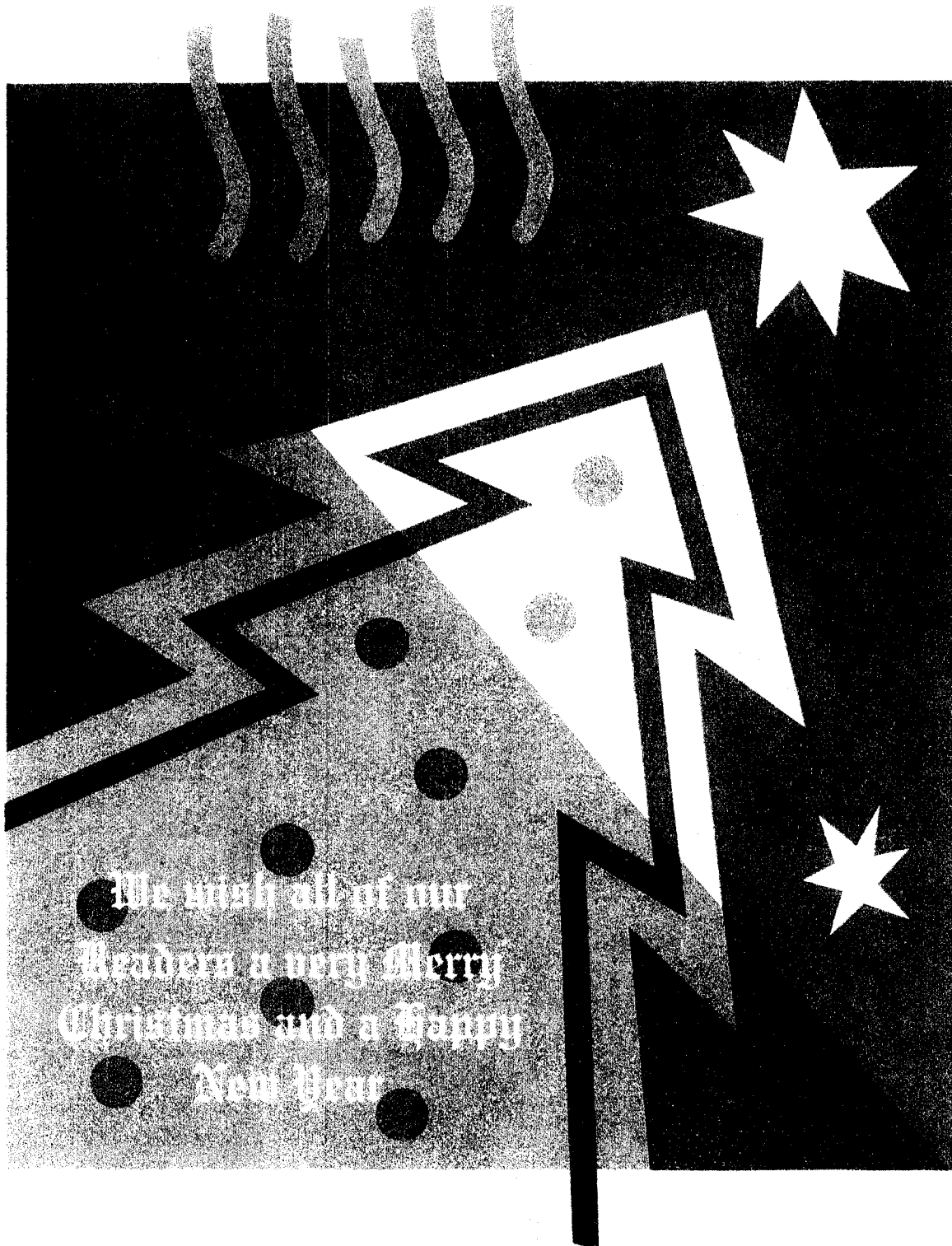


# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 273 ~ December 2007



We wish all of our  
Readers a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy  
New Year

Email : [editor@aachronicle.co.uk](mailto:editor@aachronicle.co.uk)

# Editorial

Very many thanks to all those who have regularly contributed articles to the Chronicle over this last year. Huge thanks also to those unsung people who help administer the Chronicle - I have in mind Andy Bystra who organises the printing and distribution, not forgetting Andy's team of people who push each edition through our letter boxes; Phil Corrigan who handles enquiries from advertisers and John Whyte who looks after the finances.

For Christmas Day this year we have a full house with all four children and their partners (plus a grandchild in the making) and some friends including a friend's Mum whose travelled from Australia.

One of our daughters Sally is getting married in May and preparations are well in hand. The chosen caterers have cooked us a sample meal during which we tried to select wines to accompany the food. Not an easy task and after a few glasses the taste buds seemed to merge into total melt down. Will probably have to repeat the process before a final decision is made. We have time on our side - I think. There seems to be no end of promotions by the supermarkets trying to urge one to buy in quantity.

I attended Barbara Bellingham's funeral on 15th November. The church was packed with a number of people having to stand at the back. The coffin was carried into the church to the sound of the dawn chorus. It was a moving occasion with family and friends recalling all the feisty qualities that Barbara will be remembered for.

A hospital appointment meant I couldn't attend Natalie Higgs's funeral the following day as I would have wished to support Colin at this time.

Last weekend Judy and I visited Cambridge when one of Judy's cousins gave us a conducted tour of some of the colleges. The under graduates and post graduates do have some stunning buildings and surroundings to enjoy. The new John Lewis department store there has recently opened - it was packed - Christmas shopping with a vengeance.

I trust you all have a good and happy Christmas and I wish you a very happy New Year.

*John Hardcastle*

*In This Issue*

- Allotment Diary
- Crossword
- What's on in December
- Countryside Matters
- New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Party



## THE CHRONICLE

### Issue 273

### December 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 28th December 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

**Happy  
Birthday**

## December

Ivan Greenaway	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Phil. Spooner	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Sue Bale	7 <sup>th</sup>
Allison Hewitt	11 <sup>th</sup>
Bridgettte Guitierrez	11 <sup>th</sup>
Rosie Manning	12 <sup>th</sup>
Stella Howell	14 <sup>th</sup>
Kevin Copping	15 <sup>th</sup>
Claire Barnett	18 <sup>th</sup>
Derek Ludlam	19 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Ellis	19 <sup>th</sup>
Peter Curry	19 <sup>th</sup>
Jane Copping	20 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Smith	20 <sup>th</sup>
Shirley Hanlon	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Nicholas Osborn	25 <sup>th</sup>
Val Smith	25 <sup>th</sup>
Mollie Poulter	30 <sup>th</sup>

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

Barbara Bellingham died 31<sup>st</sup> October after a courageous fight against cancer. Her moving funeral was held on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Our thoughts are with David, Louis, Benita and the rest of her family at this difficult time.

Natalie Higgs, better known as Colin's mum, died peacefully at home on November 5<sup>th</sup>. She had reached the staggering age of 96. Her funeral was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November. Again, our thoughts are with Colin, Mervyn, Natalie and the rest of the family.

