

THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 270 ~ September 2007



Email : editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Editorial

I trust you enjoyed the summer holidays despite all the rain. Astonbury6 and the Village Fete managed to find good weather windows. A lot of effort goes into these events and it is good to see them so well supported.

From the proceeds of this year's Fete the Chronicle received a cheque for £500 which goes towards it's production costs. There is a meeting on 17th in the Church Room to discuss next year's Fete - further details on page 5. Please make sure you attend and give April Curnow your support.

Judy and I have a busy time ahead and I'm looking for generous donations to help us through the coming financial storm. Early next March we are anticipating my youngest son's wife Liane giving birth; our first grandchild. My eldest daughter Sally is getting married in May. Judy and I will be celebrating 40 years of connubial bliss (my words not hers) in June; and Chris, our eldest son, is getting married in August. That will leave us with one daughter to go.

Becky Hunt is resigning as Parish Clerk. Becky and her family are moving to a new home in Northamptonshire. An advert for the post of Parish clerk is on page 12.

The Harvest Festival will be held in the Church on 23rd September. Please go along with all your family to the Evensong Service at 5pm followed by a Harvest Supper in the Church Room. Full details are on page 19.

We had one glorious summer's day (August 26th) on The Green when the Rowsham Band played to the accompaniment of tea and cakes. Pure magic.

John Hardcastle

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- Crossword

THE CHRONICLE

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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 21st September 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 Abbots, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

Alison's Gossip Column



The unexpected death of Mike Maurice on 25th June is a huge loss to his family, his friends and his neighbours. A funeral service was held at St. James' Church on August 7th. Our condolences particularly to Carole.

"I have been so touched & comforted to receive such lovely cards, messages, phone calls & support, since the death of my husband Mike, a few weeks ago.

Thank you all so much."

Carole Maurice

Apologies to Pam Hewitt for not wishing her a Get Well after breaking her leg months ago.

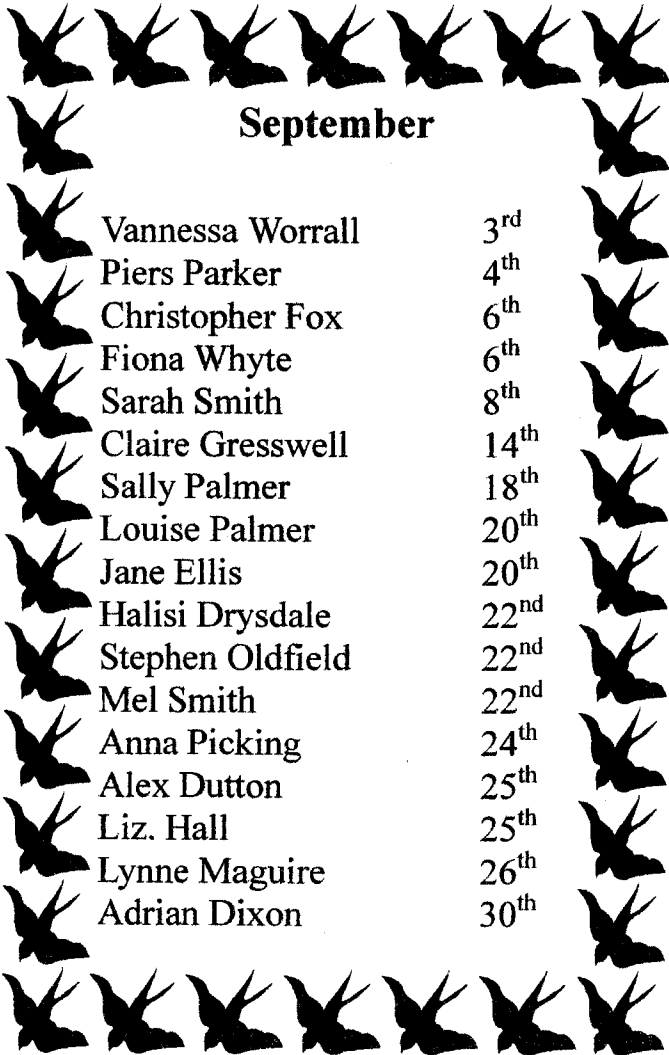
Dorothy Liscott has also been in hospital for some time. We wish her well.

Get Well also to Ray Wilkinson who has had a hip replacement and I know has been suffering.

Sadly, my father Freddy Lowden died on Sunday August 19th. He had been in deteriorating health since Christmas, but he was at home until the end and he went peacefully. My mother and I would like to thank all those kind people who have sent cards, letters and flowers.

Welcome to Simon who has moved into 23 The Green & also to Elaine at no. 19

Congratulations and best wishes to Paul and Trinna who are getting married in Ravello in Italy on 14th September. Paul and Trinna live on The Green. Paul's claim to fame locally is that he was first assistant on the coconut shy at the Fete and supplied the electricity for Colonel Custard.



September

Vannessa Worrall	3 rd
Piers Parker	4 th
Christopher Fox	6 th
Fiona Whyte	6 th
Sarah Smith	8 th
Claire Gresswell	14 th
Sally Palmer	18 th
Louise Palmer	20 th
Jane Ellis	20 th
Halisi Drysdale	22 nd
Stephen Oldfield	22 nd
Mel Smith	22 nd
Anna Picking	24 th
Alex Dutton	25 th
Liz. Hall	25 th
Lynne Maguire	26 th
Adrian Dixon	30 th

**630
Club**

**Meets every Saturday
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New members very welcome. Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.

Don't forget to tell us about your birthdays, anniversaries, etc, so that we can send you a greeting in the Gossip Column

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Letters to the Editor

This letter was received during July and is published for your information ED

Just a warning to fellow residents of the village, my car was broken into last night. It was on our drive right in front of our house in The Acorns! The damage was discovered the following morning when I saw broken glass on the ground, looked up and saw a completely shattered window, glass fragments everywhere, glove box open, contents spilt out.....

For some unknown reason, the car alarm did not go off when it happened, yet it did in the morning when I reached inside. Well practiced thieves perhaps. We have dogs in the house but none of them barked.

I never leave my Sat Nav system in the car, but having arrived home late & tired I'd left the bracket on the windscreen and I can only assume that this was the motivation for the theft. My husband's car right next to mine was untouched.

I'm now around £100 poorer, have wasted most of a day on insurance, glass replacement etc. and will never feel quite the same again about living here.

What I'd like to say to the person(s) responsible is not printable here. I bought the Sat Nav in the first place because I volunteer for home visits across the area, helping find new homes for rescued dogs.

Liz

The GREAT CUBLINGTON Garage Sale

Sunday 23 Sept 12 Noon – 3pm

Being held from numerous private garages and various central locations all around Cublington.

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Proceeds in aid of Friends of St Nicholas Church, Cublington

LOST PROPERTY

From Peter Shorrocks

Please put a note in the next Chronicle that, while setting up things for Astonbury on the Rec., we found a child's pink & grey cardigan, and a pair of rimless reading glasses. If the owners would like to contact me, I will be happy to return them.

FETE MEETING

The most enormous thank you to all the lovely people who helped in any way towards our very successful fete this year. The £2791 raised is testament to the hard work of everyone. The Church, the Church Room, the Chronicle and the Children's Playground will all benefit.

I would appreciate a get-together of all those involved this year, and those who would be prepared to help next year, to come to a short meeting in the Church Room on Monday 17th September at 7.30pm.

