

THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 276 ~ March 2008



SPRING TIME
EASTER SUNDAY 23rd MARCH

Email : editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Editorial

Our Village Fete will take place on 26th July - April Curnow has confirmed that she is willing to oversee the event. Preliminary planning of the day is being discussed at a meeting in The Church Room on Monday 17th March at 7.30pm. Please attend to give April your support and ideas or give her a ring if you unable to attend on the day (see page 5 for details).

There's a deal of information in this month's issue about the A418 Improvements ranging from Friends of the Earth's view, the local newspaper's report and an open letter from Peter Cooper our District Councillor.

There has been no response from anyone wanting to be listed on an Aston Abbots directory for baby and pet sitting (see page 17).

If anyone has frogspawn or tadpoles to spare then please let me know as I am keen to try and restock my ponds. My ponds have some great crested newts - they seem to be common round here (they are a protected species nationally). I've noticed a heron patrolling the rough grassed areas, not fishing the lakes. If the heron is eating what frogs there are then it is doing a good job as there is no sign of frogspawn despite my efforts last year.

Our new vicar, Michelle Morton, is unwell. Derek Witchell is doing his best to fill the gap but he can't be everywhere at once. Hopefully Michelle will make a good recovery soon.

I was pleased to get one valentine's card. Now looking forward to an Easter egg. Easter is as early as it can be this year. The schools are having their Easter holidays in April.

But the real thing I am looking forward to is my first grandchild which should have arrived by the time I write my next editorial. A letter in the national press on the topic of grandchildren went something like 'if I'd known how much pleasure can be had from ones grandchildren I'd have had them first'. Here's hoping for a healthy mother and child.



In This Issue

- Allotment Diary
- Crossword
- What's on in March
- Countryside Matters
- A418 Alternatives Reports & Letter

Front cover shows Peter Shorrock's garden. (photograph taken by Peter)
If you have a photo of our village you'd like to submit for the front cover then please let the Ed have a copy.

contrasty photos are best - our printing facilities are limited.

THE CHRONICLE

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~o~

A note to all would be advertisers
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Copy date for the next issue is:

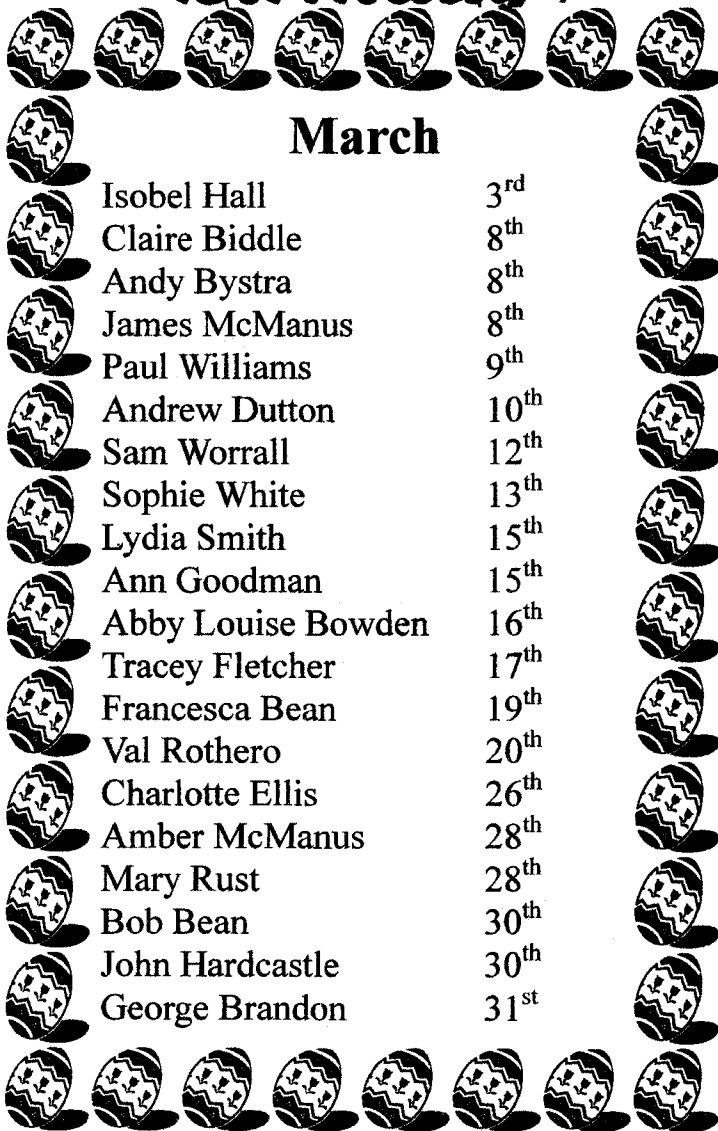
Friday 21st March 2008

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



March

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

Our commiserations to Percy Humphrys and his family after the loss of his brother Frank. Frank was 90 years old and used to be the publican of the Bull and Butcher and also the baker.

Peter Knight's mother Marjorie also died recently. Our condolences to the family particularly Peter's father.

Note from Irene Lowden –

“I would like to thank the many friends in the village who sent greetings cards, flowers, etc. to mark my recent milestone. A big, big thank you also to all those who gave me so much support and help during the three weeks that Alison was in Australia.”

Congratulations to Clarkie who went ahead and had a 60th birthday party without me!

Congratulations to Richard Clarke on his 60th birthday that he celebrated in style with a party at Ched-dington Village Hall with a guest list in excess of 150. Excellent food and drink, accompanied by a Country Dance Band, made for a memorable evening. *Ed*

Please support Tara when she runs the Flora London Marathon raising funds for 'Beating Bowel Cancer'. See page 16 for details.

Monday 5th May (Bank Holiday)
 Table Top Sale on the Green (if wet in Church Room)
 Sell anything you like 50% to you 50% to the Church Clock Fund
 See also page 29

GNOMES GIRLS NIGHT OUT MEN EXCLUDED SORRY - meets every Tuesday evening in the Royal Oak from 8pm onwards. All 'girls' in the village are very welcome to come along. There's no formality. No membership fee - just some good conversation over a glass of something. **WHY NOT JOIN IN?**

Marjorie Thomson Knight

Following a fall, Marjorie sadly died in hospital on the 6th Feb.

She was born in 1917 in the Forest of Dean and was a teacher when she met Dennis at the beginning of the war. After the war they both had distinguished teaching careers followed by a happy retirement. Some two years ago they moved to Bricstock, Aston Abbots to be near Alex and Peter, where they became regular church goers and steadfastly supported the Thursday coffee morning and shop.

Everyone who met Marjorie warmed to her as a true 'gentle women' with a quiet yet quite cheeky sense of humour. We will all miss her and our sincere condolences go to Dennis, Peter and family.



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VILLAGE FETE Saturday 26th July

It's time to get together to organise our village fete. The success of the fete depends on all those willing volunteers who deliver raffle tickets, collect items from householders, set up the stalls and indeed man the stalls on the day.