Now for some good news. Neil Chesher became a grandfather for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Daughter Esther gave birth to baby Isabelle on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Congratulations to all the family.

Having met Rob Hunter in the pub, he tells me he and Karen Brandon are getting married in the village on August 23<sup>rd</sup> next year. That's definite!

Christmas Greetings from a few villagers who will be donating money to charity instead of sending cards: Francesca & Robert Bean, Deirdre & John Whyte, Brigitte & Juan, Alison & David Lewis, Bridget Brandon, Peter Shorrocks, Liz & Ivan Greenaway, April & Geoff Curnow, Rita & Andy Bystra, Carole & Phil Spooner, Ann Goodman & Gordon Kemp, John & Judy Hardcastle.



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## Letters to the Editor

I just wanted to say how sorry I am to hear of the very sad loss of Barbara Bellingham. From the day I moved to the village Barbara had always given so much time and effort to organizing the village fetes. She always had time to stop for a chat and was always happy and pleasant.

My sympathy goes out to David Louis and Benita at this very sad time.

She will be greatly missed by everyone in the village.

*Lyn Clark*

Thank you to the many people who came to Barbara's funeral and made it such a memorable day. Through their generosity £544 was raised for Florence Nightingale House.

*David DeSilva and family*

Doyenne (Dory) would like to thank all the friends and neighbours who visited her, took her for walks and gave her lots of love and cuddles during her recent post operative convalescence. She says having to stay immobile for six weeks was no fun at all, but she's feeling much better now, and will soon be able to move about freely again. Particular thanks go to Jackie, Jeff and Julie for devotion above the call of duty.

Article from the Bucks herald 21st November

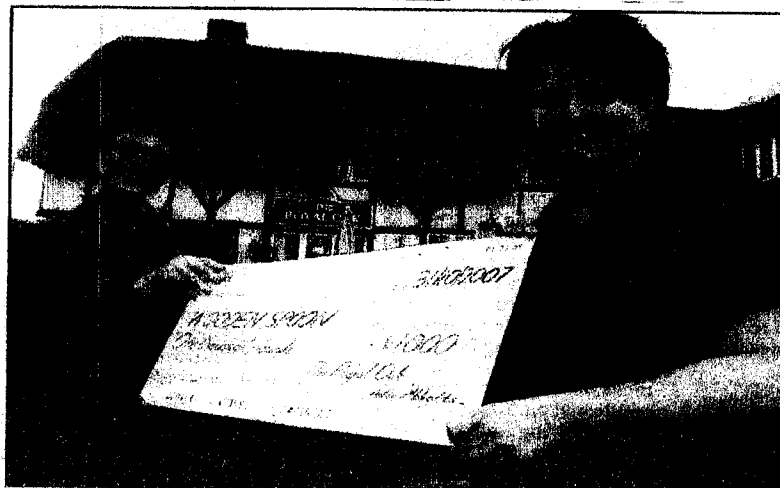
**THE Royal Oak pub in Aston Abbotts raised £1,035 for the Wooden Spoon Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital through the help of two long haired bar staff and a night of disco dancing.**

The unit is a Cancer Care and Haematology unit and the cause was specially chosen by some pub staff members who have been affected by cancer.

£320 was raised from the Royal Oak's own festival, 'Oakfields' a take off from the international music festival 'Creamfields'.

An evening complete with a disco and barbeque completed the final sum.

Teri Moulton, landlady, said: "Next year is going to be even bigger but first I want to say a special thanks to James, Phil, Danny and Andy, who organised the events."



Teri Moulton presents a cheque for £1000 to June Wilson of the Cancer Care and Haematology Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital

PHOTOGRAPH: DEREK PELLING 141107p05

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*happy*  
*Christmas and New Year*



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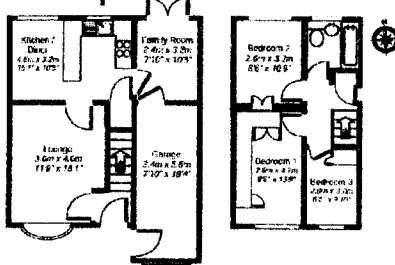
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## Aston Abbots Parish Council

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007

Present: - Cllrs. C Higgs, D Dicken, R Clarke, K Curry, J Hardcastle, P Shorrock and P Bruton (Clerk). There were no members of the public in attendance.

The Council raised concerns over the effectiveness of the Police Surgeries particularly given the low attendance at the last Surgery. It was agreed that the current policy would be discussed with the Police at the next Surgery if appropriate.

There was little progress on the condition of styles and bridleways on the property of Norduck Farm. It was agreed to contact Rights of Way detailing our concerns and request repair in the immediate future.

The continuing problem with loose and damaged kerbstones was discussed and it was agreed the Parish Clerk would contact Highways to ascertain the current position of this reported item. Details of next year's Parish Touring Schemes were discussed and actions agreed.

The Planning Committee notified the Council of the following decisions that had been made at the Sub Committee meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October '07:

07/02494/APP (Mr. A. Rashid, 77, The Green)

Two storey attached dwelling, means of access and alteration to roof of existing single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED to oppose this application.

07/02565/APP (Mrs. M. Gadsby, Longmoor Bungalow)

Removal of agricultural occupancy condition (imposed by WG/0069/64)

RESOLVED to oppose this application.

The first meeting of the Village Plan group had yet to take place and prospective dates being arranged by P Ellwood were the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November.

The following matters arising from a recent Highways Area Committee meeting were noted.

1. A 1.24% increase in traffic flow had been recorded on the A418 following the opening of the Stoke Hammond By-pass, although it was early days.
2. A statement was expected in 2 weeks on the Wing to Aston Clinton link road.
3. There would be no speed restriction on the Wing to Bierton Road, and it had been put back to 2009.
4. It was also noted that speed activated signs were not available.
5. It was noted that Rowsham was not categorised within Area 12.
6. A new diversion policy was being introduced for managing traffic flow when there was a major incident on the A418. In future there would be a central plan HGV's would be routed to avoid the village.
7. There was an AVDC Community Chest Fund of £238,000 for Community Projects and we would ascertain whether we can apply for a grant and the conditions that apply.

It was reported that the winter maintenance programme was being reduced and Lines Hill would not be gritted.

We had received details from AVDC of the next proposed phase to switch off street lights and this included the lights at the Wingrave cross-roads. It was agreed to register our opposition to this proposal.

The review of Street lighting had taken place and work would be authorised on clarification of the quote received.

The council had been notified of a recent accident involving a lady from Wingrave who had been walking with her daughter up the hill towards the village. After discussion it was agreed that we should acknowledge the letter and advise that the matter would be passed on to Highways who are responsible for such matters. It was further agreed that in relating the incident to Highways we should obtain the current view on the possibility of a path to the Main Road. In addition we would also consult villagers, via the Chronicle, on their travelling patterns and usage of the bus service in order to obtain an up to date position of foot traffic using the road.

The safety check had been completed to the children's play area.

The Aerial runway had not been assembled correctly and we would contact GB Sports to rectify the situation.

Quotes were currently being obtained for the clearance of the recently acquired land.