If some initial planning is done now then we get together again around April/May time for the final planning we should have another successful occasion.

I will be happy to co-ordinate the fete again next year unless anyone else would like the job!

April.

You deserve the best

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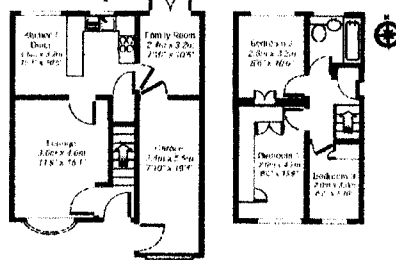
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Countryside Matters

The Hallam Family Farm, just outside the parish at Red Barn Farm, Aston Abbots, at present they milk 120 cows, the whole herd being 140. They sell their milk to a Danish farmer owned co-operative which takes their milk everyday to Hatfield Pervill on the M25. From there it is processed and sold to ASDA. 10 years ago Bill Hallam was paid 27p / litre for his milk, now from 1st July he receives 20.1p /litre, some farmer's get 18p and the remainder get under 16p / litre, according to their existing contracts. An article in Defra magazine reads "In 1995 there were about 30,000 dairy farmers, now this figure is 13,600; it's just not profitable any more. A lot of tenant farmers who borrowed money to expand their herds to 200 plus were hit very hard and thousands have gone out of business. There's been a huge increase in the cost of milk production in the last 12 months. Everything's gone up – feed, farm diesel, rates, and wages – but there is a downward pressure on milk prices. To earn a living wage and to be able to reinvest, dairy farmers need to be paid 22.3p/litre, but average prices are currently 18 pence. We've been pushed down in price by supermarket strength and processor weakness" Where have you heard that before?? Is it not time that we all realize how lucky we are to have a pub, a shop and post office and a M.O.T. garage. Like the dairy farmers they are all jewels in our rural crown. Use them or lose them.

On a lighter note, Bill Hallam reckons that all this talk of global warming, apparently due to his flatulating cows, he could (as in India, he is told) bottle the methane gas they produce in 47Kg bottles, of course, and supply Aston Abbots with cooking and central heating all the year round. Now that's what I call Natural Gas!!

August 1st and I have just seen a Red Leg French partridge with 10 chicks the size of bumble bees. This only goes to prove that these must be her second hatch and confirms that the earlier brood must have been wiped out by the cold and wet.

Talking of wet, we had 55mm of rain in 45 minutes during that dreadful storm on Friday 20th July. I saw rats running out of the rape stubble and into the hedgerows. What the hell do they eat on bare rape stubble? Anyway, out come the traps and poison again.

Here we go again, foot and mouth, reported in Wanborough, Surrey, 3 kilometers from Pirbright, where they actually manufacture foot and mouth vaccines for clients abroad, a coincidence, I think not!

FMD is a highly contagious viral infection that affects animals with cloven hooves, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and deer. The cattle that were infected were shot on site, which is correct, but then sent 80 miles in grain trucks to Wiltshire to be incinerated, risking spread of the disease. It is difficult enough to stop leaks of rape seed from a grain truck, never mind blood and water. Does a canvas sheet stop aerial escape of the virus? Why not a large deep hole and burial with quicklime on site??

Anyone who witnessed the farmer, John Gummer, break down in front of the cameras, as his herd and life's work were destroyed in front of his eyes, could not fail to be moved. "They were losing weight in front of our eyes; they were stumbling, falling over and drooling". His 8 year old pedigree Hereford bull, "could not stand up and he fell over in front of me", all within a few hours of being hit with this virulent virus.

If supermarkets continue to buy cheap uncooked meat from countries in South America, with endemic FMD and we allow suitcases of raw meat to arrive in airports from the sub continent, although not the source this time, I am afraid this will not be the last we shall see of this dreadful disease.

James

Article originally printed in September Wingrave with Rowsham
Communique. James Henderson farms at Upper Wingbury Farm

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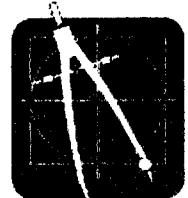
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Aston Abbotts Parish Council Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 8th August 2007.

PRESENT: Cllrs. P Shorrocks, C Higgs, D Dicken, A Stefanczyk, R Clarke, K Curry and Mrs R Hunt (Clerk). Apologies from Cllr. J Hardcastle. Five members of the public attended. Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising

The grass verge outside Bricstock has now been cut satisfactorily. The road sign outside "The Acorns" has now been repaired. The hedge outside the Royal Oak has now been trimmed back. The adoption of the street name of "Hunters Way" has now been confirmed by AVDC.

County Council, District Council and Police matters

No-one was present from the District Council or Police. Cllr Cooper mentioned a new way of working which is being proposed, which would mean the devolving of certain responsibilities from District to County Council and County to Parish Council. Full details of this have been sent to the Parish Council and he asked that we read it carefully and let the organisers know if we would be interested in this initiative. The Clerk will ensure that this document is handed to the Chairman for his perusal and if necessary it will be put on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting to be discussed.

Planning

A possible breach of land use was reported to the council at 3 The Acorns. It was reported that a greenhouse and shed have been erected on Agricultural Land. The Clerk was asked to report this matter to AVDC Planning Enforcement for them to investigate. The Planning Committee notified the Council of the following decisions that had been made at the Sub Committee meeting on the 8th August '07:

07/01760/APP 77 The Green, Aston Abbotts – Erection of two storey detached dwelling

RESOLVED to oppose this application on the following grounds: Unsympathetic design proposal for the conservation area
Parking and vehicular movement adversely affected
Loss of amenity and privacy to neighbouring properties
Insufficient provision of car parking spaces in the plans

07/01693/ADD Hunters Way, Moat Lane – Display of non-illuminated "V" advertising board

RESOLVED to raise "No objections" to this application.

07/01859/APP 29 The Green – Single storey rear extension

RESOLVED to raise "No objections" to this application

Village Plan

A group of villagers have been identified who would like to take on the production of a Village Plan. The individuals are: D Dicken, K Curry, A Stefanczyk, P Shorrocks, P Ellwood and Marcus. It was proposed that a meeting should be held during October/November for the group to take matters forward and identify a Project Leader.

Highways

The Council RESOLVED to support Bierton and Broughton in their quest to improve the A418 situation. The Clerk was asked to write to B.C.C. Highways Dept. adding support to Bierton and Broughton, in the hope that something can be done to make the road safer. The Council RESOLVED not to make a contribution to Friends of the Earth towards the production of a report into alternatives to the A418 bypass proposals. C Higgs brought to the attention of the Council an article he had read in the Bucks Herald re: the significant reduction of funding for repairs to rural roads. The Council AGREED that they would raise this issue at the next Cluster meeting. K Curry will contact M Howe to ask that it be put on the agenda C Higgs mentioned the increase in traffic outside Wingrave School during "pick-up" and "drop-off" times. The Council whilst agreeing that this is an increasing issue felt that this was a matter out of their control.

Recreation Ground

Safety check – children's play area – up to date. P Shorrocks informed the Council that there was no longer a commuted sum to come to the council re: Nash's Farm land and that he will now set the ball rolling for completion on the transfer. It was AGREED that at the next Parish Council meeting the Council should discuss how to clear the undergrowth, in order to make this additional piece of land useable to residents.

Parish Council – new code of conduct

The Council RESOLVED to adopt the new code of conduct including para 12(c) re: public participation.

