

# The Chronicle

**ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE**  
Issue 287 - March 2009



'Mothers Day 22nd March'

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

# Editorial

I made two unusual sightings at the beginning of February when we had all that snow. The first was at midday on 2nd February when an operational Local Authority gritter passed my house on Lines Hill. The second was the next day, when my dogs flushed a snipe/woodcock from a ditch below one of my ponds. I only saw it for a brief moment but after consulting a bird recognition book I judged it to be a woodcock (I'm probably wrong). As far as I'm concerned, both sightings were very rare events!

I hope you can spend some time on Saturday 4th April helping with the Village Litter Blitz. Please meet outside the Church Room at 10am when Colin Higgs will hand out plastic bags and direct you to a section of the village. It's amazing how much litter is thrown from passing traffic. Please spend an hour of your time to keep our village looking as reasonable as possible

Janice Issett has posted on You Tube a four and half minute video entitled 'Big Snow in Aston Abbotts'. If you 'google' that title you can relive your memories of all that snow. Local personalities in the video include some alpacas, Colin Higgs, snowmen, many local children, the Church and some wild life.

Bill Hallam and his son Richard were on BBC1 News on 13th February lamenting the recent loss of half their herd of cattle that had proved to be infected with bovine tuberculosis. The results of further tests of the remaining herd will be known later in the month. Bill explained that his cattle were clear of TB two years ago and is at a loss to understand where the infection has come from. Richard questioned why the Government does not approve of the vaccination of all cattle. It is a very distressing time for Bill Hallam and his family and I hope they are able to rebuild their herd as soon as possible.

I got one Valentine card and a box of fortune cookies. The cookies had some wise words in them - my favourite is 'Love one another and you will be happy. *John*

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## THE CHRONICLE

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A note to all would be advertisers-  
More than 205 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

**Friday 27th March**

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 Abbotts, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

# Alison's Gossip Column

## March Birthdays

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

Sheila Humphreys would like to thank all her friends and neighbours who have visited and taken gifts during her re-admission to hospital. She's been working her way around Stoke Mandeville trying to stay on as many wards as possible! By the time you all read this she should be home and Percy's work will really begin!

The Housing Market in Aston Abbots must be very buoyant. I saw a house on The Green with a "To Let" sign go up and 2 hrs later it was gone! Must be a very desirable home.

Dear All,

I heard the very sad news that the Czech Ambassador, Jan Winkler, died this morning (16th February) from a heart attack whilst in Switzerland. I don't know whether he was on Embassy business or on holiday. He was such a lovely, educated and worldly man and I know he will be so sadly missed. He had a special feeling for us in Aston Abbots and really appreciated us keeping in touch with the Embassy.

I thought you might like to know. *April Curnow*

**LITTER BLITZ!** - Saturday 4th April.

Meet 10am outside Church Room

The Cublington Crier celebrated it's 25th birthday this month with a review of some of the items that have appeared over the years. One that caught my attention was a quote from an article that appeared in 1986 - 'A local vicar is planning a sit-down protest at an accident black spot as part of a campaign to get the junction lay-out changed. The Rev. John Heffer, Rector of Wingrave, is currently drumming up support among villagers in Aston Abbots and Wingrave, and if enough people are willing to join him he says he will sit down in the middle of the Wingrave crossroads on the A418 and block the traffic. He says it's time Bucks County Highways Department took action to make the junction safe, following several accidents. The most recent incident was in January, when Wingrave resident David Gaskell collided with two cars as he was cycling home from work. He received serious injuries and later died in hospital.' In a later edition Rev Heffer commented 'WELL DONE! I cannot let the Demonstration at the crossroads pass without congratulating all of you who felt able to support me in, what I promised would be, a peaceful and restrained protest However, please forgive me for correcting some of the press reports which indicate that after I had held up the traffic, 'I retired to the safety of the verge...'. In fact, the Inspector took me gently by the arm and escorted me to the verge! It was you lovely Demonstrators who then took over and gave such terrific displays of non-violent strength'. The current editor concludes with 'Well done to you Supervic. I have no doubt you stopped the traffic with all confidence and faith of Moses parting the Red sea. but the crossroads are still a problem 23 years on'. Ed

Front cover photo: *Winter Aconites flowering in Vic Scott's garden* - photo by by Janice Isset..

Winter aconites have been grown since the sixteenth century in English Gardens and extend the flowering season of perennials by adding a splashes of colour from January to March, often pushing through the snows of winter. Their name comes from the Greek "er" meaning spring and "anthos" meaning flower and hyemalis which means flowering in the spring.

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**Please come to  
Meeting at Church Room  
8pm 25th March to discuss  
FETE AND  
FESTIVAL WEEKEND**

**Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July 2009**

It's that time of year again when we start to think about the fete and of finding new ways of making lots of money to support village needs.

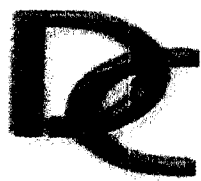
The Church Room has been booked for a meeting to discuss the planning of the fete. Please come along if you are prepared to be involved in any way. I do hope that people who helped last year will be prepared to do so again. The usual attractions are already organised but we would love some fresh ideas.

What does our fete lack that you think would make it even better? Please come and tell us even if you think you can't be involved. If you know that you won't be able to help on the day of the fete could you perhaps help collect items the week before or maybe deliver raffle tickets two or three weeks before the day of the fete. Whatever you do will be so appreciated.

**THE MAIN THING IS PLEASE COME ON  
WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH TO THE  
CHURCH ROOM AT 8pm.**

**I look forward to seeing you there.**

*APRIL CURNOW*



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### **Mother's Day Treat - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Mums get a free naughty but nice dessert in our relaxing café. This promises to be a great day out for all the family and we will be sure to roll out the red carpet for the special ladies in your life.

### **Wedding Fair – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 11am - 4pm**

Organised by Berks & Bucks 'Your Wedding' magazine. Come and find your perfect choice of supplier for your special day (please note that the centre will be open for this event only).

