

# THE CHRONICLE

**ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 277 ~ April 2008**



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

# Editorial

I'm very proud to announce the birth of our first grandchild. Both mother and baby are fine. Jack was born on 29th February so I might have a saving there on birthday presents - but then perhaps not.

Pictured below are the parents, our son Steve and his wife Liane, with young Jack Hardcastle.



I intend to get one of these new bus passes that will give me free bus travel in most towns in the country. Details of how to apply, if you are over 60 or disabled, are on page 27.

Spent a few days in France playing golf with the 'boys'. The weather there was cool and overcast - not the warm sunshine that our annual pilgrimage usually enjoys - I presume Spring will arrive soon!

Does anyone know of any frog spawn or tadpoles I might collect?

*John Hardcastle*

## In This Issue

- Allotment Diary
- Crossword
- What's on in April
- Countryside Matters

*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 front cover shows 61 The Green.*

## THE CHRONICLE

Issue 277

April 2008

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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 21st April 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



## April

Chris Farrands	1 <sup>st</sup>
Katy Bull-Diamond	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ian Hinds	4 <sup>th</sup>
Caroline Lane	5 <sup>th</sup>
Philip Wheaton	6 <sup>th</sup>
Karen Brandon	7 <sup>th</sup>
Adrian Bystra	11 <sup>th</sup>
Laura Whyte	11 <sup>th</sup>
Annie Copping	13 <sup>th</sup>
Anthony Palmer	13 <sup>th</sup>
Geoff Curnow	14 <sup>th</sup>
Jan Rose	17 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Clarke	18 <sup>th</sup>
Sam King	20 <sup>th</sup>
Alison Lewis	20 <sup>th</sup>
Thomas Stefancyyk	22 <sup>nd</sup>
April Curnow	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Matthew James	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Abbie Lee	26 <sup>th</sup>
Kate Curry	27 <sup>th</sup>
Diana Picking	28 <sup>th</sup>
Kirsty Peacock	28 <sup>th</sup>
Chris Espley	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*

**Astonbury Website** A new Astonbury website has been launched. On the site you will find information about the artists, the team, and what happens on the big day. You can also check for the latest news of Astonbury 2008 and find out even more information on the Frequently Asked Questions page. Please take a look at:

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### VILLAGE LITTER BLITZ

**SATURDAY 12th April**

**Meet on the Green 10.30am**

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**help keep our village tidy**

**Please support Tara when she runs the Flora London Marathon on 13th April raising funds for 'Beating Bowel Cancer'.**

*See page 16 for details.*

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Dear Editor

At the moment round in Bricstock we are over run with rats. I have contacted the Council and environmental health people. They have requested that no one puts any food out for the birds or wildlife. I thought everyone knew that but unfortunately recently when I went home someone has thrown bread out all along the back path. Can you please put in the Chronicle that people do not do this as it is encouraging the rats and it is not very nice for us to open our back doors and see rats in our gardens and along the back pathway. There is a small child living in Bricstock and it is not fair that he could be playing in the garden and be bitten by one of these.

Thank you.

Lyn Clark

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## CHICKEN FARM UPDATE

Following our failure to convince the Court of Appeal that Aylesbury Vale District Council had acted illegally in granting permission for the chicken farm at Norduck, our legal team made an appeal to the European Commission and the following is the skeleton of the complaint:

*“An important issue is arising relating to how the UK authorities deal with the question of mitigation measures when deciding whether a project is likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).*

*Briefly: planning authorities, with the recent support of the Court of Appeal, take the approach that mitigation measures can normally be taken into account in the decision as to whether a project is likely to have significant environmental effects or not and therefore whether EIA is required.*

*Furthermore, that decision is a matter of judgment of the local planning authority, and is therefore effectively unchallengeable*

*This leads members of the public effectively unable to comment on the project in question (and indeed the proposed mitigation measures) in circumstances where it would be common ground that without the mitigation measures significant environmental effects would be likely.*

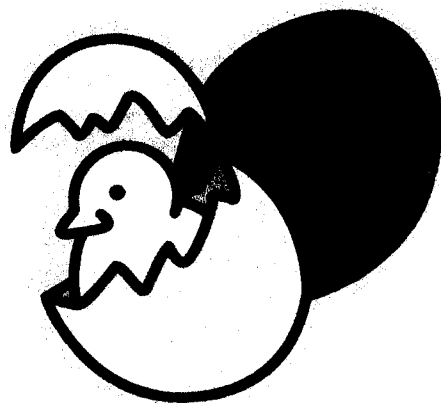
*As mitigation measures are central to the development of effective EIA and its role in preventing and alleviating potential socio-environmental harm, the interpretation of the EU legislation by the Court of Appeal is of wide concern.*

*The effect of the domestic courts' approach is that the EIA process is being side-stepped and the mitigation measures being relied upon are not being subject to adequate scrutiny that would arise under EIA procedures.*

*We submit that this is contrary to the intent of the EIA Directive.”*

The European Commission replied, “On the basis of our assessment, we have decided to open a new complaint against the United Kingdom and will seek clarification from the United Kingdom authorities with regards to the issue raised in your complaint.”

We now await the result from their enquiries with the UK government and that might not be available until some time in the distant future. *Dickie Dicken*



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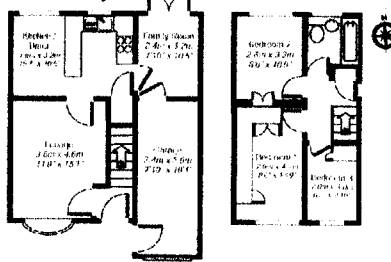
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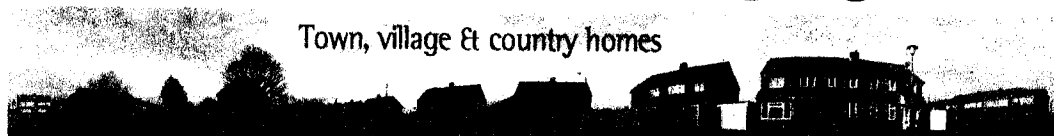
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# ALLOTMENT DIARY

Browsing through the catalogues with a view to ordering this season's vegetables, I could not help but look at the pages encouraging me to buy plants for the garden as well. These were frequently divided up into perennials, biennials and hardy annuals, and I was reminded of Katherine Whitehorn's definition of these:-

*"Perennials are the ones that grow like weeds, biennials are the ones that die this year rather than next and hardy annuals are the ones that never come up at all."*

Meanwhile down on the allotments, things are now in full swing. Most of my fellow gardeners have put me to shame by digging over and spreading manure on their allotments, and their plots are looking immaculate, whereas mine still looks awful. The only plea in mitigation that I can offer is that my son Adam has a large and very efficient Rotavator, which can plough the allotment in a few hours; and I feel it would be churlish of me to dig my allotment myself, and rob him of the opportunity to perform for me this small service of filial duty.