Parish Paths Partnership

K Curry mentioned that the gates along the bridleway leading onto Willowbrook Farm land needed repairing and that this could be funded under the above. The Council AGREED that K Curry should contact the Parish Paths Partnership to find out how we get funding organised for this. Also all members of the Council are to let the Clerk know of any other improvements that they feel could be made to any of the Public Rights of Way within the village, in order for possible funding to be sought once the bridleway work is complete.

Accounts The monthly accounts were approved for payment.

Parish Clerk

An advert will be placed in the next edition of The Chronicle to see if there is anybody within the village who would be interested in becoming the Clerk (as the current Clerk may be moving out of the area in the near future). The Clerk agreed to draft an advert which the Chairman would then authorise and publish. K Curry also suggested that an advert should be placed in the BALC newsletter. The Clerk will find out how to do this.

Date of next meeting To confirm the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th September at 20.00 in the Church Room. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG**

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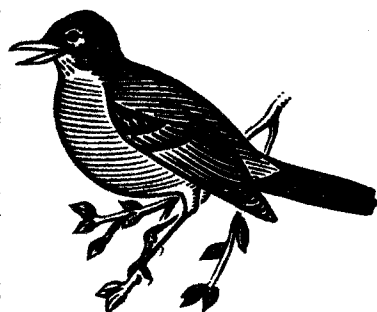
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ALLOTMENT DIARY

During July, I acquired a new best friend. The combination of the appalling summer weather and various social and village commitments meant that I had not weeded my allotment as often as I should. As a result, on about a third of the allotment, the weeds were far too big to get up with a hoe, and I had to resort to the expedient of pulling them up by hand.

In the hedge alongside Vic's allotment, there was a blackbird's nest, and the eggs had clearly recently hatched. The need to get food for her young family emboldened the



female blackbird to such an extent that, while I was pulling weeds up, she was hopping about inches from my feet, waiting to grab the worms that had been unearthed by my labours. On one occasion, she even hopped through my legs to pick up a particularly succulent worm. She probably thought I was mad to be unearthing all these delicious worms and then not eating them, but clearly for her, the sun shone out of a part of my anatomy which I cannot mention, this being a family magazine.

Do you remember as a child playing five-stones, and having to pick up stones from the ground, without dropping those you had picked up earlier? This blackbird had to do exactly the same exercise with her worms. She could pick up, I would guess, as many as a dozen worms, without dropping any of those she has picked up first – even though, as you may imagine, the worms were wriggling like mad to try to get free!

However, that was in July. I am sorry to say that I have discovered that birds are fickle. Once her brood had hatched, she ignored me, and although I was still doing some weeding during August (weeding being a job like painting the Forth Bridge), she did not come near me.

One serious result of the wet, humid weather that we had during the summer was that most of the potatoes growing in the allotments were affected by potato blight. This was the disease, you may remember, that caused the failure of the potato crop in Ireland in the middle of the 19th Century; which resulted in vast numbers of Irish people dying of starvation, and of an illness, famine fever, that followed it. This also resulted in mass immigration from Ireland to the USA. (The effect of these two things meant that there was a dramatic reduction in the Irish population. A reference book tells me that the population of Ireland was around 8,500,000 in 1845, and only 5,500,000 ten years later).

In case any of you have a crop of potatoes at home, and are wondering if your crop was affected, the symptoms

are that the leaves develop brown patches in damp weather, usually with a white fluffy growth around the edge of the patch on the underside of the leaf. This white growth is a mass of fungal spores, which then blow off, and infect other potato plants. The leaves then gradually wither, and the top growth of the plant collapses. The blight will eventually affect the tubers, causing them to develop sunken dark patches, which gradually deteriorate into slime. If this sounds like your potatoes this year, and you did nothing about it, then I offer my commiserations.

Vic told me that there are three things you can do: the first is to spray the plants with something called Bordeaux spray – a copper sulphate based mixture. Ideally this should be sprayed before the disease is seen; but you may be lucky if you spray as soon as you notice the signs, and then repeat after 2/3 weeks. Secondly, if you notice brown spots appearing on potato leaves, and the plant generally drooping, you should cut off all the foliage and stems above the ground, so as to stop the fungus from spreading to the underground tubers. This is what I have done, and it remains to be seen whether it has worked (although Vic is optimistic). I gather that the potatoes will not grow as large, without the foliage to nourish them, but they should be spared the brownish-black spots which cause the potatoes to rot. Thirdly, you can dig up your potato crop as soon as you notice the blight, and hope that you have lifted the tubers before the disease has affected them. However, the problem with this course of action is that the potatoes are likely to be very small.

The other thing I discovered is that potato blight also affects tomatoes. (Apparently they are members of the same plant family). I first heard that it had attacked tomato plants on other allotments, and then discovered that it had attacked my plants in the greenhouse in my garden – even though there were no potatoes anywhere near. The symptoms are the same, as is the treatment. I again tried removing all the foliage (but this time did not cut down the stems, since clearly this would have destroyed the fruit I was trying to protect), and it seems to have done the trick. The tomatoes have continued to ripen, and the new foliage that has appeared seems to be blight-free.

The peculiar weather has also affected my fruit in strange ways. I am getting a bumper crop of raspberries, and my greengage trees are absolutely laden, as is one of my eating apple trees, which is normally a bad fruiter: while my cherry tree produced virtually no fruit, and my Bramley apple tree, which is usually a reliable source of apples, has less than a dozen apples on it, and these are pitifully small. Vic tells me that his cherry and Bramley apple trees have behaved in exactly the same way. Indeed, he only has 2 apples on his tree! It's comforting to know I'm in good company!

Peter Shorrocks

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A vacancy has arisen for a Clerk to Aston Abbotts Parish Council (due to the current Clerk moving out of the area).

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Duties include amongst others: preparation of Agendas and Minute taking at Parish Council meetings, upkeep of Parish accounts and dealing with day to day correspondence as required by the Council.

This is a very varied role, which will require you to have access to a computer and printer, basic computer skills, including word processing and spreadsheet maintenance; and most importantly a flexible attitude.

A full hand-over will be given and training (if necessary) will be provided to the successful applicant. Please apply in writing to: Peter Shorrocks, Oak Farm House, Wingrave Rd, Aston Abbotts, HP22 4LU. Should you wish to discuss the role further please contact Peter by email: petershorrock@gmail.com or by phoning: 01296 681260.

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Astonbury 6

They say that time flies, it did not seem possible that after we agreed to do it again, only bigger and better, as Neil Chesher demanded, that Astonbury had arrived again.

So we had:

- A bigger stage A bigger audience A bigger cast
And a bigger job to get it all done in time.