### **Easter 'Day out with Thomas - 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April**

Thomas and his friends pull up for an Easter steaming; this is always a hugely popular family event, so be sure to put it in your calendar! Double Savings offer! Save once, book before 13 March and, with each adult ticket, you'll receive a £1 voucher to use in our Rewley Road shop or café on the day of your visit. Save twice, book in advance for Day out with Thomas and save £2 per ticket. We recommend that you pre-book for Thomas events.

Admission charges include unlimited rides on the full-sized passenger train, and for this event are Adults £7, Senior Citizens £6, Children (5 – 15) £4.50 and Family (2 Adults + up to 4 Children) £18. The Centre will be open from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm, with last admissions at 4.30.

Call 01296 655720 or visit us at [www.bucksrailcentre.org](http://www.bucksrailcentre.org) for a full list of events and upcoming promotions. See you soon

# Countryside Matters

Most television programs these days are cheap rubbish; even the adverts feature Gorillas with air freshener and Meercats selling insurance to save money. So it is heartening to find Jamie Oliver's 'Saving our Bacon' portraying a serious message amongst the hype. He went at length to show that our pig welfare standards are much higher than Denmark and on a different planet compared to those former communist countries. Some supermarkets still prefer to buy on price instead of quality from these countries. More is the pity and shame on them.

The sow stall has been banned in this country and quite rightly so. In Denmark they shall ban them in 2012 and the rest of Europe? God knows when? This is a cruel and sadistic way to imprison a clean and intelligent animal. The farrowing crate is still in use for 2-3 weeks when the sow is farrowing, but this is a piglet welfare argument and quite correct. It stops her laying on and suffocating the weaners, in their early days. As an ex pig farmer I had to rescue many 'Blue' piglets from under the sow and give them the kiss of life! Lovely! The farrowing crates are a great help in the advent of an assisted birth. When your arm is right up to your armpit inside a bad tempered sow, trying to pull out the piglets by their sharp teeth in your finger nails, the last thing you want, laid on a wet cold concrete floor, is the sow to stand up and turn over! Pinning you to the ground in a 'Mick Mc Manus' back hammer!

Anyhow good luck to Jamie Oliver- the pig farmer's friend.

Moving on to this spineless government and DEFRA in particular, why are our pig products so hard to find in the supermarket? Why is the labelling so ambiguous and difficult to understand?? How dare they use "Wiltshire Cured Bacon" to sell Danish Bacon. The same goes for Cornish pasties, Melton Mowbray pork pies, York Ham, Barnsley sausage, Aylesbury Ducks, Cheddar cheese, Stilton cheese and so on. How dare these foreign companies hijack our century old names and traditions. Always look for the little red tractor logo and ask for 'British' bacon, pork, gammon and ham. Help to support the British pig farmers to survive these difficult times in the knowledge that their animal welfare is much better than their European counterparts.

Lastly on the subject of pigs; there are believed to be in the region of 400 wild boars in East Sussex. These are on the loose wreaking havoc, damaging crops, trees and gardens. The animals are resident on the Sir Paul McCartney's 590 Hectare estate at Peasmarch. Apparently Sir Paul, a vegetarian animal rights campaigner, has so far refused to rein in the animals.

Lastly I think I have done my chickens a terrible disservice during the winter, so far they never go in at night even when it rains but now, low and behold, the first signs of snow and they all can't wait to get out of the cold. Maybe they are more intelligent than I think?!

*James Henderson*

## WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN JOINING ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB?

I'm sounding out the Village to see if there is any interest in forming/joining a book club. Ideally it would be a group of between 6 and 10 people. Every month one of the group would select a book and later host a meeting in their house, or another venue, to discuss that month's book. No rules - we'd make them up as we go along. *Let me know by end of the month please. Ed.*

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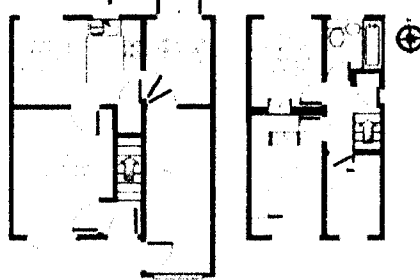
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## ALLOTMENT DIARY

One of the results of the current global financial crisis has been an increase in xenophobia and nationalism, and I read recently that in Italy, Berlusconi's government has started a campaign against "foreign" food being sold in Italian cities. They are campaigning against the sale of such things as kebabs, sushi and Indian & Chinese food. An Italian government spokesman said "We stand for tradition, and the safeguarding of our culture".

However, as my paper pointed out, spaghetti almost certainly comes from China, and was probably brought back to Italy by Marco Polo: and the San Marzano tomato, which is a staple ingredient of pizzas and tomato sauces eaten with pasta, was a gift from Peru to Naples in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century! So much for excluding "foreign" food!

This set me wondering where the vegetables come from, which we regard as standard parts of our diet today. It is well known, for example, that our most common and ubiquitous vegetable, the potato (or a close relative of it), was brought back to this country by Sir Walter Raleigh, and that it did not exist here in the Middle Ages.

My research indicates that very few of the vegetables we grow today originated in north-western Europe. Wild celery, cabbage and carrots existed, but the cultivated varieties we now grow have been derived from species emanating from other parts of the world. It is possible that the beet family (including beetroot) is indigenous, since wild varieties exist in northern Europe; but as late as the Middle Ages, beetroot was called "Roman beet", which suggests that the Romans may have introduced it.

The earliest archaeological evidence of crop cultivation has been found in a crescent stretching from present-day Iraq and Syria to Egypt. Here were grown primitive forms of wheat & barley, peas and lentils. The earliest lentils date from about 8,000 B C in Jericho; and the earliest peas about 1,000 years later, in Iraq. Broad beans (but not dwarf or runner beans) also come from this region, the first evidence of their existence dating to about 1800 B C in Egypt. Onions and carrots are thought to have originated further east, in Afghanistan or central Asia. There is evidence that onions, garlic and radishes were cultivated in ancient Egypt around 3,200 B C, and the Bible refers to cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions & garlic as being among the good things that the Israelites had to leave behind in Egypt after the Exodus in about 1,500 B C.