**Date of next meeting** It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 20.00 in the Church Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

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**These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers.**

Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words.

Name two of them.

There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?

Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

*See below for answers: no cheating though*

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*Three English words beginning with dw . Dwarf, dwell and dwindle.*

*Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.*

*Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with 's' . Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts*

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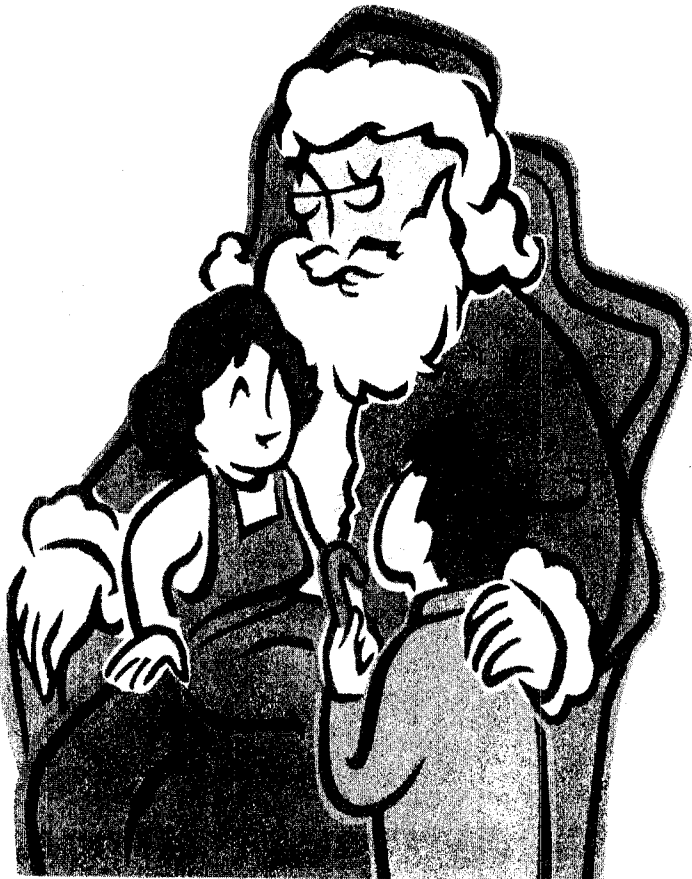
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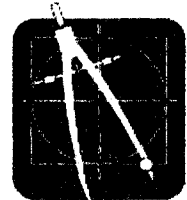
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## ALLOTMENT DIARY

I have yet more avian news to bring you. I ended my last piece by telling you of Vic's theory that parakeets were eating my sweetcorn; and two or three months ago I was commenting on the fact that I had seen a red kite over the allotments. Now, earlier this month while I was working on my allotment, I heard a curious mewing sound coming from overhead. I looked up, and there was the unmistakable shape of a buzzard making lazy circle over the allotment and the field at the rear. I had read that buzzards were becoming the most common bird of prey in England, replacing the kestrel, but had not expected to see one flying above this village.



And I have a second piece of bird-related news. When I took over my allotment, there was an old greenhouse on it, which had seen better days. Over the time of my ownership it became progressively more dilapidated, and this summer/autumn I decided I had better do something about it. I therefore spent some time repairing it, and then re-glazing it, and by the beginning of this month I had just about finished, with only two or three panes of glass to be installed, once I had cut them to size. A week ago I went down to the allotment; to find that the big pane of glass in the door was smashed! Most of the

glass was inside the greenhouse, rather than outside it, which I thought was strange. Further inspection revealed, however, that lying on the floor of the greenhouse there was also a small carpet of feathers. Clearly what had happened was that some wretched bird (I suspect a pigeon) had either recklessly, or in an attempt to commit suicide, flown straight into my pane of glass – and through it! Unfortunately there was no sign of the corpse of the culprit, and I regret to say that it has survived to continue its kamikaze activities elsewhere!

This was especially irritating, since I was fast running out of glass of a suitable size, and it was one of the biggest panes that had copped it; but fortunately Simon, having heard of my predicament, offered me some of the spare panes of glass he had left over after building his greenhouse in the summer, so that I have not needed to make a special visit to a glazier.

As I write this article, we have just had our first really cold spell of the autumn; but the warm weather continued for a ridiculously long period of time. I picked my final crop of raspberries – two bowls' worth – from the allotment on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Most of the vegetables have now been picked: but broccoli and courgettes both lasted until early November. I am now left with cabbages, Brussels sprouts and leeks – and a fine crop of nettles, which have so far resisted two attempts to kill them with Round-up!

I am happy to say that Vic's advice about what to do with potatoes affected by potato blight seems to have worked, with my potatoes, at any rate. The ones I have stored have not so far shown any sign of the blight having affected the tubers. I do not know how others have fared. At this time of the year there are rarely many people down on the allotments to whom to chat. I hope they have been as lucky as me.

Peter

Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh. Answer Page 15

---

*Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables? Answer Page 19*

---

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## **ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH PLAN – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE TO INFLUENCE LOCAL ISSUES**

The District Council is currently producing a Local Development Framework which includes outline plans as diverse as affordable housing and transport policy to the provision of play areas and local shops. How can a local community influence the issues and decisions made within this framework? AVDC policy states that information set out in a Parish Plan can provide high level input into issues such as local needs and concerns which may, in turn, have a direct impact on planning issues.

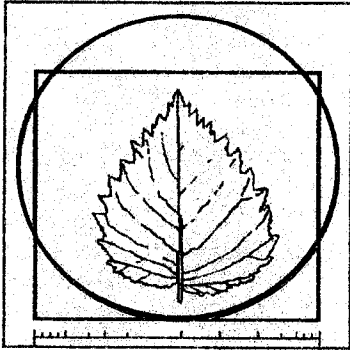
What is a Parish Plan? A Parish Plan is a locally inspired vision of how a village should develop; in essence it is an aspiration of how you would like your village to be. With the degree of development outlined in Government policy, the Parish Council felt it important that village opinion should play a significant part in that development through the medium of a Parish Plan.

All that sounds very grand but it will not hold water unless the opinion of the whole village is involved in the final product. A steering committee has been formed but only with the remit of setting the ball rolling, if a villager feels they would like to contribute they are more than welcome to join us. The plan is a long term project, and, therefore, an evolving one. The initial plan is as follows:

- Present the concept to the village in late January.
- Issue a questionnaire to establish major issues with which to engage in February.
- Present findings in April.
- Draft outline plan in July.

The process will be an iterative one and, therefore, must remain flexible. Village input is vital for its success, that means all of the village, must get involved. If it appears that the few are dictating to the many the project should be abandoned. Details of key events will be published when finalised but it is important that the plan is progressed one step at a time.

If you have any questions please contact Peter Ellwood on [pandc.ellwood@btinternet.com](mailto:pandc.ellwood@btinternet.com) or 07896897907.