After the usual months of planning and many meetings in the Oak July the 14th was approaching, the stage was built, splendid it looked to and from the lessons we learnt last year. Dressing the stage and getting the Rec ready seemed to go smoothly thanks to some last minute

Astonbury 2006 Running Order

Nigel & Anthony Palmer	2 numbers (keyboard & drums) including Living Sin originally performed by Emerson Lake & Palmer
Sharon Wilkins & Bridget Brandon	These boots are made for walking
Simon Gresswell	Come fly with Me That's life
Pat Daniels	I dreamed a dream Tonight
Haley Wilkins	Killing me softly
Bridget Brandon, John Whyte & Neil Chesher	Time after Time
Bridget Brandon & John Whyte	Somewhere only we know
Brian Hawkes	4 numbers playing lead guitar
Christina Tomlins	3 numbers – singing accompanying herself on acoustic guitar & keyboard
Vitae Drum Circle	African drumming rhythms, songs & dancing lead by Justine Hart with Anthony Palmer
Rachel Sutton	4 numbers including It's a Heartache & Simply the Best
The Chunkies	That'll be the day Breaking Up Bye Bye love
Gospel in Reverence	Gospel singers group – 4 numbers
Tony Reece	I fought the law, U2 Thunder Road
Chunkfunster (Simon Gresswell & his band)	Higher Ground Mustang Sally Jumping Jack Flash Rock n Roll
The Chunkies	Hey Baby I hear you Knocking Midnight hour Wonder of you 500 miles Hey Jude

Fireworks

painting and banner hanging by Rod Rothero and Peter Shorrock.

Those involved in the dark side, i.e. the technical bits (Dave Lewis & Phil Spooner) worked tirelessly for days finishing shortly before the off. They emerged occasionally from under the stage looking wet and grubby to grab some air, refreshments and show us their wounds. Finally the day arrived and, despite the horrendous summer we were having, Saturday eventually produced some blue skies. Mind you it was tipping down when we left the Oak on Friday night and not much different early Saturday morning.

It's fair to say that I became obsessed by weather forecasts that week, we did discuss cancelling but decided to leave it to the last minute as we did not want to waste all the previous work. A rough calculation is that it takes the equivalent of 20 working weeks to organise Astonbury, with the weekend itself accounting for nearly 5 weeks.

After all the planning the night seemed to pass in a blur, some may say that was due to the alcohol consumption, but once again Aston Abbots put on a great show, which I know is to the envy of other local villages. There are too many people and companies that donate equipment to thank individually here but I think the whole village needs to be thanked; everybody plays their part especially the audience, for those impressed by Frank's Buckingham Palace version of a gazebo I believe it will be even grander next time. The clear up on Sunday was again indicative of the village. My guests were amazed how clean the Rec was by mid morning and have already reserved their tickets for Astonbury 7.

Will there be another one? Probably, will it be next year? Who knows? But whenever it is I can assure you that we have already started talking how to make it bigger and better.

Phil Corrigan
Chairman Astonbury 6

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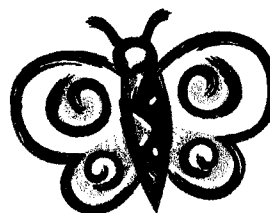
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Astonbury 6 **It gets Bigger & Better**

Yet another terrific Astonbury concert was staged on the Rec on the evening of 14th July. As before many hours of work went into making it all possible. Our Musical Director Neil Chesher had worked for months preparing the musical score. Phil Corrigan was our events organiser who also provided via his many contacts a lot of the materials. Shillingford Scaffolding Supplied and Erected the stage and the Audio Equipment was supplied by Martin Audio of High Wycombe.

Electricity this year was a major problem, we had more lights than in previous years so I had to run a double cable feed from Liz & Ivan's house Many Thanks for this and sorry about all the inconvenience in the Kitchen, Also we managed to scrounge a generator from Kevin & Jane Copping of Buckland Landscapes to cover the excess load. Many thanks for this also as Kevin had to disconnect it from his offices & transport

it to the Rec.

Many hands make light work and indeed there were many others helping over the 6 days covering the event. Rod Rotheroe, Peter Shorrocks, Peter Knight & Bob Bean all spent many hours on decoration & general fittings. Phil Spooner covered his usual position on the sound desk & also helped on the connection of all the audio kit.

There were many others who helped when they could and we were all grateful for this.

A huge thank you to all who provided equipment & labour, this event could not have been staged without you. Also a big thank you to all the artists & our compere John "Whytie Boy" Whyte, without them we would have had no show.

Dave Lewis.



ASTONBURY AUDIENCE GATHER ON THE REC

PHIL SPOONER AT THE CONTROLS

I thoroughly enjoyed the evening - a brilliant event Ed

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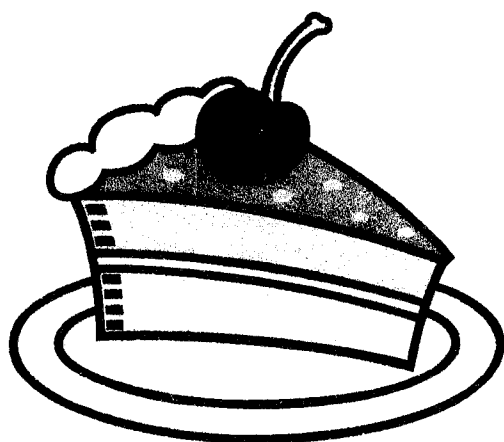
GONE TO THE DOGS

Despite the weather turning up trumps, the turn out for the dog show was somewhat disappointing. Perhaps this was in part due to the early start at 1pm. The thought behind this was that people could enter the show and be finished in time for the start of the fete, but clearly this was not the case. Just eight dogs were entered, only three we believe from the village (I can count eight dogs living within a few yards of me, so where were all the other Aston Abbott's canines)!

Corbyn won best child handler with the lovely Schnauzer Holly, who also came second in both prettiest bitch and best puppy. Well done Corbyn and Sondra and thank you for the support. Trish with Kemi won best puppy, Sophie with Penny won prettiest bitch, and Emma with Numpty came third. A delightful Jack Russell called Monty shown by Christine, won scruffiest dog and he was also third best in show. The owner of the waggiest tail was Scooby, shown by Kathryn, Penny was

runner up and Monty shown by Sam came third. The most handsome dog was Dart shown by David. Runner up was Rufus the Staffordshire bull terrier, and Scooby a golden Cocker Spaniel came third. Best in show went to the superbly muscular Staffie, Rufus, runner up was Penny, a gorgeous Shetland sheepdog. Goody bags and rosettes were awarded to all winners. Thank you to Sally Palmer who both ran and judged the show with me, I hope the enormous sack of Bonios she had to take home with her is slowly being eroded, I bet Nigel won't notice them with his morning tea! The grand sum of twenty pounds was raised.

Carol Spooner.



URN REPORT

Our Village Fete day was blessed with good weather, a steady flow of visitors came into the Village Hall for teas.

The whole event was very successful due to the support of all the villagers who on the day provided practical help. Thank you Andrew and Will who removed the kitchen door which improved our access to and from the kitchen - fabulous. Also we can only make such good profits because of the freely provided cakes, scones and strawberries. Not a crumb left. We provided complimentary tea-cake to the band; we also provided waitress service to them.

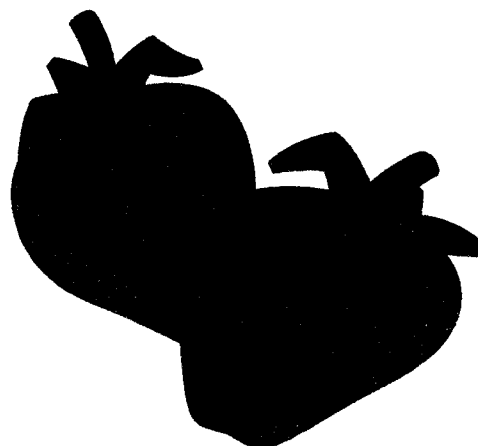
There were a few new faces to help with serving tea, that is so good to know.

