

THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 228 ~ November 2003



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Editorial

Spam Spam Spam Spam Spam

If you email me at The Chronicle, you should receive a reply or acknowledgment within 72 hours. I mention this because I am having trouble with spam.

Spam, for those of you who don't know, is unsolicited junk advertising email. If you use the Internet regularly, the senders of spam – the spammers - will catch up with you eventually.

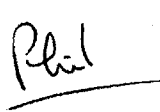
It was Monty Python who, in a famous 70s TV sketch, popularised the word 'spam' as a term for something that indiscriminately blanketed everything. Now it has become the name of a major Internet scourge.

I first became conscious of the stupid and indiscriminate nature of the spammers a year or so ago when I arrived back from holiday to find, amongst a pile of junk email, not one, not two, but *three* advertisements for breast enlargements – something until then I had not considered, nor indeed been aware of the need for. Since then the level of spam in my email, much of it unsavoury in its nature, has risen to a level where I now find it outweighs wanted emails by a factor of at least ten to one. I received over 150 such emails in the last 24 hours alone!

If you wonder why the spammers bother sending out their rubbish I can tell you that I read a report recently that said one spam advertisement for... errr, how can I put this delicately... 'herbal male enlargement pills'... produced 6000 orders in one month alone, with the advertiser selling each \$5 pot of pills for \$50. Putting aside the gullibility and insecurity of certain sections of the Internet community, you can start to see the reason for the spammers' persistence.

I mention this to you because I am forced to put into place measures to kill this rubbish email, as I can no longer see the wood for the trees. The risk is that the baby will be thrown out with the bath water, that some wanted emails will be lost, that your carefully crafted missives will be accidentally consigned to the great bitbucket in the sky along with the cheap mortgage deals, the herbal Viagra ads, the porn website ads, the vague promises of increased fulfilment, satisfaction and longevity, and the frequent exhortations to watch videos of young ladies doing things of which Mrs Ed definitely would not approve!

So, please bear with me. If you send me something important by email and you don't get a reply within a few days, please give me a ring to check that I've got it. In the meantime, if any of you feel the need to herbally enhance your bodies – I may have some useful contacts for you.



Email the Chronicle at
editor@aachronicle.co.uk

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THE CHRONICLE

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November 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 21st November 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.

In This Issue

In your November Chronicle ~

- This Year's Fireworks Party information
- Broadband Update
- 630 Club makes 10 years !
- Rambling Club makes 30 !
- Margaret Hinds makes 50 !
- Flame FM in Aylesbury

and much, much more.....

Alison's Gossip Column

Happy Birthday

Thomas Farrands	4 th
Eleanor Farrands	4 th
Bridget Brandon	8 th
John Brancker	7 th
Caroline Hall	7 th
Anna Mogford	8 th
Ray Wilkinson	10 th
Percy Humphries	19 th
John Whyte	23 rd
Olivia Gresswell	23 rd

Andy and Rita, Peter and Clare, Bob and Francesca, Richard and Sally, Phil and Carol, Adrian and Vanessa, Geoff and April will not be sending Christmas cards this year.

We wish all our Aston Abbotts friends a **Merry Christmas** and a truly **Happy New Year** and will be donating money to charities of our choice instead.

100 Club

Due to the earlier than normal printing date for this month's Chronicle the winners of the October draw will be announced next month

Congratulations

to **Margaret Hinds (Kent)**, who will be celebrating 50 years of Aston Abbotts life on 4th November.

Here's to many more happy years.

Love from Tony, Diana, Andy, Stephen and Carol.

[Please see page 11 ~ Ed]

If anyone listened to **Flame FM** – a local radio station on air for 4 weeks only- they would have heard those well-known DJ's **Dave Lewis & John Brancker**. Unfortunately, their fame was short lived and they're now having trouble adjusting to ordinary life! Money was donated to Flame's children's charities by local businesses **Livanti Alpacas, The Royal Oak, Buckland Landscapes & Flackwell Electronics**.

I've heard a rumour that a **Hot Tub** has been installed in **Tracey & Lol's** backgarden. Now, I've never been to a hot tub party.....

Nice to see **Derek Ludlam** back home following a very brief spell in hospital for an operation. It was a real joy to see the smile on his face the day the Doctor said he could drive again.

My thanks to **Bernard Osborn** for his suggestion for naming the close behind the Bull and Butcher. Bernard suggested **Oxley View**.

Many of you will have seen or will know about the film **Calendar Girls**, which tells the true story of how a branch of the Women's Institute posed in the nude for a calendar to raise money for charity. Well, we have it on good authority that the idea has already been discussed at Gnomes (Girl's Night Out—Tuesdays at the Royal Oak) as a way of raising funds for the Friends Of St James.

We understand that no decision has been made yet. Meanwhile, all eyes are on the Ladies Club.... ~ Ed

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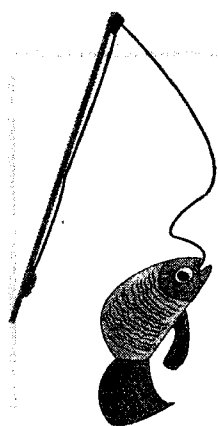
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In The Village

Brookie Barbie

Showing the video 'short' I made of the 'Brookie Barbie' to a couple of friends reminded me of just what a wonderful occasion it had been. A blissfully warm Summer's afternoon with barely a cloud in the sky.

Brooksiders are known for the quality of their hospitality so when we arrived to find liquid refreshment to suit all tastes, an abundance of 'burnt flesh' and the 'scrummiest' of puds, we were not disappointed. The company wasn't bad either!

Of course, there's 'no such thing as a free lunch' so, no sooner had Ivan been despatched to do the washing up than all the 'able bodied' without a decent excuse were 'rounded up' for a cricket match in Paul & Ellie's paddock. Luckily I was the self appointed photographer so got out of playing. I was pleased I had since the video I took records it was a spirited game with as much banter as batting. The setting was idyllic, with the match being played against a beautiful 'backdrop' of rolling hills, mature trees and fields. It epitomised the very best of English village life.

Very many thanks to all the 'Brookies' for a great afternoon and without wishing to be presumptuous; lets do it again!!