I am happy to co-ordinate the activities and arrangements for the day but I would appreciate some new ideas.

I would like to ask everyone who supported me so well last year if they are willing to do the self same jobs this year and if so I thank you in advance.

If you are unable to help please let me know as soon as possible otherwise I will be presumptuous and assume that you are willing to help again.

There will be a meeting in the Church room on Monday 17th March at 7.30pm so that I can let you know just how far forward I am at the moment and so that we can get things rolling ready for the great day. Please put this date on your calendar.

I look forward to seeing as many of the people who were involved in the fete last year and anyone else who feels they could give a hand and would like to be involved.

April Curnow (Telephone No. 681459)

MOTHERING SUNDAY is a long-established celebration but has become especially popular in recent years. In medieval times it was the day on which people visited their 'mother' church, the cathedral of their diocese. Only in the mid-17th century did it become a day for acknowledging human mothers

On Mothering Sunday it used to be the practice to visit one's own mother and give her gifts of flowers and cakes. People working in service, away from home, were given the day off by their employers. It was quite common in those days for live-in servants not to see their parents for months at a time. Traditionally, Simnel cakes were taken home and often bunches of wild flowers such as violets and primroses.

Simnel cakes were originally baked in two layers, with a filling of almond paste in between.

So, give a special thought for your 'Mum'.

Don't just send a card!

Bake her a cake, take her flowers or out to lunch!!

Of course, you could always celebrate this special day by coming along to :-

Mothering Sunday Service at St James

SUNDAY 2nd March

10.00am

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We can't promise Simnel cake but each Mum will be given a spring posy.



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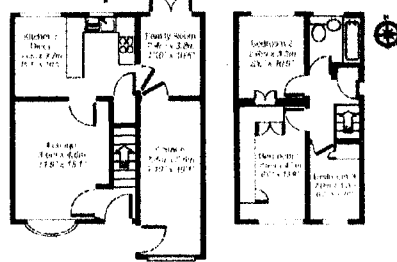
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ALLOTMENT DIARY

In last month's piece, I made the comment that since the word "potato" comes from a Spanish word "patata", it was clearly discovered by the Spanish, and not by Sir Walter Raleigh. However, I have now discovered that the story of Raleigh presenting Queen Elizabeth with a potato is incorrect in one vital respect. A book has recently been published on the history of the potato, and its place in world history, and the author tells us that the plant that Raleigh gave to the Queen was not the potato, but a North American tuber called the "openawk".

It had always puzzled me slightly how Raleigh could have brought a potato back, since I knew that the vegetable originated in South America, and Raleigh had only been to North America. What has happened to the openawk since then, I have no idea: presumably it was not suitable for intensive cultivation.

Ten years after Raleigh's presentation, Shakespeare has Falstaff refer to the sky "raining potatoes", but yet again, this was not a reference to the humble spud, but to the unrelated sweet potato or yam. Potatoes did not become a field crop in Britain until the early 18th century.

According to the book, the potato is now a basic food crop, grown in 149 countries, and contains four times more calories than grain. As a result of this, it became the food that fuelled the industrial revolution in the 19th century, its affordability meaning that industrialists could keep wages down and produce goods cheaply for foreign markets. However its popularity had a dark side, in that some communities became too dependent on it; and when the crop failed, as happened in Ireland in the 19th century, the result was widespread famine and death from starvation; and mass emigration, especially to the USA.

Meanwhile, on the allotments, the recent fine weather has meant that things have started happening. Carpets have been removed, and plots are being dug over and spread with manure, in readiness for the first planting in the spring. I have been occupied moving raspberry plants from my garden to the allotment. The position where the raspberries

were in the garden was shaded, and they therefore never produced much of a crop; and I am expecting that exposing them to sun all day long on the allotments will make them perform better.

I recently found Simon digging his allotment with a very peculiar spade. It had handle bars at the top, like a bicycle, and a sprung foot at the back of the blade, so that when he dug the blade into the soil, the foot and spring forced the blade forward, and so dug the earth out, with minimum effort on the part of the user. I made some remark to the effect that it was typical of him to be using the latest technology, only to discover that I was very much mistaken. The spade he was using was called a Wolf Terreck, and has not been made for 30 years or so! He had acquired his on E-bay, and he told me that there was such a demand for them, that second-hand Terreck spades in good condition are changing hands for over £100! Despite this demand, the manufacturers have stopped producing them, and have no plans to manufacture them again. Although I appreciate that the present high price is in part due to the scarcity of these spades, it does rather seem as though Wolf or their competitors are missing a trick.

Back at the ranch, it's been a sad day for Oak Farm House. Readers may remember that one of the twin trunks of my holm-oak tree was blown over during a gale last winter: and Adam and I have now felled the other trunk. It was rotting away from the inside due to a fungus, which had already hollowed out the main trunk at the bottom to a height of 9 feet. Since the remaining trunk leant out over the road, and would clearly fall that way when it went, the AVDC tree officer recommended that we take it down before this happened. I think that it is almost certain that this is the tree after which the house was named, and was very sorry to see it go. We have kept the brushwood canopy around the base, and are hoping that the tree will sprout from the top of the trunk that is left. On the plus side, however, I have acquired about a winter's worth of logs, and I do have a wood-burning stove!

Well that's about it for this month: it's back to the catalogues, and the pleasure of deciding what to order to plant for the coming year.

Peter

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Country Matters

In an ideal world of farming Jamie Oliver is quite right in most of what he portrays in his series of "Foul Dinners". Of course chickens should not lay eggs in cages and I applaud the end of this practice in the next few years. But alas, we do not live in an ideal world. Farmers need to produce millions of eggs every day to feed millions of people in this country. You cannot, at the drop of a hat or the swish of a wand, change to free range egg production overnight. We are a small island, rapidly becoming smaller due to uncontrolled immigration and a demand for thousands of new homes, mostly on the edge of the countryside and shortly in the Green Belt itself. Free range units need planning permission, they are seen as contentious issues, as was seen recently in Aston Abbots and lately in Mentmore. People want the free range eggs but not the buildings near them to produce them. The new structures being erected on farmland originally had buildings housing cows and sheep for hundreds of years. The conflict of food production and homes in villages continues.

I recently visited a brand new 1200 bird unit in Cambridgeshire, with the surrounding 20 acres of compulsory grassland for the free range chickens to roam. These new buildings are modern and clean with very little smell if any, they are cleaned out once a year and the litter removed in trucks for processing into fertilizer and compost. There are no flies or rats. The birds have plenty of room and are treated with care as indeed they should be, otherwise they would not lay eggs. Compared to the old fashioned example of broiler buildings on Hugh Fearnley-Wittingstall's program, the buildings were redundant and at least 30 to 40 years old when he took them over for filming.

Animals need to be bred properly, fed, well housed, treated with respect and killed in the most humane painless way possible. It amazes me how we turn a blind eye to "halal and kocher" killing.

