

THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine



"POTTERING AROUND THE ALLOTMENT"

May 2009 Chronicle guest edited by Joanna and Alex Perkins
Issue: 289

Email : editor@aachronicle.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Thank you for the opportunity to edit the May edition of the Chronicle. I hope you will all enjoy the contents and forgive the slight delay in getting this to you due to logistical problems and my Deputy Editor in Chief having other things on his mind!

Out of interest I looked up the word "Marathon" in the dictionary:

- A race on foot of 42.195km (26miles 385 yards)
- Contest of Endurance
- A task or action that requires endurance, i.e. a letter writing marathon. !!

Well I have to admit that all the aforementioned apply this month. This has been a bit of a contest of endurance and certainly a task or action that has required endurance. The race on foot was completed by Alex in 4 hours 50 mins and we are all very proud.

I cannot however let the events of the past few weeks go without saying how our family have all been amazed and humbled by people's generosity in sponsoring Alex's marathon attempt, those who attended the Quiz in the Church Room, the Charity Race Night at the Jug in Hardwick, people who have put envelopes through the letterbox, those who gave me money at the coffee morning and those who just offered their good wishes a big, huge THANK YOU! Further information can be found at www.runginger.co.uk.

As I write it looks like Spring has well and truly sprung but as yet we have not heard the cuckoo which is sad as for me it sums up the true arrival of Spring. Alan has seen some house martins and swallows. The bluebells are at their best and a trip up to Ashridge is highly recommended. It now only remains for the cow parsley to come into flower which I love and I know that Christine Scott will agree!

John is back next month and we look forward to hearing about his fantastic trip to Peru etc. Thanks must go to John and editor's before him because unless you actually do it, you don't realise what a "marathon" quest it is to edit our village magazine which I know is appreciated by many.

Have a safe and peaceful time!

Jo Perkins

IN THIS ISSUE

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Vicar's report

Allotment diary

Parish council minutes

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 is **Friday 22nd May 2009**

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

MAY

Mervyn King	02nd
Charlie Bystra	03rd
Hannah Brandon	12th
Jeff Banister	17th
Callum Hilton	21st
Tom Manning	22nd
Benjamin King	22nd
Milani Drysdale	23rd
Neil Chesher	26th

THANKS

Hannah & James would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to all those who attended and donated prizes to the charity quiz night held in the Church Room on 10th April.

It was a great success and we raised a total of £724.80!! All the proceeds have been used to sponsor Alex Perkins who ran the London Marathon (in GINGER style) on Sunday in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease association.

Get your articles and gossip to John 22nd May at the latest — sooner if possible!

We decided to join the **IN** crowd and have gas installed. Two very helpful men came from Southern gas and over a couple of days did just that. They finished on Wednesday. The Old Masters was also due to have the gas installed but on Friday.

The men had to go on a Health and Safety training day on Thursday, so the holes they'd dug were left with the appropriate safety railings around them. But the Council don't like open holes so along they came on Thursday and filled in the holes! They even put new tarmac down!

Friday, the Gas men are back digging up the same holes! All down to Health and Safety!

So that's it then, I've done it, I've run 26.2 miles in just under five hours. It was emotional, tiring but also amazing.

I don't really think you can appreciate what an experience it is unless your one of the 35,000 + who run the distance every year for charity, truly wonderful stuff. In some respects the running is the easy part, it's the raising nearly £4000 for the MND association that's the difficult bit. It gives me a warm glow inside to think about how generous all friends and family have been and how much effort people have put in for me to reach my sponsorship goal.

I've said it before and I'll keep saying it, THANK YOU to all who have supported me, THANK YOU to all who have sponsored me and THANK YOU to all who have shouted at me to get out of the pub and get training. It's a cliché I know but it's so true, you really can do whatever you want in this life if you want it enough.

Sore feet (Alex Perkins)

Front cover photo: Wingrave road allotment — Picture by the LOVELY Hannah Brandon

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FRUGAL FINDINGS

So we had what was quoted as the "most important post war budget" last month and from what I can glimmer the general consensus was the following :

- The economy is going to be rubbish for a while
- Were going to borrow loads of money to get us out of the rubbish period
- People who get paid shed loads are going to have to pay more tax (or move to Monaco)
- Everyone is going to get a job doing something, somewhere, for someone (even chavs)
- The most important product known to man, is going to be taxed more

I'm sure there was more detail to the whole occasion but these were my headlines. So if it's going to be rubbish for a while, one really needs to look out for those savings in life that can make living that much easier.

For the people of Aston Abbots I wish to introduce you to a great little website www.moneysavingexpert.com for those in the know this bastion of savings, consumer savvy and down right good money sense offers weekly advice on everything from eating out to investing your savings. It is run by a nice chap called Martin who you may have seen on the TV talking about the same sort of stuff. I recommend enrolling for his weekly email that comes through on Wednesdays and offers the latest money saving promotions, hints and tips – its great! To give you a flavour here are some extracts from one of the weekly emails I received:

FREE BT LINE INSTALLATION

BT seems to have responded to recent criticism over its hefty £122.50 line installation fee; sign-up before 30 June and you can get it free. This applies to new lines, reconnections or even having second lines fitted. **Free BT line deal:** You need to sign up for an 18-mth contract and make 10 chargeable or inclusive calls per month, but don't worry, it's still possible to slash call costs.

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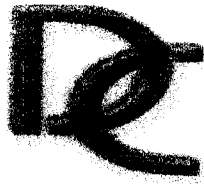
Get half price adult entry to Alton Towers, Thorpe Park, Chessington, Sea Life Centres and Sanctuaries (excl. London Aquarium), Legoland, Madame Tussauds, The Dungeons or Warwick Castle worth up to £18 when you buy an adult value meal at Burger King. The cheapest value meal is the hamburger meal (includes fries and a drink) which costs £2.84 (varies nationwide).

SAVINGS

It's six weeks since base rates were cut, so comparisons are easier as there's now less of a 'has it incorporated the cut?' issue. **Top Easy Access from £1:** ING Direct* pays 2.75% inc. a year-long 2.22% point bonus. Alternatively ICICI* is 2.45% and clean. **Top from £10,000:** Ulster Bank pays 3.46% though 0.5% point is a 6mth bonus & withdraw during that and the interest drops. For £25k+ Investec tracks the avg of the top 5 best buys and is currently 3.17%, though 3mths' notice's needed to withdraw. **Top Fix:** Those are variable rate, if you're willing to lock cash away ICICI* pays 3.9% fixed for a year or 4.2% for two.