~ A. Bee

Ladies Club

9th Oct

Sixteen members were present at today's meeting in the Church Room. After a short business meeting, the Chairman Joan Alexander welcomed today's speaker Miss Joyce Whipps from Wingrave. She gave a fascinating and amusing talk about Magic, Music, Memory, Media, Movement, Mirth and how these had influenced her life now and in the past. She was thanked and presented with a Boots voucher. Tea Hostesses were Jean Samson and Shirley Ford. The raffle prize was won by Robin Anson Owen.

~ Shirley Ford

Get Ready For Broadband

We made it! As we went to press last month the required number of registrations of people interested in obtaining broadband internet access burst through the trigger level of 300.

Now the date is set. ~

Cliffe	250	21/01/2004
Peynham	300	21/01/2004
Wing	300	28/01/2004
Beaumont Hill	350	28/01/2004
Norwood Hill	150	04/02/2004
Ashurst	150	04/02/2004

So, if all goes well we should be able to get broadband internet here in Aston Abbots from the end of next January. This will enable those who are interested to get much faster internet access. I know many people in the village were interested in obtaining the service, but thought it would never happen. Now it looks like becoming a reality at last

~ Phil Spooner

Still Rambling On

Aston Abbots Rambling Club celebrated its 30th anniversary last Saturday with - Colin Higgs the founder, member; leading a repeat of the original, walk to Cublington. Starting from The Green the route followed field paths via Longmoor and Badgers Oak to Cublington with the less agile returning by bus. The remainder continued along the High Street and Dog Lane and Hollow Ground back to Aston Abbots for lunch at The Royal Oak. Then on Sunday the walkers met at Quanton for an afternoon walk led by their chairman Mike Ward.

Starting from The Green the route passed the Winwood Almshouses, dating back to 1687 and Magpie Cottage, the home of George Lipscombe, author of the History of Antiques of Buckinghamshire. Then downhill field paths took the rambles to Denham Farm and the Hogshaw Road, returning via Conduit Hill and the windmill. Standing 90ft high, it was built-in 1830 with local bricks and restored in 1976.

~ Colin Higgs

Skateboard Ramp

The skateboard ramp, donated to the village by Wingrave, has been delivered to the Recreation Ground. We are now looking for volunteers to help assemble it. If you feel you may be able to give up a little time to support this village project, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Kate Curry, on 01296 681137.



"Some mornings it just doesn't seem worth it to gnaw through the leather straps". ~ Emo Phillips



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630 Club Tenth Birthday Celebration

Everybody loves a party! None more so than the members of the Aston Abbotts 630 Club.

So when it was realised, not without some surprise and perhaps a little shock, that this year sees the 10th anniversary of the club's formation it was immediately recognised that the occasion could not pass without celebration.

Immediately some members, including Tim Peacocke, Andy Bystra, Ray Wilkinson, Tony Hinds and Geoff Curnow, got stuck into the tasks of printing and selling tickets, and preparing the party. Teri and Gary at the club headquarters (The Royal Oak) very kindly agreed to allow us exclusive use of their restaurant area, and a buffet was ordered from them.

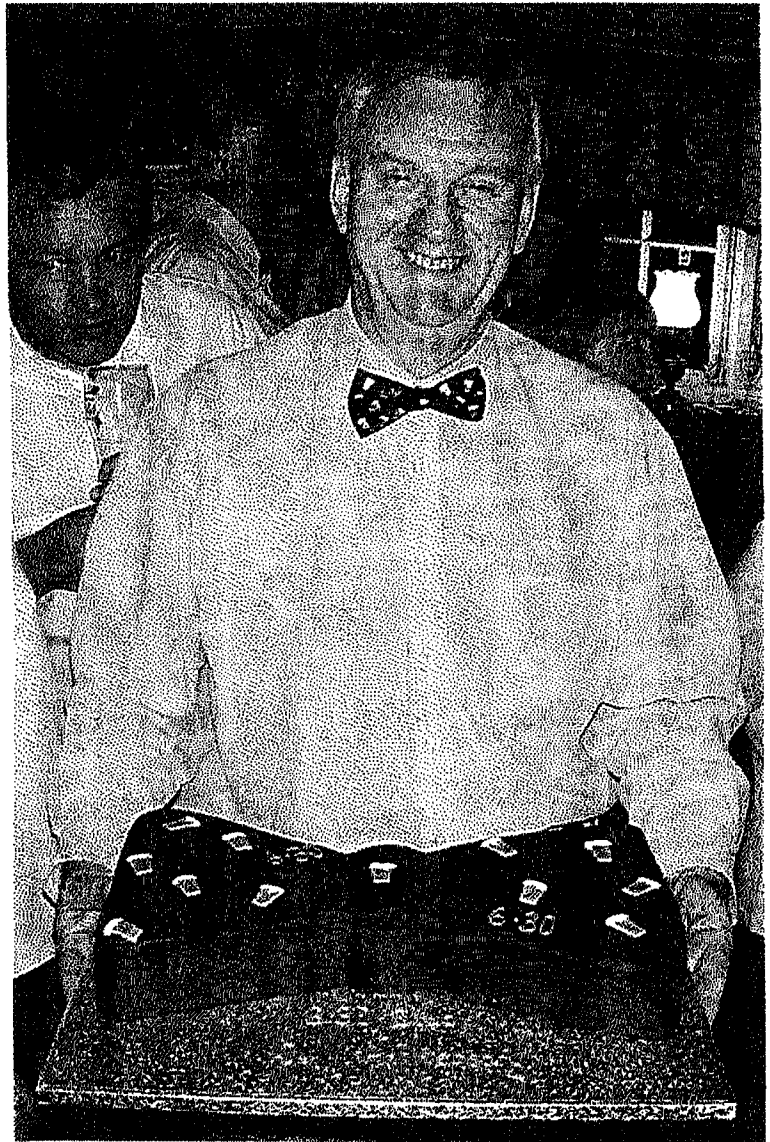
The party started, appropriately enough, at 6.30, with a welcome drink—and then the buffet was unveiled. Members were amazed by the sumptuous feast spread before them. The Royal Oak really did us proud and some members were even seen to put their beer down (temporarily) in order to concentrate upon the mouth-watering array of foods.

Appetites sated, Ray Wilkinson then brought in the birthday cake - in the shape of a bow tie - and Ray's wife Sharon was prevailed upon to make the first cut.