I was a bit worried when Gordon appeared to have dug a double grave on his allotment, and then lined it with bricks. However, when I visited the allotments today, it seemed to have nothing more sinister in it than a couple of blueberry bushes.

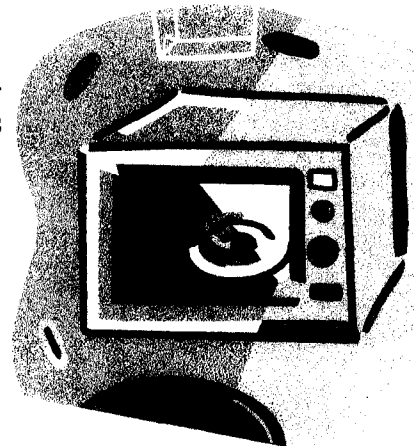
A nice gardening story for you from the village, which I will pass on; even though the subject of it is not an allotment holder. (Indeed, most of us did not even know that he gardened). To save his blushes I will preserve his anonymity. He decided to plant out in his garden some plants he had acquired. When he looked at his bag of compost, he found that, not having used any compost for at least a year, the compost was full of weeds. Being a resourceful chap he thought that what he could do to kill the weeds, was to put the compost in his microwave oven, and microwave it. He did this, and it appeared to be successful.

He therefore decided to do another batch, and while this was cooking, went upstairs to do some work on his computer. After a few minutes he could smell burning, and when he went out onto the landing, there was smoke coming up the stairs. He hastened to the kitchen, to find smoke pouring forth from his microwave oven, and found that he had pressed the wrong button on the machine, so that the compost had been heated for considerably longer than he had intended! He was clearly only minutes away from becoming the first person to have had a peat fire in his kitchen for several hundred years!

Well, that's about it for this month, save to leave you with another gardening quotation – this time from a recent advertisement for Bell's Scotch whisky

*"Gardening requires a lot of water – most of it perspiration . . ."*

Peter



It has been announced in the 'small print' of the budget that anyone renting an allotment can recover the cost of all seeds and equipment as a tax credit. This tax credit, to be known as the Personal Land Offset Tax (PLOT) will be useful as it will be possible to use an annual credit against the cost of Bio-Fuel that all agricultural and garden machinery will be required to be converted to by 2010. Further details are on Page 29. Ed

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## Countryside Matters

As I write this column at the end of February the sun is shining. Lambs are now in the field at Mentmore and the Ascott farms are busy drilling field beans, trying to avoid dropping them into wet holes.

Due to a few frosty days the tractors are able to travel on top of the ground in the tramlines, so all the crops have had their first dose of nitrogen top dressing.

The oil seed rape has had a torrid time over winter. Firstly, the seedbeds were difficult to prepare resulting in the crop being drilled into some rough cloddy, dry beds. Add to this a drought of many weeks and the germination was pretty terrible. In the autumn some fields were pulled up and replanted, many far too late for another crop of rape, those that survived were then hit by the pigeons in their thousands. Pigeons this time of the year come from everywhere including from over the channel to find Brassica crops. They only need a small bare patch to get started and then they can strip a field of its crop in weeks. Shooting is one answer but one shot and they are gone. You need to shoot 200-300 a day to make any inroads into the flocks. They are likely now to leave the rape alone and start on the beans.

Our 'friends', have now started hare coursing again, in the fields below Wingrave towards the A418 and Lower Wingbury farm. Only this week, they were seen being dropped off in the lay-by opposite the telephone exchange and picked up in Abbott's way. They killed a deer at Helsthorpe last week and were caught at Ledburn Farm the week before. These people are dangerous and violent and should not be approached. Users of our local footpaths and dog walkers need to be extremely vigilant and should keep their dogs at heel or on a lead and carry a mobile phone to call the police if they spot anything.

The litter on the sides of the Stoke Hammond bypass is a total disgrace. This time it is not all the fault of the general public that throw their McDonalds out of their car windows. Most of the problem seems to be with 'The London Waste' juggernauts that come to the tip at Bletchley, which is right at the end of the by pass. While they are full they have got their sheets and nets securely fixed over their load, however on their return journey, when empty, the wind blows out all the remaining rubbish that has stuck to the sides of the lorries. How come nobody prosecutes these hauliers?? The police are quick enough to catch speeding motorists but that, of course, is making money. Clearing up the rubbish with offenders or folk with community service orders costs money and is also politically incorrect, how silly of me.

*James*

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## ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

2008

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

### Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

16 members were present at today's meeting held in the Church Room.

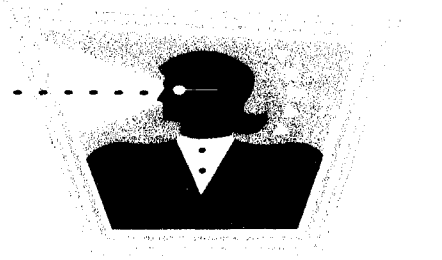
June Brine chaired the meeting and the minutes were read and signed. Final plans for our forthcoming Spring Lunch during which it was agreed tickets would be £16.00 each.

Our speaker today was Mrs Eve Davis who's talk was entitled 'Growing up in the 30's'. Her talk included anecdotes about her own family; their ups and downs, many of which struck a chord with some of our members. She was thanked by Shirley Ford

Today's tea hostesses were, Beryl Shon and Daphne Rogers and June Loader won the raffle.