From Roman literature we know that the Romans appreciated such delicacies as asparagus and globe artichokes; and they seem to have developed cabbages, cauliflower and broccoli. They probably introduced these vegetables to Britain. The turnip and the Swede are also members of the cabbage family. It is not known how long the turnip has been grown here, but the Swede arrived from Sweden around 1775 (hence the name). Similarly the Brussels sprout came here from Belgium at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and gets its name from this. The cultivated carrot was probably brought from the east by the Arabs in around the 10<sup>th</sup> Century A D – probably from Afghanistan. It was originally white or deep purply-red in colour, as is still the case with present day carrots grown in parts of Pakistan. Orange-coloured carrots were first developed in Holland in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, where they became popular because orange was the national colour, and this colour has now largely supplanted the original colours all over the world. The parsnip is also a member of the carrot family, and was probably also grown by the Romans, although the first definite record of it is in Germany in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, and it was via Germany that it came to Britain.

*continued on page 11*

"The hand that rocks the cradle usually is attached to someone who isn't getting enough sleep."- John Fiebig

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Few cultivated vegetables originated in North America, and those that did were overshadowed by the vast variety already domesticated in Mexico and the Andes, when the Europeans arrived. It is possible that the cultivation of vegetables began in central and southern America even earlier than in the southern Mediterranean. In caves in Peru has been discovered evidence of beans and squashes (from which marrows and courgettes are derived) having been eaten – if not cultivated – from about 10,000 B C onwards; and the remains of cultivated potatoes have been found near Lake Titicaca dating from around 8,000 B C. The early civilisations in the area – the Mayas, the Aztecs & the Incas, all cultivated maize, squashes and beans. Dwarf (or French) beans and runner beans both come from beans that were grown in the Andes and Mexico, brought to Europe by the Spanish conquest of this area. The dwarf bean is first recorded in this country in an early plant book called Gerard's Herball which was published in 1597, while the runner bean was first mentioned in the second edition of this work, printed in 1633

Seeds of peppers and tomatoes also appear in archaeological sites in central America from about 7,000 B C on, but these may have been gathered in the wild rather than cultivated. (Experts also point out that since the seeds of peppers and tomatoes pass through the human gut with their efficacy unimpaired, it is likely that peppers and tomatoes were unintentionally sewn by early man around his settlements).

Vegetables were also cultivated in tropical Asia, perhaps as early as 8,000 B C, and among these were yams and rice – and from about 1,000 B C, the soybean, which is now the most important Chinese food plant. However, none have become common cultivated vegetables here. The same is also true of Africa. There is a vegetable called the cowpea, which began there; but while it is now also grown in India and the West Indies, it is not hardy enough for our climate.

Nowadays vegetables have been spread by man all over the world, and varieties have been developed which will grow in climates far removed from their original range. Tomatoes, which originated in the tropics, can now be grown out of doors in Britain, and plant breeders are constantly trying to grow frost-hardy varieties of others, such as potatoes. If a vegetable can be bred to flourish in our climate, sooner or later it will be!

Peter

## WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT?

*(Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)*

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other peoples.

A grandfather is a man, & a grandmother is a lady!

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them.

They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

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

They don't say, 'Hurry up.'

Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.

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 skip.. 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.

They know we should have snack time before bedtime, and they say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

A 6-YEAR-OLD WAS ASKED WHERE HIS GRANDMA LIVED. "OH," HE SAID, "SHE LIVES AT THE AIRPORT, AND WHEN WE WANT HER, WE JUST GO GET HER. THEN WHEN WE'RE DONE HAVING HER VISIT, WE TAKE HER BACK TO THE AIRPORT."

## MOTHERS

*Real Mothers don't eat quiche; they don't have time to make it.*

*Real Mothers know that their kitchen utensils are probably in the sandpit.*

*Real Mothers often have sticky floors, filthy ovens and happy kids.*

*Real Mothers know that dried play dough doesn't come out of carpets.*

*Real Mothers don't want to know what the Hoover just sucked up.*

*Real Mothers sometimes ask 'Why me?' and get their answer when a little voice says, 'Because I love you best..'*

*Real Mothers know that a child's growth is not measured by height or years or grade... It is marked by the progression of Mummy to Mum to Mother...*



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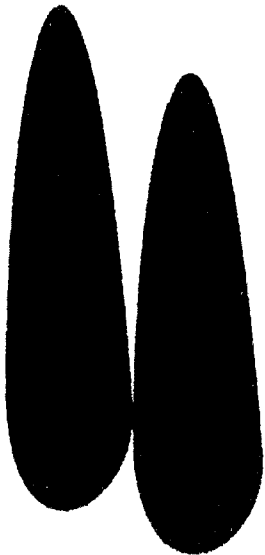
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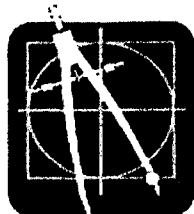


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# Aston Abbots Parish Council

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Present: - Cllrs. C Higgs, D Dicken, Mrs K Curry, Mrs 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 Clerk was asked of the outcome of the Waste & Recycling Plant application. The Clerk advised we had received a copy of a letter of objection to the application from Wing Parish Council and we had submitted our letter of opposition. He was not aware of the outcome of the application at this time.

The Clerk reported he had received notification of an increase in the cost of hiring the Church rooms from the 1st March to £6 per hour.

It was agreed that in recognition of his service to the Parish Council of over 40 years, Mr Colin Higgs be nominated to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

The Clerk advised he had received notification of a Development Meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> February and it was noted that D Dicken would speak on behalf of the Parish in respect of the applications that related to Aston Abbots.

The Clerk reported he had received notification that a Certificate of existing lawful use in respect of Badgers Oak Farm had been granted. It was agreed that the Clerk contact AVDC and request details of the reasons for this decision.

The meeting was updated on discussions with AVDC regarding the provision of a disabled ramp for entrance to the Village Hall. Indicative figures had also been obtained to move the telegraph pole and this would be prohibitive.

There followed a discussion on the quotation received in respect of the insulation and treatment of the roof space. It was noted an improved loft access would be required and C Higgs would advise whether the Church Trustees would agree to the work. It was AGREED that R Clarke and Mrs K Curry would have authority to approve the works provided the costs were in line with those indicated during the discussion. During the discussion it was suggested a hot cupboard could be purchased, this was not felt to be appropriate S106 expenditure, however as there was the opportunity of a grant to cover the cost it was AGREED that an application form be submitted. Quotations and lead times for the remainder of the improvement work identified would be obtained.