A raffle for a Christmas Turkey meat voucher was won by party organiser Tim Peacocke, who tried to refuse the prize, but was persuaded to accept it, albeit with good-natured cries of "fix" and "stitch up".

Despite the non-show of the music and bouncy castle (for the children - 630 Club members cannot bounce with all that beer inside of them) a hugely enjoyable time was had by all and we would like to extend our grateful thanks not just to the organisers, but especially to Teri and Gary at the Royal Oak for their hospitality and also for importing an excellent French chef for the occasion.

~ Phil Spooner



630 Club founder member Ray Wilkinson proudly displays the club's bow-tie shaped 10th birthday cake

The 630 Club — A Brief History

The celebration of our tenth 'birthday' last month prompted one or two to ask how it all started and what the devil is the 630 Club all about. Like many such 'traditions' it all seemed to start very simply when in 1993 Ray Wilkinson, Tony Hinds and myself rather drifted into the practice of meeting up in the Bull & Butcher at 6.30 on a Saturday evening to enjoy a beer or two together while 'other halves' were getting ready for whatever entertainment was taking place that particular evening. Willie Adams from Wingrave came along a few times and his and my interest in fly tying and fishing resulted in us running fly tying classes in the Unicorn for several years. This has now evolved into a fishing Club but that's another story altogether!

About this time others started to 'drift in' including Jack Rennie, Pat Donovan, Bob Bean and Ray Coates and somehow we were tagged with being 'The 630 Club'. The first event we organised was a disco in the winter of 97 to raise urgently needed funds for this magazine (probably since I was Editor of the Chronicle at the time). Other events such as Horse racing at Towcester and Canal trips were arranged, often making small cash surpluses.

In Jan 98 a meeting was held and it was agreed the aims of the Club would simply be the promotion of a convivial atmosphere during regular meetings of friends to enhance the already good social life of the village.

Furthermore, to preserve the identity of 'the club', guidelines stated members would be expected to agree to assist with projects for the benefit of the village, assist with organised club events, and wear bow ties at meetings. It was also agreed that a St. Georges Day dinner would be held on an appropriate Saturday that year. Since then, St. George's day dinners have become a regular event. The 'Bull Monty' was perhaps one of our 'finest hours', but I doubt whether this or Tony Hind's Cultural Evenings will ever be repeated.

With the completion of 'Nash's Farm' membership increased dramatically for such a small club and the membership is now 23 and steadily increasing.

Our aims remain the same. If you want to join simply come along to The Royal Oak on any Saturday evening at 630.

~ A Bee

S. J. LEE

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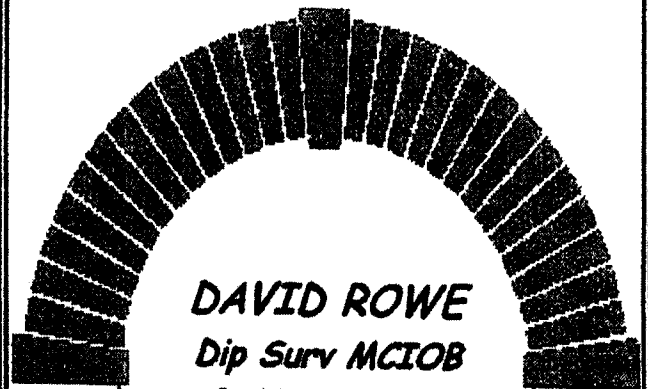
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Countryside Diary

10th October

What a shock, people actually read what I write in the Chronicle. I have written but two articles and already I have had feedback.

"Why didn't you mention the Hummingbird Hawk Moths seen around this summer?" was one comment. The reason is simple, Hummingbird Hawk Moths occupied the letters section of the Daily Telegraph for several days. I recall when I first approached the editor about writing for the Chronicle, he sat behind his desk, computer buzzing away, the large sign saying "EDITOR" carelessly displayed, "Remember Boy", he growled, "The Chronicle leads, it doesn't follow!"

It's nice to have heard that since erecting the barn owl box in the cricket field, several people have had the pleasure of seeing a barn owl and even watching one hunt.

My main concern writing these notes is that they could be so out of date when printed. Heat could have become frost, drought could be flood; this time it hasn't happened. We're still parched, short of grass and the countryside looks yellowy brown. We must get good rain soon - surely!

The lateness of the rains means that Alex and I miss out on one of the great pleasures gleaned from our fields - mushrooms. A dry summer followed by a good rain in early September onto the warm ground gives mushrooms by the bucketful in late September /early October - sadly not this year.

Similarly most autumn's the old pastures are infested with craneflies (Daddy Long Legs). They rise in droves round the Land Rover wheels and a feasted on by swallows stocking up prior to their long journey south. This year no craneflies, no swallows about the fields.

The departure of the swallows makes us look out for the arrival of the regular winter visitors, most especially the great flocks of redwings and fieldfares which come to feast on our hedgerow fruits.

Many resident birds flock together for the winter and already blue and Tom tits are in groups accompanied, this year, by the occasional Goldcrest, a lovely little bird that has increased in numbers over the last few years - presumably thanks to the mild winters.

Long-tailed tits amaze me - I rarely see one all spring and summer but during the winter flocks of these lovely birds are reasonably common about the hedgerows.

What will the next month bring? We desperately need rain to bring on a bit of late seasons grazing for the sheep and germinate all those acres of winter wheat that have been drilled (sewed, or is it sown?). It could be a very expensive winter for us without that grass as a lot of hay will be needed see us through to the spring.

In the gardens things are not too good with most crops and flowers over thanks to the drought. We are lucky to be still picking a few excellent summer beans, below us in the Vale of Rowsham summer beans were killed by frost two-and-half weeks ago.

The Brussels aren't forming sprouts, the leeks are growing and the parsnips look very poor.

Hard times ahead?

Perhaps when this is printed we shall know more, so any talk of summer beans will be well out of date!



