

THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 281 ~ September 2008



The first Chronicle was issued in September 1983 - 25 years ago. The editorial written by Graham Parker began 'This first issue of the Chronicle will I hope inform, entertain and amuse. The aim is to try and provide a magazine that will have something for everyone'. Here's hoping the next 25 years will maintain that ambition. *Ed*

*Meeting in Church Room to discuss Fete 2009
8pm Wednesday 24th September*

Email : editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Editorial

Congratulations to everyone involved with Astonbury7 and the Village Fete. Both were great successes. You can read the various reports and study the Fete accounts that show a whopping £3730 was raised. £500 of that has been donated to the Chronicle for which I am very grateful. John Whyte is the Chronicle's treasurer and he aims to maintain a fund that ensures we can continue publication for at least six months without the need to ask for further monies.

I was Chief Parking Attendant on the Rec during the Fete. My duties turned out to be very small as I acted on the advice of a local dignitary (an ex Chief Parking Attendant) who said that people will park where they '!' like - just park some cars in sensible places and hopefully they'll follow your lead. I did monitor the situation and it really was pretty good - the public can be sensible sometimes. I bought a fabulous fruit cake baked by Ann Dicken and some broad beans that Vic Scott had grown and, with my last ball, managed to knock down a coconut.

For once the sun did shine on Aston Abbots. Well done April Curnow and her team for making the Fete such a great event. April has indicated that she'll be helping organise Village Fete 2009. I couldn't attend Astonbury but my ace undercover reporter Judy, my wife, said it was a fabulous, enjoyable and cracking evening.

There have been reports of dogs worrying and killing livestock. Peter Knight has lost some sheep and there have been attacks in Wing and Cublington (see Country Matters on page 17). Hopefully these dogs can be stopped and their owners prosecuted.

In the Bucks Herald there was an article about sightings of a puma like creature between Weedon and Aston Abbots. It looks like a big black thin Labrador. The article concluded with the information that if it's a female it won't go very far because it will have an established area, but if it's a male it will travel for miles and miles. There's no suggestion that this is the animal responsible for the recent attacks on sheep. Dogs are believed to have carried out the attacks, as the sheep do not appear to have been targeted for food.

Chris, my eldest son, got married to 'lovely' Liz. The wedding was in Prestbury, Cheshire and the sun shone there as well..

John Hardcastle

Allotment Diary

- Astonbury7 and Village Fete reports
- Crossword
- What's on in September
- 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. This month it's the old vicarage on The Green now divided into two houses.

Contrasty photos are best - our printing facilities are limited.

In This Issue

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 281

September 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 26th September
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



September

Vannessa Worrall	3 rd
Bob Higgs	4 th
Piers Parker	4 th
Christopher Fox	6 th
Fiona Whyte	6 th
Sarah Smith	8 th
Maggie Smith	9 th
Claire Gresswell	14 th
Sally Palmer	18 th
Louise Palmer	20 th
Jane Ellis	20 th
Halisi Drysdale	22 nd
Stephen Oldfield	22 nd
Mel Smith	22 nd
Anna Picking	24 th
Alex Dutton	25 th
Liz. Hall	25 th
Lynne Maguire	26 th
Adrian Dixon	30 th

FETE 2009

MEETING in the CHURCH ROOM

WEDNESDAY 8pm

24th SEPTEMBER

PLEASE COME WITH IDEAS

Talk about the Fete and
initial planning for next year

EVERYONE WELCOME

Congratulations to Kirsty Lewis who has just graduated from Portsmouth University with a B.Sc. honours in Sport Science. The first graduate ever in the Lewis family! (Just needs to find a job now!)

We have several items at Church Farm that were picked up after Astonbury. Assorted glasses, drink containers and a navy and red umbrella

Congratulations to Maggie Smith who's birthday is on 9th Sept when she will be 60.

Bob Higgs birthday is on the 4th September

This year he will be 89. Bob lives (with his wife Elsie) in the house he was born in. He clearly remembers going to the village school here in Aston Abbots in what must have been a thriving village then (in the early 1930's) since Bob recalls there being 111 pupils in attendance.



Mobile Library. USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Bucks County Council carried out a review of the above in March; the criteria included: to discontinue stops where there had been an average of fewer than 3 users for a period of at least 3 months.

The review has been completed and the outcome for Aston Abbots is that it is proposed to discontinue the service. Where stops have been discontinued BCC will offer alternative monthly delivered service to any individual user who is unable to visit another library. The new timetables are expected to come into effect in November 2008 and the present timetables will operate until then. The Parish Council will be discussing BCC's decision at its next meeting on the 17th September.

Comments and suggestions from the Parish Council to BCC must be received no later than 19th September. If you have a view let a Parish Councillor know and/or come to the meeting on the 17th.

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

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53 The Green
Aston Abbots

Astonbury 7! Each year Astonbury gets a little bit bigger and better. Unbelievably, given the poor summer that we have had, it didn't rain. We were all so relieved!!! People seemed undeterred by the dull conditions with a rather cool wind, and the audience turned up in droves to see over a dozen acts culled from Aston Abbots and our friends.

The event had been six months in the planning. It is around January that Neil Chesher starts the whole process. Over the next six months many rehearsals are held, a large number of meetings and planning discussions take place, a great mass of equipment is begged borrowed and blagged, and vast quantities of red wine and beer are consumed.

This year we hired a large generator. This, along with some gratefully received professional advice and equipment loan from Donnie Douglas, overcame some of the electrical power problems that had caused us a headache in 2007.

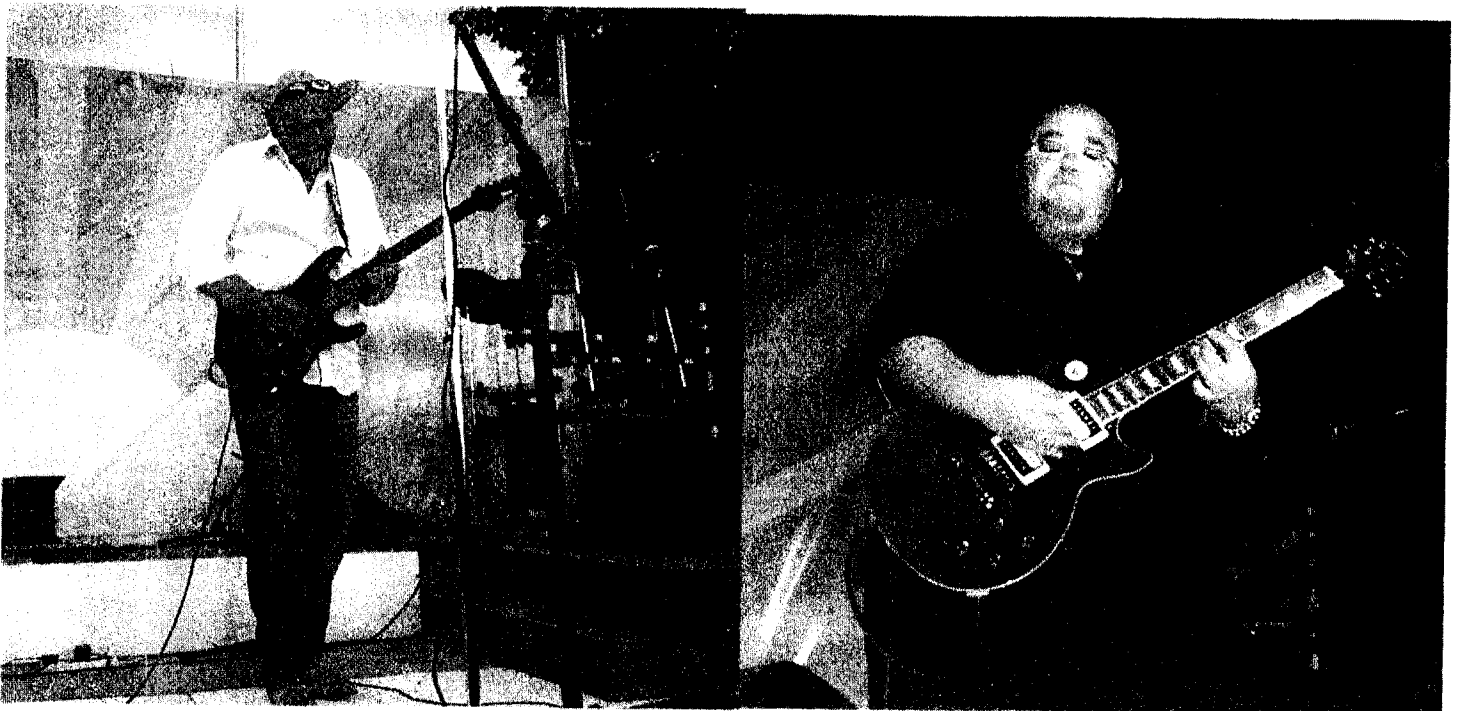
The stage is erected on the Wednesday prior to the event and the next few days see an increasing frenzy of activity as it is prepared and the equipment is installed. In the meantime, final rehearsals are being held. There is an air of slightly nervous anticipation.