The meeting was informed of a forthcoming Informal Hearing into the appeal in respect of Longmoor Bungalow, Cublington – removal of agricultural occupancy condition, to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009. D Dicken advised he would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken with the Officer dealing with the alleged breach of approved details re Hunters Way. The Highways engineer was concerned about the impact of the vision splay from the position of the fence posts and it was understood the Owner had agreed in discussions with the engineer to adjust the line of the fence to address the situation.

A meeting had been scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> February to carry out data reduction and analysis of the completed Village Plan questionnaires.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council would form a welcoming committee for the Czech Ambassador should he attend this year's Village Fete.

The date for the Village litter blitz was the Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April – 10:00 am. The Clerk to arrange for the provision of refuse sacks.

The quotations for cutting back the tree overgrowth affecting the streetlights were presented and it was AGREED to accept the estimate from Outside Inside, the Clerk would contact the supplier.

The Clerk reported he had received a letter from Bucks CC regarding solar powered lighting at Bus shelters as a result of the matter of lighting at the Crossroads being discussed at the last Local Area Forum. After discussion it was noted that the matter would be raised again at the next LAF meeting and the Clerk would try to obtain indicative costs for the erection of a streetlight at the Crossroads.

It was reported that we were investigating the possibility of a grant towards the cost of the replacement fencing required at the Recreation Ground and would advise further at the next meeting.

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 20.00 in the Church Rooms.

## **HOLD A FISH AND CHIP SUPPER - FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

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# **The road is long, in fact its 26 miles:**

Hello all readers of the Aston Abbotts Chronicle, my name is Alex Perkins, I live at No.1 Wingrave Road and this year I am going to run the London Marathon.

I am running the marathon for the Motor Neurone Disease association because MND is a nasty disease (like most I imagine) and my DAD, (ex- Aston Abbott resident) died from it, so the marathon is a quest that's close to my heart.

I have never done anything like this before so am quite nervous, scared and worried but also a little excited. The challenge is also a little more real for me as I have asthma which is triggered from sporting activities and is something that really does not like me running. Some of you may have seen me running through the village, usually covered in sweat breathing heavily and sometimes escorted by my brother's dog Bart.

A friend of mine from Wingrave is also running the marathon and I intend to beat him. I suppose you could look at it as a Wingrave vs Aston Abbotts competition. Don't worry I'm not going to let the side down!

This is just a short note to try and raise awareness for my run and also direct any interested eyes to my marathon website – [www.runginger.co.uk](http://www.runginger.co.uk).

On the site you can get some more information about my run and also find my training blog which gives an insight into what's involved in getting your body ready to run 26 miles. I could REALLY do with any help that I can muster so please feel free to spread the word [www.runginger.co.uk](http://www.runginger.co.uk) and also feel free to shout and throw stuff when you see me passing.

My very nice Brother James Perkins and the even nicer Hannah Brandon are going to be organising some charity events in aid of my quest so please watch this space and check [www.runginger.co.uk](http://www.runginger.co.uk) for more information on this.

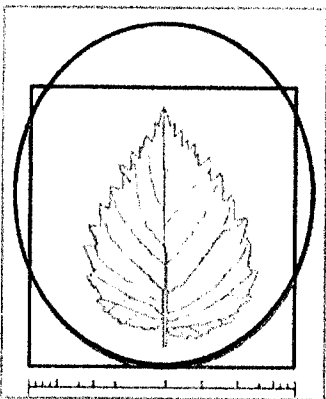
Cheers, *Alex Perkins*

## **FINGERS ON THE BUZZER FOR A MUSIC QUIZ FROM THE 60S TO THE 90S**

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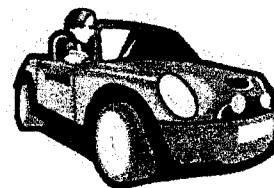
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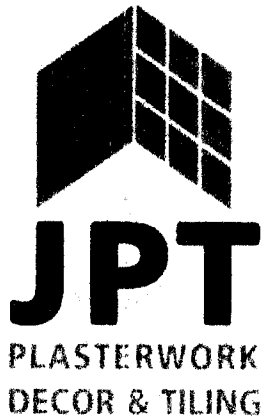
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# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Please put Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in your diary. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at the Church Room at 8.00pm and we hope to see as many residents there as possible. It is an opportunity to meet your District and County Councillors, hear news from local groups and to put your own views forward. It is the time to decide how money raised at the Fete will be spent, and even to offer your help if you are inclined to! **Do join us!**

If you have any issues you would like to see discussed at this meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Paul Bruton.

## The Images of Mother

4 YEARS OF AGE - My Mummy can do anything!

8 YEARS OF AGE - My Mum knows a lot! A whole lot!

12 YEARS OF AGE - My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.

14 YEARS OF AGE - Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either.

16 YEARS OF AGE - Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.

18 YEARS OF AGE - That old woman? She's way out of date!

25 YEARS OF AGE - Well, she might know a little bit about it!

35 YEARS OF AGE - Before we decide, let's get Mum's opinion.

45 YEARS OF AGE - Wonder what Mum would have thought about it?

65 YEARS OF AGE - Wish I could talk it over with Mum.

## The anonymous valentine

You bravely trudged through ice & snow,  
just to brighten up my day,  
and valentine you left to say,  
I make your 'fuzzies glow'.

How warm this has me feeling!!!!  
But the card was left unsigned.  
So I have no choice but be resigned  
that you are only teasing!!!!

But still, I puzzle who you are,  
with wracked and aching brain.  
My only hope is to remain,  
your 'fuzzies warmer', from afar!!!!