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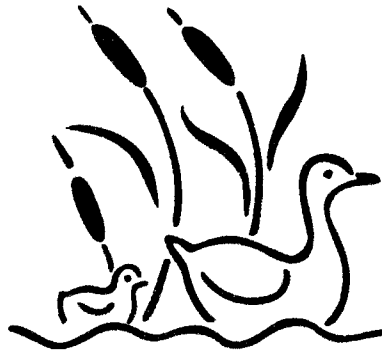
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## Countryside Matters

I cannot understand the Highways Department of Bucks County Council, why have they replaced all the road sign poles and half the road signs in the village and at Mentmore cross roads and beyond? The old poles were either plastic coated or grey metal painted, most of them good for another 40 years. In most cases they have been replaced with ugly galvanized bright steel ones in exactly the same place. Why can't they work on the basis of, "If it's not broken don't mend it". What an irresponsible waste of our money. If the new ones were made of plastic instead of aluminum they might not get stolen by our 'friends'!

The shooting season is well under way. To farmers and country folk it is another form of harvest and has been for centuries; an original form of "hunter gathers". Years ago you would catch-up pheasant eggs or find abandoned partridge eggs and put them under a broody hen or bantam and let them raise them as their own in a coup or run, safe from predators. Or you could buy in your eggs and rear them in an incubator and later in covered runs, just as you would chickens. Lastly protect your wild stock and rely on natural processes by controlling vermin vigorously, not easy, I must say. All of these methods release poults into the wild to grow in a free range environment without food additives or forced housing with no chemicals, assisted by



set-aside and grass headlands. I have never known anybody refuse a lovely brace of oven ready pheasants when offered, especially when free!

Whatever your views on the subject all the great estates, including Ascott House, laid out woodland with shooting and conservation in mind. Clumps of hardwood trees some completely round planted a few hundred yards apart where game birds could find warmth and food throughout the winter.

Looked after by keepers who planted cover crops and controlled vermin. Not much has changed and the tree planting if anything has increased.

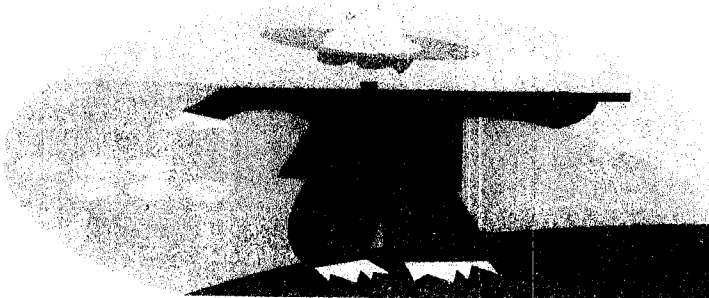
At Tring reservoirs all duck shooting has been stopped with the results that an excellent young keeper is looking for a new job and somewhere to live. He would feed the mallard 8 tons of wheat every week and wheat at £150/ton has made the wealthy owner think again and call it a day, after many years.

Those that moaned about the mallard shooting are now ringing up the estate office and asking why the swans, geese and 24 other species of duck and wildfowl are not being fed. These birds are going to find life very hard this winter. Funny thing that shooting and conservation go hand in hand.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
*James*

A friend gave me a copy of PPP (Pitstone Parish Post) the Summer 2007 edition. In it I spotted this poem that originally was included in the second edition of Wing Schools in-house magazine published in June 1964. (Ed)

*The poem was written by Graham Keeble Class 3a.*



### *The Scarecrow*

As a Scarecrow I rule the cornfield,  
I am a mighty King.  
My subjects are Pheasants,  
And any other birds on the wing.

The wheat stalks are my courtiers,  
They bow like obedient slaves,  
As the wind comes rustling  
Over the yellow waves.

The moonshine falls upon me,  
Bathing me with light,  
The wooden king of corn land,  
Alone on a shimmering night.

Answer  
from  
Page  
11  
**LET  
TUC  
E**

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## The Chronicle

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	Quarter	£10

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01296 688191

[corriganpc@aol.com](mailto:corriganpc@aol.com)



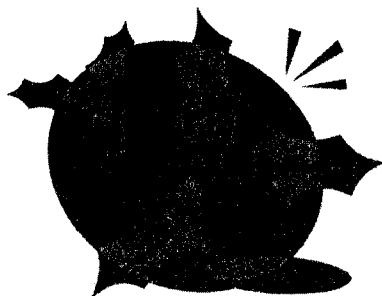
## Mentmore Village Hall

### Christmas Fayre

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**2pm - 5pm**

**Come and meet  
Father Christmas  
Christmas Carol  
Mulled Wine  
Hot Seasonal Food  
Gift ideas Tombola  
Raffle Children's Activities  
Home made Christmas Cakes  
Sweets & Puddings  
*Proceeds to local charities***



### **Mentmore Village Hall Quiz Night**

**7pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

(Next door to the Stag in Mentmore)  
Tickets will include food and quiz entry  
(6 people per table)  
Licensed Bar. & Raffle  
Phone for tickets Diane or Linda  
01296-661141 or 01296 661489  
Proceeds to the Village Hall

## Wingrave School's New Kitchen

The new kitchen is now open!

What a wonderful way to start school after half term. It looks splendid and Mrs La-Plain can now spread her wings and make us all happy on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A big thank you to Mrs Bulsara who has worked so hard on the contract that needed to be written as well as to Jo Lewington for giving this project not only her time but a stubborn determination to see it all happen so quickly. Thank you obviously to Browns the builders and to all of you who have helped this project in various ways and continue to do so. Without you this would have been impossible to achieve.

The menu looks great and the children are keen to try new things. I am sure that the healthy lunches will make them concentrate better on their work in the afternoon. We are also hoping that this wonderful facility will attract more parents and children to come and choose us as their preferred school for their child. We have already had a positive feedback from some parents from Aylesbury who have now decided to send their child to Wingrave.

We shall also try to include the community in enjoying the food with the children. We also welcome any ideas you might have on how to utilise the kitchen in the best possible way.



## SUMMER NEEDN'T END .... JET AWAY TO THE SUN TODAY



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**Available Half Term, Winter and Christmas 2006 and throughout 2007**

#### **Low Season** £ 260.00 / week (€ 400)

28<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006

6<sup>th</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007

#### **High season** £ 350.00 / week (€ 550)

1<sup>st</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2007

#### **Mid season** £ 300.00 / week (€ 450)

20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2006

20<sup>th</sup> December 2006 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007

5<sup>th</sup> April 2007 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

16<sup>th</sup> September – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007

For more information or to book call Andi or Becky Swain on 01296 670388 or visit our web site at [www.espanolvilla.com](http://www.espanolvilla.com)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> WINGRAVE SCOUTS NEED LEADERS

Approximately ten years ago, my wife Fran Pollard took on the role of Cub Scout Leader at Wingrave as the Cub Scout section was about to close and I eventually joined her to help in the Cub Scout section.

After a while, following the resignation of the then Scout Leader, I became Scout Leader and subsequently, Group Scout Leader as well.

Julia Ellis and I have been looking after the Scout section for a number of years but the time has come **for both of us to resign** from our roles running the Scout section.