I hope you find this site as good as I have at saving you some money and look forward to hearing your frugal findings in our pub! Enjoy!

James Perkins



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VIC SCOTT'S SLIDE & QUIZ EVENING

Thank you to all who attended Vic Scott's illustrated talk in the Church Room helped by his lovely assistant Christine. It is always a delight to listen to Vic's extraordinary knowledge of natural history and the evening of Friday 17th April was no exception. The slide show was followed by a lively quiz. The quiz was won by those at Peter Knight's table who received a very welcome box of chocolates for their efforts.

During the interval a wonderful platter of various cheeses, grapes, nuts and nibbles was served and a selection of wine and other drinks was available. Many thanks must go to April and her helpers for this bounteous spread.

The proceeds from this evening including the raffle came to a terrific £442.30p.

All proceeds will go to much needed church repairs.

Letter to the Editor:

When I went to the churchyard at Easter I was once again dismayed to see the state of the so called "wild area". It just looks as if those who mow and keep the rest of the churchyard in very good condition had forgotten to mow this piece. I have asked the advice of our local gardening expert and he tells me that it should be cut down at the end of each summer; any nettles or docks treated with weed killer and then sown with wild flower seeds in the autumn.

I am sure that many of us would be only too willing to contribute a packet of seeds for this purpose and so make this untidy mess an area of beauty.

Margaret Hinds

Kate Curry has managed to get Aston Abbots included in the 'Music in Quiet Places' series this summer.

You will now have received a copy of AVDC's 'Music in Quiet Places' detailing all the concerts concerned.

Our concert will be on **Sat 20th June at 7.30pm** in the Church. There will be a 'village walk' before it (6.30pm) and wine and nibbles will be served during the interval.

Aston Abbots Good Samaritan's Bingo *reported by Pam Dixon*

Sheila, Tracey and I wanted to say a big **"thank you"** to everyone who attends the Bingo evenings we arrange each month, and to acknowledge their generosity and continued support.

Surprisingly, the majority of people who attend Aston Abbots bingo evenings are not from Aston Abbots, but travel over from Wingrave and even as far away as Aylesbury to join us for a couple of entertaining hours.

When told that several regulars would be away on holiday, we had anticipated a poor attendance in April; however we're delighted to report that numbers leveled up thanks to a few new folk joining us, including some 'Astonians'.

It was a lively evening, with a short break for refreshments, and was rounded off with Christine Fox winning the newly started Snowball of £12 in under 52 numbers.

As any profit, which is not used to maintain the bingo sessions, is saved up and donated periodically to worthy causes, it was great to know that, while we were enjoying our evening, we were able to donate the sum of
£50 to the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Service.

The next Good Samaritans Bingo is on Thursday, 14th May at 7.30pm

For more information contact Pam (681 626) or Sheila (681 649)

Profits from this event are to be kindly donated to Alex Perkin's marathon fund for the Motor Neurone Disease Association

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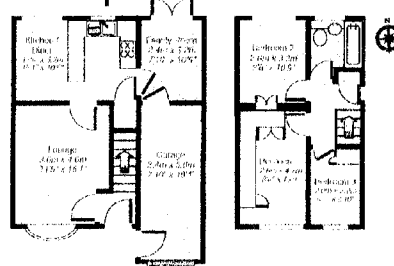
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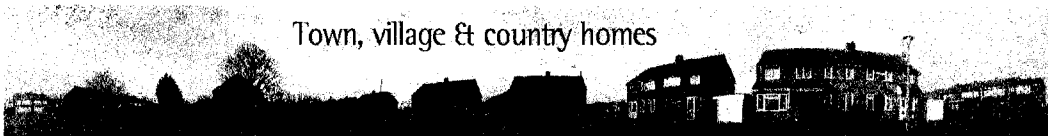
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COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

I can't believe it, someone in the corridors of power must have read the article on food labelling in the Wingrave Communique under Countryside Matters!!

The Conservatives have launched a campaign called 'Honest Food'. This requires clear country of origin labelling. They are calling for all UK meat and meat products to be labelled as British or to carry a Union flag. This meat will have been born and reared in Britain. This is in line with other countries including the U.S.A. and Australia. It will then be mandatory to show the country of origin. If people chose to buy British they will be supporting our farmers and helping to ensure better treatment of farm animals.

A huge majority of people asked – 89%, felt that produce labelled British should be born and reared here. But then, a well known retailer, *Marks and Spencer*, which prides itself on ethical trading falls down occasionally, by selling a favourite national sandwich with a Union flag all over the packet, and then has admitted in the small print on the reverse of the packet that the beef came from Brazil- is that a disgrace or what??

Also a major food retailer, *Tesco's*, sells a pre prepared chicken meal labelled 'Produced in the UK' and has to admit the chicken came from Thailand, yes Thailand, that is pretty awful and what about the carbon footprint!

Now we all hear the government's great plans for recycling and saving landfill, employing hoards of bin detectives and civil servants checking up on us. They also put a tax of £47 a ton on landfill for rubbish, but what they fail to understand is that this just pushes the more unscrupulous members of the community to dump rubbish and not forgetting our usual 'friends' of course, they see this as an excellent excuse to fly tip. Hence my ditches now have the usual discarded McDonalds complete meals packaging but now I also have the delights of car tyres, non digital televisions and computers, yes computers! They have only been popular for a few years. What have I got to look forward to, a trampoline who knows!!

Enough of this moaning, as I write this column, I look out over hundreds of acres of oil seed rape, just breaking out into yellow flowers. The bees will be busy working on that light coloured 'rape' honey. The lambs are growing well and they've now had better weather without the long cold wet spells that can be truly testing. The swallows have returned today therefore we have much to be cheerful about.

James Henderson

ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

There are currently seven members of the Book Club. At our first meeting on 6th May we will discuss 'The White Tiger' by Aravind Adiga.

Next month's book will be selected by Kate Curry.

We will be discussing the book over a glass of something in early June.
If you would like to join in the discussion/fun then please let me know.

There's room for a few more. Ed

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ALLOTMENT DIARY

Well, after some weeks of frenetic activity, the allotment has been dug and composted, and everything that should have been planted has been planted – some things a bit late, but that is par for the course on my allotment! I've sown or planted all my potatoes, onions, carrots (remembering to sow these near the onions, in the hope that this will keep the carrot fly down), parsnip and mange-tout. Still growing in the greenhouse are leeks (which should already have been transplanted outside), my brassicas – red and white cabbage, broccoli and Brussels sprouts – courgettes and French beans; and today I have sown my sweetcorn in the greenhouse. All of these will be transplanted to the allotment in May.