Pete Knight

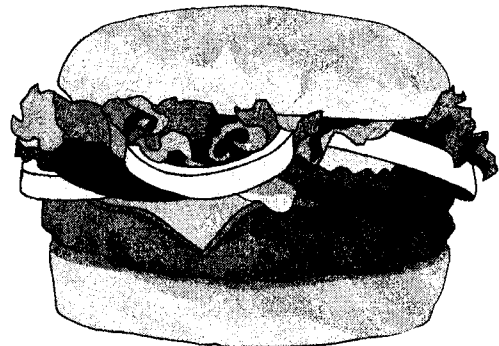
Friends of St. James

Remember, remember the 1st of November

We have a stall on Aylesbury market to raise money for the repair and maintenance of our church and would welcome your help in two ways. If you have any saleable items such as gifts, house plants, cakes, jam etc., please get them to Clare Shorrock at Oak Farm House by Thursday 30th October (to give her time to price them). If you can spare an hour or two to help man the stall on Saturday 1st please contact Clare on 681260.

Remember, remember the 5th of November

The annual bonfire night celebrations will have the added benefit of hot food for sale. Beef burgers, soup and jacket potatoes at reasonable prices will give you the opportunity to



enjoy the fireworks without the thought of having to cook supper for the family afterwards. All profits to go to the Church.

So don't eat before you come—and don't forget to bring some money!!!

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Margaret Kent's 50 Years

This month Margaret Hinds –formerly Margaret Kent – celebrates fifty years of living in Aston Abbotts.

Margaret came to the village as a “land-girl”, fresh from agricultural college. The Chronicle talked to her in 2000, and she told us “I went to a grammar school in Kent and my headmistress was absolutely horrified to think I wanted to go and work on a farm. It was unheard of for a girl to do anything like that. But that's what I wanted to do. The farming bug had sort of got me and I went back to my uncle's farm, then went on to Agriculture College - and then of course had to look for a job. So I came to Aston Abbotts... on Major Morton's estate – at Norduck farm. I was looking after the young calves and things.”

It was while working at Norduck that Margaret met her late husband Ray. The two were married in 1957. “I left Norduck in 1959, had three children and... you stayed at home to look after the children in those days. I did work down the village shop for three mornings a week, while my children were at the village school.”

Aston Abbotts life was very different back then. “I thought it was a lovely village, it really was. There was Tommy Humphrey who had the Bull and Butcher and he baked the bread. On the night before Good Friday you hung your bag out on the door handle and he put hot cross buns and everything in it. He would come round with a basket of bread covered in an old flour sack. The bread was gorgeous - well sometimes it was really burnt - crusty bread, hopeless for making sandwiches. A wet fish man used to come round and of course we had the Post Office – and the School.”

“Years ago in the village it was a much safer place for children, I mean you could let them go off for the day. The children would go anywhere because we were all country people and we respected the country code. Whereas now there are so many new landowners and a lot of them aren't country people, so you're forever looking over your shoulder to make sure you're on the right footpath.”

But tragedy touched Margaret's time in Aston Abbotts when her son Paul was killed in a walking accident in 1971. “Nine years later Ray died after a very short illness. I've got a tree on the Green in his memory and I've got a tree in the recreation ground for Paul.

“Then about three years later I met Tony [Hinds].” She laughs. “He said that I lured him here because I used to make homemade wine!!!”



Margaret and Tony finally cemented their long and happy partnership when they quietly got married in Gretna Green in 2002.

Throughout her fifty years here Margaret has always been involved in village activities. She joined the Ladies Club in 1961 and, for the last few years, she has been a member of the Parish Council. She is often to be seen at village social events.

Margaret has never lost her love of farming. In 2000 she told us, “The only bit of farming that I ever do now is helping Peter Knight and Alex with the lambing. Every year at the end of February and the beginning of March I have a fortnight off and help them with the lambing, and I thoroughly enjoy it... that's one of the highlights of my year.”

The Chronicle would like to send our very best wishes and warmest congratulations to Margaret on her fifty years of living here in Aston Abbotts. I guess you are now officially entitled to call yourself a “villager”.

~ Phil Spooner

Letter To The Editor

With reference to the letter ‘Lunatics’ in the last issue, why would he/she want to withhold their name? Of course there's urgent need for a safe means of crossing from the pavement to the pub (probably more so in the other direction).. However, as mentioned by our coy friend, traffic does speed around that bend (which is ‘blind’ in which ever way it is approached) and therefore traffic calming in both directions is also necessary. I seem to remember this problem was bought to the attention of the Planners during our attempts to retain The ‘Bull’!

With more people using The ‘Oak’ the risks must have statistically increased but I suspect it will take a serious accident before other villagers support action.

~ Andy Bystra

Carol Service

The Aston Abbotts Carol service will take place on Sunday December 21st at 6 pm. at St. James Church and the Rowsham Band will once again play for us.

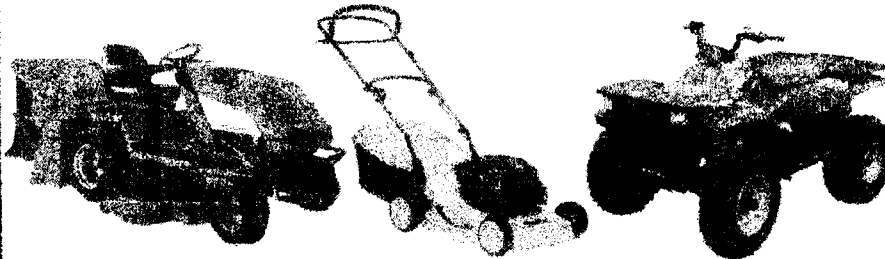
During the service Christingles will be given out to the children and congregation. A Christingle uses the symbolism of an orange for the world. A red ribbon around it represents Christ's blood and four sticks pressed into it stands for the four seasons, each with nuts sweets or fruit to symbolise the foods of the earth. A lighted candle in the top symbolises the coming of Jesus as the light of the world. We hope to make it a special candle lit service. Please do come. The collection from this service will be going to support the work of the Children's Society.

~ Shirley Ford

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John Brancker and Dave Lewis on Flame FM—87.7

During September & October a charity fund raising radio station started transmitting from Aylesbury on a 28 day restricted license. Based in Bourbon Street opposite the Tourist Information Office, Flame FM was set up to raise money for children's charities around the world.

