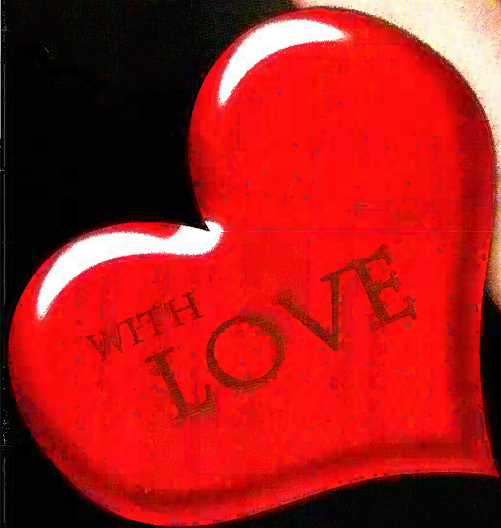


ALL BECAUSE THE LADY LOVES THE 6.30 CLUB

# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTT'S PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO 297 - FEBRUARY 2010



# Editorial

The snow was very beautiful but it went on too long - and my heating bill must now match the National Debt.

Very many thanks to Andy Bystra and his team of distributors who managed to overcome the elements and get the Chronicle delivered. Printing of the Chronicle was delayed as Waddesdon School was closed and the roads were treacherous.

Despite the conditions Steve, of Wingrave Stores and Post Office fame, managed to deliver our newspaper every day and the milkman also usually got to us in the end. The milk float's batteries did expire outside our house on one occasion and a replacement float had to be summoned.

The weather men certainly got their prediction of a mild winter wrong - the good thing is that all the bugs that would otherwise survive have been knocked back and the rough soil in my vegetable patch should crumble to a perfect texture when Spring arrives.

Our daughter Sally has announced that she and her husband Cathal (we call him Carl) are expecting a baby in July. Having four children and a soon to be third grandchild is meaning an endless supply of birthday gifts have to be thought about. Judy celebrated her recent birthday with a trip to the theatre to see Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. A thoroughly vibrant, fun show.

The preliminary meetings for this year's Village Fete are coming soon - see page 5 for details. Please give Vanessa and Tracy your support. A lot of work goes into making the Fete the successful event we have come to enjoy.

The chemotherapy I was anticipating is delayed - I've been recommended for a drug trial that evidently does not have too many side effects.

Ian Roberts and Janice Issitt have kindly offered to help out with the editorial role and are going to edit the June edition.

I'm hoping I get one Valentine card - hope you get one too! The 630 Club have sponsored the front cover - see page 7 for more info.

*John*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- TOWESTER RACE MEETING REPORT
- WHAT'S on in February
- COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS
- RECIPE GIRLS
- ALLOTMENT DIARY

**THE CHRONICLE**

Issue 297

February 2010

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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 26th February**

Please pass items to John Hardcastle 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

## BIRTHDAYS

### February

Charlie Copping	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Ivy Brandon	5 <sup>th</sup>
Pablo Gutierrez	7 <sup>th</sup>
Vikka Drysdale	7 <sup>th</sup>
Andy Garton	9 <sup>th</sup>
Christopher Ellis	9 <sup>th</sup>
Jack Copping	10 <sup>th</sup>
Richard Clarke	13 <sup>th</sup>
Paul Hewitt	14 <sup>th</sup>
Dana King	14 <sup>th</sup>
Irene Lowden	18 <sup>th</sup>
Trevor Hall	18 <sup>th</sup>
Frank McManus	21 <sup>st</sup>
Fred Poulter	21 <sup>st</sup>
Sally Dutton	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Simon Gresswell	24 <sup>th</sup>
Linda Wheaton	25 <sup>th</sup>
Aluan Jones	25 <sup>th</sup>
Nikita Dowdell	25 <sup>th</sup>

### VALENTINE'S DAY

**14<sup>th</sup>**  
**February**

**YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF THE CALENDAR GIRLS - well the Chronicle is going one better!**

Hope you were able to try out Brigitte Gutierrez's Spanish Omlette.