In the greenhouse I am also growing tomatoes, cucumber, red peppers and aubergine, and these have sprouted nicely, and will stay there. At the moment, therefore, it's all quiet on the allotment front. However, as I always seem to do, I am going away in May, and by the time I return there will have to be a further spell of frantic work to get rid of all the weeds that will have grown in my absence. However, this year, like Baldrick, I have a cunning plan. I have reinstated my carpeting over those parts of the allotment which have not yet been planted; and I hope that on my return I will find a weed-free environment beneath the carpet! Watch this space, as they say, to see if I am lucky.

As always, I have been keeping my eye open for allotment related news, and clearly my attention was grabbed by a headline to an article in the Sunday Times in the middle of the month, "**Green Boris sends vegetables to the tower**". Why can't I think of snappy sentences like that for my column? I guess that's why I am only an amateur journalist. . . . I had visions of Boris Johnson ordering antisocial potatoes to be incarcerated in the Bloody Tower, or instructing his executioner to decapitate some rebellious carrots. But, somewhat more mundanely, it seems that in pursuance of his plans to get more allotments in London, about which I have written before, Boris Johnson hopes to convert unused plots of land around the Tower of London into allotments. There are also plans to have veggie plots at Marble Arch, and on the roof of the Hayward Gallery (a modern art gallery in the Southbank arts centre). Boris is going to start the ball rolling by planting runner beans, the paper says, "*in the shadow of City Hall*". (I hope that that is not literally correct; he won't get much of a crop unless they see some sun).

The National Trust has similarly launched a "Grow Your Own" campaign, which encourages landowners to lend spare land – such as derelict building sites or car parks – to families to grow their own food. The Trust has already pledged 1,000 plots from its own holdings, and Network Rail and British Waterways have also promised land. British Waterways have also offered some retired narrow boats for use as floating gardens.

And, in an interesting tie-in with the other big news story of the moment, global warming, Boris is also in talks with Thames Water about them planting vineyards on the banks of the city's reservoirs! Chateau Chingford anyone?

A final thought: isn't it wonderful to have a Christian name that is so instantly recognisable that newspapers don't have to add your surname? No wonder the man is a successful politician!

Peter



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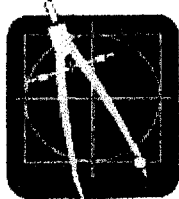
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It is a chance for talent to shine, so as always, there is an invite from anyone from the village or associated with someone in the village to come forward. If you play an instrument, sing or are in a band then just give Nigel (681 152), Neil (681 201) or John (681 685) a ring to fix a time for a chat.

If you want to be part of the organising team then you will be most welcome.

Just call any one above or see us when we are in the pub.

The one thing you can be sure of is a lot of fun.

Tickets will be available from John (681 685) 6 weeks before the show.

The stage will be in a different position this year in the far right corner of the rec. This gives us more room for Gazebos and car parking.

A great night is promised ... and yes ! The Chunkies will be making a return appearance.

Watch for more details in the Chronicle.

HOLD A FISH AND CHIP SUPPER - FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2009

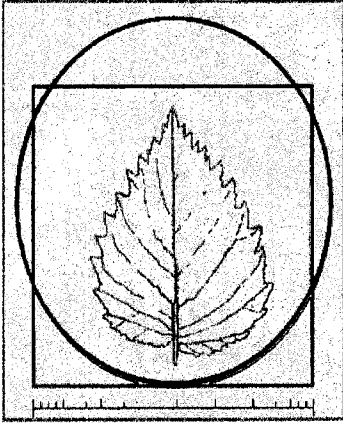
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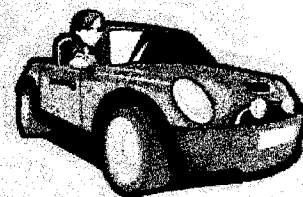
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PAM AYRES

Last summer Alan and I had the great pleasure of having tea with Pam Ayres who is a wonderful lady and exactly how you would imagine her to be. She told us that many people think she exaggerates her Berkshire accent but it is in fact the way she has spoken since she could, and the way of her Mother and Father before her.

Pam comes from a small village in the Vale of the White Horse which used to be in Berkshire but now, much to her dismay, is in Oxfordshire.

Pam is a patron of the Battery Hen Welfare Trust along with names such as Jamie Oliver, Amanda Holden and Anthony Worrall-Thompson. Their agenda is not to condemn battery hen farmers but to work alongside them to encourage better standards of egg production.

Pam has herself "adopted" many battery chickens who continue to lay for at least a couple of years and at about £3-£5 each are very good value.

If any of you have actually seen the state of a battery hen when it comes out from the battery farm I am sure you will agree with me that buying free range eggs is a good thing to do. Of course in this present economic climate it is not always possible but perhaps you could just take a few moments to look at your egg box and see exactly where your eggs are coming from.

If any of you are thinking of keeping chickens please check out the Battery Hen Welfare Trust website at bhwt.org.uk.

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THE GREEN, ASTON ABBOTTS
from 12 noon until 3.30pm
Tuesday 12th May and
Tuesday 17th November 2009

This service is for household waste only. If you have bulky items that you cannot transport to our collection site, we can collect from your home for a fee. See our website or call the number below for details.

AVDC are sorry but the village refuse freighter cannot accept:

- Any electrical items
- clinical waste, e.g. syringes, used dressings
- car parts including tyres, exhausts, batteries, oil
- hazardous waste, e.g. asbestos
- commercial or industrial waste
- building rubble
- paints, liquids, or garden chemicals

For advice about disposing of these materials, details of refuse and recycling collections or the home bulky items collection service:

call **01296 585510**, or see the council's website:
www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/refuse

Rubbish left on the site before the freighter visits will be regarded as fly-tipping and offenders may be prosecuted. If the freighter is unable to visit on any of the dates listed above, we will notify the parish clerk.

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FLOWER FESTIVAL

SPRING INTO SUMMER WITH THE MARSWORTH FLOWER FESTIVAL PLANT SALE

Come along to Gill and John White's amazing plant sale at Horseshoe Cottage, Church Lane, Marsworth, on Saturday 23rd May. Entry is free and you're sure to find something to add a touch of colour to your garden whilst supporting the Marsworth Flower Festival.

Open from 10.30am – 2pm, you will be able to buy great value perennials, annuals and tomato plants plus geraniums and fuchsias for summer colour. Teas and home-made cakes will also be offer as will a raffle: all proceeds will go towards the All Saints Church Flower Festival fund.

