

THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 265 ~ March 2007



MOTHERING SUNDAY 18th MARCH

Email : editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Editorial

Spent a wonderful two weeks in South Africa. The adventure began with four days on safari. Saw all the 'big five' at very close range (the big five are lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo). My camera was in constant use and I can now bore any visitor rigid with close ups of the hairs around a leopard's nose. Couldn't get onto Table Mountain - it chose to rain for the first time in months and later it was too windy for the cable-car. The rain did provide the best conditions for visiting Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.. The holiday continued with visits to the wine region and days travelling along the 'garden route'. I would love to go back for a second visit - I will not choose to fly South African Airlines though - the space they allocated barely fitted my frame; for 10 hours it was great discomfort.

The holiday meant that I missed the snow. I gather most had the day off as the roads were blocked.

The hearing at the High Court on 12th February regarding the Judicial Review of AVDC's planning permission for the chicken egg production units was delayed because of a power cut. The new date set is now Monday 5th March.

Shrove Tuesday was a non-event for me as Judy was out with the Gnomes and it was discovered on Wednesday that our house sitter had eaten all the eggs whilst we were on holiday - so it wasn't until Thursday that I was able to sample the delights of sprinkling lemon and sugar onto a pancake. Judy's repost was to say I could have made them myself, but that's not the point - is it chaps?

It's not long now for a decision as to who will be this year's Village Fete co-ordinator. Hopefully there is someone who will be willing to take on the role. If you would like to be that person then please contact Peter Shorrocks or a Parish Councillor.

If you know of or have a pond with surplus frog/toad spawn I would be grateful if I could come and collect some as I would like to re-establish frogs and toads to my ponds. One pond has great crested newts, but no frogs.



In This Issue

- Allotment Diary by Peter Shorrocks
- New Crossword by Rod Rothero
- WANTED - Co-ordinator for this year's Fete
- Parish Council Minutes
- A418 improvements - further delays

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 265
March 2007

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~o~

A note to all would be advertisers
- More than 202 households receive The Chronicle 11 times a year and with rates from just £25 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines)...

...Can you afford not to be in?

Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 23rd March 2007

Please pass items to John Hardcastle at Marloes on Lines Hill or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible.

Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbotts, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

Alison's Gossip Column



Get Well to Rena Colman who's been suffering from a chest infection and unfortunately had to spend some time in Stoke Mandeville hospital. Also, my father, Freddy Lowden has been very poorly, so get well soon Dad.

There are some newcomers to the village. Welcome to Maggie and Paul at Church Farm Cottage and Ron in Bricstock.

Andy Bystra is 70 very soon. I think he's trying to play the age thing down so make sure you all remind him as often as possible!

Bob Bean will be 60 at the end of March so it might be worthwhile popping down the pub on the 30th for a free drink!

And last but not least, Francesca Osborn, sorry, Mrs. Bean, will be 50 this month. I can hear you all gasping – she can't possibly be 50! I know she only looks 29 but she's decided to come clean and tell the truth in order to empower other less fortunate women who might be approaching this momentous landmark!

My wife Val does the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. There have been two distraction burglaries reported in the last few days in Bierton and Slapton, and a funny incident yesterday with two West Indian individuals with empty holdalls in Wingrave. One gets into a sales spiel and the other one nicks your stuff if you're not careful. Suggest you report anything suspicious to the police and your local Neighbourhood Watch if you have one. Tell your friends to be careful. (see also page 15)

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March	
Isobel Hall	3 rd
Claire Biddle	8 th
Andy Bystra	8 th
Paul Williams	9 th
Andrew Dutton	10 th
Sam Worrall	12 th
Sophie White	13 th
Lydia Smith	15 th
Ann Goodman	15 th
Abby Louise Bowden	16 th
Tracey Fletcher	17 th
Francesca Bean	19 th
Val Rothero	20 th
Charlotte Ellis	26 th
Mary Rust	28 th
Bob Bean	30 th
John Hardcastle	30 th
George Brandon	31 st

WANTED
Co-ordinator
For this year's
VILLAGE FETE

To the Front and Back

The son of a soldier from Aston Abbots who fought in the First world war has written a book about his father's experience in the trenches.

The book traces the footsteps of Private George Kent during his four-and-a-half years in service.

Peter Kent, the author, is a postal recipient of the Chronicle. His father was born in 1894. The family home was Moat Lane Cottages and he was educated in the small Church of England School there. He played cricket for the village team.

The book is available at Aylesbury Tourist Information Centre in the King's Head pub priced £8.99

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WANTED

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Over the past few years there have been many worthwhile developments in Aston Abbots, and more are on the way. The children's play area has been completely refurbished, the fingerpost on The Green restored and a new footpath and parking bay is in place in Wingrave Road. Traffic calming roundels have been painted at the entrances to the village, and the 30mph limit in Moat Lane will soon be extended thanks to the recommendations of the Parish Council.

The very appearance of Aston Abbots owes much to the quiet work done behind the scenes by parish councillors in scrutinising and commenting on planning applications, including major applications such as Humphrey's Close, Chapman's Lea and the proposed chicken farm at Norduck Farm. Amongst other things, the Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the Recreation Ground, streetlights, dog bins and mowing The Green.

Three of our councillors – Margaret Hinds, Tom Manning and Jackie Farrands – will be standing down at the end of the session – i.e. at the end of April. The Parish needs replacement councillors willing to join the Council to ensure that the Council continues to be effective in the important, positive, valuable work it undertakes for the good of the community.

A new generation of councillors is needed to take up and continue the good work. Any parishioner interested in joining the Parish Council can contact the Chairman, Peter Shorrocks (681260), or the Clerk, Kate Curry (681137), or any of the existing councillors, for more information. There is no better way of preserving the continuity of local decision making and local democracy than through joining the Parish Council.

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Why not apply to join your parish council this year
and do something positive for your community?

The elections will be on Thursday May 3rd. If you are 18, are on the electoral register (or live within 3 miles) you could be eligible.

Your council meets about nine times a year on Wednesday evenings in the Church Room. Simply watch out for more information in the local press or, (from mid-March onwards), contact the Elections Officer or the parish clerk, Kate Curry, on 01296 681137, for a nomination form.

If you want information about the duties of a councillor, contact BALC on 01296 383154 or balc@buckscc.gov.uk

THIRTEEN EXCUSES FOR NOT JOINING THE PARISH COUNCIL

1. "I'm too young." *If you are 21 you are old enough (and see point 5 below).*
2. "What's the point of just joining a talking shop; they don't do anything." *Have you ever been to a meeting? Basing your opinion on the Vicar of Dibley is definitely not valid.*
3. "I haven't got any planning applications in at the moment." *Putting in for planning has got nothing to do with sitting on the council, whatever may have happened years ago. In fact, if your own application is discussed by the council, you must leave the room.*
4. "I'm too busy, and couldn't commit to attending every meeting." *Meetings take place only once every six weeks, and missing the occasional one is perfectly acceptable. Most meetings take less than two hours.*
5. "I'm concentrating on finding a job or furthering my career." *Being a local councillor is a definite plus point to add to your CV – it shows you can make decisions, work in a team and are community minded and proactive. Prospective employers will be impressed.*
6. "I haven't lived here very long and don't know the area well." *If you have lived or worked in the parish for a year, you are eligible. Your views as an 'incomer' should be welcomed, as you will probably see things more objectively.*
7. "I'm worried that I won't get many votes, and look silly." *Even if you are not voted on this time, you may well be approached if a vacancy occurs in the future and be co-opted on.*
8. "Our parish council is full of old fogeys." *Join up and change it then.*
9. "I'd look a fool because I won't know what's going on." *You will be eased in gently; there is help, advice and more formal training available. The Clerk is the legal officer to the council, and he or she is the one who will explain the rules.*
10. "I'll have to sign that code of conduct thing that the press keep on about." *The code of conduct is nowhere near as onerous as made out in the press; out of some 80,000 councillors, only 300 have refused to sign. The code stops situations like the planning one above.*
11. "I'll have to let everyone know all about my business and personal affairs." *The declaration of interest asks you to declare business interests within the parish area, to guard against bias when parish issues are debated. As for personal affairs – get real – everyone knows about those already!*
12. "I'm too lazy, and not interested in my community." *An excellent reason for not joining.*
13. "I prefer to let others do the work, and then criticise from the sidelines afterwards." *Also a valid reason for not joining, but do bear in mind, that expounding your view in the pub, rather than the council chamber, will not change a thing in Aston Abbots!*