Unfortunately whatever they may tell us the power of the supermarkets is all powerful. They push down the price of poultry and eggs making it much more difficult to produce them without cutting corners on animal welfare and husbandry. Make no mistake if the British producer fails they shall look to other former communist countries for their supplies, where animal welfare ceases to exist. How on earth can you produce 2 oven ready chickens for £5 as sold in Tesco's? So if you all want free range eggs to replace cage laid ones, we are going to have to pay more for them. I rest my case.

"It's surely no secret that foot and mouth disease is endemic in Brazil and that a total ban should have been applied years ago. The Irish Farmers Association found evidence of deliberate malpractice in areas from which exports are supposed to be banned, animals were re-tagged in order to disguise their identity and origin."

Stick to the little red tractor logo and you will know where you are when buying beef.

James

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

2008

Mar 13th Spring Lunch

Mar 27th Margaret Deakin - An African Adventure

April 10th Neil Rees - The other Bucks County

April 24th Barry Oxley - Iceland

May 8th G Gamriel - Lights Camera Action

May 22nd Coffee morning by kind permission of
Audrey Stephenson

June 5th Mr Rye - Building a winning garden BBC
Gardener of the year winner 2002

June 19th Competition afternoon

June 3rd Outing

Jan. 31st

The Ladies Club met in the Church Room where 16 members and one guest were present. With the minutes read and signed, our Chairman, Joan Alexander welcomed today's speaker, Mr. Hugh Grainger. He gave a most interesting talk entitled 'Wild Wild Women' and was about three women who had lived extraordinary lives around the 17th and 18th centuries. He was thanked by June Brine

Today's tea hostesses were, April Curnow and Sheila Read and our guest, Diane won the raffle.

Feb. 14th

The Ladies Club met in the Church Room where 15 members were present.

June Brine acted as Chairman and after a short business meeting, she introduced today's speaker, Mrs. Audrey Tompkins. Mrs. Tompkins gave us a slide show entitled 'England's Green & Pleasant Land' and was afterwards thanked by April Curnow

Today's tea hostesses were, Daphne Rogers and Doreen Liddell and Ivy Brandon won the raffle.

Shirley Ford

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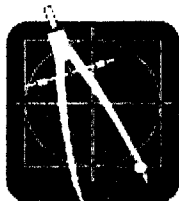
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Mentmore Arts Festival is inviting local Artists to exhibit their work in St Mary's Church, Village Hall and on The Green.

Calling all artists

Mentmore is to hold its first Arts Festival in St Mary's

Church, the Village Hall and on The Green in aid of Mentmore Church Restoration Fund and local Charities – and we're asking local artists to hire exhibition space to exhibit their work.

Artists work will be exhibited in the Church and

Village Hall and stall space will be available on

The Village Green for the sale of paintings, prints, photographs, sculpture, glass, pottery, local books and postcards. All exhibits in the Church and Village Hall will be available to buy. There will also be a raffle, a children's art competition, and a local artefacts

charity stall.

Plus teas will be served in the Mentmore Village Hall garden.

For a booking form or further information please

contact: **Caroline Gates on 01525 660268 or**

Sue Scott on 01525 372757

LOCAL EVENTS

The monthly Aston Abbots Good Samaritans Bingo evening is a small fund-raising village activity. It takes place on a Thursday evening and any profit, which is not used to maintain the bingo sessions, is saved up and donated periodically to worthy causes.

Last year we were able to give donations to The Czech/Veterans Day, the Lifeboat Appeal, and Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Service.

We have made a good start this year with a £50 donation to the Lifeboat Appeal in January, and a further £60 to Macmillan Cancer Support this month.

The amount available to donate fluctuates along with the numbers attending the Bingo sessions. At one point we wondered if there would continue to be sufficient interest in the Good Samaritan's Bingo for it to carry on.

However, with the reliable support from a handful of Aston Abbott stalwarts and our more numerous Wingrave friends we have all been happy to see it survive into another year. Recently we were pleased to hear it's good reputation for an inexpensive and friendly evening had spread, when we welcomed a couple of new attendees who had traveled over from Aylesbury to join us.

If anyone would like to come along to an evening, it starts at 7.30pm and includes a short break for refreshments. We aim to finish at around 9.00pm.

The next session will be held on

Thursday, 6th March in Aston Abbots Village Hall.

For more information contact Pam ☎ 01296 681626 or Sheila ☎ 01296 681649

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Uproar in Wing over the A418

Imagine hundreds of angry Wing and Rowsham residents fed up with increasing traffic through their villages, cram them into a hall with standing room only and tell them that their longed for bypass has no chance of getting funding for a decade. Then tell the residents that a report commissioned to look into the alternatives to road building showed that a more sustainable package of measures outperformed the bypass, and sparks are sure to fly. This was the "lively" experience I witnessed as I sat on the panel in Wing Parish Hall on the 15th January.

The 'A418 Improvements' scheme was a large consultation exercise carried out by Bucks CC in 2006 to build dual carriageway roads around Wing and Rowsham. Aylesbury Vale FOE and South Beds FOE commissioned a report by a leading Government transport advisor in 2006 which noted that Bucks CC's work on the 'A418 Improvements' had not adequately considered the alternative non-road building measures. It is a requirement by Government that all scheme promoters consider all options. Friends of the Earth and Bucks CC had called this meeting in Wing to release the findings of a large report on the 'Alternatives to the A418 Improvements'.

Most unusually South Beds FOE and Bucks CC decided to jointly commission an 'Alternatives Report' to see whether other measures would be able to tackle the issues in a more cost-effective manner. This most unusual collaboration meant each party contributing £20,000 (a considerable fundraising undertaking for a voluntary organisation like South Beds FOE).

Tom Cohen from Steer Davis Gleave was the consultant who had the unenviable task of explaining that the dual carriageway scheme came off worse than packages of more sustainable transport measures in terms of meeting the objectives and constraints for the area. The Report concluded that an 'ambitious' package, including East West Rail linking Aylesbury to Milton Keynes, a huge improvement in bus services, tackling the school run, work place travel plans, safe cycleways and traffic calming in the villages was better at alleviating traffic, supporting the economy and limiting CO2 emissions.

The options compared in the 'Alternatives Report' are:

- Dual carriageway 'A418 Improvements' (bypasses around Wing and Rowsham) together with a bypass around Bierton to join the A41 (£130million)
- A single carriageway bypass option around Wing and Rowsham (£35m)
- Three levels of alternatives packages from modest (£12m) to ambitious (£92m). These included walking and cycling facilities, public transport improvement, 'Smarter Choices' (personalised travel planning and travel plans) and limited highway and engineering works.
- 'Do minimum' option

Each option was then fed into a multi-criteria computer analysis which measured the above options against weighted objectives and constraints and gave a clear audit trail of the decision making process.