11 lovely ladies have volunteered to suggest a recipe of the month. This month it's Francesca Bean's turn. The following month's are by, Judy Hardcastle, April Curnow, Jackie Farrands, Anita Parker & Margaret Hinds. see next page overleaf for **Francesca's February**

Congratulations to Nigel and Sally Palmer who have become proud grandparents to Amelie, born on 25<sup>th</sup> January and weighing in at 4lbs 9oz which isn't bad for a 36wk baby. Mind you, there were considerably more pictures of Sally's new dog, Bella, on her camera than the new baby!

Get Well to Lyn Manning who is recovering from an operation. Looking good Lyn.

Dave just had a big shock. A few moments ago a marquee landed on his barn! A huge gust of wind just picked it up from the field and off it sailed. It's now lying all mangled in the garden!

Gas Main breaks again! Wingrave cut off again.

Jackie Oliver would like to thank all the neighbours and friends who so kindly helped her Mum, Cath Waite, during the snowy weather.

### THE REVEREND MICHELLE MORTON'S FAREWELL TEA PARTY

People from the four Churches in our Benefice got together to organise a Tea Party on 2nd January to give everyone the opportunity to say farewell to Michelle. So many people came from each of the villages that we know we exceeded the legal amount of people normally allowed in the Church Room at any one time. At least a hundred people came to say their goodbyes and enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea with Michelle who was completely overcome by the love and care shown. A collection had been made in all the villages and the total amount raised came to £617. Michelle had expressed a wish for some cutlery which we duly purchased from John Lewis and the remaining money was given to Michelle to choose something for herself for her new home in Birmingham. There were many tears shed during the afternoon but Michelle went away in the

*Read Michelle's thank-you on Page 5*

ASTON ABBOTT'S KITCHEN  
featuring the Recipe Girls



**Jambalaya by Francesca Bean**

4 x Chicken Breast - Sliced    1 x Yellow Peppers - Diced  
1 x Red Peppers - Diced        1 x Large Onion - Diced  
3 x Celery Sticks - Sliced       2 x Garlic Cloves – Chopped  
Cajun Spice to taste  
85g Tasso Ham (or good smoked)    ½ x Chorizo Sausage - Sliced  
10ml Olive Oil    10g Butter    300g x Tin Tomatoes    25g Tomato Puree  
150ml Chicken Stock    1 tspn Cajun Spice    1 x Cup Rice

**Method**

- Melt butter and oil, sauté onions, peppers, garlic and celery until softened. Remove from pan.
- Add ham and cook until meat starts to brown about 3 minutes stirring frequently.
- Add chorizo and chicken continue cooking until chicken is browned.
- Stir in Cajun spice. Cook for 1 minute. Return vegetables to pan.
- Add tomatoes and chicken stock, cook until chicken is fully cooked.
- Add rice as required.
- Garnish with chopped spring onions.

serves four people

# FETE AND FESTIVAL WEEKEND

## Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2010

### Here we go again Aston Abbots!!

We need to start thinking about the fete and finding new ways of making lots of money to support our village needs. The church room has been booked for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm for a meeting to discuss the planning of the fete. Please come and join us if you feel you can be involved in any way or just if you have any suggestions or ideas. Some of you may know that Tracy and I are the novice organisers this year and will certainly need all the help we can get. April has very kindly given us a head start by booking all the usual attractions but some new ideas would be very welcome. There is always a lot to do even before fete day so if you are not around for the actual day maybe you could help collect items the week before or deliver some raffle tickets 2 or 3 weeks ahead. We will be calling on the people who made last years fete such a success in the hope that they are willing to help again, alternatively you can contact us on 688429 (Vanessa) or 688479 (Tracy) to offer your services.

**Whatever you can do will be much appreciated.**  
**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MARCH.**

Vanessa and Tracy

On the 2nd January the four parishes put together a wonderful farewell for me in the Church Room in Aston Abbots. I have heard that over a hundred people turned up, it certainly felt like it; at one point we could hardly move... and although I was promised that there would be no speeches what was said was heart felt. Thank you for that. I felt so overwhelmed by your love, generosity, and support; the words just wouldn't come out at the time to say a proper 'thank you'. I was thrilled to receive a super set of cutlery and so much money; it will be an enormous help for me in my new home as I need many things.