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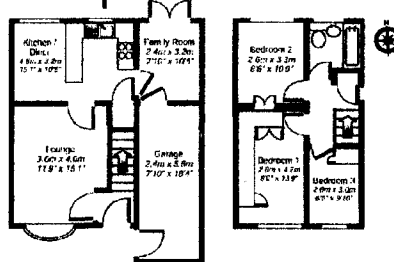
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Letters to the Editor

From Andy Bystra

FREDDIE & IRENE LOWDEN

I should very much like to thank Freddie and Irene Lowden who have delivered the Chronicle around the Green for a good many years. Regrettably, Freddie's health is such at present that he is unable to continue.

They have always impressed me since when I deliver the Chronicle to our individual distributors, Freddie & Irene are one of my first 'drop offs'. Somehow, they usually then set about their deliveries to individual houses well before I finish my 'rounds. They will be missed!!

Chronicle delivery around the Green.

Thanks to Alison Lewis having 'a word' in the right ears, Ivan Greenaway and Rod Rothero will now 'take on' those deliveries previously carried out by Freddie and Irene.

From Brigette and Juan Guitterez

We would like to thank all the people who dealt with the fallen tree!!!!

When Alison phoned to tell us about the tree, it seemed a little unbelievable that there was such windy weather. It was so calm with us that we had fog for a few days down in the village; fortunately we are high up and were in brilliant sunshine.

We had one of the trees fall just before Christmas, so someone came to see if the others were ok, he said yes. Not much we could do when the event took place.

Dave and Alison being the first port of call looked for a chain saw; Richard Clarke came by and went to get his. Dave set about sawing the tree with a little help from two of the men who work for Kevin with Alison, Liz and the police women dragging the pieces up the drive. The wood is extremely heavy and some of the pieces were very big. Dave had to saw down the other tree as the police would not open the road until it was down just in case it too was likely to fall across the road. We must say the railings are very strong. When we arrived back at 2am in the morning all we could see was branches and leaves. It was a lot of work. Juan and Pablo have sawn the rest of the wood. We feel privileged to live in a village that still has so much community spirit. Also like to thank Carol for Tuesday night. Good to see everyone and get back to real life.

Thanks again.

Hello to all my friends in Aston Abbots. Belated best wishes for Christmas and all the best to everyone in 2007. Jackie Coates. (Portugal : please note my new email address is pinetops@oninet.pt)

From Sharon Wilkinson and family

We would just like to thank everybody who sent cards and kind words of sympathy when our mum Mrs D Hinds passed away at Christmas.

Come along to a 'fun'

RACE NIGHT

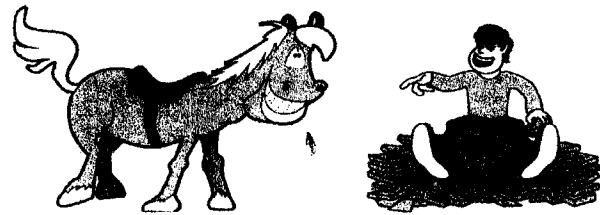
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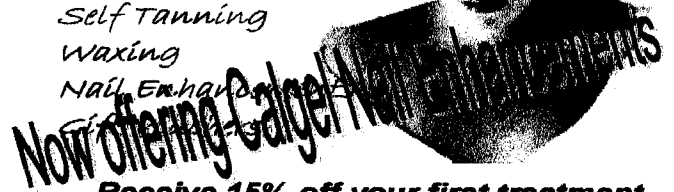
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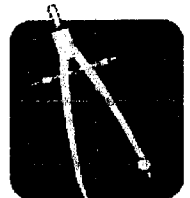
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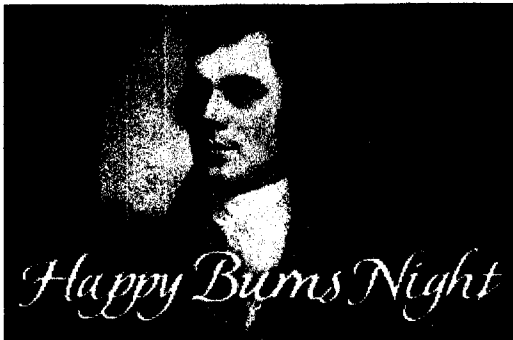
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'The Friends of Whitchurch Surgery are having a stall in the Church Hall during Open Gardens on Sunday, 29th April. We shall be selling cakes, bric-à-brac, books, and cakes. Please do come.'

Whitchurch Gardens are open on 4th March 1 - 5pm and 29th April 2 - 6pm

4 gardens will be open in aid of The National Gardens Scheme



Robert Burns is Scotland's best-loved bard and Burns Suppers have been held in his honour for over 200 years. As newcomers to the village we thought we would take the opportunity to meet and get to know some of the local community so what better introduction than attending the Aston Abbots Burns Night 2007.

In advance of the evening we weren't sure what to expect so had a peak preview through the Church room to see what the venue would hold in store for us. We have to say on the night our expectations were exceeded. Our first surprise was walking along the road only to hear the piper Mr Andrew Parks piping us all in. What an authentic start to the evening!!

On entering the hall we were greeted with a warm welcome and a wee dram. Having eventually taken our places at the table we discovered that we were in for a 4 course banquet! Haggis, Roast Lamb, "Robbie's Sweetie" and a fantastic cheese board fit for a king. We really didn't expect the quality of food which was worthy of a Michelin star. No time or effort was spared in the finer details from the table settings to the food and the formalities.

The evening was warmly opened by the Master of

Ceremonies, Mr Peter Shorrocks, with a few welcoming words. We were then asked to stand to receive the haggis. The piper then led one of the chefs, April in, carrying the haggis to the top table, while we accompany them with a slow handclap. It felt like we had gone back in time and across the border to "Glen Aston Abbots".

The meal commenced with Grace by the Reverend **D e r e k W i t c h e l l**. The chairman then invited the guest Ms Crawford Crombie-Smith to recite the address to a Haggis with great enthusiasm. When she reached the line 'an cut you up wi' ready slight', she cut open the haggis with a sharp knife. We all then applauded the speaker and stood and toasted the haggis with a glass of whisky.

During the meal Ray came across with the offer of purchasing some raffle tickets for an excellent cause guaranteed to win first prize or so we thought as we had bought the only green tickets. We were fleeced for every penny we had and won in fact absolutely nothing!. But were content to know that all cash raised for the evening was in fact for a good cause the Czech fun day in June. A must do date for the diary we understand.