*anon*

A teacher gave her class a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word Mother - **Unknown**

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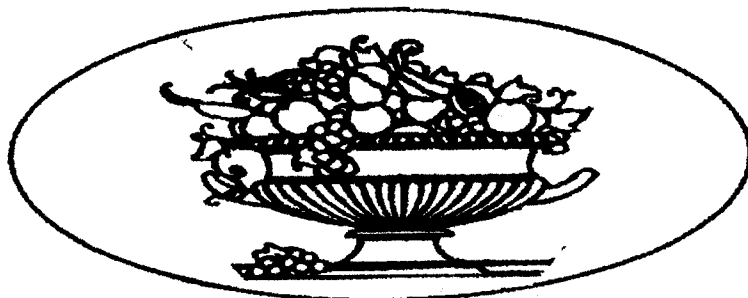
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# WINGRAVE CE COMBINED SCHOOL

*Dear Parents/Carers, Another half term has passed very quickly and here is the latest news from the school. I hope you have enjoyed the snow over the last weeks. As I'm sure you will appreciate, the decision to shut the school at these times is not taken lightly and the acting Head Teacher and I have had many discussions about how we can minimise the disruption. We are also planning for future occasions and trying to put more procedures in place to keep the school open if at all possible. Obviously, the safety of the children and the staff is always our primary concern. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the class reps for their efforts phoning everyone, it is greatly appreciated. Work on the priorities raised by the OFSTED inspection has continued and we look forward to another visit by the monitoring team in March. Lynne Roxbee Cox – Chair of Governors*

**Ofsted Review** You will have now received the monitoring report from the HM Inspector showing that the school has once again made satisfactory progress. It shows that standards are rising and pupils' progress during lessons continues to improve. The Inspector acknowledges that appropriate new procedures have been introduced, however it is too early to evaluate their impact.

**Head Teacher** Mrs Gurton is now attending all governors' meetings to ensure she is well acquainted with the school when she starts after the Easter break. She has also been involved in interviews for the vacancy of Finance/Office Manager.

**Staffing** We are pleased to advise that Mrs Gomm has settled in well in Reception class. Interviews took place yesterday for the post of Finance/Office Manager and we are pleased to report that Mrs Ruth Hope has now been appointed and will join us just before the end of term. County will continue to provide an officer to deal with all necessary accounts in the meantime.

**Learning and Teaching** Various LA consultants are still supporting the school and work is continuing on improving the teaching and learning. This includes lesson observations, assessment analysis, one to one self-assessment meetings with the Acting Head Teacher and pupil progress meetings. This will obviously be ongoing.

The Acting Head Teacher meets with KS1 and KS2 Co-ordinators, our School Improvement Partner from County and the Chair of Governors on a regular basis. This enables the school to share the findings of the monitoring and evaluation procedures, as appropriate. Each child's progress showing their current position provides a focus point for checking the accuracy of the data and that pupils, in general, are achieving appropriately. Weekly staff meetings are held to cover the issues raised in the latest HMI's report. These include the use of Learning Support Assistants in lessons in order to ensure they are used effectively and a review of lesson planning to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils and to ensure consistency and to monitor the impact of any changes. Guest providers this term have included the English adviser, the Literacy consultant and the School Improvement Partner.

**Home School Agreement** The home school agreement has now been sent home. Please could we remind you that this should be signed by both parents and pupils and then returned to school.

**School Website** There are still more updates being made to our impressive new website [www.wingrave.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.wingrave.bucks.sch.uk). Remember, you can also email the governors at [wingravegovernor@gmail.com](mailto:wingravegovernor@gmail.com). If you are unable to access the website, contact the school office for any information you may require.

**PTFA** The Governors would like to acknowledge the amount of hard work and time that the PTFA devote to raising money for the school. It is very much appreciated by everybody.

**Finally** There have not been so many changes to report this time, as it was necessary to introduce a great number during the previous academic year in order to address the issues raised in the Ofsted Report. This is now the time to consolidate, review and evaluate these changes and new practices. This will enable us to ensure that the level of impact on the standards in the school is beneficial and assess where to make any further changes, if necessary. Please be assured that all new procedures and systems will be continually monitored and evaluated. We now need to ensure that all changes made over the last year are embedded for the future and have the necessary impact to give all children the standard of education they deserve, whilst also making sure that the children continue to enjoy coming to school!

Jackie Farrands Vice Chair of Governors

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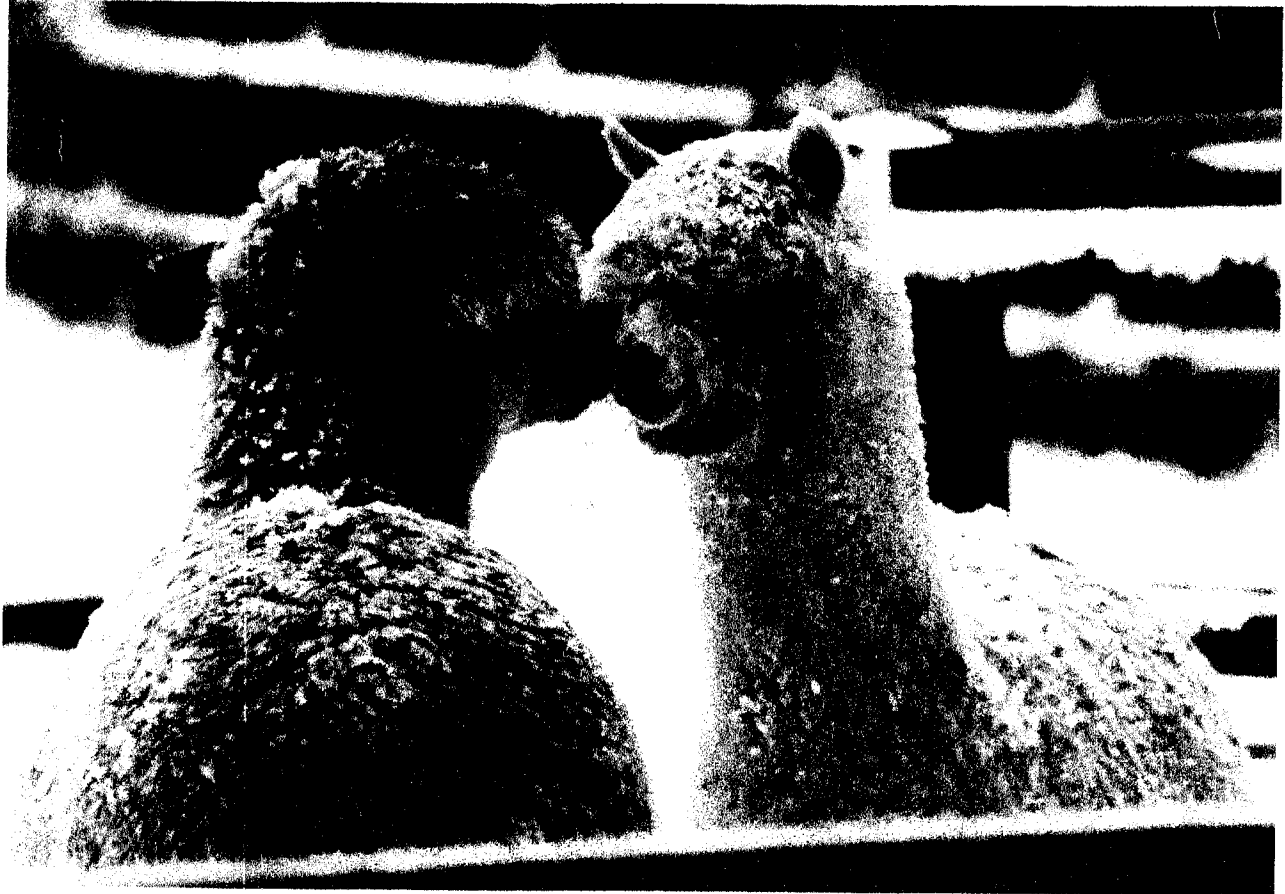
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In the week of the bad snowfall, Rod Rothero was out with his camera snapping away. At the end of our garden in Aston Abbotts is a paddock of male alpacas belonging to Liz and Ivan. He submitted a photo to BBC South Today for inclusion in their photo gallery which is shown at the end of the programme at about 6.55pm. To his amazement out of hundreds of photos submitted his 'alpacas enjoying the snow' photo was broadcast.