I discovered the station whilst cleaning the car, it came on when I accidentally touched the radio tune button. They were playing a great selection of music that I could not drag myself away from. I soon found that they were local when they gave out their address whilst an on air auction for a box of CDs was in progress. I phoned the station and bid for the CDs that I did eventually win. When I collected them the station manager John Hanson showed me around and I was impressed with all that was going on.

The next day I collected together sponsors from local businesses to raise the money to get the chance to host the Monday morning breakfast show. The sponsors were The Royal Oak, Livanti Alpacas, Buckland Landscapes, Aylesbury Box and Flackwell Electronics. Once again we won the bidding.

A famous local DJ declined the chance to join me on the show, so I persuaded John Brancker to give me a hand. Monday morning came and an early start of 6.30 John and I set off nervously for Aylesbury. Once installed at the microphone with John Hanson at the control console we introduced the first track. Nerves played a big part in our vocal vibrato but as the show progressed we did get better and felt more at ease.

At 7.30 we were joined by John Whyte who was on his way to work, he gave a hello to Fiona & Laura but apparently they were still asleep—never mind John! As the show progressed John Brancker played a track from the 1940s that sparked some



interest in John Hanson's mind for a late night slot of 1940's music. He later approached John Brancker to ask if he would do a late show.

This time it was John Brancker in the hot seat with me as support. John had spent a long time preparing the music for the show and we were both delighted to find that the selections filled the one-hour slot perfectly. On our way home we discovered that we had both missed our vocations in life and that we could happily carry on with being FM jocks.

Eventually Friday evening came when the station had to stop transmitting, John B and I returned to the station to say goodbye to all the other DJs and do one more session at the mike to thank all who had sponsored us. On our way home they played peaceful easy feeling by the Eagles for both of us. That last track certainly made us feel good.

Well done Flame FM and John Hanson for giving us the chance to be nearly famous for a short while. Autographs can be obtained from John B & I at the Royal Oak.

~ Dave Lewis.

Flame FM was sponsored by Vale of Aylesbury Vineyard Church and was not run for profit. Over the last few years it has enabled the people of Aylesbury to raise over £4000, which has been used to help children around the world through the charities World Vision, Toybox and Jubilee Action. ~ Ed



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Dad's Army

Aston Abbotts residents are lucky to enjoy reasonably easy access to excellent theatres in Milton Keynes and High Wycombe, however one should not overlook smaller local venues such as the Pendley Court Theatre on the outskirts of Tring. Their programme often includes productions by amateur groups as well as professional music. For instance, the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and Kenny Ball are both appearing this autumn, although the intimate size of the theatre with an audience of around 300 means that shows often sell out quickly on the more popular nights.

More recently, the theatre put on a production of two lost episodes from that classic television comedy of the sixties and seventies, Dad's Army. Sadly most of the original cast are no longer with us, but for those who saw the original television shows, who could ever forget Arthur Lowe as Captain Mannering or any of the other members of the cast. When the original series was made, videotape was expensive and so productions were often screened and then wiped. In those days the BBC did not have a repeat policy!

However scripts from two early episodes had been unearthed and rewritten for stage performance. The production was not exactly like the original due to the lack of videotape however each episode was presented in a way that was thought to be faithful to the original with one exception. This production was in colour!

We needn't have worried about whether amateur actors and

actresses would manage to portray such larger than life characters in a way that would be believable. All the cast had paid immense attention to detail so that they had the voices, appearance and mannerisms off to a T. Great credit is clearly due to the cast and producer for an excellent show. The stage set was cleverly built so that it could accommodate action within the London underground, at the top of the church tower, within the church hall and the adjacent office. One highlight was an amusing film showing two recruits tackling the Wendover Woods assault course. This was filmed in sepia and shown on a big screen to one side of the main set.

Episode one concerned the imminent army call up of Private Walker, a potential disaster to the unit that would henceforth be unable to obtain vital black market war supplies such as bottles of whisky. A plot was devised to ensure that Walker would fail the army medical. He was made to jump off a chair many times so that he could be seen to suffer from flat feet. He was then spun around whilst blindfolded to make him dizzy just before entering the medical centre, only to be ejected seconds later, the medical having been postponed to the following day. Needless to say commonsense prevailed in the end and call up was avoided.

To summarise this production was first class and there is no doubt that we will make every effort to look out for future events to attend at the venue.

~ Nigel Palmer

For All You Lexophiles (Lovers Of Words)

1. A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.
2. What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway).
3. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. In democracy it's your vote that counts; In feudalism, it's your count that votes.
6. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
7. If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed.
8. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
9. Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat minor.
10. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
11. The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
12. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
13. You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
14. Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
15. He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
16. Every calendar's days are numbered.
17. A lot of money is tainted. 'Taint yours and 'taint mine.
18. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
19. He had a photographic memory, which was never developed.
20. A plateau is a high form of flattery.
21. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
22. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
23. When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
24. Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
25. When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.
26. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
27. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
28. Acupuncture is a jab well done.
29. Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

~ sent in by April Curnow

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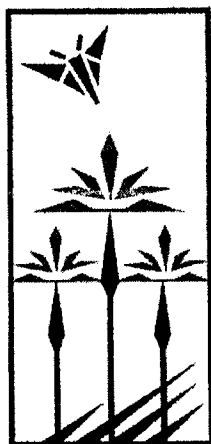
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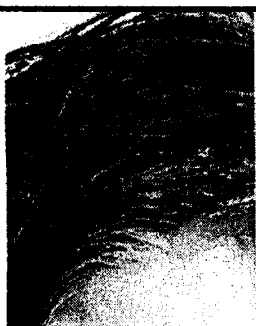
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Great Alaskan Adventure

James Clark Ross is well known for his voyages of discovery in cold climes. For our holiday this year Sally and I tried to follow vaguely in his footsteps. OK, so we took a wrong turning and our ship ended up in Juneau, Alaska, which probably didn't even exist when JCR was exploring. But we didn't let that deter us from becoming intrepid explorers – at least for one afternoon. First of all we went, by minibus, to Juneau International Airport (they make an occasional foray to Canada). Well there wasn't enough snow around so the dog sleds weren't running.