After the meal the floor was cleared and room was made for us to join hands and dance whilst Andrew Parks piped the Okey Cokey which was great fun.

We would like to thank you for everyone for such a fantastic evening and for making us so welcome as newcomers to the village. It was an evening which Robert Burns himself would have been proud of.

Marcus & Jane Byewaters



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ESTONIA - INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

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Please contact us for further details:

Andy & Sally, 73 The Green, Aston Abbots, Bucks, HP22 4LY

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ALLOTMENT DIARY

As you would expect, the village allotments are at the moment a sea of inactivity, and most of our gardening is being done at the moment pouring over seed catalogues, or studying them on the internet.

While indulging in this activity recently, my mind drifted into wondering where the idea of allotment gardening came from. It seems a quintessentially English pursuit, and my initial thought was that we must have invented it, just as we invented most of the world's sports, which are the other sensible ways of spending one's free time – football, cricket (of course), rugby, tennis, table tennis, badminton, rounders (and therefore baseball, which was derived from it) and squash, to name but a few.

However, when I came to surf the internet, I found that this was not the case. I had guessed correctly that the word "allotment" came from the Enclosure Acts of the 18th & 19th centuries, meaning land that was "allotted" to individuals. But it was not England that first set up allotments for the benefit of people who were too poor to own their own land; Germany was the first country to do so, setting up "gardens for the poor" in 1830, so affording the poor the chance of self-sufficiency and physical activity in the open air. By 1869 "Schebergartens" or allotments were developed into 100 sites throughout Germany, and by the 1900's, workers' organisations, factory owners and local authorities had combined to create "Kleingartens", or chalet-gardens, where whole families could spend whole weekends away from the polluted towns – very similar to the situation that exists in the Ukraine today, as I mentioned in a recent article. These spread to other parts of Europe, being known, for example, as "summer-house gardens" in Holland and "garden-colonies" in Denmark; and they are still very common today in Sweden.

Although the history of the British allotment can be traced back to the Enclosure Acts, their initial effect was the opposite of what you might have expected: by 1818, 5,000,000 acres of formerly open land had been "allotted" and enclosed. Such "enclosures" were ordered pursuant to the Acts to allow rich land-owners to fence off what had previously been common land, thus preventing the poor from growing vegetables or grazing their animals on the land as they had previously done – so denying those without land – even those living in the country – any means of growing their own food.

This resulted in widespread poverty and disease, and in 1845 the government passed the "General Enclosure Act" to provide "field gardens" or "allotments" (as they soon became known) for the labouring poor, to try to alleviate this. These "field gardens" were initially largely situated in rural areas, and it was only later that they were extended to urban areas as well, largely caused by the growth of high-density housing in towns, many of which houses would have no gardens at all.

However, these "allotments" did not meet with universal acclaim. The "Penny Magazine" later that year interpreted the motives for the 1845 Act as being sanctimonious rather than benevolent:

"The object in making such allotments is moral rather than economic: the cultivation of a few vegetables and flowers is a pleasing occupation, and has a tendency to keep a man at home and from the ale-house".

One can almost hear the sneer in the author's voice! This ar-

gument about the purpose of allotments continued throughout the 19th century, with one camp suggesting that they were a way of preserving the working classes from the "degeneracy" into which they were prone to sink; while the more enlightened saw them as a way of improving the lot of the working man. Allotments became a political football, and by the beginning of the 20th century, election campaigns were being fought over them. The more philanthropic and benevolent minded M P's won the day, and in 1908 the Smallholdings & Allotments Act was passed, by which it became the responsibility of local authorities to provide allotments on the demand of 4 or more people. Then came the First World War. The need during this to produce as much home grown produce as possible, intensified the spread of allotments, and by the end of the war there were over 1,250,000 allotments in Britain.

Widespread poverty and unemployment during the period between the two wars meant that allotments were still very much needed, and of course this became even more the case during the Second World War, when the number increased to over 1,400,000. Older readers may remember the "Dig for Victory" series of posters, which appeared during the War, encouraging the British population to produce as much food as possible, because of the difficulty of importing food to Britain – largely because of the German U-boat campaign. Food production rose to 1,300,000 tonnes a year, in no small way due to the vegetables grown on allotments.

Since the end of the war the standard of living in Britain has steadily improved, and as a result, the demand for allotments began to wane. At the same time there has been a growing demand for land upon which commercial or domestic development could be carried out, and a large number of allotments have disappeared because of this. Their number probably now stands at around 250,000, although the recent vogue for organic food has seen another surge in their popularity.

So there you have it: we did not invent allotments, but I think it is probably true to say that they are now probably more common in Britain than they are in other European countries. It is curious too to think that the very legislation that was first used to deprive the working classes of land which they had enjoyed, was later used to redress the balance and give land back to them. Allotments are of course no longer a preserve of the working classes, and are a bit like canals: in that they have survived to be used for a purpose other than that for which they were originally designed. Both are now used for recreational purposes, and while if they did not exist, no-one would think of covering the country with new canals or allotments, we are very happy to enjoy what we have inherited.

Peter Shorrock

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ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 21st February 2007 PRESENT

Cllrs P. Shorrock (Chair), C. Higgs, D. Dicken, J. Farrands, M. Hinds, R. Clarke and Mrs. K. Curry (Clerk)..

Apologies were received from Tom Manning.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed and there were no matters arising.

CLERK'S REPORT

- The Clerk reported that an approach has been made by Weedon Parish Council to see whether we would be interested in sharing a PCSO (community police officer) with other parishes. Information regarding the forthcoming elections was given.

COUNTY COUNCIL, DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE MATTERS - No one was present from any of the above organisations.

- Colin Higgs asked the Clerk to write to BCC about the overgrown state of the pavement from the allotments to the Royal Oak. It is no longer possible to push a wheelchair or pushchair along this path.
- A further letter will be sent to our local police officer asking why he never attends our Parish Council meetings and asking him to attend the next one.

PLANNING

- To discuss application to remove agricultural occupancy condition at Longmoor Farm Bungalow – an objection had been received to the Parish Council's comments on this application. It is clear, however, that the comments were based entirely on information from the planning application itself and advice from AVDC regarding the necessary criteria which needed to be fulfilled.

VILLAGE SURVEY

- Dickie Dicken gave the following report: The last survey conducted in the village was in 1992, and it seems that many of the conclusions reached then are still applicable today. It took the form of a very comprehensive questionnaire, looking particularly at the facilities available in the village. Nowadays it is possible to have a Parish Plan included in the local authority's Local Plan. This can include a Village Design Statement which makes recommendations to guide the design of future development in the village. Bucks Community Action is able to offer advice, and possibly funding, for such a project. Dickie Dicken and Peter Shorrock agreed to arrange a meeting with Bucks Community Action to find out more.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CHURCH ROOM

- Peter Shorrock reported that the new vicar is enthusiastic about the plans to improve the toilets. New plans are being drawn up. It is also possible that money raised in the past to be spent on the Church Room may soon be able to be used to make further improvements to the building.

HIGHWAYS

- Look at quotations for a new Parish Council notice board – Resolved to accept the quotation from World of Old. The new board will be sited outside the Church Room.