Another date for the diary:

Wednesday 10th June: The Jazz 3000 17 piece Big Band makes a welcome return for another concert at All Saints Church, Marsworth, starting at 8pm. Come and enjoy a summer evening of jazz, blues, swing and modern classics in the beautiful setting of the parish church. Tickets are £8 and are available from Annette Botting 01296 662007, and Ken Longhurst, 01296 660711. Wine and soft drinks will be on sale.

Visit www.marsworthflowerfestival.co.uk for more information on this biennial event, which takes place this year from Friday 28th – Monday 31st August at All Saints Church, Church Lane, Marsworth HP23 4LX.

If you would like to become involved with this year's Flower Festival in any way, please contact Ken Longhurst, 01296 660711.

100 CLUB WINNERS FOR APRIL

£50 - Mr L Hinds

£10 - Mr J Abel-Smith

The 100 club membership is due for renewal.
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20th - 27th October 2006

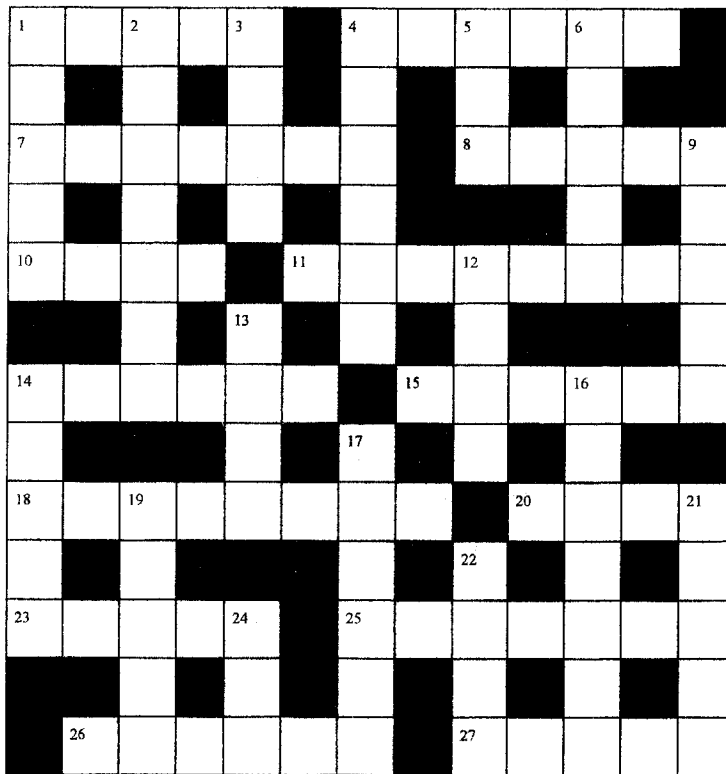
20th December 2006 – 5th January 2007

5th April 2007 – 30th June 2007

16th September – 28th October 2007

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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Ernst 4 Assist 7 Custard
- 8 Early 10 Lego 11 Scrabble
- 14 Frying 15 Opened
- 18 Decipher 20 Bust
- 23 Ended 25 Hatchet
- 26 Brewer 27 Gayal

DOWN

- 1 Excel 2 Nosegay 3 Toad
- 4 Abduct 5 She 6 Scrub
- 9 Yield 12 Alps 13 Snap
- 14 Fudge 16 Naughty
- 17 Tether 19 Cedar
- 21 Total 22 Stag 24 Dew

ACROSS

- 1 Displays (5)
- 4 Type of vegetable (6)
- 7 Belgian city (7)
- 8 Hot drink (5)
- 10 Prepares the soil (4)
- 11 Fence made of bushes (8)
- 14 Dwarf tree (6)
- 15 Our capital (6)
- 18 Used to check dates (8)
- 20 Not warm (4)
- 23 African river (5)
- 25 Another name for helicopter (7)
- 26 Worthless message (4)
- 27 Army doctor (5)

DOWN

- 1 Burnt by steam (5)
- 2 Eight sided shape (7)
- 3 Mixture of meat and veg (4)
- 4 Late meal (6)
- 5 Groove (3)
- 6 Below (5)
- 9 Made of yew (5)
- 12 Get bigger (4)
- 13 Used to store hay (4)
- 14 Good for breakfast (5)
- 16 Relegated from team (7)
- 17 Used for writing (6)
- 19 Drunk in pubs (5)
- 21 Words of song (5)
- 22 Loud noise (4)
- 24 Short for revolutions (3)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

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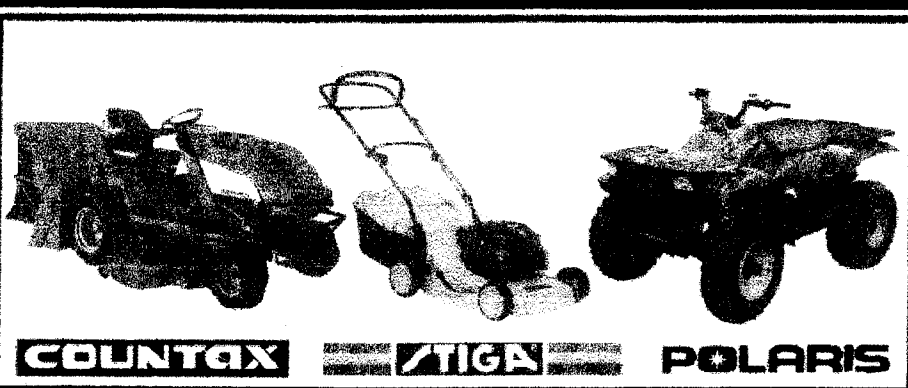
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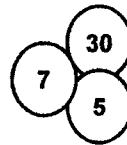
Saturday

30 May 2009

7.30pm Start



REFRESHMENTS



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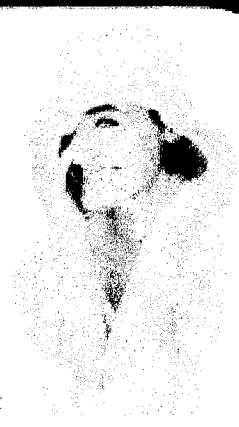
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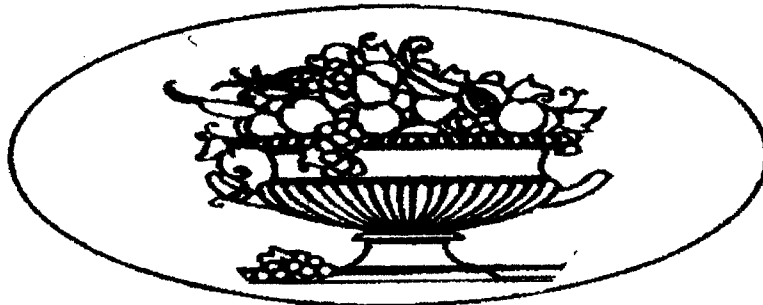
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As many of you know, Steve who provided the shop at the coffee morning in the Church Room has undergone major surgery and follow on treatment and is no longer able to provide this service at the moment.