There wasn't any shortage of smiles and willing helpers, the camaraderie in the kitchen makes you realise it is as much about us sharing a common goal as it is about raising money; incidentally we took £360 minus £40 expenses.

Last of all its easy to forget the constant need of the Urn being topped. Graham, being tall and virile didn't let us down on this task.

Unfortunately I became ill by 5.30pm so I had to pass all the laundry of t/clothes and table cloths to Colin Smart - poor chap was around at the wrong time for him (not me). Thanks Colin. I send you all a big HUG of appreciation.

Jan Johnson



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Harvest Festival Aston Abbotts

Sunday the 23rd Sept 2007

**A family friendly Service will be held in our village church
commencing 5.00 pm.**

**Children especially welcome and will be
invited to bring their gifts to the altar during the service.**

**The service will be followed by a Harvest Supper
and produce auction in the Church Room,
starting 6.00 for 6.30 pm.**

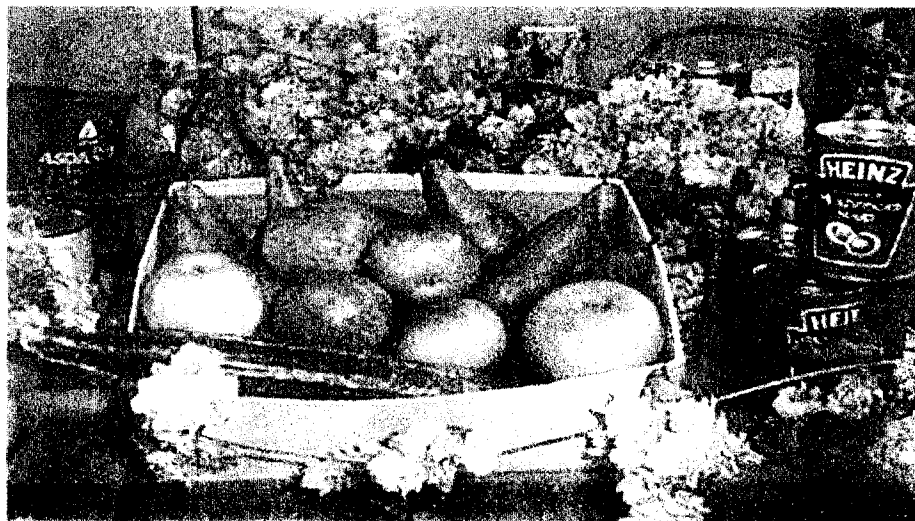
**Supper will be a hot three course meal prepared by your 'favorite hostesses'!!
A glass of wine and coffee are included. Drinks and vegetarian alternatives available.**

**This lovely meal will be followed by an 'entertaining' auction of donated produce.
(Our 'auctioneers have promised no 'muggings' this year!!)**

**Supper will cost £6.50 each for adults, children under 12 - £4.00
*Tickets available from Andy Bystra, Colin Higgs or Shirley Ford.***

**Please pass any produce for sale to Andy Bystra or Colin Higgs a few days before, or
bring it to the church or church room when you come along.**

All profits to be shared between our church and village.



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Rain stops for Aston Abbots Fete!

Last year the fete was almost rained-off, so it was some trepidation that Aston Abbots approached this year's fete against a background of torrential rain and countrywide flooding.

June 2007 was the wettest since... well... ever, really - and July was failing to show much improvement. Just one week earlier we had defied all of the odds and enjoyed great weather for Astonbury. Could we do it again?

The omens were not good; the day before the fete it poured with rain and huge puddles formed on The Green. However, as Saturday arrived the sky cleared - it was almost like a normal autumn!

This summer Carol and I had American relatives staying with us, so it was fun to be able to take them along to the fete and show them what Aston Abbots can do. First stop - the Pimms stall. Here I explained that it was an old English tradition to drink 'fruit punch' on a 'sunny' summer's day. Suitably refreshed, we pressed on.

After watching the dog show (see report elsewhere) it was time for the official opening. Reverend Derek Witchell and his wife Debbie welcomed everybody and declared the fete open. The fun was on!

Despite the recent poor weather the crowds did not let us down and there was a good turnout. The Great Horwood Silver Band played; the traction engine nearly got stuck in the mud entering The Grove; the barbecue did a brisk trade; villagers and visitors alike crowded around the many stalls; and the Reverend Derek increased his record collection with some quality vinyl LP offerings from the bric-a-brac stall. The Church was nicely decorated with flower displays and the Church Room was crowded out with people scoffing cream teas.

Luckily, the bad weather held off. It threatened to rain once or twice - maybe I felt a drop once - but it remained dry. Everybody had a great time and our American visitors thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon at a traditional English village fete.

The fete made nearly £2,800 profit. This was an excellent result and a tribute to the many villagers who worked so hard to make the event a success. There were too many people involved to mention them all, save one - fete organiser April Curnow, who pulled everything together wonderfully despite struggling with a badly broken leg in the preceding weeks. Well done, April - and well done everybody! *Phil Spooner*

ASTON ABBOTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE 2006 AND 2007 Village Fetes

Photo opposite shows April Curnow congratulating a winner at the Tombola Stall

RECEIPTS

	2007	2006
DRAW	£1,006.00	£752.00
TEAS	£306.00	£253.00
PIMMS	£328.10	£101.50
STALLS		
Tombola/Wine/Water	£158.00	£100.55
Cakes	£174.00	£151.89
Gardens	£188.50	£213.00
Bric-a-brac	£236.78	£111.15
Ice Cream	£86.00	£4.41
Gifts	£98.05	£48.75
Books	£181.00	£114.19
Childrens Toys	£93.32	£45.39
Food	£394.58	£423.65
Crafts	£20.00	£20.00
Win a Bottle/Honey	£94.50	£9.50
Czech Books		£20.00
	£3,357.23	£2,370.38
SIDESHOWS & COMPETITIONS		
Roundabouts	£27.00	£20.00
Skittles	£47.48	£17.50
Dog Show	£20.00	£25.00
Lions	£0.00	£0.00
Coconuts	£86.50	£31.30
Colonel Custard	£33.00	
DONATIONS		£50.00
CHURCH COLLECTING BOX	£25.58	£0.00
Transfer from Deposit		£150.00
	£239.54	£293.80

EXPENDITURE

	2007	2006
Band	£140.00	£115.00
Draw Licence	£17.80	£17.50
Draw Tickets	£72.27	£72.27
Draw prizes	£200.00	£200.00
Drinks Licence	£21.00	£21.00
Advertising	£80.86	£75.10
Morris Men	£0.00	£75.00
Communications	£84.02	£61.89
Mr Custard	£125.00	£125.00
Parrot Butcher	£84.00	
	£805.25	£762.58

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THE CHRONICLE	£600.00	£285.24
RECREATION GRD	£343.73	£190.16
	£2,791.52	£1,901.62