*Shirley Ford*

*The Aston Abbots and Cublington Ladies Club meets twice a month in the Church Room, Aston Abbots. All ladies from Aston Abbots and Cublington are very welcome. Please contact Shirley Ford*



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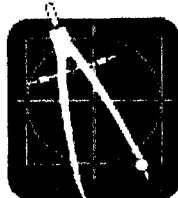
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## Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> March 'In Reverence'

Like many others, I've always enjoyed the gospel choir, 'In Reverence' whenever they performed at Astonbury. I was therefore delighted to hear that Colin Higgs had managed to book them for a 'one off' concert in Aston Abbots. Our church is too small for the full choir but the four singers and four musicians entertained some forty or so of us, filling the church with their own brand of infectious and enjoyable music.

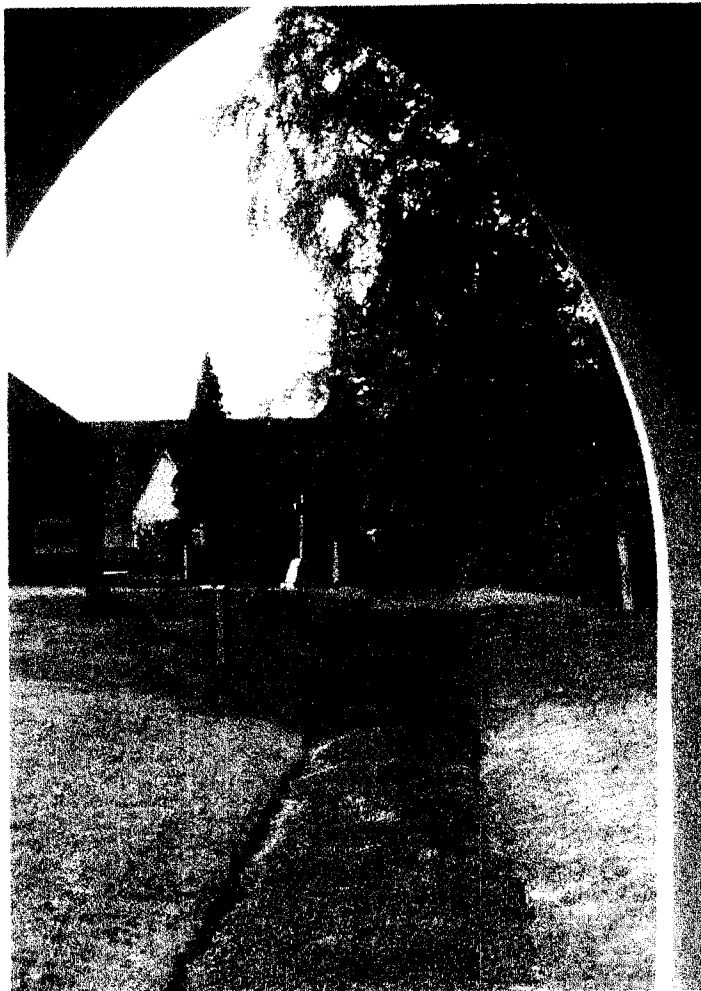
Their program included a wide variety of songs, some very 'lively' and others more reflective. The contrast worked very well but perhaps what made this such a memorable evening was their very obvious enthusiasm and the great sincerity with which they performed.

For me it was a very special event since they must have been told it was my birthday and so their opening number was a lovely 'jazzed up' version of 'Happy Birthday' sung especially to me.

Rita and April provided hot drinks and biscuits at the interval but such was the enthusiasm of the instrumentalists that they played jazz throughout which suited me 'down to the ground'. All in all a very pleasant evening's entertainment; thank you Colin.



## Church Path



Those of you who have used the Church path during recently, cannot fail to have noticed that the surface is beginning to break up to a point where it is uncomfortable to walk on and may well soon become quite dangerous. It is in any event too heavily cambered, un-edged, and in places too low relative to the grass on either side, creating un-necessary difficulties for our hard pressed 'Merry Mowers'.

A specification has been written to address these and other improvements, your PCC. have 'scoured their coffers' to find the cash to pay for it and tenders sought. We are pleased to announce that 'Inside Out's' submission was the most attractive to the PCC. We still need a final OK from Church HQ, Oxford, before the work can 'go ahead' but it is anticipated a completely new path should be laid this summer

It is to be a 'rolled gravel' path which will be level with the gate sill and church porch enabling better wheelchair access. The work will also include new wiring to the original lantern next to the gate, which, with the existing light on the porch will provide greatly improved lighting along it's length.

Since the existing path will have to be completely removed we are taking the opportunity to have waste water and fresh water pipes laid (but not yet connected) in anticipation of toilet and limited kitchen facilities being installed some time in the future.



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# Aston Abbots Parish Council      Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Present:** - Cllrs. C Higgs, D Dicken, K Curry, J Hardcastle, P Shorrocks and P Bruton (Clerk). There were three members of the public in attendance.

Apologies had been received from R Clarke and A Stefanczyk

The Planning Committee notified the Council of the following decisions that had been made at the Sub Committee meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008:

08/00211/APP ( 67 The Green, Aston Abbots) Single storey front extension, two storey side and rear extensions and conservatory to facilitate division of one dwelling into two.

RESOLVED to raise no objections to this application, however Council would point out to AVDC that given the application was creating a terrace the current proposed extension was in breach of existing planning regulations as detailed in Design Guide 3.

08/00068/APP ( Land at Moat Farm Stud, ) Relocation of Access

RESOLVED to support this application given the improvement to Road Safety.

We had received details from the Biodiversity Partnership of forthcoming events covering the duties placed on local authorities with regard to the conservation of biodiversity. It was AGREED we would attend the presentation on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April in Aylesbury.

The meeting was updated on the progress of the Village Plan and the target date for the production of the consultation questionnaire was early April 2008. It would be published in the Chronicle and sent to all residents

Following a recent Transport Symposium held in Aylesbury it was reported that the main thrust of the day was aimed at developing the Aylesbury hub given the housing development and growth plans for the town. A number of issues that affected the Village were raised, however given the main emphasis there seemed to be little recognition of the problems we encountered.