Saturday afternoon. Martin Audio has down a wonderful job installing and setting up the PA system with its six large subwoofer speakers. Now the artists start turning up for their soundchecks. For some it's the first time they have seen the stage and it gives everybody a chance to get familiar with the set-up before the event starts. By five most of the team have gone home to relax and change.

At 7.30 pm on Saturday July 19th all the planning and preparation comes to fruition and compere Andy Stefancyk welcomes the audience who have been filing through the gate for the last hour. "Ladies and Gentleman – Welcome to *ASTONBURY!!!*" Astonbury 2008 kicks off with a terrific instrumental from Nigel and Anthony Palmer.



Chunkie by name chunky by nature



Brian Hawkes

The Wongster

Continued on Page 6

As always, Astonbury is a family event. It is so great to see the kids playing and dancing as the wide diversity of acts perform. As always I marvel at how so much talent can be found from within such a small community. So thank you to all of the artists who came along to entertain us. They were:

- Nigel and Anthony Palmer
- Brian Hawkes
- Bridget Brandon
- Simon Gresswell
- Pat Daniels
- John Whyte
- Rachel Sutton
- Chrystina Tomlin and Band
- Jackie Morris
- In Reverence Gospel Choir
- Haley Wilkinson
- Chunkfunster featuring Simon Gresswell and The Wongster
- The Chunkies (John Whyte, Nigel Palmer, Bob Bean, Neil Cheshier)
- Compere: Andy Stefanczyk



Haley Wilkinson

Finally, a date for your diary... **Saturday July 18th 2009 Astonbury 8**

Phil Spooner

Astonbury 7 Technical Viewpoint.

Yet another great evening on the Rec. Despite poor weather reports the rain held off, but the temperature was cold. As in previous years I contacted Martin Shillingford of Shillingford Scaffolding who seemed to be expecting my call. As before Martin agreed to provide & erect the staging, Thank You Again Martin, *Phase 1 was arranged.*

This year saw an even greater demand on electricity as Musical Director Neil Cheshier placed his list of requirements onto the table. More Lights, More Lasers and More sound output.

A Hugh 3 phase generator was hired. *Phase 2 arranged.*

With the increase in lighting came the requirement for a lighting technician, Enter Mr Donnie Douglas assisted by Daniel Smith. *Phase 3 arranged.*

Chairman Phil Corrigan as usual was heavily abused and many demands for Posters, Backdrops, Spotlights and Merchandising were thrown at his door.

Astonbury stalwarts Rod Rothero, Peter Shorrocks, Juan Gutierrez & Bob Bean all provided much needed muscle & improvisation for the decoration of the staging.

Sound Controller Phil Spooner was also on hand for the setting up & also had to contend with learning to drive the new Audio Mixing Console that had only just been purchased.

Great friend of mine Jerry Judd who works for Martin Audio managed to persuade a colleague of his who happens to be an Audio Technician to help in the setting up of the Wonderful Audio system that he had "borrowed" from work. *Phase 4 arranged.*

Continued on Page 7

Once everything was underway I felt better and the evening went well except for a few small technical issues that robbed Pat Daniels of one of her backing tracks, Still being the professional she is she carried on anyway.

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

Great Thanks go to the following.

Phil Corrigan {Chairman} Neil Cheshier {Musical Director} Phil Spooner {Audio Controller} Martin Shillingford {Staging} Jerry Judd, Nigel Meddemmen {Martin Audio} Donnie Douglas, Daniel Smith {Lighting} Lol Hinds {Fireworks} Peter Knight, Peter Shorrocks, Rod Rothero, Juan Gutierrez, Bob Bean. All the ladies that made Tea etc.

None of this would be possible without all the above help.

And of course All of the performers, None of this would be worthwhile without them.

I wonder what next year will be like?

Dave Lewis

Phil Corrigan's review is on Page 21



Rachel Sutton

Letters to the Editor

Open letter to Neil Cheshier from Simon & Chunkfunster

Neil - as ever, a pleasure, honour and privilege to be part of Astonbury, especially returning to AA after almost a year. I hope the team's collective modesty allows you all to be very proud.

Everyone had a fantastic night and the mix of musical fayre certainly keeps the show firmly grounded as a great village celebration, even with the sound system from some festival called Glastonbury (am onto the trademark lawyers) and the inclusion of the lavish vocal talents of Rachel and Hayley and the axe work of the mighty 'W'.

Please pass on my/our thanks to everyone involved, I know it's a huge effort from a big band of brothers (and sisters).

You're now firmly top of our list of Top 5 Welshmen, along with JPR, Gareth Edwards, Richard Burton and Anthony Hopkins . . . Tom Jones? . . . who's he?

Hope you can enjoy a well deserved break, if you ever actually sit still this summer.

From Tony Margaret & Diana

We would like to thank everyone who gave bottles for the tombola. We saw many people but so many bottles were left on the doorstep and we didn't always know who had left them. So thank you to one and all. It was a great success

From Rod, Val, Diana and Ian Rothero

Our thanks to all those who contributed to the Fete Raffle. It was a tiring but enjoyable day, and we had sun!! All prizewinners were drawn by our new Vicar, Michelle, and we would like to thank her for doing this. Prizes have been claimed with first prize to Valerie Smith of Lines Hill. At this moment, we cannot say how much was made on the raffle, but results should be available soon.

(£1191.27 see accounts on page 9) Ed

Mentmore Fête
Saturday 13 Sept
2.00-5.00PM
ON THE GREEN
 2.00pm opening
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 - CHASE THE BOTTLE - COCONUT SHY
 - BALE TOSSING - CROCKERY SMASH

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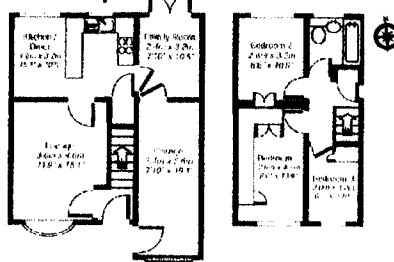
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FETE 2008

How lucky we were to have such a sunny day for our village fete this year. A **huge thank you to everyone who took part in any way**; the wonderfully willing stall holders, the games organisers, the refreshment team, the cake makers, the tombola organisers, our brilliant MC, the car park attendants and the big strong fellas who came to set up all the tables, the marquee and to hang the bunting.

Many things had to be repaired or renovated prior to the day such as the fete signs, the car park signs and some games for the children. You will have seen "Whack the Rat", "Gag the Choirboy" and the horse racing game which hadn't seen the light of day for a number of years. and which Andy Bystra must have spent many hours refurbishing for us to use this year and for the future for which enormous thanks.

The raffle produces the largest percentage of the fete income and thanks must go to Val and Rod Rotheroe for arranging printing and organising wonderful prizes. Here we say thank you also to Dave Lewis who always agrees to the first prize of a flight for two over Aston Abbots and we must give a big thank you to Annie at The Old Bakery who organised, so generously, dinner at The Kings Head at Ivinghoe to be the second prize.

We must not forget all the smashing folk who delivered raffle tickets, collected the money and counterfoils and also collected items for the fete. Everyone was so generous and it was much appreciated.

One of the Aldbury Morris Men lost a hat with yellow flowers on it whilst at our fete. It may have just blown away whilst he was packing things in his car. If anyone comes across it please let me know.

FETE 2009 Everything that needs to be booked in advance is already in place for 25th July 2009 and I would like to ask now if everyone will be prepared to help in the same way next year. Unless I hear to the contrary I will cheekily presume that you all agree, health and holidays permitting.

There will be a meeting in the Church Room on Wednesday 24th September at 8pm for anyone who feels they would like to talk about the fete and as an initial planning meeting for next year. Please come with ideas.

