only went there after he had tried to go in another direction and had his encounter with the whale. Not far away is the land from which Abraham is said to have come. Maybe it was also not very far from here that the famous Tower of Babel was built. That Tower was a symbol of the way that humans failed to understand each other.

This is also the land of Babylon – the land to which the Israelites were taken as captives, and by whose waters they “sat down and wept when they remembered their homeland in Zion”.

It is said that many of the priceless historic artefacts from the National Museum have been either smashed or stolen. These are objects that help us to authenticate the stories that have been passed down, and understand more about generations long ago.

For all these centuries God has been dealing with our human determination to go our own way. We have to wonder whether we shall ever learn to live at peace with each other. But maybe we shall learn some lessons from this War as we try to pick up the pieces and rebuild peace in the Middle East.

~ Bob Wilmott

(Continued from page 15)

gives me an unassailable lead by the time it comes to the conundrum – I have won my teapot!

The playing time passes extraordinarily quickly. At home, of course, if the letters selection looks unattractive, or the cat jumps up on the sofa and demands attention, you can ignore the odd round or two. No such choice here – the concentration is continuous and unremitting.

After this game, we have a dinner break (no expense spared: chilli and chips in the staff canteen). At about 7 o'clock, play re-starts. My opponent is a brash young Aussie, who is exuding confidence both before the recording and in his exchange with Richard (To be fair, he's quite normal by Australian standards, but brash when judged by the genteel norms of *Countdown*). He takes an early lead, but it is clear that his confidence is a façade when, on the verge of victory, he offers no solution to the final numbers round and then buzzes prematurely on the crucial conundrum. I sneak through, though it's not being unduly modest to say that he lost it rather than that I won it. He takes defeat rather badly, and chooses to sit alone in the Green Room rather than watch the final game in the studio. Although nobody says anything, of course, I think the other participants are actually rather pleased that he's been beaten.

And so, almost immediately, to the final game of the day/week. I fall behind early on (again!), catch up, and take a 10-point lead into the final round. The conundrum is crucial, just as it was in the previous programme. Although I'm not feeling the tension, my brain has stopped functioning. My opponent gets the conundrum and brings the scores level. Recording stops

## Canadian Holiday

*This month Shirley finishes off her memories of her wonderful Canadian dream.*

**Sept. Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

Once again it was an early breakfast so that we could ready to leave at 8.00 am. for a day trip to Whistler, a world renown ski town. Sadly, at this point we had to say goodbye to our tour Director, Lynda Brown who had to fly to Toronto to meet an incoming British group. Our route to Whistler took us through North Vancouver, alongside the sea to Sky Highway. Here at Britannia Beach we stopped to see the remains of a copper mine, an old general store and to enjoy the hospitality of the coffee shop. Our next stop proved to be Brandy Wine Falls where we were able to view the spectacular 1100 foot high falls.

Arriving in Whistler at 12.30. we shared a lunch at a local restaurant with friends Joan and Margaret, taking a leisurely walk around the town, window shopping and admiring the beautiful flower beds. All too soon we had to return to the coach and were back in our hotel at 6.30. We had a meal in our room, watched some TV then turned in.

**Mon. 16<sup>th</sup>**

We had a 'lie in' and a late breakfast. Final packing, then onto our minibus and off to the airport for the journey home; taking some wonderful memories with us.

~ Shirley Ford

while a second, even more crucial, conundrum is slotted into the machine. He beats me to it again – in reality, I am nowhere near it – and my run is over.

It remains only to do the pick-ups, and a technician hands me my winner's goody bag – a two-volume Oxford dictionary, an electronic *Countdown* game, a *Countdown* board game, the 'behind the scenes' book of the show, a coaster, a china mug and a T-shirt, all with the *Countdown* logo, and of course the famous *Countdown* teapot. Then it's off to the bar, to unwind with the other contestants and their guests. By now, a certain camaraderie has developed amongst us, as though we have all been initiated into a secret club. Richard & Carol don't join us for a drink, but Richard Samson does, and so does the producer, Damian Eadie. They are both happy to share their many *Countdown* experiences with us.

Finally, Jill and I return to our hotel. It takes me a long time to get to sleep. The adrenalin is keeping me awake, and I'm replaying the games in my head, particularly the rounds in my third game when I could have put my score out of my opponent's reach. I have no doubt that every other defeated participant reacts the same way. I know that two of the other contestants, staying in the same hotel as us, were up till 2 a.m. talking about the programmes.