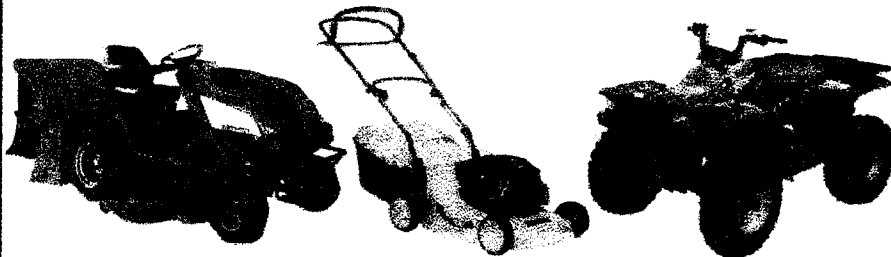
GROSS PROCEEDS

£3,596.77	£2,664.18	NET PROCEEDS	2,791.52	£1,901.62
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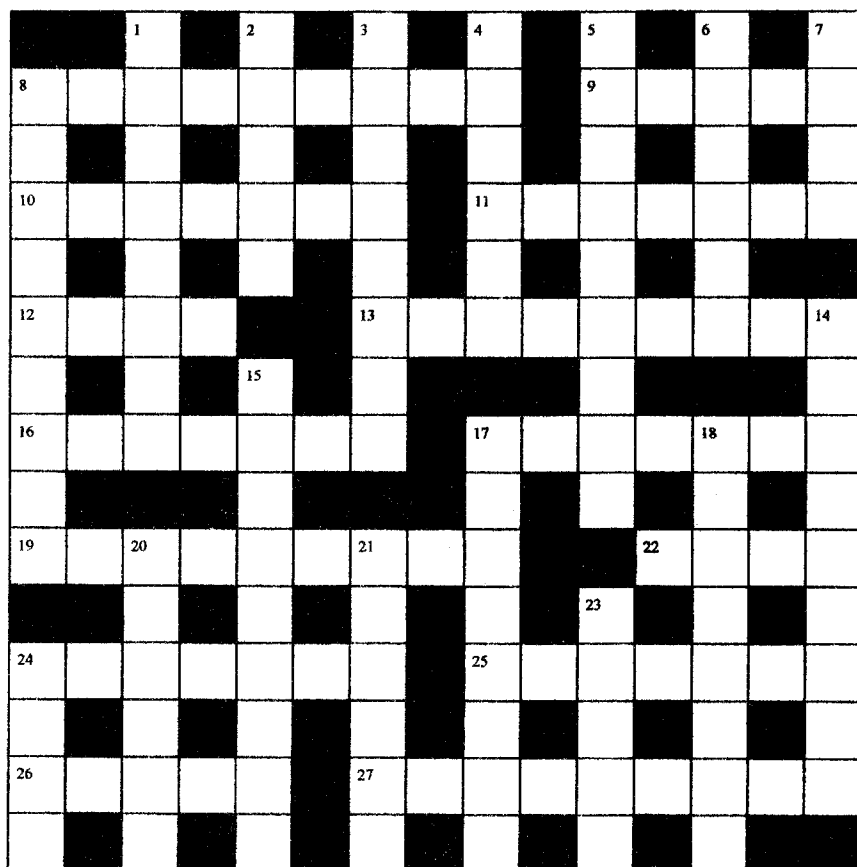
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The Chronicle Crossword

SEPTEMBER 2007



ACROSS

1 Trail 4 Nasal 5 G P S
 9 Crazy 11 Pot 12 Plant
 13 Bap 14 Ebony 16 Ill
 17 Extra 18 Alpacas
 20 Raining 22 Marquee
 24 Gathers 26 Night
 28 USA 29 Satan 31 Nil
 32 Ghent 34 Dot
 35 Alter 38 Din 39 Cured

DOWN

1 Tic 2 Aga 3 Layby
 4 Nappies 5 Settler
 6 Lip 7 Giant 8 Sintang
 10 Rib 14 ETA 15 On Par
 17 Evict 19 Crust
 21 Inert 22 Managed
 23 Equador 24 Granted
 25 Sen 27 Green
 29 Slaps 30 Ace

ACROSS

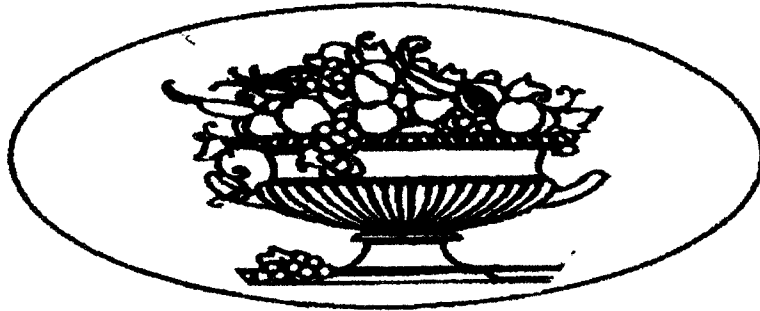
- 8 Middle of the week (9)
- 9 Not tight (5)
- 10 Form a picture in the mind (7)
- 11 Canadian river (7)
- 12 Of two or more things (4)
- 13 Study of the stars (9)
- 16 Used on a envelope (7)
- 17 Take something (7)
- 19 Written statement (9)
- 22 Small island (4)
- 24 Stick for holding flax (7)
- 25 Damaged (7)
- 26 Area for sports (5)
- 27 Red fruit (9)

DOWN

- 1 Going forward (8)
- 2 Brand of jeans (5)
- 3 On its side (4-4)
- 4 Young swan (6)
- 5 At the same time (3-2-4)
- 6 Monarchy in France (6)
- 7 2nd letter of Greek alphabet(4)
- 8 Small fish starter (9)
- 14 Not today (9)
- 15 Large measure of electricity (9)
- 17 Ruler with unlimited power (8)
- 18 Needed to travel abroad (8)
- 20 Not brother (6)
- 21 Result of an action (6)
- 23 Name of a Hobbit (5)
- 24 Share out cards (4)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

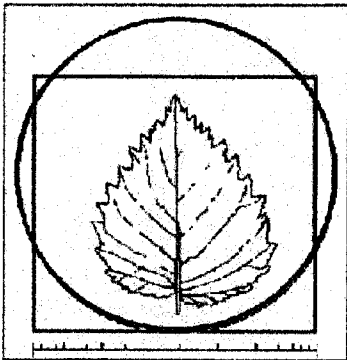
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CZECH/VILLAGE FUN DAY- 2007

April & Geoff, Andy & Rita & Peter would like to thank all those who put so much effort into helping to make the Czech/village fun day such a great success. Despite poor weather, the day was both enjoyed and much valued by both the Czech and Slovak Ambassadors, their staff, veterans and families, many of whom had traveled long distances to share this special with us.

We had so much help that it's impossible to mention everybody. However, special thanks to Peter and Kevin Copping who loaned us four large 'marquees', without which the day would have been a complete 'washout'. Also to helpers (young and old!!) who spent several hours erecting them and taking them down when the weather eventually permitted. Then of course there were those wonderful ladies who provided lots of lovely food, Jeff who arranged for the Spitfire to fly over, Dave Liz & Ivan the electrical supply, Jackie & Judy who organized the sports, Kevin who marked out the football pitch etc. Wingrave school children, who danced for us, & Peter who kept it all together with timely announcements.

I'm sure there are many names I should have mentioned, but to all who helped with this quite large undertaking, we offer our sincere thanks



Evensong & Sunday Evening 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 will be held on:-

23rd Sept. (5pm) 28th Oct 25th Nov & 23rd Dec

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How men and women differ !

NICKNAMES

If Laura, Kate and Sarah go out for lunch, they will call each other Laura, Kate and Sarah.

If Mike, Dave and John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Godzilla and Four-eyes.

EATING OUT

When the bill arrives, Mike, Dave and John will each throw in £20, even though it's only for £32.50. None of them will have anything smaller and none will actually admit they want change back.