This means that as of the end of December 2007, unless new leaders come forward, the Scout section of Wingrave Scout Group will close. This will have a knock-on effect because it will mean the Cub Scouts when they reach Scout age (10years) will have nowhere to move on to.

In recent years we have achieved a new Scout Headquarters, a mini-bus to transport the Cubs and Scouts on outings and to camp, new camping equipment and a fenced area to the Scout Headquarters, not forgetting the very many varied activities year in, year out that the youngsters have enjoyed.

It is my role as Group Scout Leader to make sure all sections are running correctly but unless a Scout Leader is found, I will have to consider leaving the Group completely.

I do not live in the village nor have I ever had any children within the Group.

If you feel you would like to **Save the Wingrave Scouts** and consider becoming part of the Leader Team running the Scout section, **please ring me** on 01296 625454

and I will be happy to discuss the role with you.

Free training and a free uniform is given and you will be supported at all times.

**This is a serious cry for H E L P!**

Jeff Pollard

Group Scout Leader



### 1<sup>st</sup> Wingrave Scout Group **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** **8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1-4pm**

**Wingrave Community Centre**

Bric-a-Brac

Tombola

Books

Toys

Teas

Gifts

Raffle

Cakes

Visit Santa



Answer from page 11 *Rhubarb and Asparagus*

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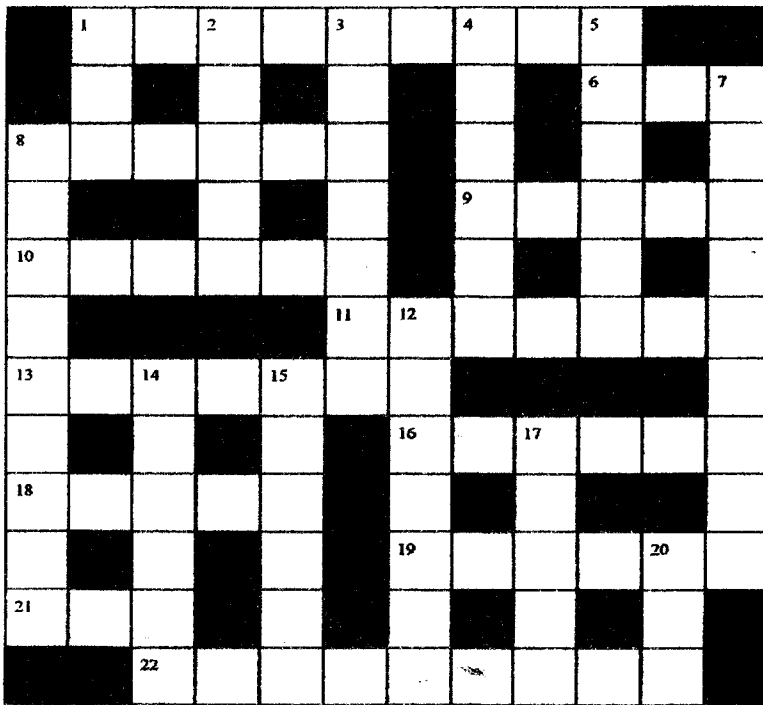


**07944 509438 or**

**Aylesbury (01296) 688547**

# The Chronicle Crossword

DECEMBER 2007



Last month's solution

## ACROSS

1 Christmas 6 Awe 8 Odessa  
9 Image 10 Argyll 11 Ocarina  
13 Grandpa 16 Scampi 13 Turin  
19 Autumn 21 Now 22 Streetcar

## DOWN

1 Cod 2 Risky 3 Scallop  
4 Marina 5 Safari 7 Elevation  
8 Orangutan 12 Cascade  
14 Arrows 15 Dancer  
17 Attic 20 Mar

## ACROSS

- 1 Type of bird (9)
- 6 Egyptian snake (3)
- 8 Small piece (6)
- 9 Forward motion (5)
- 10 Small African tree (6)
- 11 Sweet cake (7)
- 13 Strong feeling (7)
- 16 Drinking vessel (6)
- 18 Guess correctly (6)
- 19 Madness (6)
- 21 Japanese coin (3)
- 22 Great taste (9)

## DOWN

- 1 Sticky mess (3)
- 2 Rope for cows (5)
- 3 Capital of Sri-Lanka (7)
- 4 Go on board (6)
- 5 American city (6)
- 7 Scenes from history (9)
- 8 Eaten at Christmas (5-4)
- 12 Having a sweet nature (7)
- 14 Upset (6)
- 15 Ancient king- dom (6)
- 17 Stringed instrument (5)
- 20 Type of lettuce (3)

*Wishing you all a very Happy  
Christmas & New Year*

*Compiled by Rod Rothorn*

# WINGRAVE GARAGE

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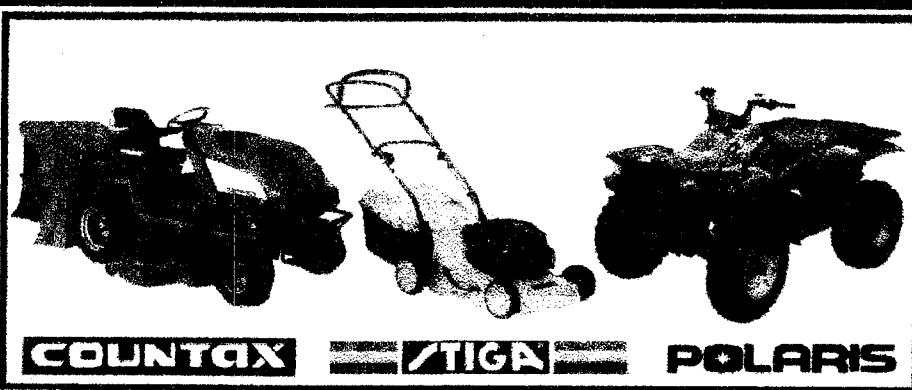
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popular

## *Christingle and Carol Service*



*(A Christmas Service  
for all the family)*

*will be held in*

*Aston Abbotts Church*

*on the*

*16<sup>th</sup> December*

*starting at*

*3.00 pm.*

*Come and enjoy singing carols  
accompanied by The Rowsham Band*

This Poem Was Written By A Peace Keeping Soldier Stationed Overseas

**Its Christmas Day All Is Secure**

Tw'as The Night Before Christmas  
He Lived All Alone  
In A One Bedroom House Made Of Plaster And Stone  
I Had Come Down The Chimney With Presents To Give  
And To See Just Who In This Home Did Live

I Looked All About A Strange Sight I Did See  
No Tinsel No Presents Not Even A Tree  
No Stocking By The Mantle Just Boots Filled With Sand  
On The Wall Hung Pictures Of Far Distant Lands  
With Medals And Badges Awards Of All Kinds  
A Sober Thought Came Through My Mind

For This House Was Different It Was Dark And Dreary  
I Found The Home Of A Soldier Once I Could See Clearly  
The Soldier Lay Sleeping Silent Alone  
Curled Up On The Floor In This One Bedroom Home

The Face Was So Gentle The Room In Such Disorder  
Not How I Pictured A Lone British Soldier  
Was This The Hero Of Whom I'd Just Read  
Curled Up On A Poncho The Floor For A Bed