RECREATION GROUND

- Safety check – children's play area – up to date.
- Official opening of the new children's play area – a provisional date of Saturday 14th April was set for this event.
- To discuss proposal to clear undergrowth from boundary – agreed to obtain two or three quotes for the work, which can then be undertaken as soon as the piece of land passes into ownership of the Parish Council.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- To confirm that the next Parish Council Meeting will be on **Wednesday 4th April 2007** at 8pm in the Church Room.

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Further advice from Jeff Bannister

Distraction Burglaries

The issue is that the victim leaves the door open while they deal with the first caller. The crime prevention advice is if you leave the immediate area of the open door, CLOSE the damn thing so no-one can get in whilst you are not there, even for short-est of moments. NOR allow anyone unsu-pervised access to your home. If not ex-pecting someone, whatever the plausibility of the request/ spiel. SHUT the door and confirm who they are. Genuine profession-als do not mind waiting. Incidentally this is the correct time to use the chain on the door, no-one can get in whilst you check their story. No-one except police who have warrant cards has a right/ lawful power to enter your home without a war-rant... people forget this and are too trust-ing. People routinely leave their back doors open/ unlocked. When they go to the front door to answer the call.... Guess who is coming in the back door..... yes the ac-complice. So what is the moral of the story?... Lock the damned door that is why it has a lock

Potential Problems with Hotel Electronic Keys
I don't know how true this is, but it may be worth consid-ering!

You know how when you check out of a hotel that uses credit-card-type room key, the clerk often will ask if you have your key(s) to hand in, or, there is a box or slot on the Reception counter in which to put them? It's good for the hotel because they save money by re-using those cards. But, it's not good for you, as revealed be-low. From the Pasadena Police Department

"Southern California law enforcement professionals as-signed to detect new threats to personal security prob-lems, recently discovered the type of information em-bedded in the credit card type hotel room keys used throughout the industry. Although room keys differ from hotel to hotel, each card contains the following informa-tion:

- a.. Customer's (your) name
- b.. Customers partial home address
- c.. Hotel room number
- d.. Check in date and check out date
- e.. Customer's (your) credit card number and its expiry date!

When you turn it in to the front desk, your personal in-formation is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner. An employee

can take home a handful of cards and, using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer then go shopping at your expense.

Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee re-issues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically "overwritten" on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process. But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it is usu-ally kept in a drawer at the front desk with YOUR IN-FORMATION ON IT!!!!

The bottom line is: Keep the card, take it home with you or destroy it. NEVER leave it behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER hand it in to the front desk when you check out of a room.

They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable per-sonal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader. For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport waste basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially cutting through the electronic information strip!

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TOWN and VILLAGE CROSSES

Some villages or towns may still have a churchyard or market cross although the base may be all that remains; some lay hidden in grass in old churchyards. At Wing a sundial has been placed on the headless shaft.

Apart from memorial crosses to the dead, churchyard crosses were the earliest stationary ones. Market crosses were used for transactions and often gave place to market or butter crosses, which were sometimes erected in front of a small room or town halls..

Other crosses were also used as boundary markers or guides to travellers such as Ralph Cross, Lilla Cross and Fat Belly on the North York Moors above Whitby.

Crosses were also erected at each place, where in 1290 the body of Queen Eleanor had rested, on the way from Nottinghamshire for burial at Westminster Abbey.

Some local crosses still to be seen - Quainton, Boarstal, Wing (with sundial), Banbury, Leighton Buzzard (market cross)

Colin Higgs

PUBLIC VIEWS FORCE RETHINK OF A418 BYPASS

Article published in *The Bucks Herald* on Wednesday 21st February - by Callum Jones

A massive public response on the preferred route of the north section of the A418 improvements, has led Bucks County Council to delay the announcement of their decision until late summer so further investigative work can be carried out.

It was hoped a decision would be announced in December 2006 but, due to the amount of responses from the exhibition and the complexity of the investigative work needed, the county council has said it will take longer than originally anticipated.

Valerie Letheren, portfolio holder for transportation, said: 'The extra work may delay the decision temporarily but I think it is important that we have all the relevant information to hand before making such an important decision'.

After comments from members of the public, the county council will be analysing the effect of removing or restricting the junctions along the proposed routes.

The county council has also decided to complete an initial assessment of an alternative route, commonly known as the Cheddington Route.

The Cheddington Route proposal runs from the A505 Roundabout parallel to the West Coast Mainline before turning towards Aylesbury along the line of the disused railway.

This suggestion was put forward at the public consultation by members of the general public and an initial assessment will enable a comparison to be drawn with the other options put forward at the consultation stage.

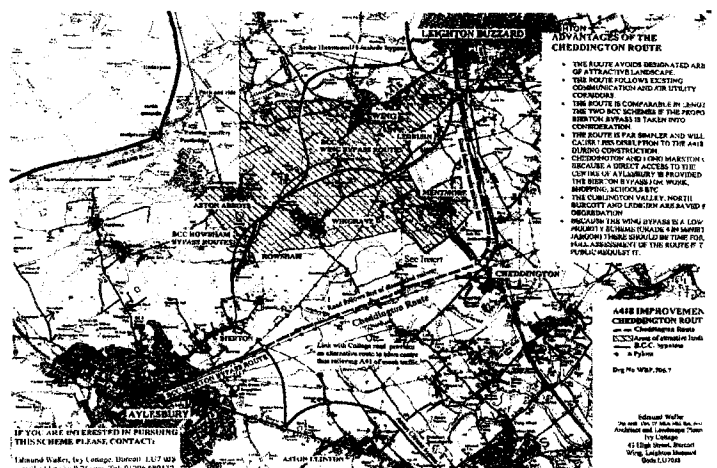
However, some residents of local villages have raised their concerns about further possible delays as a result of considering the Cheddington Route.

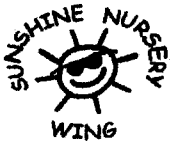
Martin Findlay, chairman of Mentmore Valley Action Group, said: 'We find it incomprehensible that a third route has been introduced at this late stage. If it was adopted as an official route I presume the public consultation would have to start all over again, leading to further delays'.

The county council will also be investigating whether or not the road alignments can be amended in order to reduce the impact on the landscape, environment or people severely affected.

It has been announced the A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade Western Bypass, which is under construction and opened to traffic in September this year.

Although it will be completed a little later than expected due to unforeseen ground conditions, it is within the timescales of the contract awarded to Alfred McAlpine.





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(*)Anything up to 4 sessions per week is paid for by Bucks County Council - the nursery is eligible to apply for funding for children aged 3 upwards (subject to availability). More information is available.



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Annual Parish Meeting

“Note for your Diary”.

Church Room

18th April

the Agenda and time will be given in next month's Chronicle.

As this meeting decides the allocation of the monies from the village fete, among other things, it is desirable that as many people as possible should attend.

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Our parish clerk, Kate Curry, is going to retire at the end of April, and we will need a new clerk. The post is a salaried one, and the salary will be on a scale based on the experience of the applicant, in accordance with national guidelines. It is reckoned that the job will entail about 4 hours' work each week, most of which can be done in the clerk's own time – but will include attending one parish council meeting every six weeks. These meetings are held on Wednesday evenings between 8.00 pm and about 9.30 pm.

It would be necessary for the clerk to be computer-literate, able to use Word competently as well as Excel or a similar accounting package, and to have his/her own computer, printer and internet access. If the successful applicant is without previous experience, the council would pay for him/her to receive relevant training.

Kate has done the job now for 8 years, and will be very happy to liaise with the new clerk in order to pass on the knowledge and experience she has gained.