Although it's just 'another day at the office' for Richard, Carol and the others, every one involved did their best to put us all at our ease and ensure that our fifteen minutes of fame would be pleasant and memorable. All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

And I've gained a teapot!

~ Mike Wenble

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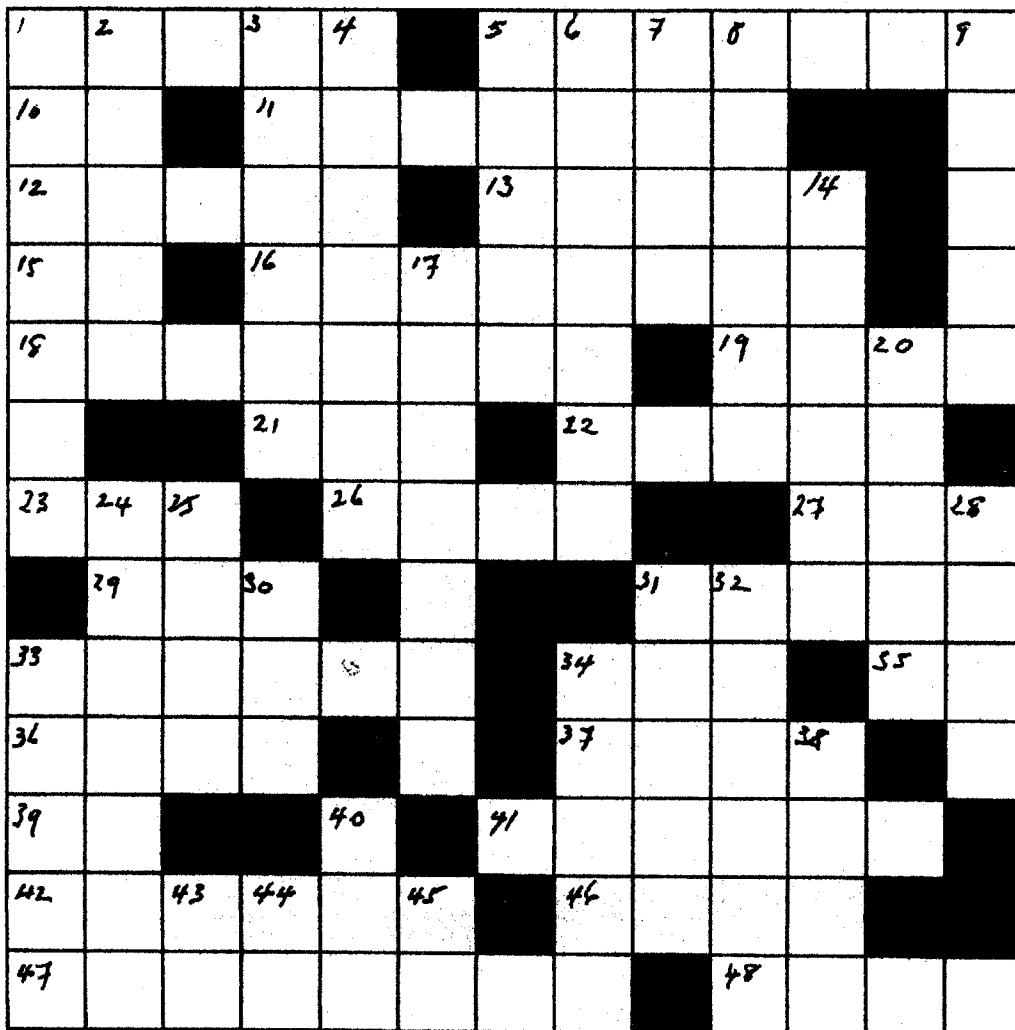
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# The Chronicle Crossword

May 2003



**Answers to April: DOWN**  
 1 Laugh. 5 Scarab. 3 Else.  
 9 DA. 10 Itemised. 11 Fuzz  
 13 Go. 14 Sun. 16 Holdall.  
 18 Tailed. 21 E'er. 23 Ox  
 ford. 25 Lard. 26 Nefarious.  
 29 Do. 30 Did. 31 Tutu. 32  
 SA. 35 Oyster. 37 LA. 39  
 Nr. 40 Years. 42 Assauaged  
 45 Ie. 46 Spell. 47 Dogtrot.  
**DOWN:**  
 1&7 Leighton Buzzard. 2  
 Alto. 3 Use. 4 Gems. 5 Sad  
 6 Awful. 9 Deal. 12 Unload.  
 14 Sat. 15 Tiffin. 16 Herr.  
 17 Oddity. 19 Axed. 20 Load.  
 22 Eros. 24 Butt. 27 Ousted.  
 28 Suet. 33 Asset. 34 Alas.  
 35 Oral. 36 Rest. 38 Asp. 39  
 Nul. 41 Rio. 43 SE. 44 Do.