The objectives and constraints within the Alternatives Report are the same essentially as those of the road scheme, except that unlike the road scheme they include non car accessibility

(social inclusion). This means considering the transport needs of the village residents not just the needs of the A418 corridor. At present many young and elderly people are very isolated in the villages as bus services are poor and many of the rural roads are very unsafe for walking and cycling. The 'A418 Improvements' in their present form would not address these problems and the Alternatives Report is the very first time that ways to fund a better bus service and improve cycling and walking facilities for the area have been examined. The other objectives of the 'Alternatives Report' included alleviating the negative impact of traffic on settlements on the A418; improving the walking and cycling environment in the villages; reduction of rat running; increasing the predictability of journey times; and assisting Aylesbury's economy. Constraints comprised minimising cost; preserving the landscape; minimising carbon impact; preventing traffic generation; and avoiding harm to other local communities.

The greatest weighting was given to alleviating the negative impacts of traffic along the A418, minimal cost and helping the economy of Aylesbury. With this model different weightings were examined. Even if the constraints were given a very low weighting and alleviation of traffic was given the highest weighting, the ambitious package still came out best.

The study has raised considerable interest at a national level, both for transport practitioners and the Department for Transport. It demonstrates a much clearer and fairer way of making decisions on transport than the present system. It also highlighted that the overall system and means of applying for funding makes the Government favour road building over sustainable transport improvements. The present system of funding makes it very difficult for councils to fund small interventions such as speed limits or cycle bridges unless they are part of a package of alternatives.

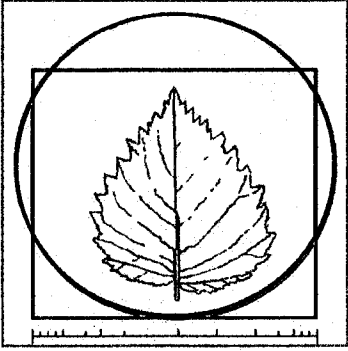
There are currently few ways of obtaining sizeable amounts of revenue funding which are pretty essential for more sustainable transport options. This means that where initiatives require year on year investment, particularly for public transport, smarter choice initiatives and maintenance for footways and cycle paths, this money is hard to source, although the Report does make several suggestions

Whilst there may be a very slim chance of a dual carriageway scheme entering the South East Regional Funding Allocation after 2016, there is no promise at all that if the road is built there will be any improvements to the local buses or that cycling could become less dangerous. This failure to incorporate improved walking and cycling facilities at the same time as road building is nowhere more clearly demonstrated than on the new Western Linlade bypass. Wing residents who wish to walk or cycle into Leighton Buzzard have had their village severed by the bypass, because no bridge has been forthcoming despite local campaigns.

So where to now? Bucks CC is committed to doing further modelling work on the Alternatives. They are also lobbying the Government for changes to funding mechanisms. Whatever decision is made by Bucks CC and the South East Regional Assembly, it is clear that Wing and Rowsham residents have to accept that sacrifices have to be made and that not everyone will benefit from any one solution.

To see the Report look on www.southbedsfoe.co.uk and on the Bucks CC website

Rachel Barnett – Aylesbury Vale Friends of the Earth



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Reprint of article by Callum Jones in the Bucks Herald.

**CONFLICTING VIEWS OVER REPORT ON
FUTURE OF A418** - *Argument between residents,
county council and Friends of the Earth*

A stormy meeting about the future of the A418 held in Wing produced a heated argument between local residents, Bucks County council and Friends of the Earth representatives.

More than 200 residents of Wing and the surrounding villages of Rowsham, Wingrave and Stewkley turned up to hear a presentation of the Alternatives Report which detailed possible solutions in the traffic problems in Wing without building a bypass.

However, many of the people who attended the meeting made it quite clear that they were not prepared to accept anything other than the building of a new road. One resident of Rowsham said 'One day a lorry will kill a child. We need a bypass. This report is just a further excuse for procrastination'.

Peter Cooper, AVDC member for Wingrave and Rowsham, said: 'This exercise has not been done by elected representatives. If the bypass is built we will automatically have a local country road that people can cycle on and get bus lanes as well. Friends of the Earth - we know you mean well but you are not working in our interests'.

But representatives from Friends of the Earth said that local residents had misunderstood the aim of the meeting and needed to start thinking about alternatives to a bypass that would not be built for at least another eight years.

Speaking at the meeting, Victoria Harvey, of Friends of the earth, said: 'We should not have come here. Most of you have just complained about the problems and not listened to any solutions. Each of you has to take responsibility for pushing the council in the right direction and getting things done sooner rather than later. Going up the bypass route is a dead end'.

During the meeting, Tom Cohen, the author of the Alternatives Report detailed a number of schemes that could be introduced to reduce traffic including, improved cycle routes, improved bus routes and possibly 'straightening' out the road through Wing. However, some of his ideas such as cycle stops which can be used by commuters who want to cycle to the bus stop and then leave their bicycle there for the day, were openly laughed at by some members of the audience at the meeting.

Reprint of Peter Cooper's letter in Bucks Herald 30/01/08

GET ON WITH BUILDING A ROAD

Three hundred people attended a public meeting in Wing village hall On Tuesday January 15. Called by Friends of the Earth and Bucks County Council, the meeting was to disclose the findings of a study of possible low impact alternative solutions to the proposed Wing and Rowsham bypasses. The road situation between Wing and Aylesbury is of great concern to local residents.

The alternatives report acknowledged the traffic problems experienced by residents living on the route of the A418 between Wing and Aylesbury and helpfully proposed speed limit for Rowsham village, something for which I have long campaigned. It also proposed Pelican crossings, cycle routes and enhanced bus services, all things that have my support.

However, few people would disagree with the fact that the A418 now has traffic flows that take the road to its capacity.

The highways authority predicts that the current daily figure of 17,000 vehicles per day will increase substantially as Aylesbury and Milton Keynes grow. The alternatives report put forward by Friends of the Earth fails to accept ongoing growth. It argues that Aylesbury's housing and economy should be limited so that traffic volumes stabilise or decline. This to my mind is 'head in the sand' syndrome and will do nothing for the reality faced by people living on or near the A418. Population and economic growth are not some future proposed plan. The growth is happening now and the Government is quite determined that its vision for growth in this area will be played out.

At the Wing meeting it was clear that the authors of the alternatives report failed to understand the mood of the local people and the audience made that clear in no uncertain terms. Residents on the route are plagued by the dangerous and polluting effects of heavy traffic. Those villages near the route are plagued by ever increasing rat runners. Realists know that Aylesbury and Milton Keynes will grow and want the traffic out of their villages. They have seen how beneficial to Soulbury and Stoke Hammond the completed first phase of this project has been.

The Wing meeting sent a simple message to Bucks County Council. Lobby the Government for finance and get on with building a road that takes the traffic out of our villages.

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I'm taking part in the **Flora London Marathon** on **13/04/2008** to raise money for Beating Bowel Cancer and would really welcome your support.