I have recently spoken to Steve who is doing well and although continuing with treatment has fortunately not lost his ribald sense of humour.

He is adamant that he will be bringing his "goods" back to the Church Room in the near future and I am sure you will join me in wishing him well with his treatment and continuing good health!

RACE FOR LIFE

Myself, Helen Carless and Jane Hall (we all live in Aston Abbotts!) are sending out a heartfelt plea to our friends and neighbours to ask you all to support us by pledging as little or as much as you can for sponsorship for the Race for Life. We are running (well probably jogging - but definitely not walking!) in this year's Race for Life on Sunday 10th May 2009 at Waddesdon Manor, to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

Many of us, whether ourselves, or family and friends, have been affected by cancer in some way and if we are able to support the fantastic work of the scientists, doctors and nurses then more and more people will continue to survive this disease.

We really hope you are able to support this cause, every single pound really, really does make a difference.

If you are able to show your support, any donation, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated and you are able to do so using the following links:

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www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/helencarless

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PARISH COUNCIL

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Tuesday 24th March 2009

Present: - Cllrs. C Higgs, D Dicken, Mrs K Curry, Mrs J Hardcastle, P Shorrocks, R Clarke and P Bruton (Clerk).

There were thirteen members of the public in attendance.

Apologies had been received from A Stefanczyk

The meeting was updated on the status of the Bull & Butcher Development Fund and advised that the woodworm treatment and insulation to the Church roof space had been completed, it was agreed payment would be made. We had also received a quotation for painting the inside and outside of 5 windows and a further quote would be obtained if possible. After discussion it was agreed that quotations should be obtained for potential expenditure on lighting, heating and replacing the curtains.

The following planning applications were considered.

09/00339/APP (Mr & Mrs Adamson, 3 Humphreys Close, Aston Abbotts)

Erection of single storey rear extension

The application was discussed and it was RESOLVED to raise no objections.

08/01621/APP (Mr & Mrs Gibson, Chestnut House, 3 Hunters Way, Aston Abbotts)

Fell one Horse Chestnut Tree.

After hearing the views of the members of public present and considering the research carried out by Council it was RESOLVED to oppose the application on the following grounds:

The tree was in the Conservation area and to fell it would remove part of the character and appearance of the area.

A second opinion into the condition of the tree should be obtained before any decision is made and given AVDC control of the development we would suggest they involve ACORUS to carry out this report.

The advice of the forestry commission is to monitor trees with bleeding canker for further deterioration. The tree in question shows no signs of further deterioration in the last 8 years.

The root damage is to the feeder roots not the holding roots and therefore the tree is not in danger of collapsing.

Additionally Councillor Cooper would speak to the Planning Department to try to defer the application and the Chairman would obtain a quotation for a further report into the tree's condition. The Clerk would look into the options for funding a further independent report.

A list of highways maintenance was handed to the Clerk for forwarding to Councillor Cooper following his email on this subject matter.

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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

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Regrowth tint.....£27.50
Full head hi lites.....£40.00
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PARISH COUNCIL

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Wednesday 8th April 2009

Present: - Cllrs. C Higgs, D Dicken, Mrs K Curry, Mrs J Hardcastle, P Shorrocks, R Clarke and P Bruton (Clerk).

District Councillor Mr P Cooper was in attendance.

Apologies had been received from A Stefanczyk

The Clerk was asked of the outcome of the Waste & Recycling Plant application, it was noted that this had been approved with conditions.

It was also noted the matter of the Pump in Church Row had yet to be resolved and further investigation would be undertaken and reported at the next meeting.

The Clerk reported he had received notification that the planning application for Erection of a barn to store machinery on Land at Windmill Hill Barns had been refused by AVDC.

The meeting was updated on the current status of the remedial works to the windows in the Church rooms. It was noted that one of the windows identified required repairs to the wooden framing. After discussion it was AGREED that a sub committee be authorised to obtain further quotations for the works and provided the total expenditure did not exceed the remaining balance of the \$106 monies, organise the necessary works.

The Clerk read out the letter he had received in response to his letter in respect of the recent planning decision regarding Badgers Oak Farm, that effectively indicated that Legal advice given to AVDC rendered any action immune from enforcement and as a result approval had been recommended.

The Clerk reported that he was continuing to liaise with the Officer at AVDC dealing with the alleged breach of approved details re Hunters Way, however this was proving difficult to progress as the matter was a highways matter under the direction of BCC. It was noted that the matter required rectification by the Developer. The Clerk would try to obtain the contact at BCC to progress, failing that he would write to the Chief Executive.

The Chairman reported to the meeting his recent discussions with the interested parties with regard to the planning application for the removal of the Horse Chestnut tree in the Hunters Way development. It was noted that at present AVDC were not prepared to issue a TPO, however given the strength of feeling in the Parish, it was AGREED that providing the owner was prepared to give access, a further independent report on the condition of the tree would be commissioned. If this report supported the retention of the tree Councillor Cooper would argue for the decision to be deferred.

A meeting to progress the Village plan had been cancelled, however a summary of the outcome of the completed questionnaires was discussed, and this would form the basis of a presentation to the Village for compilation into book form for AVDC. Continued..

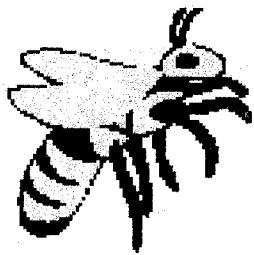


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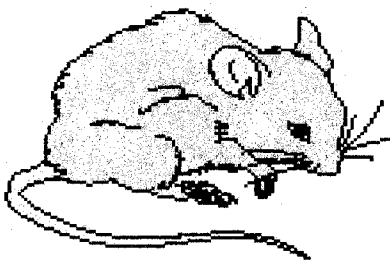
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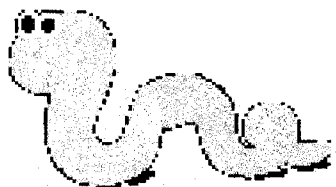
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PARISH COUNCIL

...Continued

It was reported that the most recent Local Area Forum meeting included a workshop on important matters to the various Parish Councils. It was noted that our request for funding a footpath to Wingrave crossroads was one of the top 3 projects, although the final allocation would be decided by a voting system linked to the size of each Parish, the vote had been deferred due to confusion over the application of the voting system. It should be noted that if funding was to be allocated for the footpath it would be on a phased basis. The Agenda for the forthcoming Annual Parish meeting was noted.