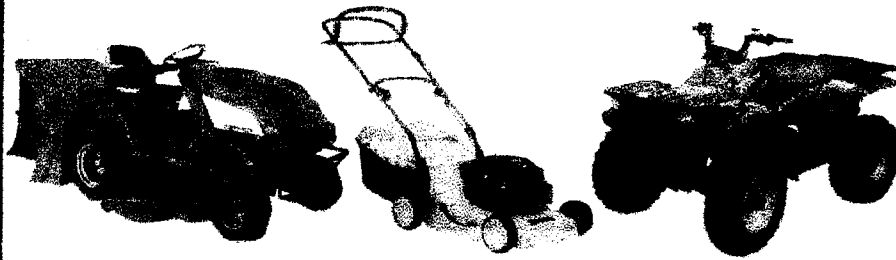
If you are interested, could you please send a written application to me either at
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or by e-mail to
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Peter Shorrock, Chairman

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Colin Higgs

With Easter not far away Year 5 at Wingrave C E Combined School have written some poems

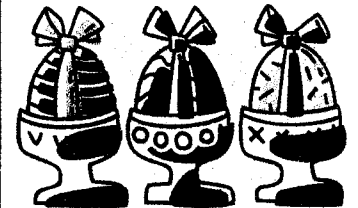
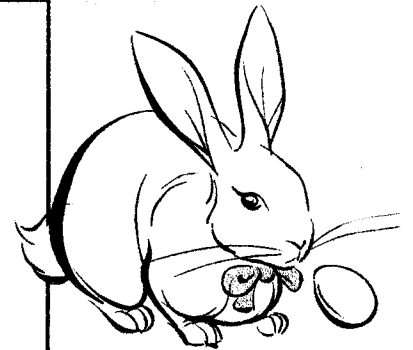
Easter has come again
All the animals have come to life
Sunshine has come again
The Easter eggs are all being made
Everything is going right
Rejoice, we shall for Easter time!

Matthew Devitt

Easter time is ready
Bunnys hop on the ground
Easter time is ready
Sun shines all around
Petals on the flower
Start to unfurl
All the new born animals
Look out on the whole wide
world

Easter time's ready
Bunnys hop on the ground
Easter time is ready
Sun shine all around.

William



Early this year Easter is here
All the chicks are out.
Sunshine brightens the day.
The flowers are out.
Everyone is here.
Running bunnies run all around bouncing
over the hills.

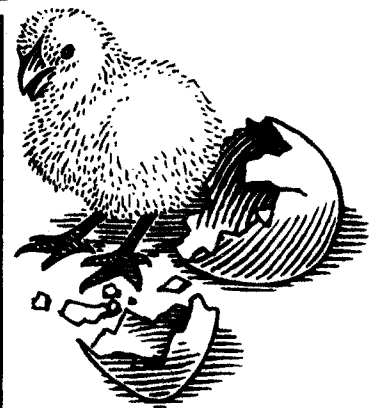
Stephanie

Easter has arrived
All the animals have come
Sunshine glistening in it's glide.
Todays the day, the only one,
Everbody thinks good things in
their mind,
Rabbits hopping in the sun

Lisa

Easter is here
All the chicks are born.
Sunshine comes out and cracks them all.
Tulips unfurl out of buds
Easter chocolate looks like like mud.
Running lambs swiftly running with all the
bunnies cheerfully humming!

Chloe



Any typographical errors were intended by the poets. Ed

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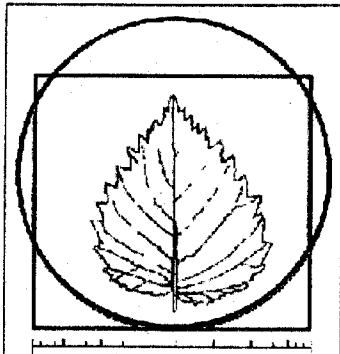
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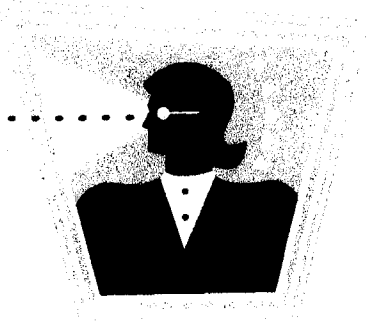
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CHURCH ROOM BOOKINGS

Please contact Colin Higgs on 681343 if you wish to book the Church Room

Rates are as follows:

For Villagers:

£5 per hour (plus metered electricity) and £50 Booking Deposit (Returnable)

For Non-Villagers:

£10 per hour (plus electricity) and £50 Booking Deposit (Returnable)

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

1st Feb..

21 members of our Ladies Club were present at today's meeting which commenced with the minutes being read and duly signed.

The Chairman then informed us that April Curnow had costed our Summer outing to R.H.S. Wisley in July and thanked April for her efforts.

It was agreed that the annual Spring lunch would be held in the church room on March the 1st and would commence at 12.30. Tickets will be five pounds each.

Our speaker today was a dwarf gentleman, Mr. G Gammiel, who spoke about his birth, childhood and adult life. We found this to be a most interesting and enjoyable talk, especially as he delivered it with great humour. He was thanked by Siv Tunnicliffe.

Today's tea hostesses were Beryl Shon and Helen White and the raffle prize was won by Doreen Powys

15th Feb.

20 members were present at today's meeting where it was confirmed that the annual Spring lunch would be held in the church room Aston Abbots on March the 1st commencing at 12.30. Tickets will be five pounds each.

The Chairman also confirmed us that our Summer outing to R.H.S. Wisley would be on July 5th and tickets would be seven pounds each.

The business being completed, the Chairman introduced Mrs Jean Hall who gave us a fascinating talk, illustrated by slides about Crete. She showed pictures of the scenery, wildflowers, orchids and butterflies which were both beautiful, and interesting. She was thanked by Doreen Powis.

Tea hostesses today were Sheila Read, Ivy Brandon and Pat Stevens The raffle was won by Avril Bradley-Davis.

Shirley Ford.

PCC AGM

is to be held in Church room

on Mon April 16th

Starting at

7.00 (To elect Church Wardens – all residents eligible to vote)

7.30 - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

All villagers are welcome to come along, meet our new Vicar, PCC members and share views on our church.

(note;- only those on the Church electoral role can vote for PCC members)

Tea & biscuits will be served

The Chronicle

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Address.....
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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

PETER SHORROCK (Chairman)
Oak Farm House ~ 681260

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

COLIN HIGGS
6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

MARGARET KENT
6 The Green ~ 681454

RICHARD CLARKE
Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

JACKIE FARRANDS
1 Norduck Cottages ~ 681182

DICKIE DICKEN
Norduck House ~ 688577

TOM MANNING
The Bungalow, West Park Farm, Wing,
Beds, LU70PG

District Councillor

PETER COOPER
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham ~ 681250

County Councillor

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*Margaret Kent is Street Light Officer, so people should let her know if a
light isn't working. Number above.*

Parochial Church Council

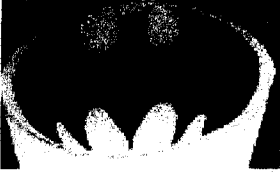
Rev Derek Witchell	Gordon Kemp 681763
Shirley Ford 681865	Ann Goodman 681763
Andrew Ford 681865	Colin Higgs 681343
Andy Bystra 681690	April Curnow 681459