I am SO pleased to be given the chance to raise money for such a good cause and run in memory of my amazing Dad who died of bowel cancer but is still very much alive in my heart.

Please join me in supporting Beating Bowel Cancer and a fabulous cause by sponsoring me just a small amount to help me reach my target of **£2,000**.

Donating takes a matter of minutes and is totally secure. It's really easy - you can donate online by credit or debit card at the following address:

<http://www.justgiving.com/taraeastmead>

All donations are sent electronically to Beating Bowel Cancer. If you are a UK taxpayer, Justgiving will automatically reclaim 28% Gift Aid on your behalf, so your donation is worth even more.

Alternatively, I have a loose change box at 3 The Old Bakery or you can make a cheque payable to 'Beating Bowel Cancer'.

Your support really means a lot to me and Beating Bowel Cancer - thank you SO much!

Tara

3 The Old Bakery, The Green, Aston Abbots, Bucks, HP22 4FA



'To know him was to love him'

ADULT EDUCATION
 CLASSES IN WINGRAVE

The final course of the 2007/8 programme will be a day school on birdwatching

**BIRDS AND BIRDWATCHING FOR
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This day school on Saturday 15th March is aimed at beginners who want to learn about birds and birdwatching, so you won't be intimidated by expert twitchers! The course will run from 10am until 4pm (bring a packed lunch) at Wingrave Methodist Chapel, and the fee will be £22.

Advance booking will be essential, so if you are interested please contact Roberta Smith before Monday 10th March on 01296 681219

Ladies!

An evening just for you
 on Tuesday 22 April
 Come along from 7.30pm
 for wine and nibbles
 and hear our guest speaker:

Mary Pytches, at 8pm

Mary is married to Bishop David Pytches.
 They have 4 children & 12 grandchildren.

Mary has written many books
 on subjects relating to personal growth.

Mary & David with their 4 girls spent 17
 years in South America as Missionaries.
 In their retirement Mary & David are kept
 busy with their growing family,
 while making time for writing and speaking
 around the world

A warm welcome awaits you at
 St Peter & St Paul Church, Wingrave
 Book the babysitter & invite your friends!

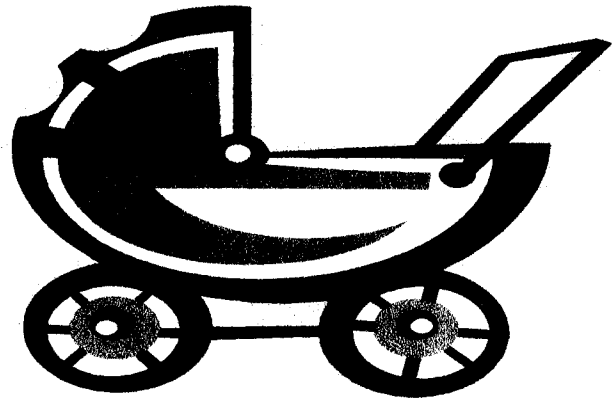
*How is it possible for gnats to fly in heavy rain with-
 out being knocked out of the air by raindrops?*

A falling drop of rain creates a tiny pressure wave
 ahead (below the raindrop). This wave pushes the
 gnat sideways and the drop misses it. Fly swats are
 made from mesh or have holes on their surface to re-
 duce this pressure wave, otherwise flies would escape
 most swats.

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be
 happy." *Benjamin Franklin*

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol is a major
 factor in dancing like a retard.

The *Cublington Crier*
 includes a **Babysitting
 and Pet sitting Directory**



If you would like to put your name on an
 AA Chronicle Directory let the Chronicle editor have
 your name and telephone number and, if appropriate,
 indicate if you are only available during
 Student holiday time.



Age Concern Buckinghamshire
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 carers, friends or relatives.

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St Nicholas Church, Cublington

The Diocese of Oxford's 'Big Brew' event to raise aware-
 ness & use of Fairtrade Products will be held in The Uni-
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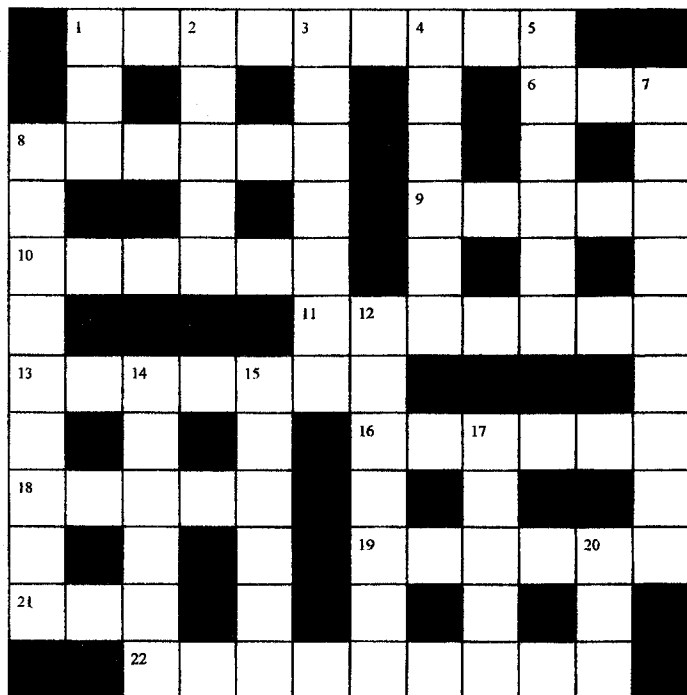


07944 509438 or

Aylesbury (01296) 688547

The Chronicle Crossword

March 2008



SOLUTIONS -

ACROSS

- 1 Answering 6 Lap 8 Adverb
 9 Eaves 10 Porter 11 Gangsaw
 13 Tractor 16 Isobar
 18 Setup 19 Ozarks
 21 Rye 22 Replacing

DOWN

- 1 Aid 2 Scent 3 Embargo
 4 Intern 5 Gloves
 7 Passwords 8 Appetiser
 12 Arizona 14 Antler
 15 Tiptop 17 Omani 20 Keg

CLUES -

ACROSS

- 1 Marvellous (9)
 6 Frozen rain (3)
 8 Large hole (3-3)
 9 Be happy (5)
 10 Early this year (6)
 11 Forwards (7)
 13 Offensive (7)
 16 Old Polish leader (6)
 18 English river (5)
 19 Type of orchid (6)
 21 Small carpet (3)
 22 Sailor (9)

DOWN

- 1 Chinese dynasty (3)
 2 Not day (5)
 3 Rulers of Rome (7)
 4 Tag along (6)
 5 Alcoholic drink (6)
 7 New testament book (9)
 8 Guardian of the Tower (9)
 12 Welsh port (7)
 14 Power (6)
 15 Derived from octane (6)
 17 Replacement doctor (5)
 20 Travellers resting place (3)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

I met the bloke who invented crosswords today. I can't remember his name, its P something T something R. *with apologies to Tommy Cooper*

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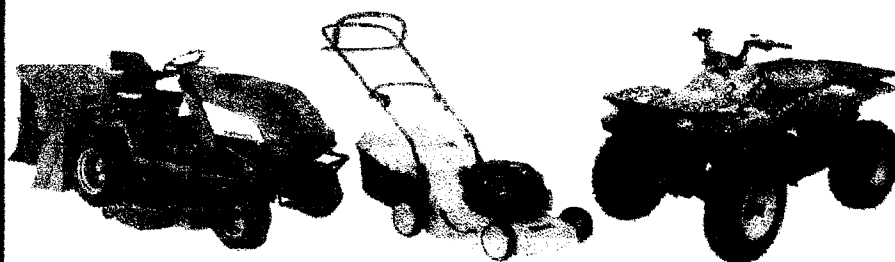
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We also Sell TVs For Less Than 20pounds!