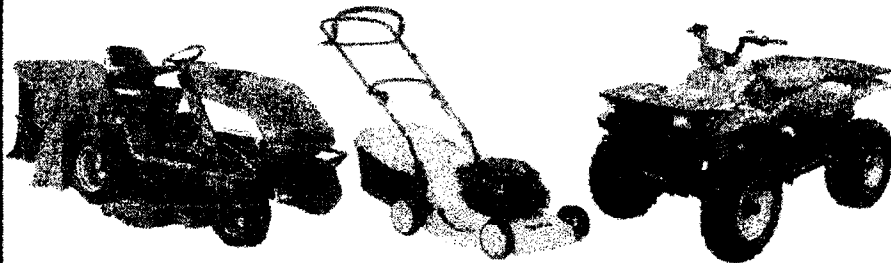
- ACROSS:** 1&5. Bucks Vil l age (5&7) 29. Seed holder (3)  
 10. Bible part (ab. 2) 31. Dreadful (5)  
 11. Relating to liver (7) 33. Shine (6)  
 12. In that place (5) 34. — Khan (3)  
 13. Flower (5) 35. Carry out (2)  
 15. that is (ab 2) 36. Beers (4)  
 16. To wordhip false goods 8 37. Gentle (4)  
 18. Openings (8) 39. Compass point (ab 2)  
 19. To spot (4) 41. Colour (6)  
 21. High explosive (ab 3) 42. NEARED (an. 6)  
 22. Senior (5) 46. Require (4)  
 23. Relation (3) 47. — lamp (8)  
 26. Departs (4) 48. Amphibeian (4)  
 27. Lump of wood (3) **DOWN:** 1. Ideas (7)  
 2. Extra; apart from (5)  
 3. Frugality (6)  
 4. Taking notice of (7)  
 5. Girl's name (5)  
 6. Maps (7)  
 7. TRIO ( 4 anag)  
 8. Won a goal (6)  
 9. Unpleasant (5)  
 14. Me (6)  
 17. Month (7)  
 20. Arrogant (5)  
 24. Wealthy (7)  
 25. Facial feature (4)  
 28. Shine (4)  
 30. Excessive alcohol causes this (ab 3)  
 31. Adept (5)  
 32. Holder of money (6)  
 33. Small roads (5)  
 34. Edit (5)  
 38. Flightless bird (4)  
 40. lump of material, used for stuffing (3)  
 43. District attorney (ab 2)  
 44. Printing unit (2)  
 45. Chem. symbol radium

Compiled by Don Bellingham

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# St James Church

## Church Services

4 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Cublington	Family Service
	10.00 Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion
11 <sup>th</sup>	08.00 Wingrave	Prayer Book Style Communion
	08.45 Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00 Wingrave	People's Praise
	10.00 Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion
18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Cublington	Family Service with Communion
	10.00 Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion
25 <sup>th</sup>	08.45 Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Aston Abbotts	Morning Service
1 <sup>st</sup> June	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Cublington	Family Service
	10.00 Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion

## Sunday Readings

4 <sup>th</sup> May	Easter 3	1 John 3.1-7; Luke 24.36-48
11 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 4	1 John 3.16-24; John 10.11-18
18 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 5	1 John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8
25 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 6	1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Easter 7	1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19

## From The Registers

### Baptism

6<sup>th</sup> April Sara Alvey at Wingrave

### Marriage

26<sup>th</sup> Apr David Inns & Debbie Thomas at Wingrave

## Church Flowers

3rd./4th	Mr. C.Higgs
10th./11th	Mr. I. Belgrove
17th./18th	(Donated)
24th./25th	(Donated)
31st./1st.June	Mrs. S. Ford

## Church Sidesmen

4th	Mr. G. Kemp
11th	Mr. J. Hartnett
18th	Mr. C. Higgs
25th	Mr. A. Ford
1st. June	Mr. J. Hartnett

## ST JAMES CHURCH ASTON ABBOTTS

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rev Bob Willmott	681623
Gordon Kemp	681763
Shirley Ford	681865
Ann Goodman	681763
Andrew Ford	681865



# Friends of St. James

The Friends Of St James is a group dedicated to raising money to support our church. All of the money raised will go directly to our church, to aid in its upkeep and its survival

For more information about the Friends Of St James please contact Clare Shorrock on 681260