When the girls get their bill, out come the pocket calculators.

MONEY

A man will pay £2 for a £1 item he needs.

A woman will pay £1 for a £2 item that she doesn't need but it's on sale

BATHROOMS

A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel from M&S.

The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337. A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

ARGUMENTS

A woman has the last word in any argument.

Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

CATS

Women love cats.

Men say they love cats, but when women aren't looking, men kick cats.

FUTURE

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

SUCCESS

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend.

A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

MARRIAGE

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.

A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

DRESSING UP

A woman will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the bins, answer the phone, read a book, and get the post.

A man will dress up for weddings and funerals.

NATURAL

Men wake up as good-looking as they went to bed.

Women somehow deteriorate during the night.

OFFSPRING

Ah, children. A woman knows all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and romances, best friends, favourite foods, secret fears and hopes and dreams.

A man is vaguely aware of some short people living in the house.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Any married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing.

This one's a winner! Out of the mouths of babes!

Should children witness childbirth? Good question. Here's your answer.

Due to a power cut, only one paramedic responded to the call. The house was very dark so the paramedic asked Kathleen, a 3-yr old girl to hold a flashlight high over her mummy so he could see while he helped deliver the baby.

Very diligently, Kathleen did as she was asked. Heidi pushed and pushed and after a little while, Connor was born.

The paramedic lifted him by his little feet and spanked him on his bottom. Connor began to cry. The paramedic then thanked Kathleen for her help and asked the wide-eyed 3-yr old what she thought about what she had just witnessed.

Kathleen quickly responded, "He shouldn't have crawled in there in the first place.....smack his bottom again!"

VOCABULARY

1.) **Fine:** This is the word women use to end an argument when they are right and you need to shut up.

2.) **Five Minutes:** If she is getting dressed, this means a half an hour. Five minutes is only five minutes if you have just been given five more minutes to watch the game before helping around the house.

3.) **Nothing:** This is the calm before the storm. This means something, and you should be on your toes. Arguments that begin with nothing usually end in fine.

4.) **Go ahead:** This is a dare, not permission. Don't Do It!

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View from the Vicarage.....

As I write this the tractors are busy in the field behind the vicarage. The oil seed rape has been harvested and the stalks are being ploughed in. Flocks of seagulls are whirling in the sky and various small furry creatures are scurrying to get out of the way of the machinery. Harvest time has arrived. This year the seasons seem slightly askew with summer in April and lots of rain and floods in June and July. The holly thinks its time to produce berries at the same time as the lettuce are flourishing, and the birds just look confused! But whatever happens, I find it constantly amazing how our precious world adapts and heals itself year in and year out. Is it feasible that the constant round of seasons that ensure our food supply are just chance? Or do they display the hand of a creator, a grand design?

The story is told of an atheist spending a quiet day fishing when his boat is attacked by the Loch Ness monster. The beast tosses him and his boat high in the air, then it opens its mouth to swallow them both. The man cries out 'Oh my God, help me!' Suddenly the attack scene freezes, and as the atheist hangs in mid air above the jaws of the beast he hears a voice say, 'I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN ME!' 'Come on God, give me a break!' the man pleads. 'Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!'

Billy Graham, one of the great witnesses to the existence of God, says, 'Whenever anyone asks me how I can be so certain about who or what God really is, I'm reminded of the story of the little boy who was flying his kite. The wind was brisk and large billowing clouds were blowing across the sky. The kite went up and up until it was entirely hidden by the clouds. "What are you doing?" a man asked the boy. "I'm flying my kite," he replied. "Flying your kite?" the man said. "How can you be sure? You can't see the kite." "No," said the boy, "I can't see it, but every little while I feel the tug, so I know for sure it's there!"

When you look at the wonders of the natural world do you feel the tug of God? Don't take anyone else's word for it. Find God for yourself, and as you tentatively reach for him you'll find that he's been right beside you all the time just waiting for you to seek him. Then you'll feel his gentle, warm, wonderful love surround you and you'll know that this life and this world is the result of no accident and that God loves you to bits – just as you are!

shalom

Derek

(Stories from 'The Word for Today, May- July, published by UCB)

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

Sept 30th	Jill Carey - Russia	April 10th	Neil Rees - The other Bucks County
Oct 4th	Alan Copeland - Curiosities in the Chilterns	April 24th	Barry Oxley - Iceland
Oct 18th	Travelling to Scott & Shackleton huts in 1998 - D A Lee	May 8th	G Gamriel - Lights Camera Action
Nov 1st	AGM	May 22nd	Coffee morning by kind permission of Audrey Stephenson
Nov 15th	Joanne Moore - Chinese Horoscopes	June 5th	Mr Rye - Building a winning garden BBC Gardener of the year winner 2002
Nov 29th	Christmas flowers - Pat Trunkfield	June 19th	Competition afternoon
Dec 13th	Carol Service - Cublington	June 3rd	Outing
2008		June 17th	Garden party
Jan 3rd	Pub Lunch		
Jan 17th	Richard Revels - The Falklands		
Jan 31st	Hugh Grainger - Wild Wild Women		
Feb 14th	Eve Davis - Growing up in the 30's		
Feb 28th	Audrey Tompkins - England's Green and Pleasant Land		
Mar 13th	Spring Lunch		
Mar 27th	Margaret Deakin - An African Adventure		



Derek Witchell opening our Village Fete

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Price list

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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....£30.00
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

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

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

SUNDAY 2ND <i>Trinity 13</i>	Aston Abbots	9.15	Morning Worship
	Cublington	9.15	Family Communion
	Wing	8.00 10.45	BCP Holy Communion People's Praise
	Wingrave	9.15 6pm	Holy Communion 'Fragments' a time of praise
THURSDAY 6TH	Wing	9.30	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 9TH <i>Trinity 14</i>	Aston Abbots	9.15	Holy Communion
	Cublington	9.15	Holy Communion
	Wing	9.15	Holy Communion
	Wingrave	10.45	Family Communion
THURSDAY 13TH	Wing	9.30	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 16TH <i>Trinity 15</i>	Aston Abbots	6pm	Holy Communion
	Cublington	9.15	Holy Communion
	Wing	8.00 10.45	Holy Communion Family Communion
	Wingrave	8.00 9.15	BCP Holy Communion People's Praise
THURSDAY 20TH	Wing	9.30	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 23RD <i>Trinity 16</i>	Aston Abbots	5pm	Harvest Service
	Cublington	9.15	Family Harvest Service
	Wing	9.15	Holy Communion
	Wingrave	10.45	Holy Communion
THURSDAY 27TH	Wing	9.30	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 30TH <i>Trinity 17</i>	Wing	10.00	4 Parishes Holy Communion

Sidesman		Flowers		Cleaning
2/9	Mr Bystra	1/9	Mr C Higgs	Colin & Carolinel
9/9	Mr G Kemp	8/9	Mrs Dickens	Gordon & Ann
16/9	Mr A Ford	15/9	Mrs Loader	Shirley & Andrew
23/9	Churchwarden	22/9	Harvest	Anita & Francesca
30/9	Mrs A Curnow	29/9	Harvest	Andy & April



Pest Control

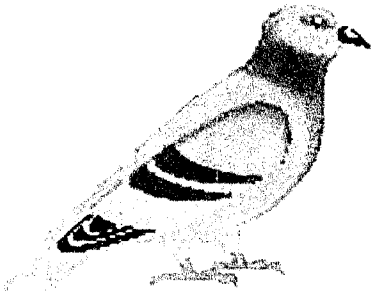
By the BEE's Knees at MSC Ltd

Environment Agency Certificate Number TWE/673982

Member of British Institutes of Cleaning Science BiCS



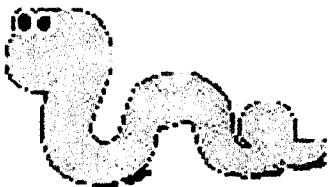
Wasps £35.00 Inclusive
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Pigeon netting and pointing protection. Mess removal and disposal in accordance with DEFRA and EA. Certificates of disposal supplied.