It was noted that the drainage of surface water since the development of Hunters Way gave cause for concern and did not appear adequate. It was AGREED that Council should write to Highways and AVDC Planning to ascertain what provisions had been made within the development proposals and request remedial action to rectify the situation.

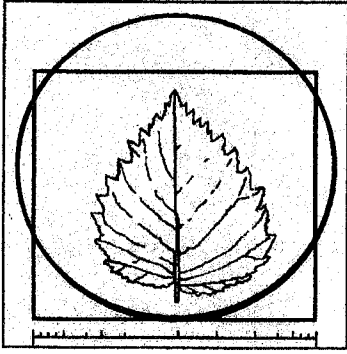
District Councillor Peter Cooper was present and gave the following report:

A418 Improvements – Currently Bucks CC was putting in a new bid to South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA), the 1<sup>st</sup> phase was from the A505 to the Hulcott Cross Roads and the 2<sup>nd</sup> from Hulcott Cross Roads to A41 South. There was a delay in getting the forms through and it was expected the bid would be presented at the end of March with a decision by December. He then gave an overview of current plans surrounding the growth of Aylesbury and in particular the impact on local transport links and facilities to encourage industry and create jobs in the area. The anticipated increase in vehicle movement along the A418 was from current levels of 17,500 per day to 26,000 per day by 2016. He advised that the public and Parish Councils were petitioning SEERA and it was AGREED to discuss at next month's meeting to consider the action Council would take

The scope of work with Buckland Landscapes on the acquired parcel of land on the Recreation ground had been agreed clearing would now commence.

It was reported that nothing had been heard from GB Sports and after discussion it was AGREED to contact our advisor and obtain his authority to use his informal report. GB Sports would then be contacted direct to ascertain when they proposed to carry out the remedial works.

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 20.00 in the Church Room



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The **GNOMES** (Girls Night Out Men Excluded Sorry) recently arranged an evening dinner at Ye Olde Jug in Hardwick - it turned out that this was the first night for the new management of the pub . Everyone enjoyed the evening.

If you would like to join the GNOMES they meet in The Royal Oak every Tuesday at 8pm or later. No membership fees, just good conversation over a glass of something.



**Date for your diary - FESTIVAL WEEKEND 26th & 27th July**

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beating  
bowel  
cancer



Bowel Cancer will affect 1 in 18 of us during our lifetime, and claims 50 lives every day in the UK. Yet, if diagnosed and treated in time, it is completely curable. Beating Bowel Cancer is a national charity working to highlight awareness of symptoms and promote early diagnosis of bowel cancer. It encourages open access to treatment choice for those affected and aims to save lives from this common cancer. For more info go to [www.beatingbowelcancer.org](http://www.beatingbowelcancer.org) or call 0208 892 5256.

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'



### **Buckinghamshire's Hospitals seek new volunteers.**

There are already more than 800 members of the public involved in volunteering at Buckinghamshire's hospitals, with activities ranging from patient liaison roles, to maintaining the fish tank in the hospital reception! But that's not to say there are no further openings available, says The Trust – or that it wouldn't benefit hugely from as many people as possible who are willing to give just a small amount of their time.

The Hospital Trust in Buckinghamshire includes Stoke Mandeville in Aylesbury.

Helen Wareham of the Hospital Trust comments ; "an area we're particularly keen to recruit for right now is for Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) volunteers. We're aiming to get one for each ward. This is where volunteers go out and befriend the patients, and if there are any concerns or problems, they report them back to the PALS manager."

PALS volunteering calls for certain personal skills - being able to engage with people from all walks of life helps, as does a sense of diplomacy, and resourcefulness.

*To get involved with volunteering at Stoke Mandeville, please contact Helen Wareham on 01296 316676. E-mail: [Helen.Wareham@buckshosp.nhs.uk](mailto:Helen.Wareham@buckshosp.nhs.uk)*

*There's further information at [www.buckshosp.nhs.uk](http://www.buckshosp.nhs.uk)*

### **Buckinghamshire's association for mental health sufferers seeks new volunteer input.**

Members of the public in Buckinghamshire are being urged to consider volunteering for Bucks Mind, an organisation supporting people with mental health difficulties across the county. In particular, it is looking for volunteer input to its one-on-one Befriending Service.

"The service is intended ultimately to empower our users to feel more confident in doing things for themselves," says Bucks Mind's Carolyn Smyth, "and thus to improve their quality of life."

As with most voluntary organisations, Bucks Mind processes Criminal Records Bureau checks for all new volunteers, and requires two references. Befrienders' mileage expenses are reimbursed at a rate of 30p per mile, along with any other out-of-pocket expenses.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Bucks Mind's Befriending Service is invited to contact Carolyn Smyth. Phone: 01296 437328.

E-mail: [carolyn.smyth@bucksmind.org.uk](mailto:carolyn.smyth@bucksmind.org.uk)

Further information at: [www.bucksmind.org.uk](http://www.bucksmind.org.uk)

### **Age Concern Buckinghamshire**

provides services to help older people, their carers, friends or relatives.

#### **Information & Advice Helpline**

**01296 431127**

**For the Befriending, Welfare Benefits, or  
Advocacy Services ring**

**01296 431911**



**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**

## ***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!**

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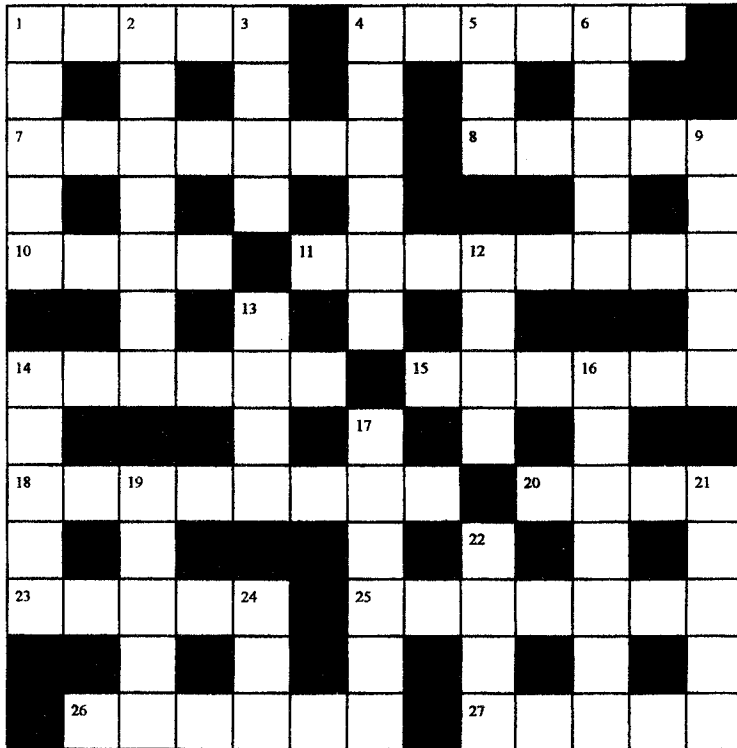