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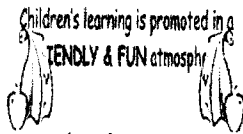
Monday to Friday 9.20-11.50

The Community Centre, Church St, Wingrave

Contact: Sally Ramsell - Pre-School Leader  
07983 422752

or

Paul Weston - Committee Chairman  
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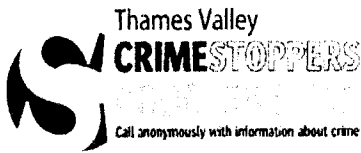
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## CHURCH ROOM Bookings

The Trustees of Aston Abbots Church Room advise that due to the increase in electricity and water charges, and increased insurance premiums, hire charges from 1st March 2009 will be as follows:-

£6 per hour for residents (plus metered electricity)

£20 per hour for non residents (plus metered electricity - a returnable deposit of £50 at the time of booking is required)

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Please contact Colin Higgs on 681343  
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Oak Farm House ~ 681260

**PAUL BRUTON (Parish Clerk)**

51 The Green - 682322

**COLIN HIGGS**

6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

**RICHARD CLARKE**

Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

**DICKIE DICKEN**

Norduck House ~ 688577

**JUDY HARDCASTLE**

Marloes, Lines Hill ~ 688070

**ANDY STEFANCZYK**

73 The Green ~ 0774 2957684  
(Street Lighting Officer)

**KATE CURRY**

2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane - 681137

District Councillor

**PETER COOPER**

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham ~ 681250

County Councillor

**QUINTIN INGS-CHAMBERS**

## Parochial Church Council

Rev. Michelle Morton 01525 240287

Ann Goodman 681763

April Curnow 681459

Shirley Ford 681865 - *Churchwarden*

Caroline Lane 681373

Colln Higgs 681343 - *Churchwarden*

Caroline Abel Smith - *Secretary*

John Abel Smith - *Treasurer*

*Andy Bystra, Gordon Kemp and Colln Smart also attend meetings.*

## 100 Club Winners for February

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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

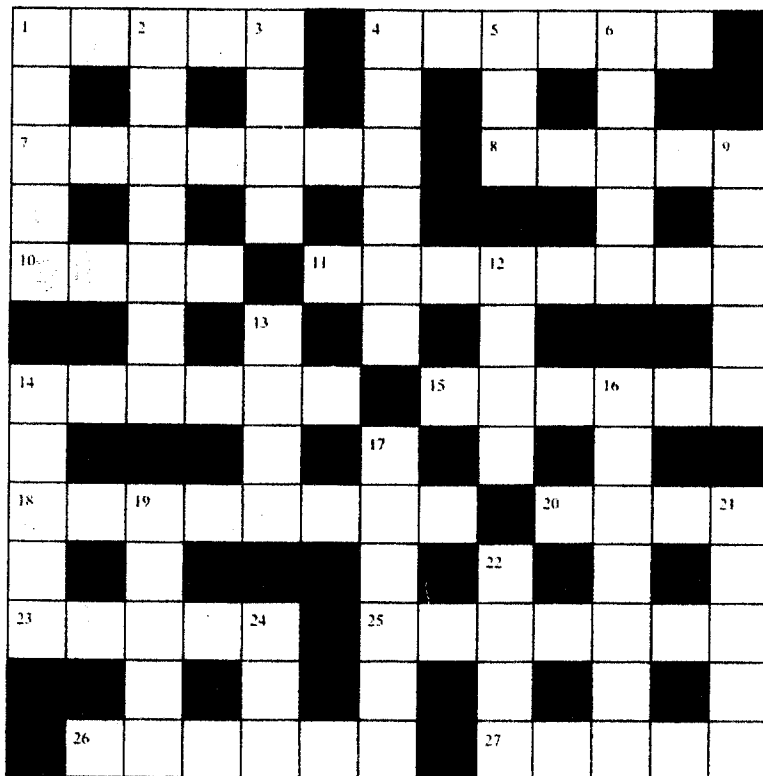
5<sup>th</sup> April 2007 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

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)

# The Chronicle Crossword

MARCH 2009



## ACROSS

1 Fonda 4 Casino 7 Meccano  
8 Wales 10 Rasp  
11 Guidance 14 Quarry  
15 Enlist 18 Entrance 20 Zero  
23 Taste 25 Fitness 26 Hypnos  
27 Might