April Curnow (Fete co-ordinator for 2007/2008/ and it looks like 2009 as well)

ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE 2007 AND 2008 Village Fetes

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		2007	2008	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		2007	2008
	DRAW	£1,098.60	£1,191.27		Band	£140.00	£140.00
	TEAS	£305.00	£370.60		Draw Licence	£17.50	£20.00
	PIMMS	£328.10	£564.15		Draw Tickets	£72.27	£89.33
STALLS	Tombola	£159.60	£360.00		Draw prizes	£200.00	£200.00
	Cakes	£174.60	£169.00		Drinks Licence	£21.00	£21.00
	Gardens	£188.50	£261.70		Advertising	£80.88	£75.00
	Bric-a-brac	£235.78	£264.36		Morris Men	£0.00	£90.00
	Ice Cream	£65.00	£115.40		Communications	£84.62	£61.69
	Gifts	£98.05	£142.35		Mr Custard	£126.00	£125.00
	Books	£161.60	£117.19		Parrot Butcher	£84.00	£0.00
	Childrens Toys	£93.32	£38.60			<u>£805.25</u>	<u>£802.02</u>
	Food	£364.58	£402.75				
	Crafts	£20.00	£30.00				
	Win a Bottle/Honey	£84.50	£25.00				
	Jewellery		£100.10				
	Guess the cake Wt		£11.00				
	Bright Start Nursery		£27.00				
		<u>£3,357.23</u>	<u>£4,190.47</u>				
SIDESHOWS	Roundabouts	£27.00	£15.00		<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>		
& COMPETITIONS	Skittles	£47.48	£49.30		St James Church	£916.61	£1,291.98
	Dog Show	£20.00	£0.00		Church Room	£1,031.18	£323.00
	Side Shows		£61.91		Church Room Maintenance		£1,130.49
	Lions	£0.00	£0.00		The Chronicle	£500.00	£500.00
	Coconuts	£86.50	£110.00		Recreation Ground	£343.73	£484.49
	Colonel Custard	£33.00	£52.30			<u>£2,791.52</u>	<u>£3,729.96</u>
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		<u>£239.54</u>	<u>£341.51</u>				
<u>GROSS PROCEEDS</u>		<u>£3,596.77</u>	<u>£4,531.98</u>	<u>NET PROCEEDS</u>		<u>2,791.52</u>	<u>£3,729.96</u>

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Present: - Cllrs. C Higgs, D Dicken, K Curry, J Hardcastle, P Shorrocks, R Clarke and P Bruton (Clerk).
There was one member of the public in attendance.

Apologies had been received from A Stefanczyk

The improvements to the Village Hall were discussed and the meeting AGREED that providing we received confirmation from our electrical advisor that he was a certified contractor and the existing supply was adequate to handle the proposed equipment in writing we should accept his advice. It was noted that if we opted for the larger dishwasher, the cooker could not be used at the same time and a safety notice would be required

It was further AGREED to go ahead with the purchase of the items previously listed. It was noted that the equipment would be the property of the Council and invoices should be paid for directly by Council.

It was noted that planning permission had been refused for the removal of the agricultural occupancy condition at Longlow Bungalow.

It was reported that we had been advised that AVDC were to take no action against the breach of approved details and use of stables at Land adjacent to Longmoor Farm Cottage. There was concern over this decision and it was AGREED that the Clerk write to express Council's disappointment with this decision.

The Clerk updated the meeting on the reasons for our unsuccessful bid for funding from the Delegated Budget Scheme following discussions with BCC. It was AGREED to request the cost of a cinder track pathway, rather than the options priced by them in considering our application.

The decision of AVDC in respect of Church Farm House and a letter of explanation was reported to the meeting, the contents of which were noted.

The meeting was advised that following discussions it was anticipated the questionnaire would be ready for review within the next 2 weeks.

The meeting was updated on the verbal response received from AVDC in response to the concerns expressed over the drainage of surface water from the Hunters Way development. It was AGREED that we would contact Building Control who were in discussions with the developer on this issue.

We had received a letter from a parishioner regarding a proposal of a cycle path from Wingrave crossroads to Bierton. It was AGREED we should write and support the proposal.

The location of litter bins in the Parish was noted and the Clerk would now progress the issue of regular collection.

The monthly inspection had been carried out and there was nothing to report.

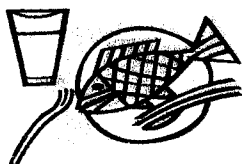
There was no progress on the matter of mitigation planting as we were waiting for a response to our proposals.

A quotation for work required to a section of the fencing on the Recreation Ground had been received. Further quotations were required and the necessary discussions with interested parties would be arranged for consideration at the next Parish meeting.

It was resolved to approve the Accounts for year ended March 2008. The Statement of Accounts was signed.

It was resolved to approve the Statement of Assurance to the Auditors. The Statement of Assurance was signed

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th August at 20.00 in the Church.



**FISH & CHIP VAN every Wednesday
on The Green approx 9pm**

Aston Abbotts Parish Council Planning Committee
Minutes of meeting number 7/08

Held in the Church Room on Wednesday 23rd July 2008

Present: - Cllrs. P Shorrock (Chair), C Higgs, K Curry, J Hardcastle, A Stefancyzk and P Bruton (Clerk).
There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

Apologies: None

Declarations of interest: D Dicken and R Clarke had declared an interest in the matter to be decided and as a result had not attended the meeting.

Planning: 08/01621/APP (Livanti Alpacas, New Field Off Moat Lane, Aston Abbotts)

Agricultural Dwelling

Council went through the application with reference to a previous letter of opposition to an earlier application by the applicants for a similar dwelling in order to decide whether those objections had been addressed by the new application.

After due discussion, point by point, it was RESOLVED to oppose the application on the following grounds:

The land is an AAL and as a result inappropriate for a large stand-alone residential property. No special justification for planning had been made.

Business already in existence elsewhere and protection of livestock not by itself sufficient to justify as per PPS7

Dwelling proposed is not a normal agricultural building. Should be of a size commensurate with enterprise's functional need not the owner's.

Access is unsuitable and the increase in traffic flow would be unsustainable.

Set a precedent for development outside the envelope of the village.

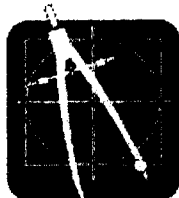
It was further RESOLVED to request the application be called in by our Local Member.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.40 pm.

David Rowe Dip Surv MCIQB

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Aston Abbotts Parish Council Wednesday 6th August 2008

Present: - Cllrs. C Higgs, D Dicken, J Hardcastle, P Shorrocks, R Clarke and P Bruton (Clerk).
Apologies had been received from A Stefanczyk and K Curry

The Clerk drew to the attention of Council a recently received document from BCC regarding the New Deal document that was included in this month's circulation folder that had an impact on how BCC and AVDC worked with Local Councils. All to review and discuss potential implications at next month's meeting.

It was reported we had received a certificate of minor electrical works compliance from G K Crabb Electrical. However we were still awaiting written confirmation of the supply capability and his own qualifications. It was AGREED that once received we progress the works.

Council would liaise with AC regarding the purchase of the items previously listed to include the dishwasher.

It was noted that the appeal in respect of 77 The Green had been dismissed.

08/01780/APP (Mr & Mrs Smith 44 Ross Road.)

Erection of Conservatory.

RESOLVED to have no objections to this application.

Council were advised that a meeting had taken place with BCC regarding our Delegated Budget Scheme application for a footpath from the village to Wingrave crossroads. The Clerk had subsequently received a letter from the Local Area Coordinator advising that cost was a prohibitive factor and in any event Local Area Committee will no longer exist after this July's meeting, as funding will be allocated to Local Community Areas. It was AGREED that the Clerk should explore what options Council have in order to progress this matter.

The Village plan questionnaire was understood to be in draft form and would be handed to us for review within the next 2 weeks.

The meeting was updated on the current status of the concerns expressed over the drainage of surface water from the Hunters Way development. The matter was with Highways and the Clerk would contact them to progress the matter re-iterating Council's concerns over the current status.

There were concerns over the intrusion of hedges within the village on pathways, particularly along Wingrave Road by the Royal Oak. It was AGREED we should contact our Local Councillor on this matter.

The matter of adopting a streetlight as a result of the recent switch off at Wingrave crossroads was discussed. It was AGREED that we should explore the possibility of adopting 2 lights and advising our local Councillor accordingly. We would also notify Wingrave Parish Council of our decision.

It was reported the monthly inspection of the Recreation Ground had been carried out and there was nothing to report.