I Realised The Families That I Saw This Night  
Owed Their Lives To These Soldiers Who Were Willing To Fight  
Soon Round The World The Children Would Play  
And Grownups Would Celebrate A Bright Christmas Day

They All Enjoy Freedom Each Month Of The Year  
Because Of The Soldiers Like The One Lying Here  
I Couldn't Help Wonder How Many Alone  
On A Cold Christmas Eve In A Land Far From Home

The Very Thought Brought A Tear To My Eye  
I Dropped To My Knees And Started To Cry  
The Soldier Awakened And I Heard A Rough Voice  
'Santa Don't Cry This Life Is My Choice  
I Fight For Freedom I Don't Ask For More  
My Life Is My God, My Country, My Corps'

The Soldier Rolled Over And Drifted To Sleep  
I Couldn't Control It I Continued To Weep

I Kept Watch For Hours So Silent And Still  
And We Both Sat And Shivered From The Cold Nights Chill  
I Didn't Want To Leave On That Cold Dark Night  
This Guardian Of Honour So Willing To Fight

Then The Soldier Rolled Over With A Voice Soft And Pure  
Whispered 'Carry On Santa Its Christmas Day All Is Secure'  
One Look At My Watch And I Knew He Was Right  
'Merry Christmas My Friend And To All A Good Night'

Christmas Will Be Coming Soon And Some Credit Is Due To Our British Service Men And Women For Our Being Able To Celebrate These Festivities.







**MEMBERS** of the Aston Abbots and Cublington Ladies Club met for dinner to mark their 70th anniversary.

About 21 members attended the meal at The Black Boy in Oving.

The club was started by women who wanted somewhere to go and meet and often turned up with prams for a chat. The club has since evolved and they now have guest speakers at their fortnightly gatherings at the Aston Abbots village hall. Talks are varied and the most recent one was about Chinese horoscopes.

Joan Alexander, the president said: "We are very small villages and the fact that we survived 70 years is a miracle because it started in such a modest way."

To join the club call Shirley Ford on 01296 681865.

Members of the Aston Abbots and Cublington Ladies Club enjoyed a 70th anniversary dinner

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD DUGGAN 081107D04

## New Years Eve "Scottish"

### Fancy Dress

### Party

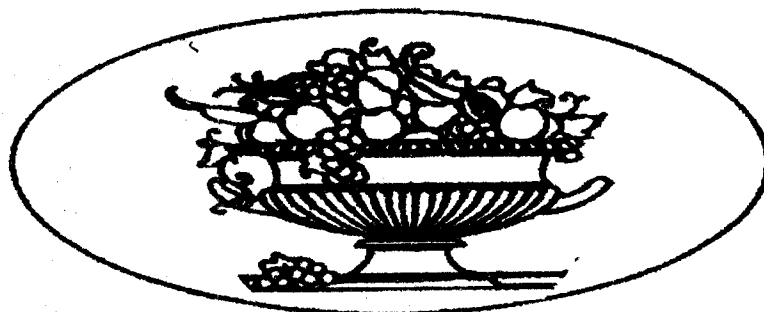
See the new year in wearing something Scottish. Dig out those tartan trews, the kilts, the sporrans, the tam-o'-shanters or even the tartan underpants!

A "fairly Scottish" supper will be provided with "Tart'n custard" for dessert!

*Music and dancing from 8.30pm until late. Please bring your own drink and glasses.*

Tickets now on sale for £5 from Rita (tel. 681690) or April (tel. 681459). Please book early to avoid disappointment but no later than December 22<sup>nd</sup> to help us cope with the catering.

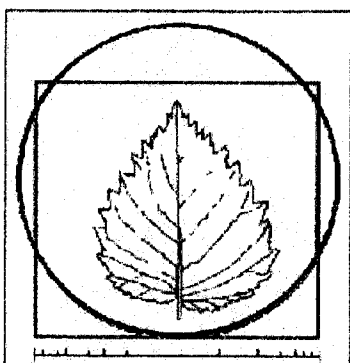
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# THE CHURCH IS OPEN

every Wednesday morning at 9am for anyone who wishes to reflect, meditate or pray for a few minutes or longer.

It is anticipated that the Church will be open for around half an hour or so and people may come and go as they wish. Usually Shirley Ford will be present to start with a religious reading or a prayer. Please come along. All are welcome.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

**PETER SHORROCK (Chairman)**  
Oak Farm House ~ 681260

**PAUL BRUTON (Parish Clerk)**  
51 The Green - 682322

**COLIN HIGGS**  
6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

**RICHARD CLARKE**  
Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

**DICKIE DICKEN**  
Norduck House ~ 688577

**JUDY HARDCASTLE**  
Marloes, Lines Hill ~ 688070

**ANDY STEFANCZYK**  
73 The Green ~ 0774 2957684  
(Street Lighting Officer)

**KATE CURRY**  
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane - 681137

*District Councillor*

**PETER COOPER**  
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham ~ 681250

*County Councillor*

**QUINTIN INGS-CHAMBERS**

### 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:

£15 per hour (plus electricity) and £50 Booking Deposit (Returnable)

*There is also a preparation and clearing away charge*

### Parochial Church Council

Rev Derek Witchell 682320	Gordon Kemp 681763
Shirley Ford 681865	Ann Goodman 681763
Andrew Ford 681865	Colin Higgs 681343
Andy Bystra 681690	April Curnow 681459
Caroline Abel Smith <i>Secretary</i>	John Abel Smith <i>Treasurer</i>

**100 CLUB WINNERS FOR  
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£50 Carol Spooner  
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view from the Vicarage.....

It's THAT season again, a season which can make us feel our age!

THE 3 STAGES OF A MAN'S LIFE:

1. He believes in Santa Claus;
2. He doesn't believe in Santa Claus;
3. He is Santa Claus.

and as usual all the presents, food and hype will do their best to make us forget the reason for the season.



There was a Scottish farmer who did not believe in the Christmas story. The idea that God would become a man was absurd. His wife, however, was a devout believer and raised their children in her faith. The farmer sometimes gave her a hard time, mocking her faith and belief in the incarnation of God in the baby of Bethlehem:

'It's all nonsense,' he said. 'Why would God lower himself to become a human like us? It's such a ridiculous story.'

One snowy Sunday evening his wife took the children to church while the farmer relaxed at home. After they had left, the weather deteriorated into a blinding snowstorm. Then he heard a loud thump against the window. Then another thump! He ventured outside to see what was happening. There in the field was the strangest sight: a flock of Geese! They had been migrating south but had become disorientated by the storm. They were stranded on his farm, unable to fly or to see their way.

The farmer had compassion on them. He wanted to help them and realised his barn would give them shelter for the night. He opened the barn doors and stood back, hoping they would make their way in. But they didn't realise it would be shelter for them. So he tried to shoo the geese in, but they ran in all directions. Perplexed, he got some bread and made a trail to the barn door. But they still didn't catch on. Nothing he could do would get them into the warmth and shelter of the barn.