On arrival at the airport, we were kitted out with boots, waterproof jacket, over-pants (this is the USA!!), gaiters, helmet, gloves, water bottle and food rations. A helicopter stood on the tarmac, piloted by Bob (not the former submariner) and once aboard we soon lifted off. First of all we flew over the Herbert Glacier and were amazed to see all those classic glacial features I remember from A-level Geography such as deep cracks and fissures and what looked like a tyre track down the centre. This was a "medial moraine" of debris torn by the ice from the edge of the valley – in the centre because further up the valley two glaciers had joined together. One could only stare in awe at the colour of the ice – an amazing deep blue. After a tight turn we flew around to the nearby Mendenhall Glacier and landed gently on the ice, close to an orange igloo tent. Base Camp!

Our two guides met us and kitted us each out with more essential equipment – crampons and an ice axe. A quick lesson followed in how to descend and climb slopes, using said ice axe, and we were away. Crampons effectively fit steel teeth to your boots and provide an amazing amount of grip on the ice and this glacier was most definitely not flat as an ice wall towered above us. We marvelled at the polar explorers of the past who endured such conditions for months on end. Fortunately Juneau's liquid sunshine kept away for the most part as we trekked around the glacier, avoiding falling into the deep crevasses.

Being September, the glacier was melting and we saw many streams and waterfalls as these streams disappeared into the ice in features known as moulins. We poured away our mineral water and collected melted glacier water, which was pure, cool and delicious. At this time of year it is relatively safe to

walk about on a glacier if properly equipped as you can see where the fissures are. But, covered with snow, as it would be for much of the year, it is clear that even our trek would have been treacherous. After about two hours on the ice, we arrived back at base camp and our helicopter returned.

An absolutely fabulous afternoon was completed by a visit to the Red Dog Saloon for a pint of Alaskan Amber and coffee whilst listening to the songs of a local guitarist. The bar had about an inch of sawdust on the floor and a sign on the wall that read "If you wish to complain about our standards, then please lower yours". Now where have I seen that before?

The Cry of Klondike Gold first grabbed the world's attention in July 1897 and Skagway burst into prominence as a key point of entry to the Chilkoot trail. Sally and I hiked along the first two miles or so, which involved a steep 500 metre climb up a rough boulder strewn path before descending back to the level of the river. The trail then continued along a muddy track beside the riverbank. We were not alone as there were some fresh paw prints in the soft mud. However the bear stayed out of sight, there were berries to collect.

Back in '97 the stamperders each had to transport a ton of food and equipment down the 33 mile long trail to the Canadian border which meant at least 20 return journeys along each section. Food supplies in the Yukon were limited so the North West Mounted Police refused to allow anyone into Canada who did not have the requisite amount of supplies. However once entry had been granted they promptly threw much of their equipment away that can be seen alongside the trail even today. Eventually they reached Bennett Lake and had to build boats so that they could reach the Yukon River. Some 7124 boats were built in the winter of 97/98 and these set sail when the ice finally melted in the following May. Many sank but those who eventually arrived in Dawson City found that all the likely plots of gold bearing land had already been claimed. Predictably the only people who made money were the traders selling the food and equipment, and the occupants of the many brothels back in Skagway such as the Red Onion Saloon.

Sally and I had it easy. Someone had

thoughtfully left a rubber raft on the bank of the Taiya River, complete with oarsman and lifejackets. So we climbed aboard and drifted slowly back downstream taking photographs of bald eagles sat in the treetops. We also went to Haines in search of more of the elusive wildlife. A large family of sea otters slipped into the water from the quay whilst two humpback whales cavorted in the channel. This strip of land is very fertile and sheltered so the locals grow prize winning vegetables each year, but not without a battle. In Aston Abbots we stand watch in our allotments to keep the rabbits at bay. In Haines, they have had to give up growing carrots as the bears dig them up and eat them. Marrows grow so large that there are far too many to go round. The local guide said that you have to keep your cars locked otherwise the back seat is filled with them. And so to Ketchikan where to our surprise it rained, as it does on 354 days a year. It claims to be the wettest place on earth with around thirteen feet of rain falling annually. Now that's a lot of rain. On passing a local house I spied a sign inside the open garage. "Little Boy" it read "please tell me when will it stop raining?" "Why ask me, how should I know." came the reply "I'm only five years old!" The local harbour was teeming with salmon, but the local fishermen were having little luck. They would have been better off lowering a bucket or employing a bear, but that's another story.

Whales

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though they were a very large mammal their throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

The teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah"

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

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on Sunday, 9th November

Commencing at 10.45am at the Memorial,

followed by a service in The Parish Church, Wingrave.

'We will remember them'

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The 2003 Darwin Awards

The Darwin Awards honour (posthumously, of course) those who have removed themselves from the gene pool in the most spectacular or humiliating manner.

The 2003 Darwin Award Winner

When his 38-caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a holdup in Long Beach, California, would be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder: He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.....

And Now, The Honorable Mentions:

The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and, after a little hopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company, suspecting negligence, sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine out and lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

A man who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

Actually, this guy was clever enough NOT to be nominated for a Darwin Award: After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Beltway had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence (or the fact that he had been drinking on the job), the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.

An American teenager was in the hospital recently, recovering from serious head wounds. He had been discovered beside a railroad track. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer? \$15. (If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, was a crime really committed?)

A thief burst into a Florida bank one day wearing a ski mask and carrying a gun. Aiming his gun at the guard, the thief yelled, "FREEZE, MOTHER-STICKERS, THIS IS A ****-UP!" For a moment, everyone was silent. Then the snickers started. The guard completely lost it and doubled over laughing. It probably saved his life, because he'd been about to draw his gun. He couldn't have drawn and fired before the thief got him. The thief ran away and is still at large. In memory of the event, the bank later put a plaque on the wall engraved with the words, "Freeze, mother-stickers, this is a ****-up!"

Seems this Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinderblock through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinderblock and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinderblock bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. Seems the liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.

As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan, at 5 a.m., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away

Kentucky: Two men tried to pull the front off a cash machine by running a chain from the machine to the bumper of their pickup truck. Instead of pulling the front panel off the machine, though, they pulled the bumper off their truck. Scared, they left the scene and drove home. With the chain still attached to the machine. With their bumper still attached to the chain. With their vehicle's license plate still attached to the bumper. They were quickly arrested.