Council reviewed the quotations received in relation to replacing a section of fencing the Recreation Ground. It was felt the cost was not commensurate with the work required and the matter required further consideration and would be discussed further at next month's meeting.

R Clarke advised that a letter had been received regarding the intrusion of a hedge on the Recreation Ground from a resident. After discussion it was AGREED that quotations for the work required would be obtained and the Clerk would advise the resident of the action being taken.

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th September 2008 at 20.00 in the Church.

Dead Cat

In early July, someone in the village, on their way to work, spotted a ginger cat laying dead in the road at the Wingrave crossroads. Being a 'cat lover', he couldn't bear to see it remain in the road and brought the corpse back to his house. Unable to establish who's cat it had been, it was duly buried.

If this might have been your cat and you want to know more, please ring Andy Bystra on 681690 and I will give you details of its final resting place.



THINKING ABOUT YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAY THIS YEAR, BUT FEELING THE PINCH, WHAT WITH THE BILLS GOING UP AT HOME, AND A HOLIDAY ABROAD WILL COST EVEN MORE WITH THE DIRE EURO EXCHANGE RATE.....

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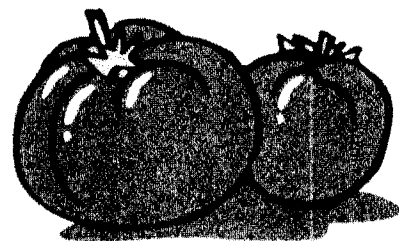
ALLOTMENT DIARY

One of the benefits of having an allotment is the chance to chew the fat with ones fellow allotmentees, and it is remarkable how often I find that my experiences are being duplicated amongst the others. One such occasion occurred in the middle of July, when I was chatting to Colin and Vic about how our respective crops were doing, and they both bemoaned the fact that a large number of their carrots had failed to come up. This was exactly the same as my experience: at least a third of my carrot plants had failed to germinate. Before talking to them I had attributed this to some incompetence on my part, and it was very comforting to discover that it was not, and that real gardeners were in the same boat.

Carrots are the only vegetable that seems to have done badly this year so far as I am concerned; and in the case of my cucumbers, I am having my best year ever. I have already had four foot-long cucumbers from my four plants (in the greenhouse), and there are others still growing. In previous years I have only ever had one cucumber, which had just about grown big enough to be worth eating by mid September. The only other disappointment was losing a mature courgette plant to slugs, which chewed all the way through the main stem, at a time when it was already bearing four embryo courgettes. However my two other courgette plants are more than compensating – I am averaging a courgette a day from them, and have been doing so since mid-July

So far as fruit is concerned, it has been a very good year for strawberries, and while the summer raspberry crop was a bit disappointing, the autumn raspberries have just started fruiting and seem to be bigger and better than ever. Last year I had a bumper crop of greengages, but this summer there are only a handful of greengages on the two trees. I know that greengage trees produce blossom early, and assume that it was killed off by a late frost. The Victoria plum tree, however is laden, and presumably produced its blossom later.

Every year I plant tomato plants in my greenhouse, full of enthusiasm, looking forward to having home-grown tomatoes with my salads during the summer, and every year I find that most of the summer goes by without any of my tomatoes being ready to eat. This year has been no exception: I am writing this piece in mid August, and have so far only had half a dozen ripe tomatoes from my six plants. By the time the wretched things start ripening properly, summer will be over, and I shall have lost my enthusiasm (not, I have to admit very great – I am more a meat and potatoes and veg. man myself) for salads.

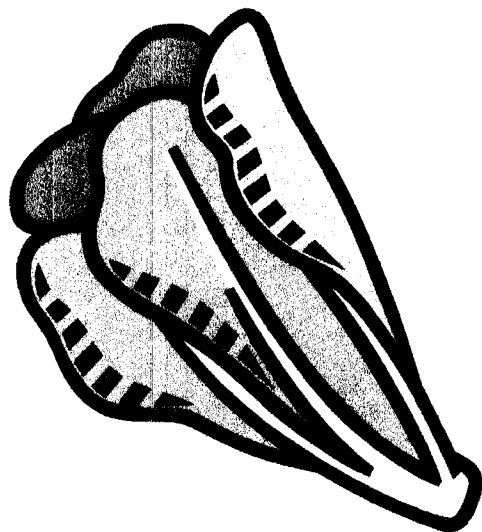


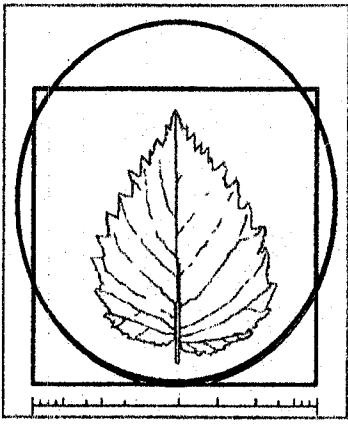
I don't say my golf game is bad, but if I grew tomatoes they'd come up sliced.~ Bob Hope

I have also vowed – not for the first time – that I will give up growing lettuce. I do what the books tell you, and stagger that planting out of the plants in the spring; but still find that all the plants ripen at around the same time. I manage to eat a couple of lettuces over two weeks or so, and then find that the rest of the crop has bolted.

Finally a gardening tip: if you are considering growing first early potatoes, then I would not recommend Orla. They are a delicious potato, but the problem is that (unless my allotment is unique), slugs like them as much as we do. At least half of my crop had been nibbled to some extent by slugs. Far fewer of my other first early, Lady Chrystl, and my second early, Kestrel, suffered in the same way, and Kestrel, in particular has produced an enormous crop, both in the size and number of tubers.

Peter Shorrock





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COUNTRY MATTERS JULY

We live in a world blighted by the extraction and exploitation of our precious finite resources, such as trees, coal, oil, gas and water. We have created a society dependent on these to satisfy the demand of energy hungry industries. What really upsets most people is that we all try hard to stick to the rules and cut down on our consumption only to find other countries like China are building and commissioning new coal fired power stations every few weeks. It is refreshing to hear that progress is being made by DEFRA, in their recent report they state that over 5 million hectares of land in England is now covered by environmental stewardship schemes. DEFRA's aims are to conserve wildlife maintain and enhance landscape quality, protect natural resources and promote access to the public". Since the scheme was introduced over 11,000 miles of hedgerows have been planted, 3000 miles of footpaths and 1500 miles of cycle paths and bridleways installed. Globally not much, I know, but it does set an example for others to follow.

The chickens are laying well now and I am getting 50 eggs a day from 54 hens. However they will not go in at night. I put this down to the warm nights and the day light lasting until 10pm, this encourages them to stay out, even when it rains all night and it makes them all huddle together. I hope the electric fence keeps working and I have my fingers tightly crossed when I hear the vixen calling her cubs in the small hours.

It is refreshing these days to see the celebrity chefs travelling around the country, seeking out British produce which is up with the best in the world. We have always thought of ourselves as being second rate at this when it comes to countries like France for instance. This is hogwash, we do have the best ingredients and now we can prove it. Watching Marco Pierre White is a joy, he takes the simple things in the countryside such as rabbit, venison, pigeon (if he could only shoot them) and even pork and beef. However he chooses fish pie as his main course (which I find surprising over beef) but we do export daily lorry loads of seafood to France and Spain.

It is a joy to see Gordon Ramsay shooting pigeons and eating them. Pigeons next to rabbits are the farmer's number one enemy. They do an incredible amount of damage to growing crops. The great influence of the chefs, as I see it, is to persuade people to eat what is in season and readily available, this is obvious to most country folk. Why do we buy green beans and mange tout from Kenya every day, baby sweet corn from Thailand and asparagus from Israel is beyond me. Think of the air miles.

The incredible hike in the price of oil pushes agricultural diesel to 67p/litre. This diesel has a red dye in it which stays in the tank and it remains for months, it is illegal to use it in road vehicles, often checked by Customs and Excise, the penalties if found using it are significant. A large combine harvester with a 600 horsepower engine would use 1200 litres of diesel in a long day. This gives our "Friends" an excellent opportunity to steal diesel day and night. I do hope we are not in for another harvest season full of intimidation, thieving and violence. Farmers have a heavy workload as it is.