## DOWN

1 Femur 2 Nicosia 3 Afar  
4 Crocus 5 Sow 6 Nylon  
9 Scent 12 Dune 13 Aria  
14 Quest 16 Iceberg  
17 Scuffs 19 Testy 21 Onset  
22 Item 24 Ern

## ACROSS

1 Plenty around at the moment (5)  
4 Used for filming (6)  
7 Seen in the village (7)  
8 Physical strength (5)  
10 Front of the vessel (4)  
11 Moving belt (8)  
14 Glad (6)  
15 Sign Up (6)  
18 Found in many offices (8)  
20 Fall suddenly (4)  
23 A group (5)  
25 North American resident (7)  
26 Alter (6)  
27 Medicine (5)

## DOWN

1 Used on a letter (5)  
2 Tropical disease (7)  
3 Receptacle (4)  
4 Accepted practice (6)  
5 Used to find a route (3)  
6 Noisy (5)  
9 Living in the country (5)  
12 Plant for grapes (4)  
13 Buddhist leader (4)  
14 Boy's name (5)  
16 Heavy waterproofs (7)  
17 Spoil appearance (6)  
19 Chew noisily (5)  
21 Anxiety (5)  
22 Used in fishing (4)  
24 Chicken (3)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

DO YOU VISIT FRANCE OR SPAIN?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE  
YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS?

**French or Spanish**  
**lessons**

**Customised Classes available**  
**at a venue of your choice**

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No more juggling workmen...  
I can do the lot (and juggle too!)

Kitchens, Bathrooms, Floors,  
Doors, Shelves, Tiling, Fitted  
wardrobes, Plumbing,  
Maintenance, Small Building Work.

Anything considered.  
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**(01525) 270701**

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**Marvellous**  
**Plants**

**Winslow**

Beautiful plants for discerning gardeners  
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Seeds, bulbs, compost, pots, friendly advice.

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Call Alexia on 07963 747305  
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**FLAT PACK PHOBIA?**

Are you terrified by the thought of  
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the likes of Argos or IKEA?  
Can't cope with the instructions?  
Not enough time?

**Not a problem**

Buy what you like  
Then call me to assemble it for you  
Very reasonable hourly rates  
Assembled in your own home  
Single units to Suites and I also do small DIY jobs  
Telephone Bob on 01296 688305 (Wing)  
Mobile 0770 799 4178  
or Email [bob.ren55@virgin.net](mailto:bob.ren55@virgin.net)



# "MODELS WANTED"



**It's okay if you're a little bottom heavy!**

**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....£50.00  
Re-fix.....£30.00  
Removal of hair extensions.....£40.00

Manicures and pedicures

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

Bridal services

Bridal hair .....£90.00  
Bridal make up.....£60.00  
Including trial before and on wedding

**Call for a free consultation**



# St James Church

Times are as follows:-

**1st Sunday of month Evensong 6pm**  
**2nd & 4th Sundays Holy Communion 10am**  
**3rd Sunday Said Communion 8am**  
**5th Sunday Benefice AA/Cub./Soul./Stew. in rotation**  
*this month at Soulbury*

The Church is OPEN every Thursday morning at 9.30am 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 prayer.

Please come along.

Cublington		Soulbury	
01/03	9am Holy Communion	01/03	11.30 Family Service
08/03	9am Holy Communion	08/03	11.30 Holy Communion
15/03	9am Holy Communion	15/03	11.30 Holy Communion
22/03	9am Family Service (Lay Led)	22/03	11.30 Holy Communion
29/03	10am Benefice service at All Saints, Soulbury	29/03	10am Benefice service at All Saints, Soulbury

Sidesman	Flowers	Cleaners	Readers	Mowers
1st Andrew	No	28th Colin/Caroline L	Caroline AS Peter	
8th April	Flowers	7th Ann/Gordon	Gordan/Ann	
15th Gordon	In	14th Shirley/Andrew	Caroline L/Mitchell	
22nd Andy	Lent	21st April/Anita	TBA	
29th No	SERVICE BENEFICE at SOULBURY			
4th April				Gordon Kemp

Janice Isset and Ian Roberts have produced three colour covered pamphlets for the church to sell. One is the 'visitors guide to St. James' (same text as before but with colour photos on the outside). Two new ones are pamphlets on the Stained Glass of St. James The Great and Sir James Clark Ross, again with colour covers. They have incorporated some lovely paintings of Ross they found on the web. They will be selling in the church for the enormous price of 10p. Janice and Ian hope to be making more things soon, like postcards and christmas cards with village scenes on, these will all be for church fundraising.

A photograph of the stain glass will feature on the cover of next month's Chronicle. Ed



# Pest Control

By the BEE's Knees at MSC Ltd

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Member of British Institutes of Cleaning Science BICS



**Wasps £35.00 Inclusive**  
**Guaranteed, No Hidden Charges**



**Pigeon netting and pointing protection. Mess removal and disposal in accordance with DEFRA and EA. Certificates of disposal supplied.**



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



**Woodworm, Cockroaches, Insects, Flies, Squirrels.**

**T: 01296 424284 M: 07950 379250**

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

## The Aston Abbots Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
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
Bus Enquiries	TravelLine	0870 608 2608	Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrocks	681260
Buses	L&S	415468	Police	Emergencies	999 or 112
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191	Police	Non-emergency	0845 8 505 505
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			

*Please let us know of any errors or omissions*

## The Chronicle

### Advertising rates per annum

FULL PAGE	Back	£100
	Inside	£ 80
HALF PAGE	Inside	£ 40
	Quarter	£ 25
QUARTER PAGE	Inside	£ 25
	Full	£ 20
	Half	£ 15
ONE OFFS	Full	£ 20
	Half	£ 15
	Quarter	£ 10

**Seasonal and short term ads are also accepted at these rates**

Send copy and cheque payable to

'The Chronicle' to

**Phil Corrigan**

5, Nash's Farm, Aston Abbots, Bucks

01296 688191

corriganpc@aol.com

# DRUM TUITION

MY STUDIO  
TECHNIQUES / ALL STYLES  
RUDIMENTS  
CO-ORDINATION  
READING / GRADES



## Ian Roberts

0794 653 2294 Mobile

01296 680 464 Home

Aston Abbots

*After the success of the French Fortnight, we introduce a range of new menus in February, so do come and relax and enjoy a lunch or evening at The Unicorn.*