**07944 509438 or**

**Aylesbury (01296) 688547**

# The Chronicle Crossword

**APRIL 2008**



**ACROSS**

- 1 Wonderful 6 Ice 8 Big gap
- 9 Laugh 10 Easter 11 Onwards
- 13 Eyesore 16 Walesa
- 18 Trent 19 Orchis 21 Rug
- 22 Yachtsman

**DOWN**

- 1 Wei 2 Night 3 Emperor
- 4 Follow 5 Liquor
- 7 Ephesians 8 Beefeater
- 12 Newport 14 Energy
- 15 Octoic 17 Locum
- 20 Inn

**ACROSS**

- 1 Put over (5)
- 4 Traveller on foot (6)
- 7 Surrey town (7)
- 8 Item of factual information (5)
- 10 Destroy (4)
- 11 Used with 18 across (8)
- 14 Sea bird (6)
- 15 Waiting for (6)
- 18 Electronic storage machine (8)
- 20 Round handle (4)
- 23 Our village (5)
- 25 See 23 across (7)
- 26 Connected (6)
- 27 Finished (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Apple drink (5)
- 2 Judges decision (7)
- 3 Used on a bridle (4)
- 4 German composer (6)
- 5 Top of a jar (3)
- 6 More than necessary (5)
- 9 The ----- touch (5)
- 12 Container for fruit (4)
- 13 List of meals (4)
- 14 First class (5)
- 16 Set fire to (7)
- 17 Look at carefully (6)
- 19 Paris underground (5)
- 21 Derived from (5)
- 22 Wind instrument (4)
- 24 French for no (3)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

**LIFF - Ponders End (vb): to complete a difficult but satisfying crossword**

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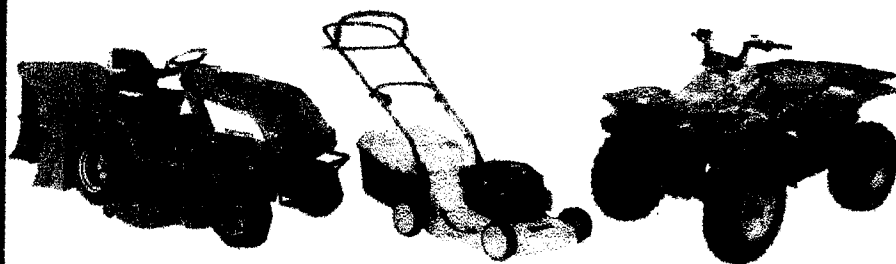
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From Andy Stefanczyk and Sally Turnham - Hello friends,

Not being the type to sit at home doing the ironing and cleaning (no comments please!), I've been busy working on a new event for ... well... for people like us really - new mums and dads that used to have a social life before baby came along... and would still occasionally like to go out together with our new offspring (and any other children) to have fun together at a cool venue.

This exciting new event is called Baby Loves to Boogie and it's got to be one of the best ways to spend a Sunday afternoon for Mums, Dads AND the kids. It's a disco in a trendy MK nightclub (a bit like a family wedding) with great music, lights, smoke machine, bar, chill out/soft play area with toys for little ones and magazines for grown ups. The next event is Sunday 30 March from 2-5pm at Buddha Blue in Milton Keynes' Theatre District (next to the Xscape Snozone).

We think it's a great fun thing to do for all young-at-heart mums, dads and kids, especially new parents who are still in shock at having lost their social lives so instantly with the birth of their little one!

Relax, meet like-minded parents, have a dance with your kids, keep active (and wear them out too!). There's healthy drinks & snacks for the kids and a baby-changing facility. There's even a bottle-warming facility.

Read the article from MK News 13/3/08 here

[www.mk-news.co.uk/mknews-news/displayarticle.asp?id=281471](http://www.mk-news.co.uk/mknews-news/displayarticle.asp?id=281471)

Our website address for further info and booking tickets online is [www.babylovestoboogie.co.uk](http://www.babylovestoboogie.co.uk)

We hope you like the sound of it and spread the word to your friends. If you listen to Horizon Radio, they're giving away FREE tickets all this week! Listen at [www.horizonmk.co.uk](http://www.horizonmk.co.uk)

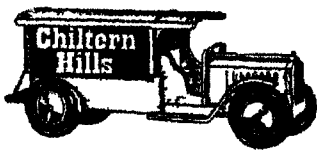
Best wishes

Sally and Andy

[www.babylovestoboogie.co.uk](http://www.babylovestoboogie.co.uk)

**The monthly Aston Abbotts Good Samaritans Bingo evening is a small fundraising 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.**

**APRIL 3RD CHURCH ROOM 7,30pm**



**THE CHILTERN HILLS  
VINTAGE VEHICLE  
RALLY  
SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008**



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

**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008 CHILTERN HILLS VINTAGE VEHICLE RALLY**

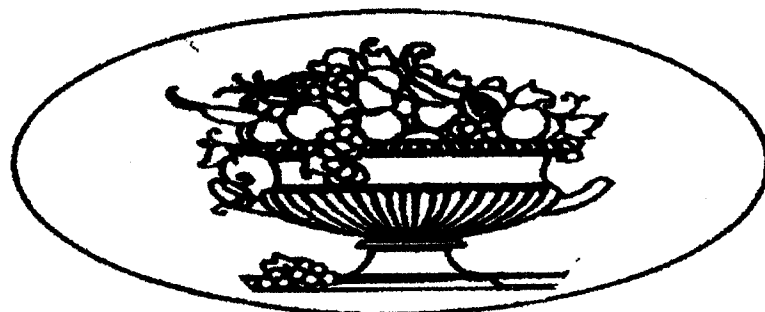
Weston Road, Aston Clinton (Bucks) B4544, next to Aylesbury Rugby Club.