COUNTRY MATTERS AUGUST

Since March this year a series of separate incidents around the Wing, Cublington area have taken place, where vicious attacks by dogs have left over 100 sheep dead and dozens more injured. Some with bite marks the size of a football and some with their stomachs hanging out. Yet nobody has seen or heard anything. What utter nonsense. If any dog of mine was out and about for hours from midnight to 6 am I am sure if they had been involved, they would indeed have been covered and dripping with blood and have fleece, mud and everything else all over them. I think the owners of the culprits involved know exactly what has gone on, but care very little for animal welfare or cruelty.

Search warrants should be applied for and a premise looked over, or is that too politically incorrect. What on earth are the dogs doing out at that time of night? Do they get moved to other locations after the incident? Then are they brought back when it quietens down a bit?

The other sad side of this is that a much respected and admired farmer in Cublington. Arthur Read at the age of 77, having farmed here since the 1950's is thinking of chucking the towel in. I do hope when this is all over he decides to carry on and not leave farming for the wrong reasons. We wish him all the best.

Continued on page 19

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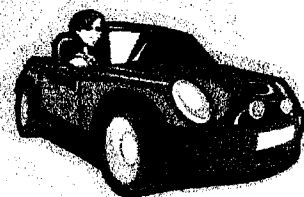
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So you think farmers are always moaning, let me tell you as I write this article on August 13th that the wheat harvest still stands (or some still remains standing), in the fields, having had two weeks of shocking weather and no break on the horizon. By this week the wheat should be in the stores, but as time goes on the proteins slip down the scale, causing bread making wheat to become less valuable and only usable as animal feed. The result is more wheat to be imported from abroad.

I wonder if the seasons are moving backwards, maybe we shall have a lovely September and even warmer October. This is surely not too much to ask. Running a Bar-b-que in an English summer is always a complete lottery.

The National Farmers Union is 100 years old this year. The NFU has done so much for British agriculture and is still strong today. (Despite the strange advert between episodes of Heartbeat). Agriculture has come along way since 1908 and much of the praise should go to the continued efforts and hard work of the union. They are excellent on car insurance, their nearest branch being Grovebury Road, Leighton Buzzard!

James Henderson

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

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



June 19th There were only 13 members present at our meeting in the church room today.

The minutes were read, approved and signed, after which plans were finalized for our summer outing to the Cotswolds on July the 3rd. The business being over, we had a quiz organized by Colin Higgs. It proved to be a good mixture of question, some fairly easy and others rather more challenging! The winning team comprised Pat Stevens, Daphne Rogers, and Shirley Ford. April Curnow thanked Colin and he was presented with a gift to show our appreciation. Today's tea hostesses were, Joan Alexander and Mary Morris..

July 3rd Summer Outing

A Motts Coach picked up members and friends from Cublington before stopping for the remainder of our party at Aston Abbots. By around 10.00, we were all on our way to Bourton on the Water, the main destination for this year's Ladies Club outing.

By 11.15, just as we arrived, the weather was overcast and threatening rain. However, undaunted, off we all went to see the many attractions on offer and find lunch.

By mid afternoon, on the way home, we stopped at the Haddenham Garden Center where we had some free time to look at the plants and gifts before enjoying afternoon tea arranged by April Curnow. Of course it included lots of creamy, 'naughty' cakes!!

As we were leaving, April was presented with a beautiful potted orchid as a thank you gift for all her hard work in organizing the trip. She was particularly pleased with this since only a few minutes earlier, she had been admiring this very plant.

Daphne Rogers won the 'on board' raffle.

July 17th Today, we held our 'end of season' garden party at the home of our Chairman, Joan Alexander. Our numbers were a little depleted due to summer holidays but 16 members enjoyed the afternoon. Since the weather was rather cool, we stayed indoors where we thoroughly enjoyed having a chat while over a delicious tea of scones, cream and strawberries. Afterwards, we had a raffle with 5 prizes and Joan was thanked for her hospitality by April who presented her with flowers.

Shirley Ford

Ladies!

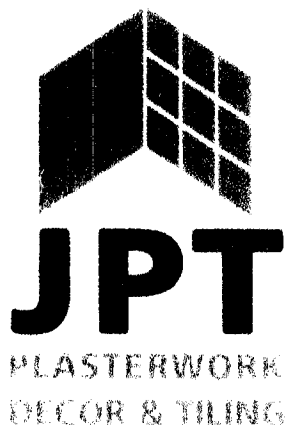
Another evening just for you
on Tuesday 21 October
Come along from 7.30pm
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and hear our guest speaker:
Mary Pytches

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

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

*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*

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Astonbury 7

That's it, over again for another year, time for the team to sit back and to think "that was a job well done" until during the clearing up process on the Sunday morning somebody mentioned "what about if next year" somebody else suggested "next year why don't we put the stage here? Through my hangover I thought next year!!*****"

But let's go back 6 months, having spent most of the last year in Stockholm I thought there's no way I'll be enticed to chair Astonbury this year. How wrong I was, as it soon became clear that there is no escape, even being out of the country is not an escape, in fact it's like signing the Official Secrets Act it's with you for life. So to a meeting in the Oak early in the year and Neil's demands soon become clear and are remarkably similar to last year, Bigger, better and more people and so the process starts again.

This time, given the huge amount of time the set up takes we decided to seek some professional advice. Donnie a colleague of Neil who has some experience in mounting these events was enticed to the Oak to impart his knowledge. While he accepts our drinks the techies (Dave & Phil) pick his brain, frankly to me these conversations may as well be conducted in a totally unknown tongue, but they seem excited by it. But it's Donnie I feel sorry for as he drains his beer he sees the queens shilling at the bottom of the glass and soon he's in, no escape, a pressed man for Astonbury 7. He probably still wonders how he got involved and it will dawn on early next year that there is no escape.

Another stroke of luck, as a result of Phil Spooner's fantastic web site, Astonbury.biz, Martin Audio volunteer to supply all of the audio equipment as well as a man to set it up. Both

these generous donations, of equipment and time save Dave and Phil a shed load of time, stress and arguments. Mind you we still manage to contrive that they are stressed, short of time and argumentative.

It also saves a lot of time as in the past some of the kit has been borrowed from as far a field as Kent.

Being the third year on the Rec, it all seems to go smoothly at first, then despite the extra help, three days of panic and late nights to get it all ready, but as usual it's ready to go at 7:30 and what a show it was this year. We wonder how it can be bettered, but it will be.

The stage looked great; the rec with some superb marquees looked great, once again the village pitched in to make Astonbury an event that other local villages wish they could mount and as a village we can truly be proud.

One small disappointment, we tried and were hopeful of getting the Red Arrows to do a flypast at the start of the show but found out a few days before that they were not available, something about a small air show at Farnborough.

All of those who helped "thank you" you know who you are, special thanks of course to Shillingford Scaffolding, Martin Audio and Friars Square for their donation.

The only worrying thing to come out of Astonbury this year was the knowledge that our musical maestro Chesh, has about buying fabrics, where to get them, the lengths they come in, cost per metre, should we keep an eye on The Chronicle for ads for a new cushion making business.

See you next year.

Phil Corrigan

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Every year a registration form is sent to every household in Aylesbury Vale to update the Electoral Register.

If you can spare a few evenings or time at weekends in October to deliver canvass forms and chase up responses, we would be pleased to hear from you.

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For more details please contact Chris Sheard on 01296 585050, or write to: Electoral Registration, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8FF.

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11th September- After last year's great success we have the mobile *Climbing wall* back.



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They show us and talk to us about the colour of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on "cracks."

They don't say, "Hurry up."

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth and gums out.

They have to answer questions like "why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?"

When they read to us, they don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grown ups who like to spend time with us.