Finally, when a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake and sucked what the thought was fuel. The owner of the motor home declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

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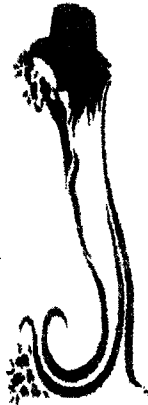
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Rectors Report

It is surprising how fast we get withdrawal symptoms. It only takes the lights to go out before we realise how many little jobs there are that we could be doing - if only there was some electricity.

We become very frustrated, very fast.

It was not the loss of electricity that frustrated me this month, but the realisation that I use my computer far more than I thought. It crashed, and for several days there was nothing that I could do. I had letters to write (not least this page). There was a Service Sheet that needed to be produced. There was - you name it - I needed to do it! Everything seemed to need the computer! And, of course I could not access my e-mails. So, if I haven't replied, please forgive me.

I am working with plan B at the moment - another computer - and guess what..... I soon discovered that the mouse on that one had failed!

Then there were the tyres on the car that needed to be replaced before taking it for its annual MOT. I still do not know why it took so long to fit two tyres - after all there didn't seem

to be much going on in their workshop. It was a pretty busy week, and being forced to sit around and wait I found very frustrating.

I am sure that you too will have had days, or weeks, when nothing goes as planned. Everything you touch seems to go pear-shaped. But then again that is life - or so we are led to believe.

The frustration of things going wrong is not good at this time of the year. For November is about remembering - and we do not like to be reminded of the things that have annoyed and frustrated us.

We are remembering those who have gone before us. We are remembering those who have put up with the frustrations and hardships of war. And we remember the God who created us. The God who loved us enough to send his only Son to die on the Cross for us. The God who enables us to rise above the troubles of this present life and, to achieve the goal of eternal life.

Thank goodness our frustrations are only temporary and short lived.

~ Bob Willmott

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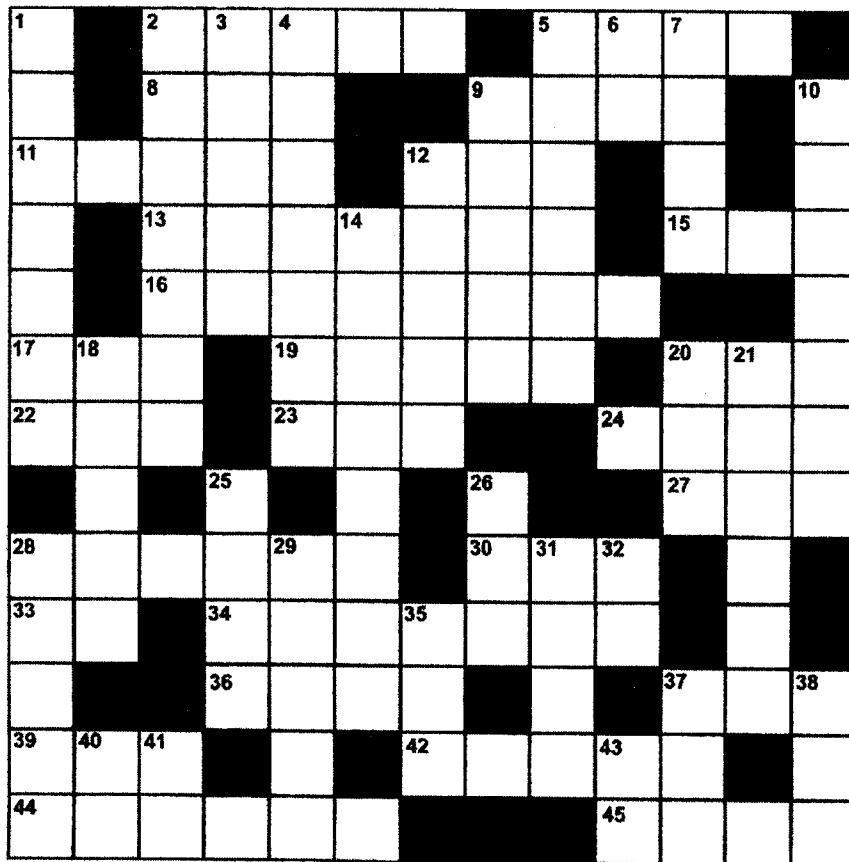
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The Chronicle Crossword

November 2003



October solution

Across 1 Hardwick 6 Fife
10 Aria 11 Break 12 Rent
14 Ne 15 Bake 16 Okayed
19 Or 20 Satires 23 Bin
25 Stocky 27 Sham 30 You
31 Imp 32 Tints 35 Demi
36 Arkansas 39 In a bed
40 IOU 41 MoT 42 Leomster
43 Energy 44 See

Down 1 Harbour 2 Arear
3 Rink 4 Dates 5 Idiotic
6 Frees 7 IE 8 Fan 9 Ekes
13 Mar 17 Kinky 18 Yes
21 About 22 Estimate
24 Imposers 26 York
28 Hirsute 29 AM 32 Tenon
33 Nib 34 Sady 35 Dime
37 Aims 38 Nose

ACROSS

- 2 Snap (5)
- 5 Time gone by (4)
- 8 Boy's name (3)
- 9 Mislaid (4)
- 11 Encounters (5)
- 12 Receptacle (3)
- 13 Begin voyage (7)
- 15 Beverage (3)
- 16 Thrilling (8)
- 17 Colour (3)
- 19 TREAD (an 5)
- 20 Travel on snow (3)
- 22 Drunkard (3)
- 23 Animal's home (3)
- 24 German town (4)
- 27 Annoy (3)
- 28 CAN SET (an 6)
- 30 Frozen water (3)
- 33 Territorial army (ab 2)
- 34 Rower (7)
- 36 Shrub (4)
- 37 Consumed (3)
- 39 Climbing plant (3)
- 42 LEANS (an 5)
- 44 Wanted (6)
- 45 Boy's name (4)

DOWN

- 1 Portions of time (7)
- 2 Gift (7)
- 3 Public house (5)
- 4 Mulluscs (7)
- 5 Jar cover (3 & 3)
- 6 Chem. element for arsenic
- 7 Let it remain (4)
- 10 Winning (7)
- 12 Small pie (5)
- 14 Strews (8)
- 18 Main artery (5)
- 20 Relation (3)
- 21 Chess piece (6)
- 25 Door handle (4)
- 26 Boy's name (3)
- 28 Blemish (5)
- 29 Reason (5)
- 31 Bounders (4)
- 32 Printing term (2)
- 35 Her (3)
- 37 Also (3)
- 38 Tree (3)
- 40 -- day (2)
- 41 You (2)
- 43 Motoring association (2)