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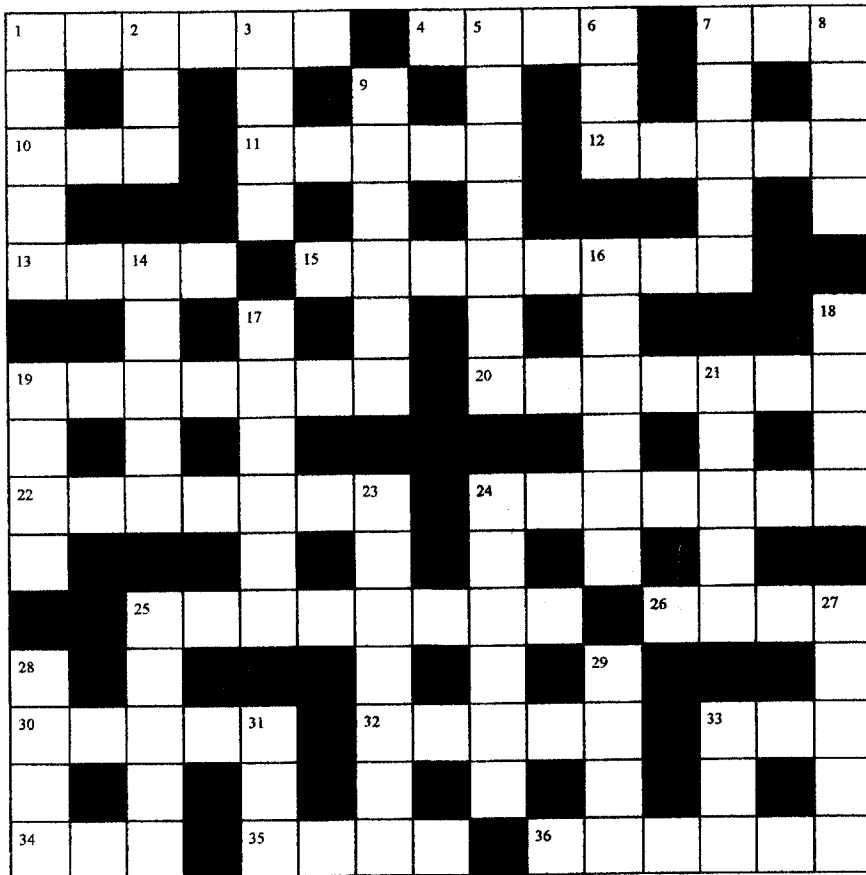
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Butchers and Farmers, Beechmoor Farm, Cublington Road,
Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 4LG Tel: 01296 641207

The Chronicle Crossword

MARCH 2007



FEBRUARY SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

- 1 Acorns 4 Iris 7 Won
 10 Fee 11 Scrub 12 Binds
 13 Lace 15 February
 19 Debacle 20 Detract
 22 Warrant 24 Abraham
 25 Prenatal 26 Asks
 30 Cream 32 Eject 33 Bye
 34 Mid 35 Deem 36 Swings

DOWN

- 1 Awful 2 Ore 3 Nose
 5 Ruby Red 6 Sob
 7 Windy 8 Ness 9 Freeze
 14 Caber 16 Attire
 17 Scrape 18 Atom 19 Dawn
 21 Aches 23 Trapeze
 24 Azalea 25 Plead
 27 Steps 28 Scam 29 Stew
 31 Mud 33 Bin

ACROSS

- 1 Soft spongy plant growth (6)
 4 How to cook bread (4)
 7 Used when playing cricket (3)
 10 Not night (3)
 11 Auctioneers hammer (5)
 12 Catholic prayer (5)
 13 Repeating sound (4)
 15 Woodwind instrument (8)
 19 Any clue could be this (4-3)
 20 Ready for bed (7)
 22 Pulled up (7)
 24 Plants that grow yearly (7)
 25 Prickly tree (8)
 26 Deliver to a place (4)
 30 Used on canals (5)
 32 Unsuitable (5)
 33 Sealed container (3)
 34 Not no (3)
 35 Sharp intake of breath (4)
 36 Smear (6)

DOWN

- 1 Soft sugary sweet (5)
 2 Old word for no (3)
 3 Drive on (4)
 5 Illness (7)
 6 Large deer (3)
 7 French hat (5)
 8 See 16 down (4)
 9 Slender (6)
 14 Water bird (5)
 16 Sometimes (3-3)
 17 Not turn up (2-4)
 18 Long time (4)
 19 Bird of prey (4)
 21 Likeness (5)
 23 Plant with large flowers (7)
 24 Used to get radio signals (6)
 25 Large rabbits in the wild (5)
 27 Stupid person (5)
 28 Internet seller (1-3)
 29 Part of a plant (4)
 31 Laid by birds (3)
 33 Part of the police force (1-1-1)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

Trendz
Unisex hair salon
Call for appointment on
01296 681282
Or 07766656411

Price list

Styling

Cut + finish.....£20.00
Wet cut.....£15.00
Blow dry (short hair).....£10.00
Blow dry (long hair).....£14.00
Basic hair up.....£20.00
Shampoo, set + put up.....£30.00
Shampoo + set.....£15.00

Mens

Cut + finish.....£14.00
Wet cut.....£10.00
Cap hi lites.....£15.00

Colour

Full head tint.....£31.00
Regrowth tint.....£27.50
Full head hi lites.....£40.00
Half head hi lites....£27.50

Hair extensions

European human hair
Half head from.....£190.00
Full head from.....£290.00
Above prices include one colour for a
second colour extra....£50.00
Re-fix.....£30.00
Removal of hair extensions....£40.00

Manicures and pedicures

File + paint...£8.50
Full manicure...£20.00
Pedicure.....£25.00

Bridal services

Bridal hair£90.00
Bridal make up.....£60.00
Including trial before and on wedding
Call for a free consultation

If you wander into our church this month you'll find that the usual displays of flowers that brighten the place up and speak of God's joy displayed in his creation are missing. We're in the church 'season' of **Lent**. It lasts for 40 days (from Ash Wednesday on the 21st February till Easter Sunday on the 8th April) reflecting the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tested by the devil in preparation for his ministry.

For Christians it's traditionally a time for personal reflection and testing, generosity to others, and restraint in our own pleasures as we prepare to remember firstly Jesus' cruel and barbaric execution on a cross (Good Friday) and then to joyously celebrate his defeat of death and his rising to life (Easter Sunday). Jesus' willingness to go through this on our behalf gives all who believe in him and accept him as Lord and Saviour the assurance of forgiveness of our sin and a new and spectacularly brilliant life beyond the door of our death.

People often give up something they enjoy during Lent – for instance chocolate, tv, sex (not many takers there!). But here's a different idea for marking the season. Why not exchange our self-imposed martyrdom of giving something up for the joy of doing something a little extra for a relative, a friend, a stranger or our world. In other words why not let our act of sacrifice be an act of service to another.