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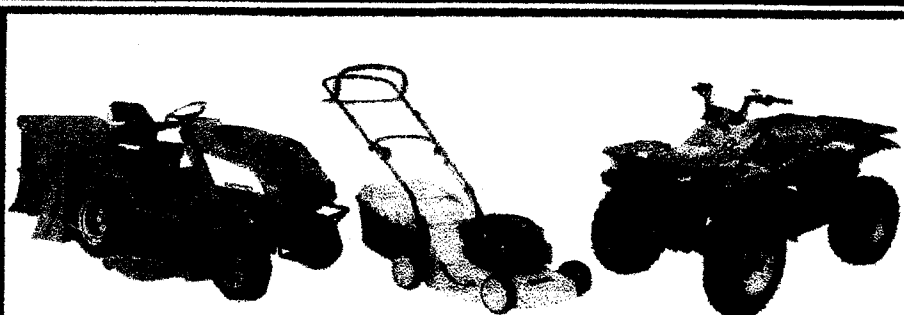
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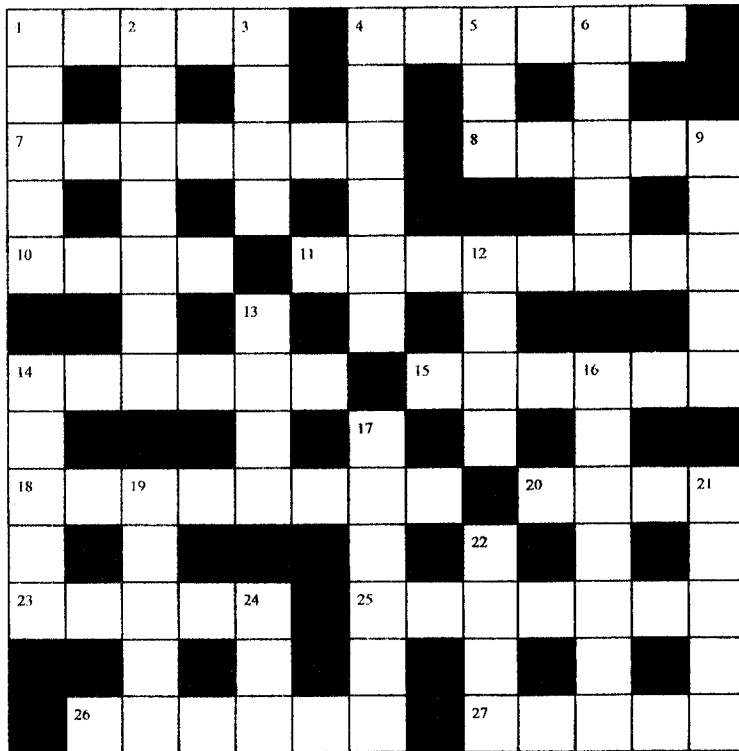


ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



The Chronicle Crossword

SEPTEMBER 2008



**ANSWERS TO JULY
CROSSWORD**

ACROSS

- 1 Hello 4 Monday 7 Publish
8 Peril 10 York 11 Simulate
14 Plyers 15 Beagle
18 Teamwork 20 Isis 23 Lathe
25 Eluding 26 Urgent 27 Bigot

DOWN

- 1 Happy 2 Liberate
3 Omit 4 Mohair 5 Nap
6 Aorta 9 Liege 12 User
13 Grow 14 Petal 16 Gosling
17 Arrest 19 Alter 21 Sight
22 Curb 24 Ewe

ACROSS

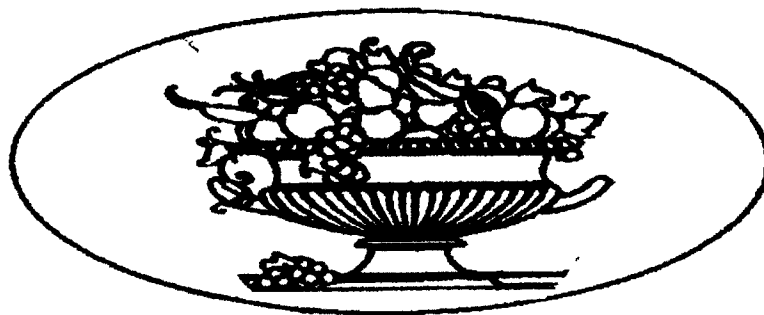
- 1 Daily paper (5)
4 Next season (6)
7 Hanging around (7)
8 British composer (5)
10 Camp _ _ _ _ (4)
11 Roof spout (8)
14 Country adjoining USA (6)
15 Things made from trees (6)
18 Not dumb (8)
20 In a church tower (4)
23 Tasteless (5)
25 Leave behind (7)
26 Place of worship (6)
27 Old unit of currency (5)

DOWN

- 1 Places to live (5)
2 Make wet (7)
3 Large swallow (4)
4 Islands in the Med (6)
5 Worn around the neck (3)
6 Hot and sultry (5)
9 German river (5)
12 Not bad (4)
13 Thought (4)
14 Not honest (5)
16 German city (7)
17 Spoil appearance (6)
19 Male member of the family (5)
21 Tall and thin (5)
22 Freshwater fish (4)
24 Bark (3)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

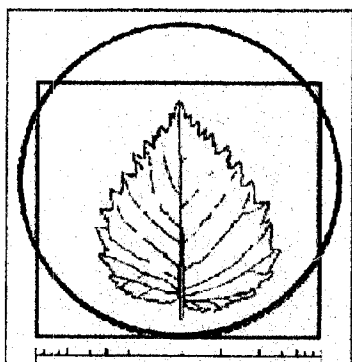
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CZECH WEEKEND

"This year it was the turn of Wingrave to host the reception for the Czech and Slovak Embassies and this was held on Veterans Day on Sunday the 29th June. The day started with a communion service at St. Peter and Paul Church where Rev. Siv Tunnicliffe welcomed Mr. Jan Winkler, the Czech Ambassador and Mr. Radovan Javorjik, who was deputising for the Slovak Ambassador, as well as a few war veterans from the Czech Republic who now live in England. The Ambassador read a lesson both in Czech and in English and also translated the Intercession prayers for the benefit of the Czech people present. Coffee and biscuits were served in the Church afterwards giving people a chance to chat to the Ambassador. This should have been followed by a football match between Wingrave and the Embassies but teams could not be raised. The Embassies brought beer, wine and a delicious Goulash for lunch and the puddings and cheese and biscuits were provided by the ladies who always do wonderful food for functions in Wingrave. This was served in the Community Centre where there was an exhibition of wartime photographs.

Mr. Neill Rees then gave a talk entitled "The Czechs in Bucks", illustrated with slides, which was most fascinating.

The visitors all left at this point but the afternoon continued with a "Songs of Praise" on the Recreation Ground with music by the Rowsham Band."

April Curnow

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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Parochial Church Council

Revd. Michelle Morton 01525 240287

Ann Goodman 681763

April Curnow 681459

Shirley Ford 681865 - Churchwarden

Caroline Lane 681373

Colin Higgs 681343 - Churchwarden

Caroline Abel Smith - Secretary

John Abel Smith - Treasurer

Andy Bystra, Gordon Kemp and Colin Smart also attend meetings.

100 Club Winners for July

£50 - Mrs Sharon Wilkinson

£10 - Mr Phil Wilkinson

100 Club Winners for August

£50 - Mr M Poulter

£10 - Mrs S Palmer

WINGRAVE PRE-SCHOOL

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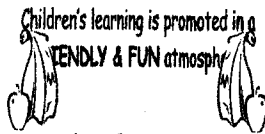
Monday to Friday 9.20-11.50

The Community Centre, Church St, Wingrave

Contact: Sally Ramsell - Pre-School Leader
07983 422752

or

Paul Weston - Committee Chairman
01296 681127



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WINGRAVE CofE COMBINED SCHOOL

As many of you will know Wingrave CofE Combined school was placed into special measures earlier this year. The staff, governors and parents have all been working very hard to put into action the improvements and investment needed to ensure that the school allows the children to reach and exceed their potential. Our first Ofsted re-inspection towards the end of term was confirmation that the school is well on the road to success once again. We thought you would be interested in reading the recent Governor Newsletter that was sent to all parents which highlights the work that is being undertaken.

21st July 2008 Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy half term for everyone! As you are aware, the HMI inspectors were back to monitor the school's progress at the beginning of July. We have also had the anticipated Finance and Health & Safety audits. These, along with the more exciting activities such as the talent show, sports day, the speech competition and so on, have made for a very enjoyable if busy half term. The staff and governors have also, of course, continued to work on the issues raised in the OFSTED report. I hope these newsletters continue to keep you updated on the school's progress. I know everyone is looking forward to the summer break – I hope you all have a relaxing holiday.

Lynne Roxbee Cox, Chair of Governors

Ofsted Review The HMI inspectors were back in school on 1st and 2nd July. Some of you may well have spoken to them as they spent some time on both days in the playground talking to parents. We are very pleased with their findings, which were mostly very positive. There are a few things which need further work, but we are certainly heading in the right direction. We now have to wait for the impact of the new procedures and practises put in place to show. The school will obviously continue to work very hard at making any further changes required and also ensure the changes already made are having the desired impact. The governors are meeting often to monitor progress on all sections of the Ofsted action plan. The HMI monitoring report has just been published and we attach a copy for your information.