So, this is my opportunity to thank you all so much and I will never forget the little welcoming village of Aston Abbots that you ought to be so proud of. *Michelle XXX*

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.- *Winston Churchill*

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# 630 cover

Hearing that Will and Vicky Adenay (formally from Rose Cottage) were planning to return from Singapore for a short Christmas break, and that Will wasn't (under any circumstances) going to miss the opportunity of attending the 630 Club on Sat. the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Jan, I thought it might be nice to have a photo to mark the occasion. Although several members were away, I still felt that due to the confines of the pub, my 'Brownie box' was not good enough for the job and sought advice from Janice and Ian. With their 'professional' involvement, it suddenly seemed a 'good idea' to sponsor a coloured cover for the Chronicle using the resulting picture.

With much moving of furniture, Janice managed to 'squeeze in all members who had turned up that night. It couldn't have been easy getting 14 rather 'happy' blokes arranged in some sort of order but she did, and being the perfectionist she is, took some twenty or more 'shots' to make sure of a decent picture.

What I hadn't expected was that Ian then burned some 'midnight oil' and produced this month's 'Valentine' themed cover.

Those on the; back row of the cover, left to right, are;-

**Nigel, Phil, Tony, Lol, Will, Geoff, Marcus and Adrian.**

Second row;-

**Fred, me (Andy), Ray and Kevin**

and in the front;-

**Jeff (the van) and Chris. our 'refugee' from Wingrave.**

Three of us, Ray, Tony and myself, who had regularly 'popped in' for an early pint together on Saturday night's were joined by a few others in about the Autumn of 1990 and the 630 Club was 'born',

Apart from enjoying each other's company in the companionable surroundings of our local pub, and arranging a few 'outings', we have always had the declared aims of extending a warm welcome to newcomers to the village and to supporting village activities wherever possible. These aims continue to be met by the 25 or so member who regularly 'turn up'.

The 'more responsible of us' meet at 6.30 and generally go home soon after 7.30. There are no fees, no rules, just our general aims as above. If you feel you would join us, just come along and make yourself known. Should you need any further info. Please don't hesitate to ring me (Andy) on 681690.

*Finally, very many thanks to Ian & Janice for all their hard work in producing this month's cover.*



## ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

At our meeting on 27th January we discussed Pam Hewitt's selection 'Watching the English' by Kate Fox. We had a lively and interesting discussion about a book that only one of the group read from cover to cover. It's an academic study of 'Englishness', dense prose, and in some respects, ignorant of all the cultures that our country absorbs - we felt it was a very middle class view - one we all recognised and enjoyed in patches.

The next book to read, chosen by Val Smith, is 'Testament of Youth' by Vera Brittain. Meet at Val's house 8pm 24th February. (The book for March, chosen by Sam Crawley, is 'French Leave' by Fidelma Cook. Meet at Sam's house 8pm 17th March).

*If you would like to join in the discussion/fun then please let me know. You will be very welcome. It is good that Jo Perkins partner Alan has joined the group.*

*If your a man who reads books please get in touch. Ed*

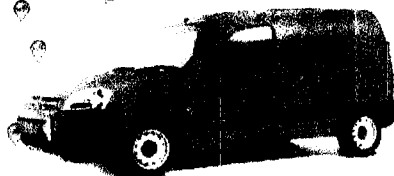
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Hi to all. Yes its me again, James after your money !!! My son William and his best mate Stuart Lucas, ran The Berlin Marathon last year for MS . It was Williams first marathon , Stuart ran The London Marathon last year for MS. It goes without saying that both families were pretty damned proud of the pair of them !! Certainly something I could not have done and I admire the pair of them. I know its a bad time ,it always is , but Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance really deserve our help and support , especially seeing they get no other Funding apart from people like yourselves. One day we might need them . I am not going to bang on much longer and not ask you lot for a fortune, just a few quid on line to get the lads started, and I'm not going to ring you or chase you !! All of you were magnificent last year for Wooden Spoon Stoke Mandeville Cancer Care and Haematology, more of that later. Thanks for your help *James Henderson*

In April I am doing the Virgin London Marathon for the TVACAA - Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

I'm not sure if you remember, but three years ago my girlfriend Natasha had a head-on collision with a lorry, and it's thanks to the Air Ambulance that she made a "miraculous" recovery.