Vintage cars, buses, lorries, military, tractors, traction engines, stationary engines. Trade stands, autojumble, refreshments, licensed bar, kids' attractions.

**Contact:** The Chiltern Hills Rally, 137 Bedgrove, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7TR

**Tel. No.** 01296 330901 **Email:** [penderjune@aol.com](mailto:penderjune@aol.com)

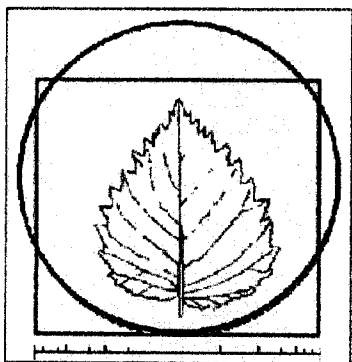
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## THE CHURCH IS OPEN

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.

# 100 CLUB

Renewal of membership is now due

The new session starts in May

If you wish to renew/or join

Please complete form and let Colin have it

NAME

ADDRESS

Fee £15 per year

## 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*

## 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*

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Colin Higgs 681343

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# Indoor Skydiving

Indoor skydiving might seem a rather strange concept, but it has one major advantage over the real thing: you don't have to jump out of an aircraft.

Airkix is located at the rear of the Xscape building in Milton Keynes. The rather odd-looking tall building houses a vertical wind tunnel. Here anybody from an absolute beginner to an expert can practice sky diving techniques without all that nonsense with aircraft, parachutes, and mind-numbingly terrifying heights.

My Kixstart introductory package – a Christmas present from Carol - entitled me to training, loan of protective clothing, two one-minute “flights”, and a DVD of my experience.

Your session must be booked in advance and you have to report an hour before your flight. There were about a dozen in our introductory session. The instructor gives you a briefing, shows you a short training DVD, and makes sure that you know the four simple hand signals he will use in the rather noisy flight chamber. Soon we were kitted out in flying suit (worn over normal jeans and T-shirt), helmet, goggles and optional earplugs. Fil-ing into the viewing area, we had a chance to watch the previous session finishing their flights.

The flight chamber is a transparent Perspex vertical tunnel about 4-5 metres across, with an outer waiting area and a public viewing section. I was rather relieved that the large rotating fan blades I had envisaged did not occupy the bottom of the chamber – it was just a steel wire mesh floor with an empty room below. The four 250-watt fans are located at the top of the building, way out of sight.

The instructor enters the chamber and beckons each of you to take your first flight in rotation. Each person gets one minute and the instructor is with you all the time to ensure that you get the best experience. Two people went before me, and then it was my turn.

At the door of the chamber I leant forward into the rushing wind. The instructor took hold of handles on my suit to steady me as my feet left the ground – and I was flying. My first flight was taken up mainly with getting used to the experience and finding the correct flight position. I found the sensation of air rushing past my face at terminal velocity quite exhilarating. It was noisy – not too much – and not too difficult to breathe. A minute doesn't sound very long, but it's a good time for getting used to it. Time's up - the instructor pushes you out of the door, and you sit on the bench and watch as the rest of your group have their first flight.

We had been told that the instructor would respond to whoops of enjoyment by giving us a more exhilarating experience. Unfortunately one woman was a shrieker. As she screamed the instructor, possibly swayed by the fact she was young and pretty, responded by taking hold and performing some pretty energetic swoops and dives with her on her maiden flight. This made her shriek even more! She looked a little shocked when she emerged from the chamber, but she enjoyed it.

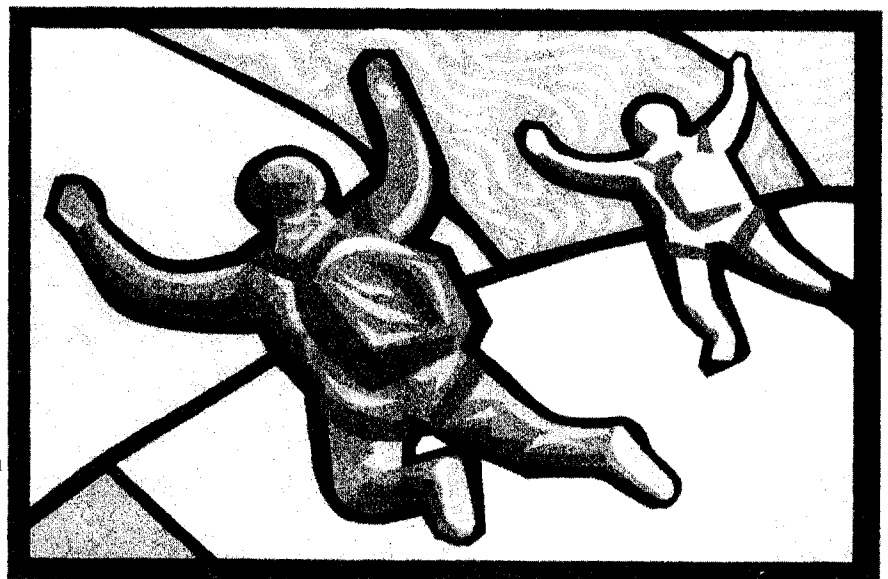
My second flight was much better than my first. Once the instructor recognises that you have a basic grasp of what to do he starts flying with you to give you more fun. The operator sitting outside the chamber increases the fan speed while the instructor whirls you around and flies you up and down in the 5-6 metre high chamber. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, although it was clear that two in our group were not so keen, including a 7-8 year old girl. When at the end of the session the instructor explained he had a few minutes in hand and a couple of us could have an extra minute for a tenner, I immediately said, “That'll be me then”. My third flight was even more fun as the instructor rapidly flew me up and down and around like the young woman earlier – although I shrieked a lot less.