Headteacher As you are all aware, Mrs Dimic has now resigned. Mrs McClellan will be with us for as long as necessary, to ensure we have plenty of time to make the right decision when recruiting a new Headteacher. The LA, governors and Mrs McClellan will all be involved in this process and we will keep you updated on progress.

Staffing Structure We are very pleased that we have been able to provide teachers for each individual year group for the next academic year. The 2 new teachers in year 1 and year 5 are both experienced teachers and we look forward to welcoming them to the team.

Teaching and Learning Over the last few weeks staff have been looking at best ways to help SEN (special educational needs) and G&T (gifted and talented) children. Teachers have also benefited from experts in maths and literacy looking at ways they differentiate work in class, and also how they assess each child. These experts will continue to work with the teachers next year to ensure systems put in place are having the desired impact.

Tracking System The new system is proving to be very useful as it is identifying all pupils who would benefit from additional support. This information is used to enable teachers to plan their lessons more effectively for individual pupils, and also identifies where LSA help is best targeted.

FMSiS Audit/Health and Safety Audit An FMSiS (Financial Management Systems in Schools) audit has taken place and, as usual, there are some processes that need revision. However, the basic financial systems and monitoring of the budget are being run adequately. The H&S audit also raised some issues, which will be addressed. It is a benefit to have had these audits and to see what is good about the school – as well as the areas we need to review.

Governors Awards The governors are keen to celebrate the successes of the children and this was an area we wanted to improve. Therefore, the governors will be presenting an award at the end of each academic year to the pupil in year 2 who has made the most progress across KS1 (there is already an award for the pupil in KS2 who makes the most progress). This need not be academic progress but may be other areas of improvement. Also, bibles will be presented to all year 6 pupils. These presentations will be made for the first time this year during this last week of term.

Governor Training We all attend various training courses throughout the year, but on 15th July a Headteacher from a local school which had nearly gone into special measures came to talk to us. She advised on what she had done to improve the situation at her school, and also how the governors had helped to turn things around. It was very encouraging as Wingrave school and governors have already started doing the majority of the things she suggested!!

School Calendar When we start back at school in September, the aim is to provide a calendar detailing all events for the full school year. There will obviously be some amendments during the year, but it should give a fairly clear picture of what will be happening all the way through to the following July.

Premises We are hopeful that during the school holidays a number of volunteers will be able to paint the remaining classrooms, just leaving the hall and entrance area to be done. We would like to thank the volunteers in advance for their time, and believe this will considerably improve the school environment for pupils and staff alike. A contractor has not been employed to carry out this work as the governors decided to concentrate spending on teaching to enable the school to provide 1 teacher for each year group. Once the buildings are brought up to a good standard of décor, it will be easier for the school to maintain the environment in this condition. The problem with the new (or nearly new) tables and chairs has now been resolved and they arrived on Friday.

Wildlife Garden The wildlife garden was opened on Friday 11th July. The PTFA arranged a celebration lunch for some local residents and then the gardening club cut the "ribbon". This was followed by a session for some of the children to use handheld computers to identify some mini-beasts they found in the garden. We would like to thank Steve Gayler for organising this, as well as the PTFA for setting up the area. It will be a great addition to the curriculum for the future.

Finally The Ofsted inspection in February seems a long time ago and so much has changed since then. I have spent a lot of time in school recently, for one reason or another, and staff and governors are really working well together. The school now appears to be a much more cheerful place to be. Hopefully you will agree that our school is once again starting to become one of which we can all be proud.

Jackie Farrands - Vice Chair of Governors

SUMMER NEEDN'T END JET AWAY TO THE SUN TODAY



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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

Harvest Festival & Supper **Aston Abbots, Sunday the 5th Oct. 2008**

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

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

The service will be followed by a **Harvest Supper**
and produce auction in the Church Room,
starting 6.30 for 7.00 pm.



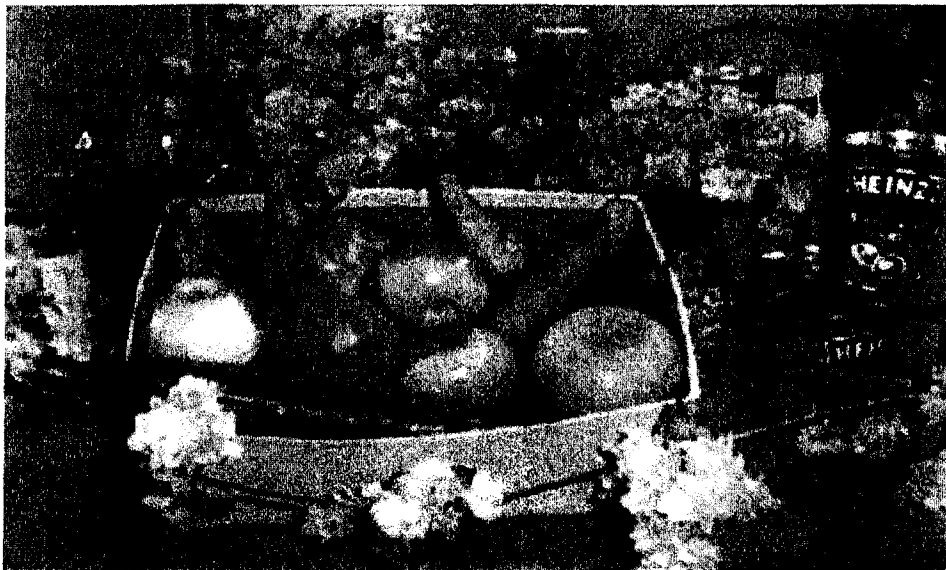
Supper will be a hot three course meal prepared by your 'favorite hostesses'!!
A glass of wine and coffee are included. Drinks and vegetarian alternatives available.

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

Supper will cost £7.00 each for adults, children under 12 - £4.00
tickets available from Andy Bystra, Colin Higgs or Shirley Ford.

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

All profits to be shared between our church and village.



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Modern Jive great fun, easy to learn, exhilarating and addictive and can be danced to any modern music - it's also a great way to get fit! As a partner dance, it draws on many other forms such as the traditional ballroom steps (rumba, cha-cha), post-war jive, modern Argentine tango and salsa. The big difference is that there is less foot-work to worry about and the learning time is much, much quicker. We will have you dancing on your first evening!

Advanced booking price is £25 per person for the 5-week 'Beginners 1' course.

We will also be offering a 5-week 'Beginners 2' course from 4th November and various weekend workshops.

To book and for further details, please call 01296 658891 or email mijive@yahoo.com. Information is also on www.mijive.co.uk. You don't need a partner to book as we 'rotate' people throughout the class.

Private classes are also available from 7.00-7.45pm on Tuesday evenings in the Hall for beginners who want a step up, or for those already familiar with modern jive who want to take their dancing to the next level.

Seamus Waldron and Patrina Law are qualified dance teachers, who between them have over 21 years experience of dancing.

**DISCOVERING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PAST**

Jill Evers, who is a very experienced and widely respected tutor will be leading this course, which will cover the archaeological landscape in Buckinghamshire from the Ice Age and Palaeolithic period to the Saxons. Every county, town and village has a fascinating story to tell, and their history stretches back into the far distant past and includes the processes that have shaped our present landscape.

There will be four sessions from 7.30 to 9.30 pm on Tuesdays from 16th September to 7th October and a field visit on the morning of Saturday 11th October.

The course will be held at Wingrave Methodist Church. Course fee £35

For more information, contact Roberta Smith in 01296 681219

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Dear All,

Well, I've been a part of your community for about two months now, and whilst it has taken that time to put together the service rota and pattern for the whole benefice (four churches). I am glad to report that it has been finalised! I will be coming to take services twice a month, 6pm Holy Communion on the 3rd week, and 10am Holy Communion on the 4th week. If you want to come and have a chat with me you can always find me at the Parish Room most Thursday's.

I have really enjoyed spending my Thursday mornings at the parish room enjoying a few cups of tea, indulging in delicious Danish pastries and chatting. It's been a really good way of getting to know some of you...

The fete was great fun and I'd like to thank you all for greeting me with such enthusiasm, it made me feel so welcome. We couldn't have asked for better weather on the day (I did put in a word or two with God?) and what a magnificent total.

Looking to the future, in September I will be visiting Wingrave School and will be taking assemblies at school along with Derek. I hope to meet the children who live in Cublington and Aston Abbots, so if you go to Wingrave School come and say hello to me.

I'm also looking forward to taking your Harvest Service on the first Sunday of October at 5pm. I do hope you'll all be in good voice as I've chosen some really rousing (traditional) harvest hymns... I hope to meet more of you then?