## The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
A418 Committee	Tom Manning	682455	Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229
Astonbury	Peter Shorrock	681260	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
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 Moutt	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 Preschool	Claire Upton	681700
Fete Coordinator	Jackie Farrands	681182	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	681011
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave School	Office	681346
Friends of St James	Clare Shorrock	681260	Wingrave Stores	Andy & Helen Hall	681696
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000			
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681685			

*Please let us know of any errors or omissions*

Andy and Helen Welcome You to

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Sunday 6am - 1pm

Tel: 681696

#### POST OFFICE

Monday - Friday 9am - 5.30pm  
Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

Tel: 681011

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FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES • FRESH BREAD & MILK DAILY

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

# What's On In May

- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>** Parish and District Council Elections. Church Room.
- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>.** Rambling club members. Meet at Dunstable. 2 pm.
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** Bank Holiday  
*also* Coach trip to The Vale of Evesham Blossom Trail. Departs Bull and Butcher 11.45 am. (fare £9.00 book with Colin).  
*also* Ascot Gardens (Wing) open 2-6 pm.
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** Mobile library. The Green, Wingrave Rd. Oxley Farm.  
*also* Aylesbury Vale transport meeting at Buckingham 7.30 pm. train/bus queries to Colin.
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup>** Refuse collection - not Thursday.
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** Helen Harbottle does the Playtex Moonwalk. More information and sponsorship details on page 5.  
*also* Plant sale and bacon butties at Wingrave Parish Church. 10 am.
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** Liz Barlow of Nash's Farm appears on TV's The Weakest Link  
*also* Village refuse freighter on The Green (where the mobile library stops) 12 noon until 3 pm.
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>** Parish Council Meeting. Church Room. 8 pm. Everyone welcome.
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>** Toddlers club Church Room (or elsewhere—info Claire 682949)  
*also* Whist drive Church Room 7.30
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** Promise Auction at Wingrave School. 18.30. 01296 681346.
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>** Ramblers club annual Spider Walk, commence from Cublington crossroads at 2.30 pm. Tea in Church Room, everyone welcome.  
*also* Royal Oak Fun Day in aid of Cancer Research. 3.30 pm. Barbecue, tug-of-war, raffle, band and many other attractions. Details on pages 5 and 11.
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>** Mobile library The Green, Wingrave Road, Oxley Farm.
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>** Festival/Fete committee meeting, Church Room 8 pm.
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>** Music in Quiet Places. Classical chamber group in St. James Church at 7.30 pm. Preceded by historical village walk. Optional buffet. Ticket info and more information on page 9.
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup>** Bank Holiday  
*also* Coach outing to London Docklands, departs Bull and Butcher 11.45 am. (Book with Colin).
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>** Toddlers club. Church Room. (or elsewhere—info Claire 682949)  
*also* Whist Drive. Church Room 7.30 pm.
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** Refuse collection (not Thursday)  
*also* Publishing deadline for the June Chronicle. All submissions to Phil Spooner on or before this date please (see page 2 for contact details).
- Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>** Rambling club members meet at Aldbury 11 am. (lunch afterwards).

## BOOK THESE DATES

## OPEN GARDENS DAY

**Sunday 8th June**

Aston Abbots open gardens. Church open. Teas in church room. Plant stall.

## Festival Weekend and Fete

**Sat/Sun/ 26th/ 27th July**

## Astonbury

**Saturday 12th July**

**Tickets will be limited**

*More Details Later*



## MUSIC IN QUIET PLACES

**Saturday 24th May**

**See page 9**



## Classified

Do you need a **BABYSITTER**? I am experienced in looking after children of all ages and am willing to offer my services. Contact Nikki on 01296 681413 or 07903 089085.

## Refuse Collections

May ~ Not Thursday 8th but Friday 9th

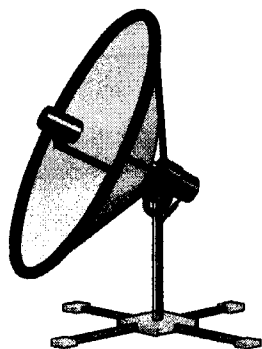
May ~ Not Thursday 29th but Friday 30th

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

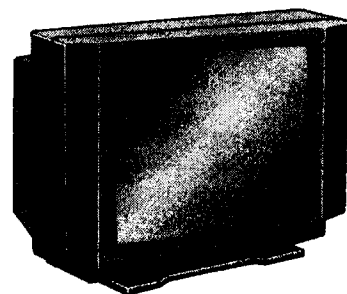


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