It was reported that BCC were in the process of changing all the arrangements for school transport and there was concerned over the impact on Public transport, particularly potential overcrowding. It was noted that County Council had ended all contracts with Private operators and were going out to tender on a different basis. The Clerk was asked to write to BCC to get their views on the impact these changes would have on Aston Abbotts. The Clerk was requested to contact the Police to obtain details of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

It was noted we had been included in the "Music in Quiet Places" series this year, the concert will be in the Church on Saturday the 20th June.

It was felt that there was no requirement for a Commemorative Plaque in the Church.

The Clerk reported he had requested quotations for a streetlight at Wingrave crossroads and he was continuing to liaise with the Clerk at Wingrave Parish Council in order to take a coordinated approach to addressing the issue.

The monthly inspections on the Recreation Ground had been carried out and there was nothing to report.

We had received a grant towards the replacement fencing required and we would be obtaining new quotations as the scope of the works had changed.

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th May 2009 at 20.00 in the Church Rooms.

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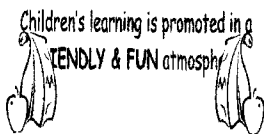
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07983 422752

or

Paul Weston - Committee Chairman
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TALES FROM THE END OF THE BAR

Having been press-ganged into writing something for this illustrious issue of our village communicate I pondered what would be entertaining to you folk. Having completed a little research on the very amusing and educational www.aston-abbotts.co.uk I came across old articles that "Seaman Cheshier" had written, starting in 1986, entitled "Tales from the end of the bar". I thought it would be a good idea to resurrect this title with one of my tales from an afternoon's drinking in the Royal Oak (I can feel some sharp intakes of breath). Here we go!

HAIR EVERYWHERE, imagine you live in one of the towns close by to Aston Abbotts you awake on a glorious Sunday morning, not a cloud in the sky! You proclaim to your loved one "it's such a nice day darling let's go out for a drive into one of the villages and sit in a beer garden and enjoy the sun" So off you pop and arrive in the idyllic Buckinghamshire village of Aston Abbotts, whereby you come across the old thatched building that is the Royal Oak Inn. You enter the bar to find two men (in the loosest sense of the word) sat in what can only be described as a "face off", in fact on first impressions it looks like some medieval duel, which is fought with hair clippers where each man takes a swipe at the others barnet to see how much damage can be done to the other hair doo. You stare at your loved one and go to the bar and order a double whisky!

This was the scene one Sunday afternoon, after a Saturday night fundraising event for the Macmillan Nurses. The fundraising event had carried on for some into the Sunday afternoon with the Gauntlet being thrown down that if the pub could raise enough money, Carlos (The areas Asian Correspondent) & Cheffie (now behind the bar at Ye old Jug in Hardwick) would shave each others hair off. £500 was the target, this was quickly reached because the thought of seeing Carlos with his flamboyant locks and Cheffie with his grey Lego man hair becoming hairless was just something that had to happen. So the clippers were despatched and they were positioned opposite each other, it was literally a hair off, each one of them then proceeded to take chunks of hair off each other, not in a systematic way but more in a crazed drunken mess sort of way. The scene was one of the funniest I have ever seen, you know that laughing that comes from the belly and takes over your whole body making you cry with pain is close reflection of how funny this scene was. Carlos looked like a cross between Baldrick from Blackadder and road traffic accident victim and Cheffie looked like he was morphing into a cross between Minty from Eastenders and Susan Boyle (Britain's got Talent). A truly funny afternoon that I will never forget.

So to summarise you never quite know what you might find when you enter a village pub. I know their not everyone's Martini but I do know one thing when they are gone they will be missed.

Cheers

James Perkins (aka Stretch) 81 The Green

P.S Thanks to all that attended our fundraising events for my brother Alex's marathon run which raised in excess of £3000 for the very worthy Motor Neurone Disease Association.

ST. JAMES CHURCH

We're very lucky in Aston Abbotts in that our Church stands in the centre of the village, providing an attractive focal point, reminding us of its presence by its clock, and bell ringing which has continued to celebrate important events for over three hundred years. It is a much loved part of the fabric of the village with considerable potential for uses other than worship. However, for it to continue to remain in use, like all old buildings it needs basic maintenance which in old structures is expensive. Additionally, there is a need to consider future funding so that it can be updated and the facilities therefore in keeping with present day standards, capable of greater usage and hence (hopefully) capable of generating its own income..

Our main costs

£5086 The annual Parish Share, payable to the Church of England for administration and Vicar's stipend. (up by 14% on last year)

£3,200 Annual heating, lighting & insurance premiums, churchyard maintenance and mowing, costs, plus those for clergy and parish administration (up by 24% on last year)

Every five years our Church is inspected for necessary repair work to the fabric. Our report in 2008 has highlighted a number of quite substantial items. Costs have been obtained for the most urgent repairs and are as follows; clearly well beyond our normal income for the period.

£13,000 Repair of crumbling stonework of the tower and some roof repairs.

£2,300 For treating woodworm in part of the roof.

£500 Repairs to the windows and frames.

Our income

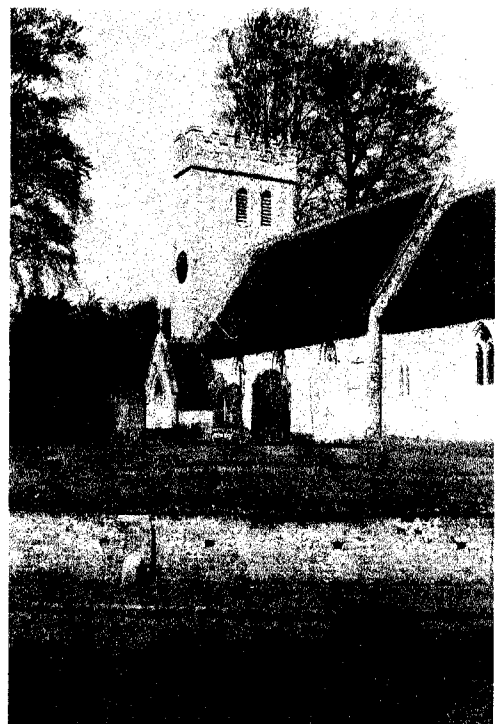
which only just covers our annual costs, comes from:

£4,100 from the annual Fete, and various fund raising functions.