Mini Bottle of Everlasting nail varnish!
A tiny bottle you can't live without!

Have you ever got tired of your nail varnish always rubbing off? Have you ever wished that it would last longer? This little bottle of varnish is your wish come true!!

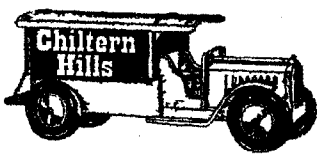
This nail varnish can stay on your nails for more than 10 years! If it needs rubbing off just dunk it under hot water with a powder which will come free with the bottle of nail varnish.

So what are you waiting for?



For more information visit www.mademo.com or ring 01898 249 287.

LIFFS - are made up words defining new situations etc. In the Daily Telegraph recently they published two topical ones: see what you think.
WEEDON (vb) to reluctantly clean a lavatory seat so that the next person doesn't think you are responsible.
SLAPTON (n) cosmetics advisor in a department store. Any more suggestions? Ed



THE CHILTERN HILLS VINTAGE VEHICLE RALLY SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2008



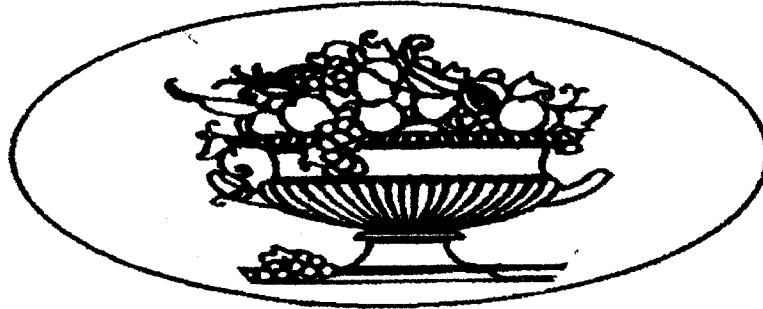
Woodlands Farm Aylesbury Road Aston Clinton Aylesbury Bucks HP22 5AG
Phone/Fax: 01296 631666

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Contact: The Chiltern Hills Rally, 137 Bedgrove, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7TR
Tel. No. 01296 330901 **Email:** penderjune@aol.com

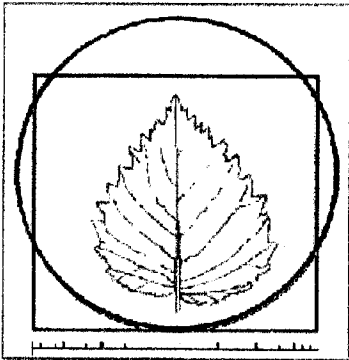
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every Wednesday morning at 9am for anyone who wishes to reflect, meditate or pray for a few minutes or longer.

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.

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6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

RICHARD CLARKE
Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

DICKIE DICKEN
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JUDY HARDCASTLE
Marloes, Lines Hill ~ 688070

ANDY STEFANCZYK
73 The Green ~ 0774 2957684
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SHROVE TUESday COFFEE MORNING

If you came to enjoy pancakes on Shrove Tuesday you will know just what a splendid occasion it was. Around fifty people, some from Stewkeley and some from Wingrave, as well as our usual faithful friends from Aston Abbots, came and enjoyed the pancakes. This was a fund raising morning for St. James' Church and £100 was raised.

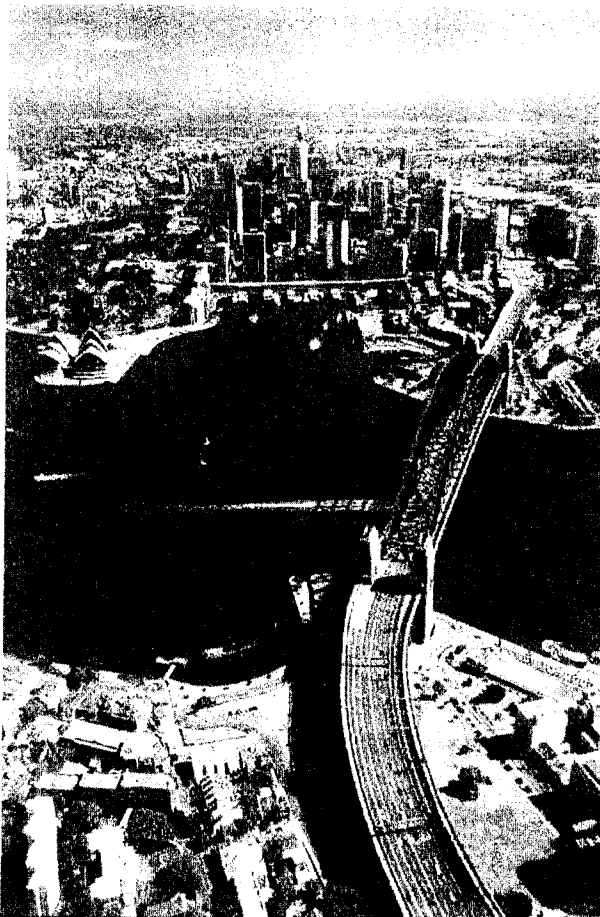
April Curnow

To be **As Happy As A Sandboy** means you are in a state of joyous contentment. This phrase passed into regular usage courtesy of Charles Dickens. In 1840 Dickens published *The Old Curiosity Shop* which includes an inn called The Jolly Sandboys that displayed a sign outside depicting three drunken sandboys. But what was a sandboy? Dickens is known to have spent time in Bristol which is referred to throughout *The Pickwick Papers* published in 1836. Around that time it is recorded that the town's landlords would spread sand on the floor of their establishments which would soak up any spillage, much in the same way as sawdust would be used in other places. In Bristol the Redcliffe Caves are full of sand and innkeepers would send boys off to into the caves to provide them with a regular supply. These youngsters were paid partly in ale and consequently they were usually half-cut (merry or jolly), hence Dickens's inn sign and the origin of our phrase.