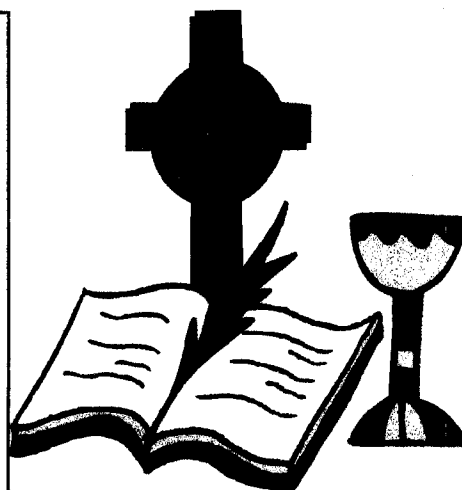
This year I received a copy of a Lent booklet called 'Love life live Lent' (www.livelent.net and only £1). It's filled with suggestions for each day of how to be 'generous to yourself, your neighbours and the world.' For example: Day 8 – give someone an apple; Day 10 - help the environment, turn off the tap when cleaning your teeth; Day 2 – help a bug out of the house rather than squash it!; Day 37 – bake something and share it.....you get the idea. My favourite is Day 23 - buy something at a charity shop and reverse haggle – it's wonderful seeing the faces of the charity shop workers as I bargain the price UP instead of down!

So why not brighten the lives of those we live and work with by asking: 'from now until Easter, what little service can I do for someone else?' and make the world we live in just a little brighter and more pleasant.

Shalom *Derek*

NOTICE

It has been reported some people are still allowing their dog(s) to foul the verge opposite the Chapel and in the \Recreation Ground. This is an offence. Be a responsible resident and pick it up



BENEFACTIVE DATES

March

- 3rd Godly Play demo day, Wingrave
- 4th 11 am Wing PCC AGM
- 10th Beetle Drive, Wing
- 14th 7.30 Cublington planning meeting
Wingrave Mens group
- 17th 9.0 Mens breakfast, Wingrave
- 18th 6.0pm BYG at Wing
- 27th 7.30 Wingrave Mens Group

Church Sidesman

- 4th Mr A Bystra
- 11th Mrs A Curnow
- 18th Churchwardens
- 25th Mr A Ford
- 2nd April Mr C Higgs

Cleaning

- w/e 3/4 Mr C Higgs / Mrs Bean
- 10/11 Mr A Bystra / Mrs Curnow
- 17/18 Mrs Ford / Mrs Packer
- 24/25 Mr A Ford / Caroline Lane
- 1/2 April Mrs S Ford /Mr C Higgs

Flowers

No flowers in Lent

Aylesbury and Bucks Pest Control by MSC Ltd

Environment Agency Certificate Number TWE/673982
Member of British Institutes of Cleaning Science **BiCS**

‘Don’t get stung this summer’ by unwanted guests

Wasps, Mice, Rats, Squirrels, Crows,
Pigeons, Rabbits, Foxes.

Agricultural – Equestrian – Commercial
Domestic – Local Authority

Control – Eradication and Prevention

Netting – Trapping – Baiting

Cleaning and Removal of Feral Bird mess and nests

**Power Wash Cleaning and Renovation of
Patios, Driveways, Brick and Stone.**

24hrs a day, 7 days a week

Call Jim on

Office 01296-424284

Mobile 07950-379250

or Email on

jim@mtsfc.co.uk

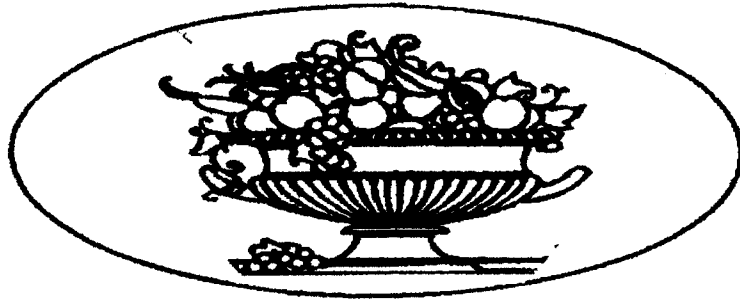
St James Church

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2007

*Aston Abbotts – St James; Cublington – St Nicholas;
Wing – All Saints; Wingrave – St Peter & St Paul*

SUNDAY 4TH <i>Lent 2</i>	Aston Abbotts	10.00	Morning Prayer
	Cublington	08.45	Holy Communion
	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion
		10.00	Holy Communion
Wingrave	10.00	Holy Communion	
THURSDAY 8TH	Wing	09.30	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 11TH <i>Lent 3</i>	Aston Abbotts	10.00	Holy Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Family Communion
	Wing	10.00	Family Communion
	Wingrave	08.00	Holy Communion BCP
THURSDAY 15TH	Wing	09.30	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 18TH <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Aston Abbotts	10.00	Holy Communion
	Cublington		at Aston Abbotts
	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Family service
THURSDAY 22ND	Wing	09.30	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 25TH <i>Lent 5</i>	Aston Abbotts	18.00	Evensong
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service
	Wing	10.00	Holy Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Holy Communion
	Wingrave	18.00	Lent Service @ Methodist Chapel

LOUISE DAVIS CATERING



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FOR ALL OCCASIONS**

TEL: 01296 641179

WINGRAVE PRE-SCHOOL

OFSTED INSPECTED



For children aged 2½ - 5 years
Monday - Friday 9.30-12.00
The Community Centre, Church St, Wingrave

Qualified staff - **KEY WORKER** appointed to each child
Dedicated educational sessions for all 4+ children

Government-funded voucher scheme for 3-4 yr olds



Children's learning is promoted in a
FRIENDLY & FUN atmosphere

Contact: Claire Upton/Pre-School Leader
01296 681700 - 0787 0787579

Or

Terri-Anne Perkins
01296 681963



YOGA

**WEEDON OLD SCHOOL
THURSDAY 19.30 - 21.00**



**Come and join this small
friendly class**

Ring Paul Blissett on 07963 011796

The Aston Abbots Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	Parish Clerk	Kate Curry	681137
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrocks	681260
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Police	Emergencies	999
Buses	L&S	415468	Police	Non-emergency	0845 8 505 505
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Room Hire	Colin Higgs	681343	Rector	Reverend Derek Witchell	
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Coach Trips	Colin Higgs	681343	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moult	681262
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
Fete Coordinator	TBA		Toddlers Group	Claire Greswell	682949
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544	Wingrave Preschool	Claire Upton	681700
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000	Wingrave Post Office (PO only)		682964
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865	Wingrave Post Office (Stores)		681696
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave School	Office	681436
Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838			
Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229			
NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Line	0845 46 47			

Please let us know of any errors or omissions

Evensong services in Aston Abbots

Just another reminder that services are held on one Sunday each month in our beautiful village church. They are very 'user friendly', commence at 6.00pm and are usually conducted by Colin Smart.