Compiled by Don Bellingham

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St James Church

Church Services

2 nd Nov	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service
	Aston Abbots	11.15	Parish Communion
9 th Nov	Wingrave	08.00	Prayer Book style Communion
	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion
	Wingrave	10.45	Remembrance Service
	Aston Abbots		NO SERVICE
16 th Nov	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service with Communion
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Parish Communion
23 rd Nov	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion
	Aston Abbots	11.15	Parish Communion
30 th Nov	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion
	Aston Abbots	11.15	Morning Service
	Wingrave	18.00	Advent Carols
7 th Dec	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Christingle
	Aston Abbots	11.15	Parish Communion

ST JAMES CHURCH ASTON ABBOTTS

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

Sunday Readings

2 nd Nov	4 before Adv	Hebrews 9.11-14; Mark 12.28-34
9 th	3 before Adv	Hebrews 9.24-28 Mark 1.14-20
16 th	2 before Adv	Hebrews 10.11-14,19-25; Mark 13.1-8
23 rd	Christ the King	Revelation 1.4-8 John 18.33-37
30 th	Advent	1 Thess 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36
7 th Dec	Advent 2	Phil 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

From The Registers

Baptism

28 th Sep	Sophie Lockwood at Wingrave
5 th Oct	Olivia & Harry Robson at Wingrave

Church Flowers

1 st /2 nd	Mr C Higgs
8 th /9 th	British Legion
15 th /16 th	Mrs Shorrocks
22 nd /23 rd	Mrs Scutchings
29 th /30 th	Donated

Church Sidesmen

2 nd	Mr C Higgs
9 th	Mrs S Ford
16 th	Mr G Kemp
23 rd	Mr C Higgs
30 th	Mr A Ford

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 Shorrocks 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 Shorrocks	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	Claire Gresswell	682949	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 Moulton	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 Gresswell	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 Shorrocks	681260	Wingrave Stores	Andy & Helen Hall	681696
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000			
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865			

Please let us know of any errors or omissions

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What's On In November

- Saturday 1st** Friends of St James Market stall in Aylesbury between 9 and 4. Donations and volunteers needed. Contact Clare Shorrocks on 681260 if you can help. See page 9.
- Tuesday 4th** Mobile Library. The Green. Wingrave Road. Oxley Farm. See advert elsewhere for times.
- also* Aylesbury Vale Transport Meeting. Civic Centre at 7.30 pm. Bus and train queries to Colin please.
- Wednesday 5th** Aston Abbots **BONFIRE and FIREWORKS – BURGERS, SOUP, JACKET POTATOES** on sale—starts at 6.30 on the Recreation Ground—see pages 9 and 17 for more info
- Saturday 9th** Wingrave School association Bonfire and Fireworks—see page 21 for ticket details
- Sunday 9th** Remembrance Service at Wingrave. 10.45 am
- Thursday 13th** Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm
- Saturday 15th** British Legion Bingo. Church Room. 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 18th** Mobile Library. The Green. Wingrave Road. Oxley Farm. See advert elsewhere for times.
- Friday 21st** St James Church Quiz Evening in the Church Room at 7.30 pm. Teams of 4 or 6. It is hoped that Gnomes, Ladies Club, 630 Club and the PCC will make up a team. Tickets £3 – includes light refreshments. There will be a raffle.
- Sunday 23rd** Village Footpath Walk. Meet at The Green at 2 pm
- Thursday 27th** Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm
- Saturday 29th** Wingrave Scholl Association Xmas Fair. 2-4 pm in the school hall.
- Wed 3rd Dec** Parish Council Meeting. Church Room. 8 pm
- Sat 6th Dec** Coach for Christmas shopping in Reading. Depart Bell and Butcher 9.20 am. Fare £7.50 – book with Colin on 681343

Classified

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

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

BUCKINGHAM MOBILE

MOBILE LIBRARY - 2003

ASTON ABBOTTS THE GREEN	10.25-10.55
ASTON ABBOTTS WINGRAVE ROAD	11.00-11.15
ASTON ABBOTTS OXLEY FARM	12.55-13.10

For further information or enquiries, please contact:

Buckingham Library
Verney Close
Buckingham
Bucks MK18 1JP

Telephone: 01280 813229
Fax.: 01280 823597

www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries/lima_lib_mobiles.stm

Surveys on the Mobile library are being carried out. If you want the service to continue - please use it!

Rambling Club

We would welcome new members. We walk every 3rd Sunday, commencing from a different venue, starting at 2 pm. Walks last about two hours. If you are interested contact Colin on 681343 for more information.

Foul Play

Some people are still allowing their dog to foul the footpaths. This carries a £500 fines if you are caught. You may also be being watched. Please clean it up!

Light Up

Don't forget now the dark nights are here to ensure your cycle lights work!

Carol Service

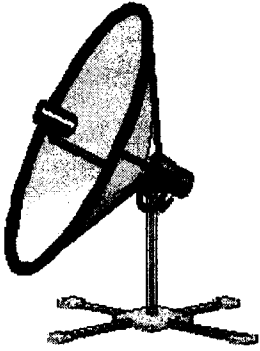
The Aston Abbots Carol service will take place on Sunday December 21st at 6 pm. at St. James Church.

The Rowsham Band will once again play for us.

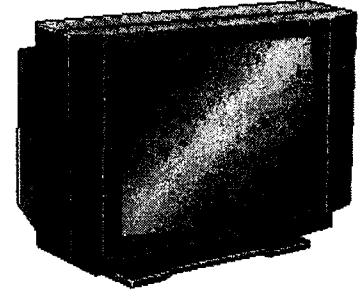


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OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

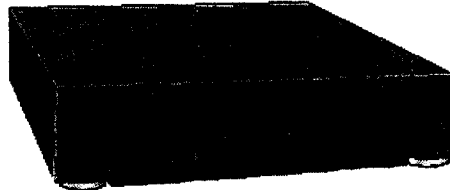


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