God Bless *Michelle* Rev. Michelle Morton
Priest in Charge Aston Abbots, Cublington, Soulbury,
Stewkley. 01525 240287
email squareahalo@hotmail.com

Church Compost

Over the years, the compost heap at the back of the church yard has 'grown' to the point where it now needs to be used. There is a covering of newer grass cuttings on the top, but once this is removed to one side, the prize is a huge amount of well rotted, good quality compost.

We are seeking the services of 'gardeners' to help move the newer grass cutting to one side, after which they are free to take as much of the well rotted compost as they would like for themselves.

Colin Higgs will be there on Saturday the 13th Sept. in the morning, Give him a ring on 681343 for more details or just come along on the day with a few friends. (Many hands make 'light work'!!!)



Church Inspection

Every 5 years, churches are subjected to a 'Quinquennial inspection' by a specialist architect. This year, in July, our church (St James the Great) was subjected to this process, the architect being Alan Frost (who brings his steam engine to the fete).

In broad terms, the church is pretty sound. However, the preliminary report indicates the following work needs to be carried out.

The main problems

- 1.) The Naïve has an infestation of furniture beetle which will need to be treated
- 2.) The boundary wall adjacent to the road needs pointing.
- 3.) The bell tower buttresses are crumbling.

Minor problems we hope to solve ourselves

- a. The inner face of the clock needs wire netting fitted to prevent bird ingress.
- b. The 'ringing chamber' window needs double glazing.
- c. Gutters above Chancel roof need clearing.
- d. Lightening conductor needs connecting to the bell frame.
- e. The 'wild area' needs cutting and saplings removed.



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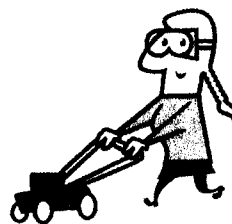
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St James Church

With effect from September service times are slightly altered as follows:-

1st Sunday of month	Evensong 6pm
2nd & 4th Sundays	Holy Communion 10am
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion 6pm
5th Sunday	Benifice



Sidesperson

Cleaners

Readers

Mowers

Flowers

7th	Andrew	6th	Caroline L Colin	Caroline L Fred Poulter	6th	Nigel	-
14th	Gordon	13th	Shirley Andrew	Shirley Anita	13th	Geoff C	Ann G
21st	April	20th	April Francesca	Caroline A/S	20th	Adam Peter	Ann D
28th	Andy	27th	Ann Gordon	TBA	27th	Ray Geoff R	CHH
5th Oct	Church Wardens	4th Oct	Colin Anita	Gordon Ann	4th	Will Marcus	Harvest Rota

HARVEST FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER
SERVICE 5pm
 Followed by supper in Church

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.



Pest Control

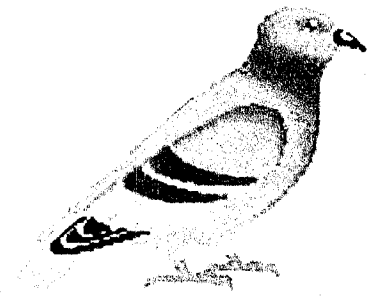
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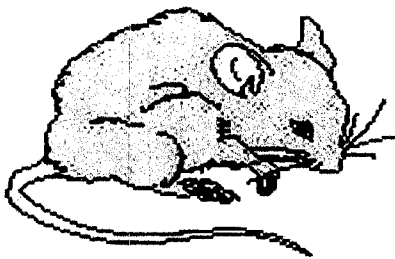
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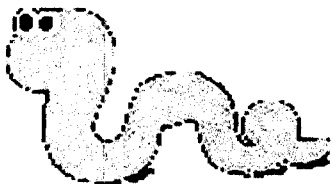
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630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Line	0845 46 47
Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123	Parish Clerk	Paul Bruton	682322
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Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070	Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 516 5165
Church Mowing Rota	Geoff Curnow	681459	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Room Hire	Colin Higgs	681343	Rector	Revd Michelle Morton	01525 240287
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
County Councillor	Quinton Ings-Chamber	688431	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
Dial-A-Ride		330088	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Doctor (emergency out of hours)		331511	Wingrave Preschool	Paul Weston	681127
Fete Coordinator	April Curnow	681459	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	682964
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544	Wingrave Post Office	(Stores)	681696
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000	Wingrave School	Office	681436
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865			
Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240			

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What's On In September

Wednesday 3rd	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Thursday 4th	Coffee Shop 10-12 noon	Church Room
Friday 5th	Coach to Eastbourne	Dep. The Green
Sunday 7th	Rambling Club 2pm	Amphill
	Evensong 6pm	St James Church
Tuesday 9th	Aylesbury Transport Meeting 2pm	Buckingham
Wednesday 10th	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Thursday 11th	Coffee/Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Saturday 13th	Bucks Historic Churches Cycle Ride(Forms from Colin)	The Green
Sunday 14th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green
Wednesday 17th	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Thursday 18th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
Wednesday 24th	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Thursday 25th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Tuesday 30th	Parochial Church Council 7.30pm	Church Room-
Wednesday 1st Oct	Prayers 9am	St James Church
Thursday 2nd Oct	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room

Address

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

Email submissions to:

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

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

Classified

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

The Royal Oak
'O.A.P. Lunches'
every Tues. £5.95 for two courses.

'Quiz Night'
is on Thurs. 4th Sept.
and then every other Thurs.

'English Breakfast'
Sort out your hangover!!!

Sundays from 10.00

Remember

'Roasts'?
they're back on Sundays
Phone 01296 681 262

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING BRIDGE?

If so let me know and we could have

A Beginners Class

(Tuesday Evenings 7 - 7.45pm)

CONTACT COLIN HIGGS

Tel 681343

Pensioner's Lunches (served every Tuesday lunchtime)

Last Tuesday (5th Aug.), O.A.P. Neil Cheshier took advantage of 'Pensioner meals at The Royal Oak' to join a few of his retired village friends for a convivial meal.

Interviewed, over a beer, by a member of the 'Chronicle staff', Neil waxed lyrical over the more than adequate portions of his sausage and the 'mountain' of mash on his plate. In particular, he seems to have been seriously impressed by the high quality of the delicious onion gravy; as were we all.

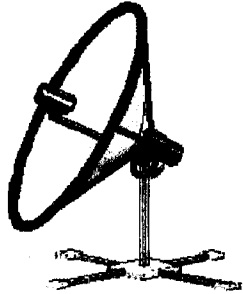
The interview was abruptly 'put on hold' when Pat served 'puds' and all present were silenced as they 'scoffed' that irresistible spotted dick and custard. Afterwards, mopping gravy & custard stains from the front of his shirt, Neil resumed his praises of both the meal and pleasant service, highlighting the excellent value for money the meal represented and the fact that he now wouldn't need to cook for the next few days.

Clearly, he was highly impressed and vowed to return to repeat the experience as soon as he could. As the afternoon wore on, he continued to eulogise 'ad nauseum' about the experience, until, your correspondent' eventually terminated the interview; having to leave to see 'Mama Mia' at the 'flicks'!!!!

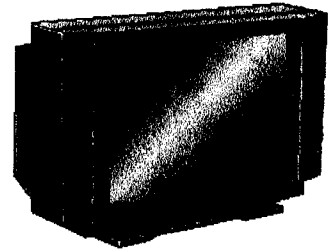


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Robert Mugabe to seek asylum in Aston Abbots?

Aston Abbots Parish Council has moved quickly to dispel rumours that Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe is to seek political asylum and premiership in Aston Abbots. Speculation had been rife since Mr Mugabe accompanied Mrs Alison Lewis to Dierdre Whyte's 50th birthday party.

Fearing the worst Aston Abbots residents braced themselves for an inflation-busting one million percent increase in Parish Council precept. However, at the time of going to press an increase has yet to be announced.

We are not sure how Mr Mugabe reacted when he was made aware of the limited tax-raising power of the Parish Council, this being somewhat less than he is used to spending and slightly under a quarter of the current Zimbabwean gross national product. However, later in the party evening it was noticed that Mr Mugabe had become rather pale in the face. At approximately the same time our reporter also noticed that somebody we can only refer to as "F" had developed strange black marks across her chest. We are not in any way suggesting that these two events are linked, but the facts speak for themselves and should lawyers for Mr Mugabe and "F" be reading this we wish to point out that we do have photographic evidence.



Mugabe in Aston Abbots—July 26th 2008

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