£5,000 from the individual contributions by parishioners and collections taken during Sunday

The shortfall The new church path, lighting, and several improvements within last year have already enhanced the church considerably. Whilst the present congregation of about 17 can raise the bulk of the 'normal' annual running costs this year we need help with the cost of keeping the fabric safe for the future.

©. The major portion of the repairs detailed in the five yearly report by the Church's Surveyor have to be completed to ensure the long term safe use of the building as a public space. This means a total of about £25,000 needs to be raised/spent on it over the next three to five years.



ST. JAMES CHURCH

THE APPEAL

Those of you who value our beautiful church will, we hope, be touched by its current financial plight and will want to assist in some way to ensure it remains open for generations to come as a viable, useable and much loved asset to this lovely village of ours. As PCC members we offer the following suggestions but have no doubt there are many of you who will have far more creative ideas.

Ideally, every pew would be taken each Sunday since this would help meet our costs. Of course, this unlikely to happen!! However, even if you prefer not to come along to church on Sunday's, you could still help!!

Individual or group donations or covenants which might be 'gift aided' could give our depleted funds an initial boost. If you are interested in making such a donation, please contact our Treasurer John Abel Smith who would be very pleased to hear from you.

Much of the minor work needing to be done covers jobs such double glazing the bell tower window, cleaning the clock mechanism, de-rusting and painting a few windows, clearing out blocked gutters. If you are interested in helping with this kind of task, please contact Andy Bystra who would be pleased to work with you.

Perhaps the most effective and longer term way to go would be to look at greater utilization of this lovely building which is usually only regularly used for half a day each week!!!

Perhaps the formation of an autonomous group of those, who, whilst not wishing to become 'church-goers', feel they would like to ensure the church remains open as a viable and beautiful asset to the village. (Many of you will remember the 'Friends of St James').

Such a body might in addition to fund raising have a say on how the use of the building might be expanded, and suggest changes necessary to achieve these aims.

Let us know your ideas!!! 



ST. JAMES CHURCH

Priest in Charge's Annual report – A.P.C.M. for 2008

The following is an extract from Michelle's report on her first year as our 'Vicar'.

I thought it might be of interest to the 'village' since it clearly illustrates how warmly she feels she's been received by Aston Abbots folk. It's not all 'one sided though!! The recent, quite large increase in villagers regularly attending on a Sunday is a pretty good indicator as to her popularity with us. - Thank you Michelle!!

The Annual Parish Church Meeting is a time to reflect back over the year, the first half of which was very difficult for me, and not one I wish to repeat. However, as I reflect back to my time when I began to work with Aston Abbots, I realised that it has been a real privilege to work alongside our PCC and Church Wardens. The way you all have helped pick me up and help me regain not only my strength but my confidence as well for me shows what a loving Christian community you live in.

I have attended the coffee shop regularly since I started visiting Aston Abbott and found it not only extremely friendly but I've really enjoyed the Danish pastries, sausage rolls, brownies, bacon rolls.... All fantastic.

The fete was a wonderful way to get to know so many of you, and the weather was marvellous. Thank you God.

Our Harvest Supper - I have to say the best in the benefice and I'm certainly looking forward to this years!

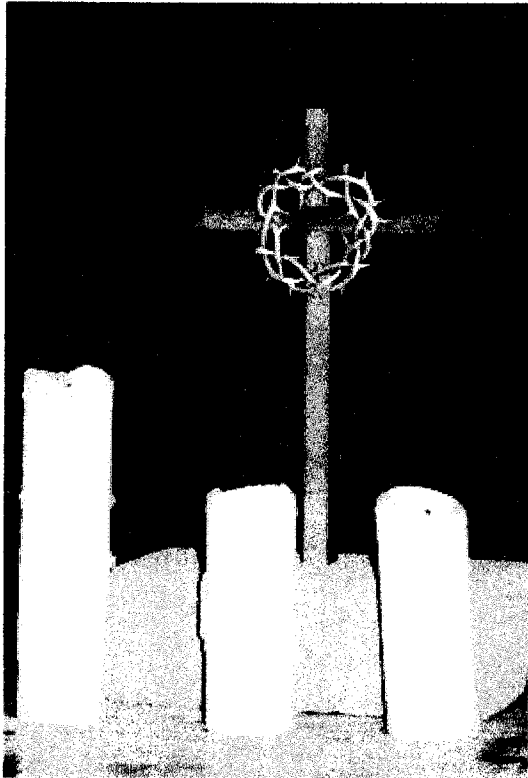
The Remembrance Sunday service with Simon's research with the very surprising numbers in church was wonderful to behold.

And finally, my first Christmas in Aston Abbots, carol singing around the village and ending up in the pub. The Christingle with Christmas tree festival, and I'll never forget the snoring Father Christmas. Then finally our Christmas Day Service, even though I was rather late, our service had a very special feeling about it.

Thank you to our Church Wardens, secretary, treasurer, PCC members, Nigel our organist, those who clean the church, Andrew our server, congregation, and those who do things visibly and invisibly, I thank you all and I look forward to enjoying yet another year with the Parish of Aston Abbots.



ST. JAMES CHURCH



Easter 2009

For Easter Services this year the Church Wardens of St. James donated a beautiful 12 inch walnut cross with a pewter crown of thorns and a paschal candle 24 inches high.

The cross stood on the bare altar for our Good Friday service. The paschal candle was lit for our Easter Sunday service and will be lit for the next 6 Sunday services.

Many thanks to Colln and Shirley for donating such beautiful items to make our Easter services special.

left: the walnut cross as it was lit on Good Friday.

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
Gordon Kemp	681763
Andy Bysra	681690
Anifa Parker	681325
Caroline Abel Smith	681001- Secretary
John Abel Smith	681001- Treasurer

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 :

£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 needed.

Please note than an additional hour over and above the period of the event must be booked to cover setting up and clearing away.