Rats/mice all trapped and disposed of in accordance with DEFRA and EA.



Woodworm, Cockroaches, Insects, Flies, Squirrels.

T: 01296 424284 M: 07950 379250

E: jim@mtsfc.co.uk

The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	Parish Clerk	Rebecca Hunt	688166
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrocks	681260
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Police	Emergencies	999
Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123	Police	Non-emergency	0845 8 505 505
Buses	L&S	415468	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Mowing Rota	Geoff Curnow	681459	Rector	Reverend Derek Wittchell	682320
Church Room Hire	Colin Higgs	681343	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Coach Trips	Colin Higgs	681343	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Mout	681262
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Fete Coordinator	April Curnow	681459	Wingrave Preschool	Claire Upton	681700
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	682964
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000	Wingrave Post Office	(Stores)	681696
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865	Wingrave School	Office	681436
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343			
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

MOWING ROTA

1st September	Phil Spooner
8th	Gordon Kemp
16th	Adam Shorrocks
23rd	Ray Wilkinson
30th	Bob Bean

If you are unable to match the rota please change with a colleague



'THE VALE OF AYLESBURY'

by Ken and Margaret Murley

The book is published by Paul Bowes, whose bookshop, the Book Castle at Dunstable, has published over a hundred books on the local area. The price will be £25. The launch and publication are planned for 7.30pm Friday 9th November 2007 at the Community Centre Wingrave.

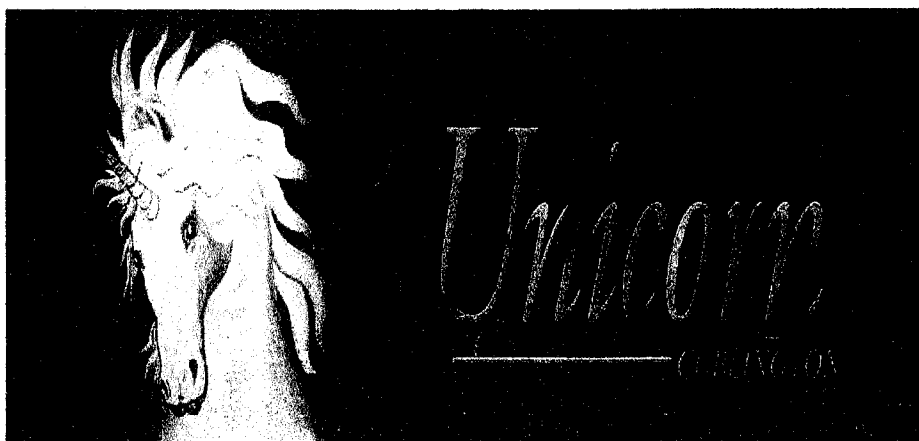
The book will be hardbound and run to over 300 pages. There will be about 200 illustrations, including 39 in colour, innumerable contemporary quotations, and twelve longer recollections. Whenever possible these are the views of ordinary people in their own words. In addition, 34 visits are suggested, which will add reality to the book's word pictures. Any queries please phone 01296 681155

FOOTPATHS

Several people have mentioned that they do not know all the footpaths, so I propose to hold a village footpath walk once a month commencing Sunday 16th 2pm from The Green. Do join in.

Colin Higgs





The Unicorn,
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Beds, Lu7 0LQ

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What's On In September

Thursday 6th	Coffee/Shop 10 - 12noon Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room
Sunday 8th	Historic Church's Bike Ride or you walk, run, horse ride	Forms from Colin
Sunday 9th	Ramblers Meet	Lomond Drive Linslade (Tea at Wing Church)
Thursday 13th	Coffee/Shop 10-12noon Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room
Sunday 16th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green
Wednesday 19th	Parish Council 8pm	Church Room
Thursday 20th	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon Ladies Club 2.15pm	Church Room Church Room
Saturday 21st	Fete/Festival Floral Displays/Teas	The Green St James Church
Sunday 23rd	Harvest Festival Followed by Harvest Supper & Sale in Church Room- PCC Meeting 7pm	Evensong 5pm Church Room
Tuesday 25th	Coffee/Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
Thursday 27th	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Sunday 30th	Ramblers Meet 2pm	at Stowe (Buckingham)

Address

Please note that all submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to John Hardcastle, Marloes, Lines Hill, Aston Abbots, 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

AND FINALLY AN EXTRACT FROM A LETTER WRITTEN IN MAY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA)

Dear Secretary of State

My friend, who is farming at the moment, recently received a cheque for £3000 from the Rural Payments Agency for not rearing pigs. I would like to join the 'not rearing pig business'.

In your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to rear pigs on, and which is the best breed of pigs not to rear? I want to be sure I approach this endeavour in keeping with all government policies, as dictated by the EU under the Common Agricultural Policy.

I would prefer not to rear bacon pigs, but if this is not the type you want not rearing, I will just as gladly not rear porkers. Are there any advantages in not rearing rare breeds such as Saddlebacks or Gloucester Old Spots, or are there too many people already not rearing these?

As I see it, the hardest part of this programme will be keeping an accurate record of how many pigs I haven't reared. Are there any Government or Local Authority courses on this?

My friend is very satisfied with this business. He has been rearing pigs for forty years or so, and the best he ever made on them was £1422 in 1968.

That is - until this year, when he received a cheque for not rearing them. If I get £3000 for not rearing 50 pigs, will I get £6000 for not rearing 100?

I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 pigs not raised, which will mean about £240,000 for the first year. As I become more expert in not rearing pigs, I plan to be more ambitious, perhaps increasing to, say, 40,000 pigs not reared in my second year, for which I would expect about £2.4million from your department. Incidentally, I wonder if I would be eligible to receive tradable carbon credits for all the pigs not producing harmful and polluting methane gases?

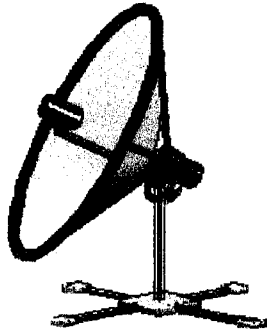
I am also considering the 'not milking cows' business, so please send any information you have on that too. Please could you also include the DEFRA advice on set aside fields? Can this be done on an e-commerce basis with virtual fields (of which I seem to have several thousand hectares)?

In view of the above you will realise that I will be unemployed and will therefore qualify for unemployment benefits.

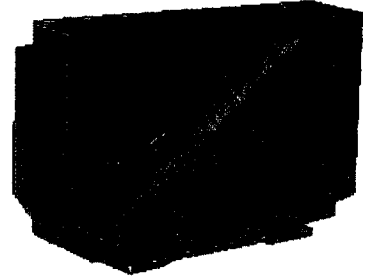
Yours faithfully
Nigel Johnson-Hill

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