I was impressed with the organisation, friendliness and professionalism of the Airkix staff, particularly the way the instructor looked after and encouraged the little girl who was a bit frightened. It was a fun experience, very safe, and not particularly strenuous.

The Kixstart experience I had cost around £35, with another £15 for the (optional) DVD. It gets cheaper on repeat visits. Find out more at [www.airkix.co.uk](http://www.airkix.co.uk).

I asked my instructor if it was anything like the real thing. He said that it was actually more difficult in the tunnel. No matter – you're not going to catch me jumping out of an aircraft any time soon.

~ Phil Spooner



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Terri-Anne Perkins  
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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.

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From Andy Stefanczyk and Sally Turnham - Hello friends,

Not being the type to sit at home doing the ironing and cleaning (no comments please!), I've been busy working on a new event for ... well... for people like us really - new mums and dads that used to have a social life before baby came along... and would still occasionally like to go out together with our new offspring (and any other children) to have fun together at a cool venue.

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Read the article from MK News 13/3/08 here

[www.mk-news.co.uk/mknews-news/displayarticle.asp?id=281471](http://www.mk-news.co.uk/mknews-news/displayarticle.asp?id=281471)

Our website address for further info and booking tickets online is [www.babylovestoboogie.co.uk](http://www.babylovestoboogie.co.uk)

We hope you like the sound of it and spread the word to your friends. If you listen to Horizon Radio, they're giving away FREE tickets all (this) week! Listen at [www.horizonmk.co.uk](http://www.horizonmk.co.uk)

Best wishes

Sally and Andy

[www.babylovestoboogie.co.uk](http://www.babylovestoboogie.co.uk)

## BUS SERVICES

I am happy to say our service 65 & (153 via Weedon) will be unchanged. **BUT** No.65 will be changed to service 165. So keep using the bus!

Bus passes if you are already in possession of a bus pass the new ones will automatically be sent to you, the present ones will be valid for a month after April. -

Colin Higgs

### How to Tell the Sex of a Fly

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter 'What are you doing?' She asked.

'Hunting Flies' He responded.

'Oh. ! Killing any?' She asked.

'Yep, 3 males, 2 Females,' he replied.

Intrigued, she asked.. 'How can you tell them apart?'

He responded, '3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone.'



## BUS PASS

### Extract from AVDC letter

#### Changes to concessionary travel (bus passes)

From 1 April this year, there's a major change to the bus pass scheme. Until now, residents aged 60 and over and disabled people have been eligible for free bus travel on journeys that start or finish in Aylesbury Vale. The government has now changed the scheme to allow all residents of England to travel free of charge on all local buses. For example, someone living in Aylesbury Vale can use local buses in London or anywhere else in England after 1 April.

All existing bus pass holders will be issued with a new style 'smart card' bus pass. They do not have to do anything - the new pass and an explanatory letter will be sent to them in the post. Anyone who does not currently have a bus pass can request an application form by ringing 01296 585656. Forms are also available from our offices in Aylesbury, Winslow and Buckingham. In addition to the application form, new applicants will need to provide a passport style photo and proof of their age and where they live. Information is available on the council's website: [www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/buspass](http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/buspass)

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



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**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)

## View from the vicarage.....

A girl from the Midwest made a trip to Hollywood, California, to see the sights and hopefully to catch a glimpse of a real movie star.

One afternoon, she visited Beverly Hills and went into an ice cream shop to get an ice cream cone. She put in her order and then suddenly realized that the person standing next to her at the counter was none other than Paul Newman. She couldn't believe it! Her heart leaped.

But she tried to keep her composure. She didn't want to act like an ignorant hillbilly. She didn't want to embarrass herself in front of someone like Paul Newman. So she tried not to stare or show any emotion. She paid the cashier, turned, and walked calmly out of the store.

When she got outside, she took a deep breath and suddenly realized that she had walked out of the store *without her ice cream cone*. Oh no! She must have left it on the counter. Now she was going to have to go back in and get her ice cream cone in front of Paul Newman! She just couldn't do that!

So she decided to wait outside the store until Mr. Newman had left the counter. When she noticed he was no longer there, she walked back into the store to retrieve her ice cream cone. But when she got to the counter, she felt a tap on her shoulder from behind. She turned around and...it was Paul Newman!

Flashing his famous smile, he said, "Miss, if you're looking for your ice cream cone...you put it in your purse."

So did anyone get caught out by the April fools pranks? I used to hate it as a boy because, like most people, I hated to be made to look a fool. Quite frankly it was embarrassing.

Mark Twain said:

"It's better to be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt."

Just the other day I was 'opening my mouth' during lunch break at the Cottesloe School and removed all doubt in the minds of the year 8's that I was indeed a fool (and not just because of my hat). I was a fool because I said I believed in God and that anyone who couldn't see the evidence for His existence all around them was blind. Fool! Teenagers KNOW God does not exist.

So I'm a fool, and I'm happy to be so. And I shall continue to pray that others will be foolish enough to put on the glasses of faith and 'see' the truth. For in the end we'll all have to stand in front of the God that some say doesn't exist. And if we've been foolish enough to 'know' God doesn't exist then it will all be an illusion won't it? So it won't matter when He says: 'Away with you.....to eternal punishment..', will it?

The Bible says: "The wise look ahead to see what is coming, but fools deceive themselves." Proverbs 14:8

Seems good advice to me.

Shalom

*Derek*

Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring equinox. This equinox occurs when the day and night are of equal length (20th March this year).

If the first full moon lands on a Sunday, then Easter Day is the first Sunday afterwards. The formula was decided after much controversy among early Christians at the Council of Nicea in 325.

The festival cannot fall earlier than March 22nd or later than April 25th.

The next time Easter will be as early as this year will be the year 2228. The last time was 95 years ago.