The Bean's and Lewis' do Oz

We headed off to Australia at the end of January, stopping off at Bangkok for two days on the way. We stayed in the most luxurious hotel I have ever stayed in, The Peninsula, overlooking the Mae Nam Chao Phraya River. We did the tourist things; visiting Buddhist temples, palaces etc, but the real reason for being there was SHOPPING, particularly the fake designer handbags! Much time was devoted to this pursuit – so much so that Bob felt he had to go off for a body massage, manicure and pedicure!

Next stop Sydney. We stayed in Bondi with Bob's daughter Victoria, her Italian husband Roberto, and two children aged 3 and 1 and a dog! The insomnia I'd been suffering from had miraculously disappeared. It was a very busy household! (I've never had to share my bed with a Staffordshire bull terrier before!). Bondi has mostly escaped gentrification and is sort of scruffy bohemian. The weather was incredibly hot and Dave went down with a severe case of sunstroke. He's now discovered factor 30 and a hat! We loved Sydney, it's a beautiful city. We scaled the Sydney harbour bridge and were rewarded with the most fantastic views. It's a 3 hour climb, you have to wear a particularly attractive grey jump suit and you're attached to the railings with a sort of umbilical cord. Well worth it. We saw Burt Bacharach performing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Opera house, rode every ferry, visited every museum (well, Bob



and I did) and then hired a car and drove to the Blue Mountains. What an experience.

The Whitsunday Islands were our next destination. These are off the coast of Queensland in the Barrier Reef. We took two planes to get to Hamilton Island, the main island, and were picked up by helicopter to be taken to Long Island. We stayed at a small Eco-Resort in Paradise Bay. Ten waterside bungalows are situated around a small sandy bay and surrounded by rainforest. We spent most days cruising around in a Catamaran and visiting deserted white sandy beaches. We took a 40

minute helicopter trip to the Outer Barrier Reef to snorkel and scuba dive. I've never seen such clear bright blue turquoise sea, it was beautiful. The helicopter landed on a pontoon in the sea. We saw numerous tropical fish, turtles and two sharks. We were sad to leave this idyllic spot.

We came home via Hong Kong. The weather here was a bit of a shock, only 14°C. Another luxurious hotel, this time the Shangri-la, although there had been a mistake with our booking and the staff were convinced the Bean's and the Lewis' were going to share one king-sized bed! Hong Kong is a mix of east and west. It is frantically busy and has a skyline of skyscrapers to match Manhattan. We were quite adventurous with the Chinese cuisine and chopsticks but by the third night Dave and I were back to a knife and fork!

Three weeks and three days went by so quickly. Unforgettable.

Alison Lewis

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Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 4LG Tel: 01296 641207

Number 10 Downing Street has approved a petition that was launched requesting a new public holiday falling on the Monday after Remembrance Sunday in November each year.

To be known as the **National Remembrance Holiday**, it's got three aims:

1. To emphasise the remembrance of those servicemen and women who have given, and continue to give, their lives for Britain
2. To remind people of the importance of protecting our Nation and what it stands for;
3. To break that 3 month period between the August Public Holiday and Christmas when there are currently no long weekends, especially as the UK has fewer public holidays than most European Countries.

If you agree to the idea, please sign up to the petition - it doesn't take long. Use your email to log on to the link below. This is not just about another bank holiday, but more importantly about having a designated day to remember all those people that sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

**THIS IS A NOTEABLE PETITION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ASKED FOR
PLEASE SIGN IF YOU WANT AN EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY**

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/remembermonday/> <<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/remembermonday/>>

This lorry full of tortoises collided with a van full of terrapins. It was a turtle disaster.

with apologies to Tommy Cooper

The Chronicle

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QUIZ NIGHT

One of Colin Higgs's famous Quiz Nights was held in the Church Room on Friday 15th February at 7.30pm.

Teams were made up of members of various groups in the village. The PCC, the Ladies Club, The Gnomes (who somehow managed to have two gentleman Gnomes in their team!) and a few 'village' teams all entered into the spirit and generally made the evening a lot of fun. Colin provided some delicious nibbles, everyone brought their own drinks, a raffle was held and a total of £116 was made for Church funds.

Having come first two years ago and second last year the Aston Abbots and Cublington Ladies Club had high expectations of their team this year; no pressure there then. However they roared home to a mighty win and are looking forward to reporting back to their club at the next meeting.

April Curnow

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6th January – 4th April 2007

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1st July – 15th September 2007

Mid season £ 300.00 / week (€ 450)

20th - 27th October 2006

20th December 2006 – 5th January 2007

5th April 2007 – 30th June 2007

16th September – 28th 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

view from the vicarage.....

A holy man asked his followers which was the best way to tell when the darkness of night had ended and day had truly come.

'When you can see into the distance and tell a scarecrow from a man,' suggested one. But the guru shook his head.

'Surely day has come when you can see the clock on the tower and read the time,' said another.

The holy man told him he was wrong.

'Well then, how can you tell day from night?' they asked him.

'When you look into the eyes of any man or woman and recognise there your brother or sister, then the day has come. If you cannot do this, however brightly the sun might be shining, it is still night.'

Question: *why are there so many spiced currant buns with a cross on them?*

Answer: *Hot cross buns represent the cross on which Jesus was killed.*

Traditionally they were only baked on Good Friday. Good Friday is the day when we remember that **God loves us so much** he allowed his son Jesus to be executed so that those whose lives echo their belief in him will find the door of death leads to a great banquet (where presumably there might be buns to eat!)

When we obey Jesus commands to 'Love God' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself', then the day has come and the banquet awaits.

shalom and a blessed Easter *Derek*

The Church Clock

Since we live in an almost totally digital world, with 'clocks' built into just about every electrical gadget you can buy, I've been both interested and surprised by how many people have noticed that the church clock is no longer working. Several such comments have even come from people who only occasionally pass through.

The clock is driven by two large weights, one for the time/hands, the other to work the quarter/hourly chimes. These weights are in turn made to constantly 'climb' their individual chains by separate electric motors and limit switches, ensuring the clock as a whole is always 'wound'.

Any way, the clock actually stopped some time before Christmas. Colin and I checked all the obvious likely causes such as fuses, wiring and micro switches etc. and concluded the electric motor driving the time/hands part of the mechanism had 'quit', ne-

cessitating removal, and an expensive repair/replacement.

Several years ago, I had, with Bob Willmott, removed the motor and weights for the chimes when that particular motor had failed so know what's involved. It's a 'fiddly', dirty and heavy job, which I'm reluctant to tackle until the weather warms up a little.

Another factor in not rushing to get the motor repaired is that from memory, the last motor replacement was quite expensive, (certainly several hundred pounds) which, since we have to pay for the refurbishment of the path this year, may require a few more fund raising activities by PCC members!!

As an aside, prior to the clock being 'motorised' John Ford used to wind two huge weights, nearly the entire height of the tower every day!!!!



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01296 681282
Or 07766656411

Price list

Styling

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

Mens

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

Colour

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

Hair extensions

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

Manicures and pedicures

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

Bridal services

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

Easter services – please note that because of illnesses and holidays it is not possible at present to say whether it will be possible to provide Holy Communion on Easter Day at St. James or St Nicholas. Please check with the Church notice boards nearer the time.