[http://www.tvacaa.org/Patient\\_stories/](http://www.tvacaa.org/Patient_stories/) - this link takes you to Natasha's story on the TVACAA website.

If you would like to sponsor me you can make a donation on my Virgin Money Site - [www.virginmoneygiving.com/will](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/will)

Attached is a picture of Natasha and a member of the crew that saved her.

Thank you so much *Will Henderson*



The next  
**ASTON ABBOTTS GOOD SAMARITANS BINGO**  
will be held on Thursday, 11th February 2010  
starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

*We give our apologies for having to cancel the January session due to the bad weather, and look forward to welcoming everyone to our first Village Bingo of 2010.*

**Aylesbury Growth Arc:** If anyone is interested in looking at the proposals for growth there will be an exhibition in Friars Square on 30th January between 10.00 am and 4.00pm where it will be possible to take part in a consultation exercise. If you miss that date there will be a selection of the exhibition boards at 66 High Street Aylesbury.

**BCC Council Tax Proposal.** BCC is proposing a 2% tax increase for the coming year. This is in the face of increasing costs, declining income and an increase in the demand for services. We need to find savings of £27 million by 2012 or face a big deficit. The government's grant this year has been one of the lowest in the country after several years of low grants. For instance BCC were granted 1.7% whereas other counties got 4%.

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap - *Bob Hope*

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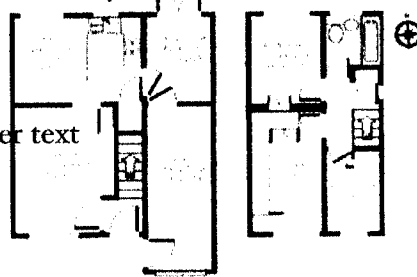
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## Didn't we have a lovely day...the day we went to Towcester!

Yes that time of year had arrived again and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November saw a party of 18 'grown' men gather for the annual day out at Towcester Race course. We'd been saving up for this day for 11 months with Tony Hinds looking after our savings every week since January. Not only did Tony take care of the funds but he also organised the whole day from the coach through to the box at the race course.

The day started at the Royal Oak with everyone gathering at 9 am in the morning (with grateful thanks to Teri for agreeing to open up so early!) Some hardier (some would say 'foolhardy') souls actually got stuck into the ale (your correspondent settled for a mug of coffee!) Tony handed out the traditional brown envelopes (the excess savings once the cost of the day had been deducted) so we were set fair to make our contribution to the bookies holiday fund.

With Tony anxiously looking out of the window the coach duly arrived at just past 10 am and with drinks hastily finished we boarded. The usual banter on board the coach always involves the various methods on how we were going to make our fortune. Yours truly got the usual 'stick' following a failed attempt with spreadsheets a couple of years ago.

On arriving at the course we made our way to the executive box. Tony had done his normal brilliant job and secured the best box on the course. Plenty of room for the two tables in the room and balconies giving excellent views of the course and the winners' enclosure. There was a certain reticence shown on when to start drinking but with that 1 second hesitation out of the way we all tucked in. The service was excellent as usual and the concentration turned to the race cards and how to lose our money on the first race. With 10 runners it gave plenty of opportunities to pick a winner so it was off to the Tote (a five second walk along the corridor!) to 'lay our bets' (technical term – see Lol Hinds for an explanation he reckons he's something of an expert!). We made our way outside to watch the race and then quickly went back in again as it was freezing! The winner came in at 13/8f (see Lol again) with more than one of us picking the winner.

By this time lunch was served and we all tucked into the buffet. There was plenty of food for everyone – even Peter Shorrocks (oh he does like his food!) and even Andy 'Carefree' Shillingford managed to drink his red wine this year without throwing it all over everyone sitting at his table – a first!