Feeling totally frustrated, he exclaimed,

'Why don't they follow me? Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm? How can I possibly get them to follow me?'

He thought for a moment and then realised that they would not follow a human. He said to himself,

'How can I possibly save them? The only way would be for me to become a goose. If only I could become like one of them. They would follow me and I would lead them to safety.'

At that moment he stopped and realised what he had said. The words reverberated in his head.

'If only I could become like one of them, then I could save them.'

Then, at last, **he understood God's heart towards humankind**. He fell on his knees in the snow and worshipped him!

(from A Bundle of Laughs, J John and M Stibbe)

Debbie and I wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and hope that, whilst thoroughly enjoying yourselves, we'll remember that:

'JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON'.

'The hinge of history is to be found on the door of a Bethlehem stable.' J John

PS You may have heard that there are some changes in the wind regarding which Anglican clergy will be ministering in your village. Our problem is that our numbers have been reduced from 6 to 5 since the retirement of Roger Hale in Cheddington. These 5 have now to minister to all the parishes from Great Brickhill in the north to Ivinghoe in the south of our Deanery. We have therefore come up with a reorganisation plan that will create 5 manageable and sustainable jobs which will be set for the foreseeable future. In practice this means that the parishes of Aston Abbots and Cublington will be looked after by Revd Michelle Morton of Stewkley whilst Cheddington and Mentmore will be looked after by me along with Wing and Wingrave. If the proposal is approved by our Deanery Synod in November then we hope to operate in the new way from early in the New Year.

# WINGRAVE PRE-SCHOOL

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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



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I am an experienced city and guild trained florist and can make and deliver professionally designed bouquets, arrangements, table decorations or funeral flowers

Prices range from £5 for a child's gift posy, table decoration from £10, hand tied bouquets from £20 and funeral flowers from £30.

I am based in Aston Abbotts and will deliver your chosen design, free of charge, to any address within a 5 mile radius of the village. I can also deliver outside this area for a reasonable charge.

Please telephone Jayne for further details or email to receive a selection of sample photographs.

Telephone 01296 681066  
07952 255639

E-mail [jaking1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jaking1@hotmail.co.uk)

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## HOW TO PROPERLY PLACE NEW EMPLOYEES



1. Put 400 bricks in a closed room.
2. Put your new employees in the room and close the door.
3. Leave them alone and come back after 6 hours.
4. Then analyse the situation:
  - a. If they are counting the bricks, put them in the Accounting Department.
  - b. If they are recounting them, put them in Auditing.
  - c. If they have messed up the whole place with the bricks, put them in Engineering .
  - d. If they are arranging the bricks in some strange order, put them in Planning.
  - e. If they are throwing the bricks at each other, put them in Operations.
  - f. If they are sleeping, put them in Security.
  - g. If they have broken the bricks into pieces, put them in Information Technology.
  - h. If they are sitting idle, put them in Human Resources.
  - i. If they say they have tried different combinations, they are looking for more, yet not a brick has been moved, put them in Sales.
  - j. If they have already left for the day, put them in Marketing.
  - k. If they are staring out of the window, put them in Strategic Planning.
  - l. If they are talking to each other, and not a single brick has been moved, congratulate them and put them in Management .

Finally, if they have surrounded themselves with bricks in such a way that they can neither be seen nor heard from, put them in Senior Management .

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE  
ST JAMES CHURCH  
10am

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Price list

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Cut & finish.....£20.00  
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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

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European human hair  
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Above prices include one colour for a  
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File & paint...£8.50  
Full manicure....£20.00  
Pedicure.....£25.00

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Bridal hair .....£90.00  
Bridal make up....£60.00

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# SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2007

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

<b>SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup></b> <i>Advent</i>	<b>Aston Abbotts</b>	<b>9.15</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>CS</b>
	<b>Cublington</b>	<b>9.15</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>	<b>DW</b>
	<b>Wing</b>	<b>8.00</b> <b>10.45</b>	<b>BCP Holy Communion</b> <b>People's Praise and baptism</b>	<b>DW</b>
	<b>Wingrave</b>	<b>9.15</b> <b>6pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>'Fragments' - a time of praise</b>	<b>ST</b> <b>DW</b>
<b>THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Wing</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>ST</b>
<b>SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup></b> <i>Advent 2</i>	<b>Aston Abbotts</b>	<b>9.15</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>DW</b>
	<b>Cublington</b>	<b>9.15</b>	<b>* at Aston Abbotts *</b>	
	<b>Wing</b>	<b>9.15</b> <b>4pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Christingle</b>	<b>ST</b> <b>DW</b>
	<b>Wingrave</b>	<b>10.45</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>	<b>DW</b>
<b>THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Wing</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>ST</b>
<b>SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup></b> <i>Advent 3</i>	<b>Aston Abbotts</b>	<b>3pm</b>	<b>Carols and Christingle</b>	<b>DW</b>
	<b>Cublington</b>	<b>9.15</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>RH</b>
	<b>Wing</b>	<b>8.00</b> <b>10.45</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Family Communion</b>	<b>JE</b> <b>DW</b>
	<b>Wingrave</b>	<b>8.00</b> <b>9.15</b> <b>6pm</b>	<b>BCP Holy Communion</b> <b>People's Praise</b> <b>Carols by Candlelight</b>	<b>DW</b> <b>ST</b>
<b>THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Wing</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>DW</b>
<b>SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup></b> <i>Advent 4</i>	<b>Aston Abbotts</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Benefice Evensong</b>	<b>CS</b>
	<b>Cublington</b>	<b>3pm</b>	<b>Carols and Readings</b>	<b>DW</b>
	<b>Wing</b>	<b>9.15</b> <b>6pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Lessons and Carols</b>	<b>DW/ST</b> <b>DW</b>
	<b>Wingrave</b>	<b>10.45</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>DW</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Wing</b>	<b>4pm</b> <b>11pm</b>	<b>Crib Service</b> <b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>ST</b> <b>DW</b>
	<b>Wingrave</b>	<b>4pm</b> <b>11pm</b>	<b>Christingle</b> <b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>DW</b> <b>ST</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>Aston Abbotts</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>PB</b>
	<b>Cublington</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>DW</b>
	<b>Wing</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>ST</b>
	<b>Wingrave</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Family service</b>	
<b>SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup></b> <i>Christmas 1</i>	<b>Wingrave</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Benefice Holy Communion</b>	<b>DW</b>

<b>Sidesman</b>		<b>Flowers</b>		<b>Cleaning</b>
2	Mr A Ford	1/2	Advent	Mr C Higgs/Caroline Lane
9	Mrs A Curnow	8/9	Advent	Mr A & Mrs S Ford
16	Mr G Kemp	15/16	(Christmas	Mrs Curnow/Mr Bystra
23	Mr Bystra	22/25	Decorating)	Mrs Parker/Mrs Bean
25	Church Wardens			



# 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**  
**Guaranteed, No Hidden Charges**



**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](mailto:jim@mtsfc.co.uk)**

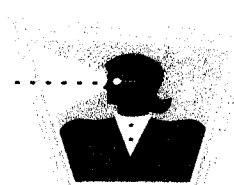
## The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	Parish Clerk	Paul Bruton	682322
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrock	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 Witchell	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 Moulton	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*

### ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

Dec 13th Carol Service - Cublington	Feb 28th Audrey Tompkins - England's Green and Pleasant Land	May 8th G Gamriell - Lights Camera Action	June 3rd Outing
2008 Jan 3rd Pub Lunch	Mar 13th Spring Lunch	May 22nd Coffee morning by kind permission of Audrey Stephenson	June 17th Garden party
Jan 17th Richard Revels - The Faulklands	Mar 27th Margaret Deakin - An African Adventure	June 5th Mr Rye - Building a winning garden BBC Gardener of the year winner 2002	
Jan 31st Hugh Grainger - Wild Wild Women	April 10th Neil Rees - The other Bucks County	June 19th Competition afternoon	
Feb 14th Eve Davis - Growing up in the 30's	April 24th Barry Oxley - Iceland		



#### Ladies Club November 1<sup>st</sup>

We held our AGM. Today in the church room where 17 members were present. The minutes of our previous AGM having been read and approved, the Chairman, Treasurer, Social and Program Secretaries presented their reports.

Members decided to vote the existing Committee member continue in their respective jobs with the exception of the duties of Program Secretary which will be shared between June Brine and Carol Morris.

Tea hostesses were June Brine and Kim White and our lucky raffle winner was Avril Bradley Davis.

#### Ladies Club November 15<sup>th</sup>

14 members were present at today's meeting in the church room. Having finalized plans for our Christmas Carol Service, our Chairman welcomed today's speaker, Miss Joanne Moore, who told us the history and theory surrounding philosophy of Chinese horoscopes. Following a fascinating talk she was thanked by Joan Alexander.

Tea hostesses were Sheila Read and April Curnow and our raffle winner was Avril Bradley Davis.

*Shirley Ford.*



The Unicorn,  
High Street, Cublington,  
Nr. Leighton Buzzard,  
Beds, LU7 0LQ

Not bad for a  
small village pub...



*Open every day serving fresh country food and featured in*

2007 Good Pub Guide • 2007 Real Ale Guide • 2007 Good Food Guide • 2007 Foodie Guide

*Voted as* AVDC - Best Community Pub for 2007

We hate to disappoint villagers and as we are getting busier,  
we encourage you to book your table in advance.

Don't forget to ask about joining our loyalty scheme...



TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE PLEASE CALL US ON 01296 681261

# What's On In December

Tuesday 4th	Parochial Church Council 7.30pm	Church Room
Wednesday 5th	Prayers 9am	St James Church
	Parish Council 8pm	Church Room
Thursday 1st	Coffee/Shop 10 - 12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Sunday 9th	Village Footpath Meet 2pm	The Green
Wednesday 12th	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Thursday 13th	Coffee/Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Ladies Club Carol Service	Cublington
Sunday 16th	Christingle Service 3pm	St James Church
Wednesday 19th	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Thursday 20th	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Tuesday 25th	Christmas Day	
	Communion 9.15am	St James Church
Monday 31st	NewYears Eve	
	Fancy Dress Party	Church Room
Sunday 6th January	Ramblers Meet 2pm	Stone

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@aachronicle.co.uk)



## CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR REFUSE COLLECTIONS



Normal Day

Revised Day



Thursday 27th Dec

Saturday 29th Dec



Thursday 3rd January

Saturday 5th January



Thursday 10th January Friday 11th January

Then back to normal schedule



## BUS SERVICES

Please note  
NO SERVICE

on

CHRISTMAS  
BOXING

or

NEW YEARS EVE  
DAYS

An angel sent this to me, thought it would be good to share...challenging eh?! *Derek Witchell*

### In amongst all the hustle and bustle of Christmas time A Christmas Thought

If, as Herod, we fill our lives with things;

If we consider ourselves so unimportant that we must fill our lives with action;

When will we have the time to make the long journey across the desert as did the Magi?

Or sit and watch the stars as did the Shepherds?

Or brood over the coming of the Child, as did Mary?

For each of us there is a desert to travel,

A star to discover,

And a being within ourselves to bring to life!

## Classified

### Nintendo Gameboy Advanced SP (blue) - £50

- mint condition
- includes carry case and game wallet
- includes 5 games + instructions - Gadget Racers, GT Advance, Super Mario Bros 3, Pokémon leaf green, Pokémon blue

### K'nex - £20

- carry case with 650+ pieces

Telephone 682249

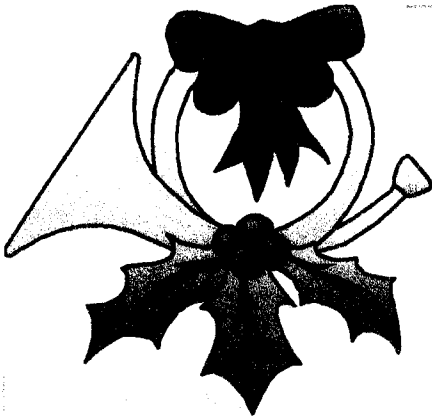
# ALISON AND DAVE

WISH ALL OF THEIR FRIENDS IN ASTON ABBOTTS

# A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

# A HAPPY NEW YEAR



*You Know You've Had Too Much Christmas Cheer When...*

1. You notice your tie sticking out of your fly.
2. Someone uses your tongue for a coaster.
3. You start kissing the portraits on the wall.
4. You see your underwear hanging from the chandelier.
5. You have to hold on to the floor to keep from sliding off.
6. You strike a match and light your nose.
7. You take off your shoes and wade in the potato salad.
8. You hear someone say, "Call a priest!"
9. You hear a duck quacking and it's you.
10. You complain about the toilet after emerging from the cupboard.
11. You refill your glass from the fish bowl.
12. You tell everyone you have to go home... and the party's at your place.
13. You ask for another ice cube and put it in your pocket.
14. You yawn at the biggest bore in the room... and realise you're in front of the hall mirror.
15. You pick up a roll, and butter your watch.
16. You suggest everyone stand and sing the national budget.
17. You're at the dinner table and you ask the hostess to pass a bedpan.
18. You take out your handkerchief and blow your ear.
19. You tell your best joke to the rubber plant.
20. You realize you're the only one under the coffee table.

'Twas the night before Christmas  
And all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring,  
Not even a mouse.

'Cuzz the cat had pounced on him  
And tore him apart -  
Ate his mouse intestines  
And chewed up his heart.

Kitty thought he heard sleighbells,  
Which made him take pause -  
He stopped daintily licking  
The blood from his claws.

"Must be Santa," thought Kitty  
(That quite clever cat)  
'Cuz nobody else climbs down  
The chimney like that.

Indeed it was ol' Santa  
So jolly and fat  
With a huge load of presents  
And all for the cat!

"Wow, the best Christmas ever!"  
Kitty thought with a purr,  
Then he coughed up a hairball  
And shed some more fur!

*(Unknown)*

**Flackwell Electronics - Purveyors of plasma screens to the gentry**