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2008

Cublington, St Nicholas; Aston Abbots, St James,

SUNDAY 2ND <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Aston Abbots	10.00	Morning Prayer	CS
	Cublington	9.15	Holy Communion	RH
SUNDAY 9TH <i>Lent 5</i>	Aston Abbots	9.15	Holy Communion	PB
	Cublington		At Aston Abbots	
SUNDAY 16TH <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Aston Abbots	3pm	Holy Communion	DW
	Cublington	9.15	Family Service	
MAUNDY THURSDAY	Wing	9.30	Holy Communion	DW
	Wingrave	7pm	Passover Supper	DW
GOOD FRIDAY	Wing	2.00	Meditation	DW
	Wingrave	6.00	Meditation At Methodist Chapel	
SUNDAY 23RD <i>Easter</i>	Aston Abbots	check	Church notice board	
	Cublington	check	Church notice board	
	Wing	9.15	Holy Communion	DW
	Wingrave	10.45	Holy Communion	DW
SUNDAY 30TH <i>Easter 2</i>	Joint service at	10.00	Holy Communion	ST
	Wing			
	Wingrave	6pm	Fragments	DW

Revd Michelle Morton is still signed off sick at present and all enquiries for the time being should be directed to Revd Derek Witchell, 01296 682320 witchell@psaconnect.net



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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	Paul Bruton	682322
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	tba
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 Mould	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

St James Church

CHURCH READERS

- 2nd Mrs Curnow/Caroline Lane
- 9th Mr Bystra/Mrs Parker
- 16th Mr Kemp/Mrs Goodman
- 23rd Mr Knight/Mrs Ford

MOWING COMMENCES
IN APRIL



IN REVERENCE

SATURDAY 8th MARCH

7pm

AMAZING LOCAL GOSPEL CHOIR

Tickets £3 from Colin/Shirley

Come and hear their infectious music as heard at last year's Astonbury

Sidesman

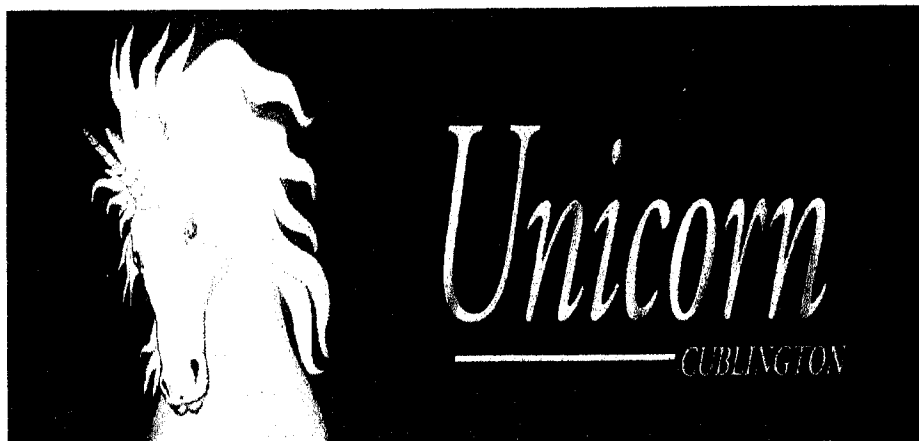
- 2 Mr A Ford
- 9 Mrs A Curnow
- 16 Mr Kemp
- 23 Church Wardens
- 30 Mr A Bystra

Flowers

No flowers in Lent

Cleaning

- Colin/Caroline
- April/Anita
- Gordon/Ann
- Andrew/Shirley



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What's On In March

Sunday 2nd	Mothering Sunday Service 10am	St James Church
	Rambling Club Members Meet 2pm	Whaddon
Thursday 6th	Coffee Shop 10-12 noon	Church Room
	Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room
Saturday 8th	Gospel Choir 7pm	St James Church
Sunday 9th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green
Tuesday 11th	Aylesbury Vale Transport Meeting	County Hall
Thursday 13th	Coffee/Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Ladies Club 2.15pm	Church Room
	Whist Club 7.30pm	Church Room
Sunday 16th	Palm Sunday	
Tuesday 20th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
Friday 21st	Good Friday Story of the Cross 2pm	St James Church
Sunday 23rd	Easter Day	
Monday 24th	Easter Monday Bank Holiday	
Thursday 27th	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
	Ladies Club 2.15pm	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Saturday 29th	British Summer Time	
	Clocks go on 1 hour	

Address

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

Email submissions to:

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

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

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

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts... So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them "Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down." It's where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's"

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.

The Bull and Butcher pub name was reputedly a derivation of The Bullen (Anne Boleyn) Butcher - namely Henry VIII.

Meets every Saturday
in The Royal Oak at
6.30pm.

New members
very welcome.

Contact Andy Bystra
if you need an introduction.



**630
Club**

I phoned the local ramblers club today, but the bloke who answered just went on and on. *With apologies to Tommy Cooper*

I went to the doctor. I said to him "I'm frightened of lapels." He said, "You've got cholera."

Classified

BRAND NEW

Viners, 44 piece cutlery set
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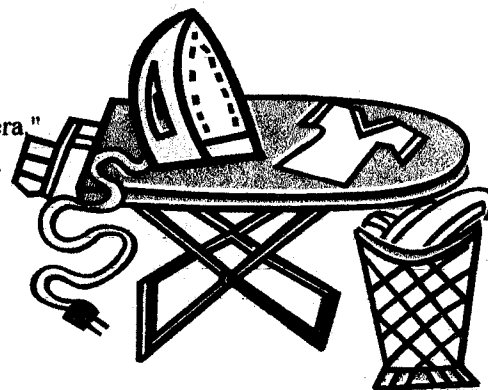
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please

phone Rita on 681690

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sheets 56" x 28.75" and 6
sheets 38" x 28.75". If you
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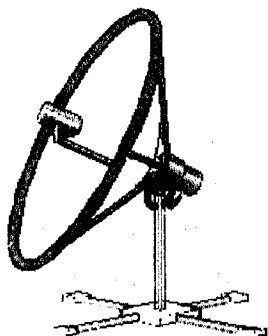
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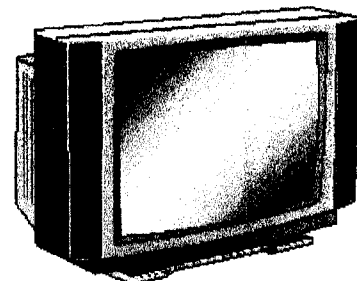
Telephone Denise 07874 021241

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

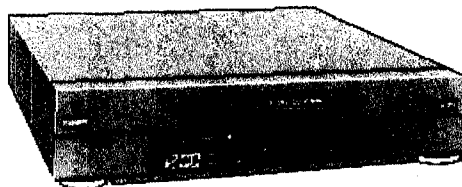


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