Suddenly the next race was upon us and before you knew it the 12:50 'gg.com Handicap Chase' was under way with 'Mr. Prickle' romping home at 85/40 (yes I know, how do they get these prices?) The next race was soon upon us so we all gathered round the race cards looking for inspiration to find the winner. A couple of years ago Mike Bush had found his by picking a horse called 'Paddy Live' (after his son – Patrick) and it duly romped home at a generous 11/2. So when we saw the horse 'Restless Harry' at a generous 12/1 we all expected Adrian Bystra to put the mortgage on it as his son is called Harry. As it flashed by the winning post beating the opposition by 11 lengths (that's a long way according to Lol) we all turned expectantly to Adey – who hadn't seen the horse and didn't have a bean on it – oh how we laughed!

Two more races followed with many of us enjoying a good day – some were well ahead of the bookies at this point, again, another first! It was then that a hush descended in the box as we all turned to the TV in the suite. It was showing the 2:40 at Newbury – the 'Hennessy Gold Cup' was off and there was more than one person interested in this 'off course' result as a significant wager had been placed on Denman to win. I can't say who the punters were but with one fence to go you could have scraped Tony & Lol Hinds of the ceiling they were so excited! Denman duly came in and when Lol's blood pressure had returned to normal we cancelled the air ambulance and hearty congratulations were said by all.

*continued on page 13*

**YOUR CRACKERS** - *Why didn't the skeleton go to the New Year's Eve party? He had no body to go with. Why don't ducks tell jokes when they're flying? Because they would quack up. What must you know to be an auctioneer? Lots. How do snails keep their shells shiny? They use snail varnish. Where should a dressmaker build her house? On the outskirts. Who is the most famous married woman in America? Mrs Sippi - they don't get any better Ed*

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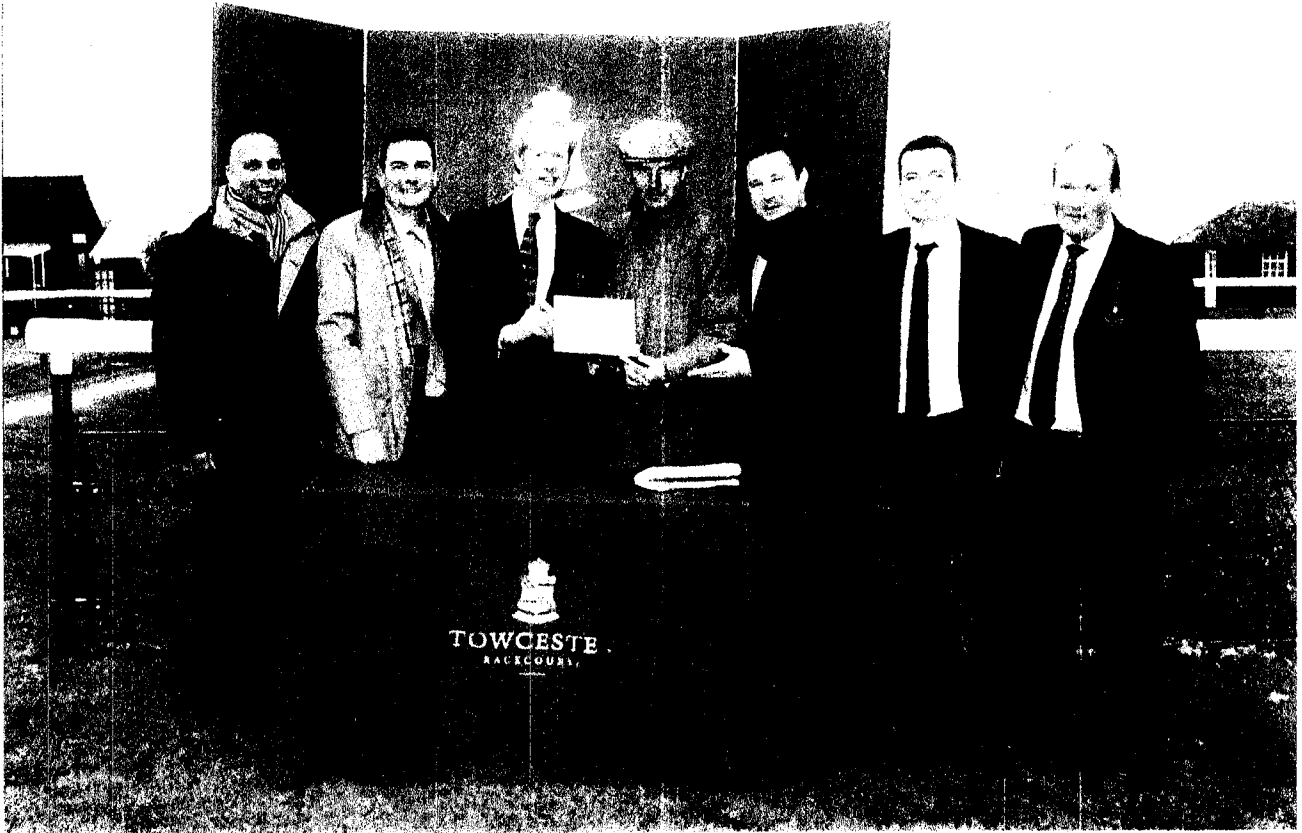
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This, however, was not the highlight of the day – oh no.