## THE UNICORN at Cublington

### Special events for February/March 2009

#### February

- 2nd Quiz
- 6th Band – Under The Influence
- 9th Quiz
- 14th Valentines evening dinner
- 16th Quiz
- 23rd Quiz
- 27th Fine Dining with Jazz from 'Anything Goes'

#### March

- 1st St Davids Day – lunch and dinner with a Welsh flavour
- 2nd Quiz
- 6/7th Steak Special
- 9th Quiz
- 16th Quiz
- 17th St Patricks Day – lunch and dinner with an Irish flavour
- 23rd Quiz
- 27th Fine Dining with Jazz from anything goes
- 30th Quiz

### *Unicorn Regulars:*

**Monday Nights** is the Famous Unicorn Quiz night – with quizmaster John Barnett testing your knowledge and tantalising your memory, Monday evenings have become a favourite – teams of up to six people, £1 entry per person and a jackpot round each week – 8pm

**Friday morning coffee and cakes** – each Friday we serve coffee (bottomless pot) and cakes and have a charity raffle. Come and meet with friends or meet some new ones

**Bar Billiards** always available



*Aylesbury Vale Pub of the Year 2009!*

If you plan to eat at The Unicorn we strongly suggest booking in advance.

Please contact Sharon or Derek on 01296 681261

The Unicorn, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 0LQ

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

# What's On In March

Sunday 1st	Rambling Club 2pm	Meet at Caldecote MK
	Evensong	St James Church 6pm
Tuesday 3rd	PCC Meeting	Church Room 7.30pm
Thursday 5th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon
	Ladies Club	Church Room 2.15pm
	Bingo	Church Room 7.30pm
Sunday 8th	Village Footpath Walk	The Green 2pm
Tuesday 10th	Ramblers AGM 8pm	11 Lomond Drive Linslade
Thursday 12th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon
	Whist Drive	Church Room 7.30pm
Thursday 19th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon
	Ladies Club (Spring Lunch)	Church Room 12.30pm
Sunday 22nd	Mothering Sunday Service	St James Church 10am
Wednesday 25th	Fete/Festival Meeting	Church Room 8pm
Thursday 19th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon
	Whist Drive	Church Room 7.30pm
Saturday 28th	British Summer Time	Clocks go on 1 hour
Sunday 29th	Benefice Service	Soulbury Church
Monday 30th	Whitby Week Coach leaves	The Green 9am
Tuesday 31st	Annual PCC	Church Room 7.30pm

## Address

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

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

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

## Classified

**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.

**GNOMES (Girls Night Out Men Excluded Sorry)** meet, usually in the Royal Oak, every Tuesday 8pm onwards - all Ladies very welcome - GNOMES specialises in intelligent conversation over a glass of something.

### MOTHERING SUNDAY

(Don't forget to buy her a card!!!!)

Why not bring your Mum along to our family service

at  
St James Church  
on  
MARCH 22nd  
Commencing  
10.00 am

All Mums will receive a nice posy

(And you will still have plenty of time to take her out for a 'slap-up' lunch!!!!)

**LITTER  
BLITZ  
Saturday  
4th April  
meet  
Church  
Room  
10am**

**16 March: St Patrick's Day in Trafalgar Square** offers traditional Irish music and dance on specially installed platforms. A free children's area will fill one whole side of Leicester Square, with free activities including face-painting and hair-braiding, "challenges and skill tests", and "fun tumbles" for the under-fives. Quality Irish crafts will be for sale, including glass, wood, metal, ceramics and linens

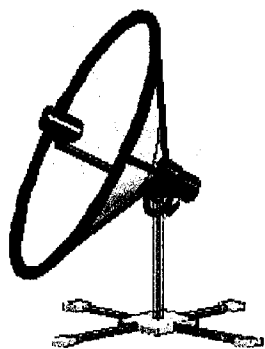
**FISH & CHIP VAN** every Wednesday on The Green 9pm approx

Complaints have been received about **DOG FOULING** (in the Recreation Grounds and the Chapman Leas footpath) These are public places and carry a hefty fine if caught. PLEASE be a responsible dog owner and **PICK IT UP** (Dog bins are located at the entrance to the Rec and by the seat on the Green)

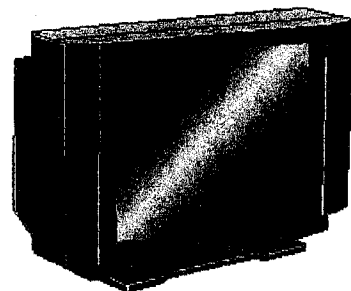
**25th March - 8pm in Church Room - Meeting to discuss this year's Fete.**

# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

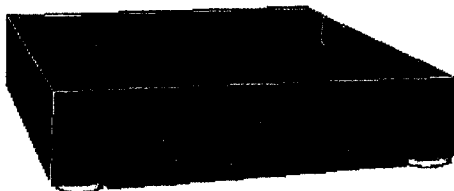


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Back in January 2001 I did my first back page, setting to my task with glee as I did my best to create little jokes based around real-life events in the life of my friend Dave Lewis.

Of course, it was a very different world back in 2001. I was much younger, and Dave's hair was much greyer.

Eight years and around 90 back pages later I have turned those first hesitant cryptic jokes into full-blown character assassination. However, now it feels like its time to put away my barbed pencil and leave the Lewis family in peace.

it might surprise some readers to learn that Dave has actually spent the last eight years

paying the top Chronicle advertising rate for the whole back page, just for the privilege of being publicly insulted every month.

Was it all true? Were those bizarre and sometimes unbelievable stories nothing but a figment of my fertile imagination. Oh no! Not at all - they were all true and I have signed witness statements (no torture involved) and, in some cases, video evidence to prove it all!

So is Dave calming down? As he edges ever closer to his bus pass and Zimmer frame, has time got the better of him? Has he mellowed with age? Not a bit of it! And let's hope he never does!!!

So, for now, that's it! This is ...

# THE END

*Phil Spooner, February 2009*

**Flackwell Electronics - Purveyors of Plasma Screens to the Gentry**