**'PLOT  
TAX  
CREDITS'**

Details continued  
on page 35

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

Price list

Styling

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

Mens

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

Colour

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

Hair extensions

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

Manicures and pedicures

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

Bridal services

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

# SERVICES FOR APRIL 2008

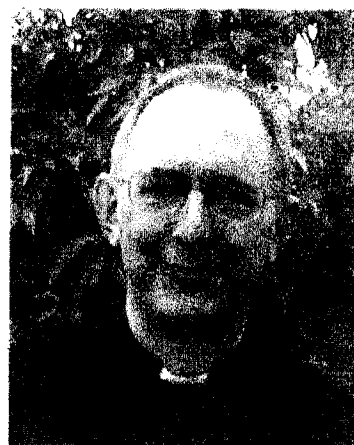
*St Nicholas, Cublington and St James Aston Abbots*

<b>SUNDAY 6RD</b>	Aston Abbots	10.00	Morning Prayer	CS
	Cublington		At Aston Abbots	
<b>SUNDAY 13TH</b>	Aston Abbots	9.15	At Cublington	
	Cublington	9.15	Holy Communion	PB
<b>SUNDAY 20TH</b>	Aston Abbots	6pm	Holy Communion	RH
	Cublington		At Aston Abbots	
<b>SUNDAY 27TH</b> <i>Lent 3</i>	Aston Abbots	6pm	Evensong	CS
	Cublington	9.15	Family Service	

# SERVICES FOR MAY 2008

<b>SUNDAY 4TH</b>	Aston Abbots	10.00	Morning Prayer	CS
	Cublington		At Aston Abbots	
<b>SUNDAY 11TH</b> <i>Pentecost</i>	Aston Abbots	10.00	Holy Communion	RH
	Cublington	9.15	Holy Communion	PB
<b>SUNDAY 18TH</b> <i>Trinity</i>	Aston Abbots	6pm	Holy Communion	DW
	Cublington	9.15	Holy Communion	RH
<b>SUNDAY 25TH</b>	Aston Abbots	6pm	Evensong	CS
	Cublington	9.15	Family Service	

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@psaconnnect.net](mailto:witchell@psaconnnect.net)





# Pest Control

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**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 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*

# St James Church

### CHURCH READERS

5/6 Jan Johnson / Caroline Abel Smith  
 12/13 April / Caroline L  
 19/20 Shirley / Andy  
 26/27 TBA

### MOWERS

Gordon  
 Bob  
 Ray/Geoff  
 Andy Stefanczyk

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



### **Sidesman**

5/6 Mr A Ford  
 12/13 Mrs A Curnow  
 19/20 Mr Kemp  
 26/27 Church Wardens

### **Flowers**

Mrs Abel Smith  
 Jan Johnson  
 Mrs Loader  
**TBA**

### **Cleaning**

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



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# What's On In April

Wednesday 2nd	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Thursday 3rd	Coffee Shop 10-12 noon	Church Room
	Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room
Sunday 6th	Rambling Club Meet 2pm	Waddesdon
Wednesday 9th	Prayers 9am	St James Church
	Parish Council 8pm	Church Room
Thursday 10th	Coffee/Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Ladies Club 2.15pm	Church Room
	Whist Club 7.30pm	Church Room
Saturday 12th	Village Litter Blitz 10.30am	The Green
Sunday 13th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green
Wednesday 16th	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Thursday 17th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Aylesbury Vale Local Committee (Highways) Winslow	
Monday 21st	PCC Meeting 7.30pm followed by Annual PCC Meet	
Wednesday 23rd	Prayers (St George's Day) 9am	St James Church
Thursday 27th	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
	Ladies Club 2.15pm	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Saturday 27th	Evensong (Rogation Day) 6pm	St James Church
Wednesday 30th	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Monday 5th (Bank Holiday)	Table Top Sale in aid of Clock Fund	The Green

## WINGRAVE CE COMBINED SCHOOL

For the past three weeks I have been the Interim Headteacher at Wingrave CE Combined School. My background is of Headship in Buckinghamshire for many years and was at St Michael's, Stewkley until December 2005. Since then I have been working in the field of education, including taking on the role of Acting Headteacher at Quanton School last year. The recent OFSTED inspection has presented the school with the a difficult situation, but for many of you who know Wingrave School and its committed teachers and governors, you will also know that there will be 100% effort put into addressing any issues. We would welcome your support.

There were no great surprises in the Inspection judgements, as many of the points raised had been previously identified through the self-evaluation programme that all schools are required to implement. Plans and practice were being put in place prior to the inspection, in order to begin addressing areas that were causing concern or required attention, these will continue.

The Inspectors recognised the hard work of the staff at Wingrave School and the care they take in providing a safe and happy environment in which the children can work. "Relationships are the strength of the school" and "This is a caring school and individual staff care well for their pupils and know them well."

All those involved with Wingrave School will continue in striving to provide the best education and environment for all pupils at all times. Any changes deemed necessary for this to take place will be swiftly implemented.

I feel privileged to be asked to work with such a committed group of people and look forward to the future.

Yours sincerely  
Denise McClellan

**PLOT TAX CREDITS?**

**APRIL FOOL !!**

## 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](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

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle. Phone us on 01296 688191

or email

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



## 630 Club

Meets every Saturday  
in The Royal Oak at 6.30pm.

New members  
very welcome.

Contact Andy Bystra  
if you need an introduction.

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SALES AND SERVICING

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## Dave Lewis Hit By Budget

Alistair Darling's first budget has hit hard at Church Farm. Mr Dave Lewis explains, "The 14p tax increase on a bottle of champagne is monstrous. I can no longer afford to go out on a Saturday. It's grossly unfair! It's added an extra 56p to my average Saturday nights' champagne consumption. And it's added nearly a pound to my wife's Saturday night bill. It's an attack on the drinking classes!"

In a separate and apparently unconnected development Mr Lewis denies that his announcement of a 50p surcharge on all Plasma Television sales is purely a

revenue-raising measure. "It's absolute nonsense. It's not about me getting extra cash at all. We live in a society where people watch too much television—binge viewing—and I have a responsibility to prevent such excess. I'm fed up with seeing people lying around on couches watching TV all over Aston Abbotts. The measure I have announced today will make people think before they watch. It's definitely not a rise in taxation."

(Mr Lewis was speaking from his holiday home on the Great Barrier Reef.)

~ *Chronicle Financial Reporter*



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**SATURDAY JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>**



**WWW.ASTONBURY.BIZ**

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