Weddings and Christenings a fixed charge of £50

Please contact Colin Higgs on 681343 if you wish to book the Church Room

ST. JAMES CHURCH

Times are as follows:

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

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

Church Services

St. James, Aston Abbots

May 3 - 6pm Evensong

May 10 - 10am Holy Communion

May 17 - 8am Holy Communion

May 24 - 10am Holy Communion

May 31 - 10am Benefice service at Stewkley

June 7th - 6pm Evensong

June 14th - 10am Holy Communion

June 21st - 8am Holy Communion

June 28th - 10am Holy Communion

St. Nicholas, Cublington

May 3 - 9am Holy Communion

May 10 - 9am Holy Communion

May 17 - 9am Holy Communion

May 24 - 9am Family Service

May 31 - 10am Benefice Service at Stewkley

June 7th - 9am Holy Communion

June 14th - 6pm Songs of Praise

June 21st - 9am Holy Communion

June 28th - 9am Family Service

All Saints, Soulbury

May 3 - 11.30am Family Service

May 10 - 11.30am Holy Communion

May 17 - 11.30am Holy Communion

May 24 - 11.30am Holy Communion

May 31 - 10am Benefice Service at Stewkley

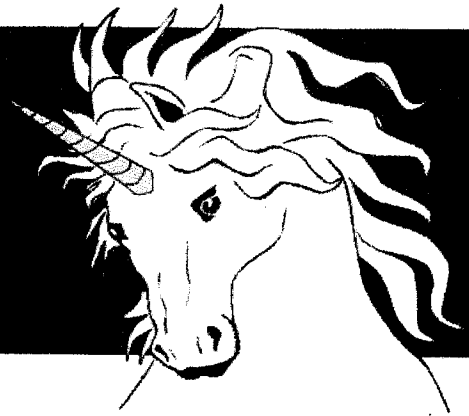
June 7th - 11.30am Family Service

June 14th - 11.30am Holy Communion

June 21st - 11.30am Holy Communion

June 28th - 11.30am Holy Communion

Enjoy...



THE
UNICORN
at Cublington

Unicorn Regulars:

Monday Nights famous Unicorn quiz Night with quiz master John Barnett testing your knowledge and tantalising your memory Monday evenings have become a favourite - teams of up to 6 people - £1 entry per person - 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



TELEPHONE LIST

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123	Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229
Bus Enquiries	TravelLine	0870 608 2608	NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Line	0845 46 47
Buses	L&S	415468	Parish Clerk	Paul Bruton	682322
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191	Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrocks	681260
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Police	Emergencies	999 or 112
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070	Police	Non-emergency	0845 8 505 505
Church Mowing Rota	Geoff Curnow	681459	Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
Church Room Hire	Colin Higgs	681343	Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 516 5165
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Rector	Revd Michelle Morton	01525 240287
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
County Councillor	Quinton Ings-Chamber	688431	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Dial-A-Ride		330088	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Mout	681262
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
Doctor (emergency out of hours)		331511	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
Fete Coordinator	April Curnow	681459	Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544	Wingrave Preschool	Paul Weston	681127
Samaritans bingo	Sheila Humphreys	681649	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	682964
	Pam Dixon	681626			
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000			

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
	Inside	£ 25
QUARTER PAGE	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

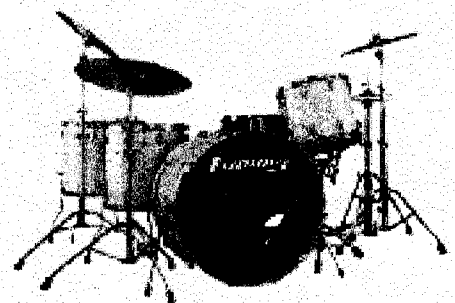
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corriganpc@aol.com

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MY STUDIO
TECHNIQUES / ALL STYLES
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READING / GRADES



Ian Roberts

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01296 680 464 Home

Aston Abbots

For more information about Neighbourhood
Watch or Community Watch contact your local
Watch Office on:



0845 8 505 505

the single non-emergency number for Thames Valley Police

or log on to the website at
www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org



MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

*The Mobile Library stops on The
Green every other Tuesday
between 10.50 and 11.05.*

MAY 12th and 26th

JUNE 9th and 23rd

IRONING

Hate it or just don't have the time!
I can help!

Quick and efficient service, same
day if required.

Just call your "smooth operator"

Denise 07874 021241

(Aston Abbots)

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

PETER SHORROCK (Chairman)

Oak Farm House ~ 681260

PAUL BRUTON (Parish Clerk)

51 The Green - 682322

COLIN HIGGS

6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

RICHARD CLARKE

Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

DICKIE DICKEN

Norduck House ~ 688577

JUDY HARDCASTLE

Marloes, Lines Hill ~ 688070

ANDY STEFANCZYK

73 The Green ~ 0774 2957684
(Street Lighting Officer)

KATE CURRY

2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane - 681137

District Councillor

PETER COOPER

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham ~ 681250

County Councillor

QUINTIN INGS-CHAMBERS

WHATS ON

Sunday 3 rd May	Rambling Club Evensong	Annual Spider Walk with Tea in Church Room St James' Church 6pm
Monday 4 th (Bank Holiday)	Ascot House Gardens Open	Wing 2pm - 5pm
Wednesday 6 th	Whist Drive	Church Room 7.30pm
Thursday 7 th	County Council Elections	Church Room 7am - 10pm
Friday 8 th	Refuse Collection	(not Thursday)
Sunday 10 th	Village Footpath Walk	The Green 2pm
Tuesday 12 th	Mobile Library Bulk Refuse Freighter	The Green 10.45am The Green 12 noon - 3.30pm
Thursday 14 th	Coffee Shop Ladies Club Bingo	Church Room 10 - 12 noon Church Room 2.15pm Church Room 7.30pm
Wednesday 20 th	Annual Parish Council Meeting	Church Room 8pm
Thursday 21 st	Coffee Shop Whist Drive	Church Room 10 - 12noon Church Room 7.30pm
Monday 25 th (Bank Holiday)	Mentmore Arts Festival	The Green, Village Hall and Church
Tuesday 26 th	Mobile Library	The Green 10.45am
Thursday 28 th	Coffee Shop Ladies Club	Church Room 10 - 12noon Church Room 2.15pm
Friday 29 th	Refuse Collection	(not Thursday)
Saturday 30 th	Royal British Legion Bingo	Church Room 7.30pm
Sunday 31 st	Benefice Service Quainton Gardens Open Nether Winchendon House Open	Stewkley 10am
Thursday 4 th June	European Elections	Church Room 7am - 10pm

VILLAGE BULK REFUSE COLLECTIONS
Tuesday 12th May 2009
The Green 12 - 3.30pm

**To place an advert in The
Chronicle please contact**
Phil CORRIGAN
01296 688191

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

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

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

630 Club - meets every Saturday in the Royal Oak at 6.30pm.

New members very welcome.

Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.

681 690

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.

Astonbury

Astonbury 8

**Aston Abbotts
Recreation
Ground**

7.30 pm

**Saturday July
18th 2009**



Flackwell Electronics — Purveyors of Plasma Screen to the Gentry