With our very own Nigel Palmer playing the organ, they are becoming increasingly popular, so if you would like to come along to these friendly and uplifting services, please make a note that the next three in 2007 are to be held on;-



March 25th April 22nd May 27th

BOOK THESE DATES

**Sat23/Sun24th June Flower Festival
St James Church to coincide with
Czech Event.**

**Sat21/Sun22nd July
Festival Weekend**

Mothers Sunday

18th March

*is set aside so our Mums and Grandmas
can be pampered in appreciation
of all they do for us.*

*To ensure we don't forget
how special they are,*

*there will be a 'Mothers Sunday' Service,
on*

Sunday the 18th March

in

Aston Abbots Church

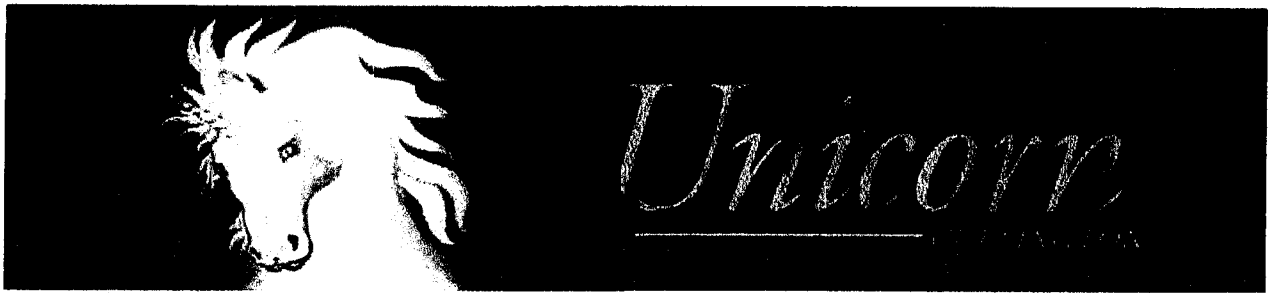
conducted by

Derek Witchell

starting at 10.00

*Please come along,
all 'Mums and Grandmas
will be given posies so
they know we care.*





Afternoon set menu

(Served from Mon to Thursday between 12 to 2.30)

The Unicorn is aware that many of our customers would like to have a set price lunch menu

With this in mind The Unicorn has created a 2 course and 3 course menu based on our fresh Country style cooking

2 Courses - £9.95 3 Courses - £12.95

MONDAY IS QUIZ NIGHT

WEDNESDAY IS PATRICK'S AUTHENTIC CURRY NIGHT

FEATURED IN THE 2007 GOOD BEER GUIDE,
GOOD PUB GUIDE, REAL ALE GUIDE
AND FINALISTS IN
AYLESBURYVALE VILLAGE PUB COMPETITION

Family friendly pub - Large beer garden

Visit us soon... food served everyday

MONDAY TO THURSDAY 12.00 TO 2.30 & 6.30 TO 9.00

FRIDAY 12.00 TO 2.30 & 6.30 TO 9.30

SATURDAY 12.00 TO 4.00 & 6.30 TO 9.30

SUNDAY 12.00 TO 4.00



TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE PLEASE CALL US ON 01296 681 261

THE UNICORN, HIGH STREET, CUBLINGTON, NR. LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS, LU7 0LQ

What's On In March

Thursday 1st	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon Ladies Club 2.15pm Whist 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room Church Room
Thursday 8th	Coffee/Shop 10 - 12noon Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room
Sunday 11th	Rambling Club Members Meet at Winslow 2pm	
Wednesday 14th	Rambling Club AGM 8pm	11 Lomond Drive
Thursday 15th	Coffee/Shop 10 - 12noon Ladies Club 2.15 Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room Church Room
Sunday 18th	Mothering Sunday Service 10am (Mums and Grans will be presented with posies) Village Footpath Walk 2pm	St James Church The Green
Saturday 24th	British Summer Time begins (clocks go on 1 hour)	
Sunday 25th	Rambling Club Members Meet at Dunsmore 2pm	
Thursday 29th	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
Sunday 25th	Evensong 6pm	St James Church
Thursday 29th	Coffee/Shop 10-12noon Ladies Club 2.15pm Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room Church Room

Address

Please note that all submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to John Hardcastle, Marloes, Lines Hill, Aston Abbotts, Bucks. HP22 4NG

Email submissions to:

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Please don't forget to tell us of any events that you would like included in the What's On list

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle. Phone us on 01296 688191 or email editor@aachronicle.co.uk

GNOMES

The Gnomes celebrated their 4th Anniversary on Tuesday 20th February with a meal at the Unicorn in Cublington. Eighteen of us attended and, thanks to our chauffeurs, we all had a good time.

The Gnomes (Girls Night Out Men Excluded Sorry) meet every Tuesday in the Royal Oak for a drink and chat.

All ladies in the village are very welcome (no joining fee).

Woman Knows Her Place

Barbara Walters of Television's 20/20 did a story on gender roles in Kabul, Afghanistan, several years before the Afghan conflict. She noted that women customarily walked 5 paces behind their husbands. She recently returned to Kabul and observed that women still walk behind their husbands. From Ms. Walter's vantage point, despite the overthrow of the oppressive Taliban regime, the women now seem to walk even further back behind their husbands and are happy to maintain the old custom.

Ms. Walters approached one of the Afghani women and asked, "Why do you now seem happy with the old custom that you once tried so desperately to change?"

The woman looked Ms. Walters straight in the eyes, and without hesitation said, "Land Mines."

Classified

1 AEG Halogen top cooker, excellent working order £25 ono

2 Binatone Twin Digital cordless phone, caller display

(as new) bargain £ 25 ono phone 680474

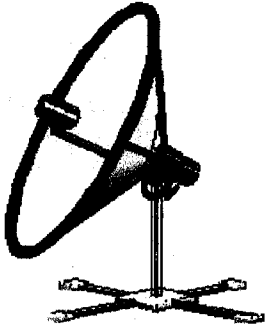


630 Club

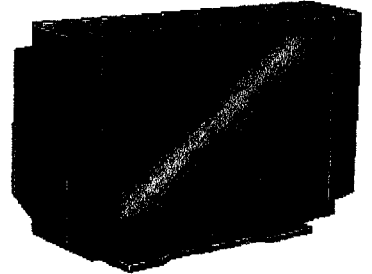
Meets every Saturday in The Old Oak at 6.30pm. New members very welcome. Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS



T.V. VIDEO AND
SATELLITE
SERVICING AND
GENERAL REPAIR



**NEW AND USED SALES
LCD, PLASMA, DVD**

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DAVE'S OFFENSOMETER

Following a period of unusually quiet behaviour from Dave, the Offensometer - the device that measures the general level of offence he causes - remains at a low level, as you can see on the right. To ensure that the statistics are not being fiddled, we invite you to take part in the brief survey below.

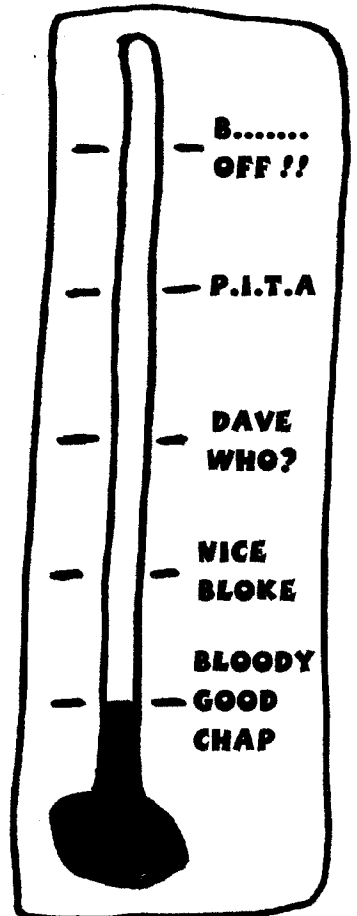
How many times has Dave spilled red wine in your house (please restrict your answer to between 5 & 100)?

How many nights has Dave remained late in your house tunelessly singing Bee Gees records long after you have gone to bed?

Has Dave ever removed his trousers in your presence (circle the answer that applies)?
YES / NO
I NEVER NOTICED

Which parts of your body have been touched inappropriately by Dave (continue on a separate sheet if necessary)?
.....
.....
.....

Your answers will be fed into the offensogrator to correct any discrepancies in the current Offensometer reading. Thank you for taking part in our survey.



Flackwell Electronics - Purveyors of plasma screens to the gentry