Earlier Tony had been invited by the race course management to present the winning prize to the trainer of the 6<sup>th</sup> race (or could it have been the 5<sup>th</sup>?, it's all getting a bit hazy at this point) So Lord Anthony Hinds of Aston Abbots (as he now insisted being called) duly went along with half a dozen reprobates to get their picture taken in the winners enclosure.



*Abi Gupta Adrian Bystra Tony Hinds Guy Upton (on behalf of owner) Andy Stefanczyk Dean Wiggett Andy Shillingford*

At this point (or it could have been earlier I'm not quite sure now) the 'Afternoon Tea' was served. Plenty of scones with cream and jam managed to be consumed but the tea pot remained largely untouched (strange that!) I'm not sure what wine they recommend with fruit scones but Ray Wilkinson was determined to try them all to see which was best. The final race was off at 3:35 (the 'gg.com Tipzone Standard Open National Hunt Flat Race' snappy name that I thought) and with 'Teenage Kicks' coming home at 5/2 (with my white fiver on its nose) the days racing was done.

The coach was waiting for us in the car park and remarkably we all managed to find it in the dark! One or two bottles of wine had been liberated as souvenirs and these were consumed with due reverence. Yours truly and Mike Bush did a splendid rendition of 'The Farmer' (Mike was on descant, I Basso Profundo – you had to be there to appreciate the subtle tones). I would ask the Chronicle to publish the lyrics but I think the Editor would probably be locked up!

We disembarked at the Royal Oak at 5:45 pm (thanks again Teri!) and the hardier amongst us continued with the celebrations (including Micky Pugh who celebrated harder than most!) Everyone agreed that a great day was had by all. Many thanks to Lord Anthony Hinds for once again arranging this fantastic event, when's the book open for 2010?

*Simon Guy*

**The Friends of Whitchurch Surgery      AGM on Saturday, 6th February 2010**

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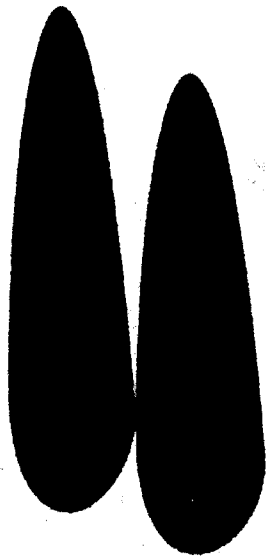
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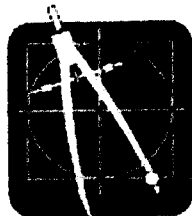
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Aston Abbotts

## Countryside Matters

The big four supermarkets are no friends of the farming community. Take the alarming facts that 1/3 of all products on their shelves now contain imported eggs. Meringues, Yorkshire puddings, cakes, custard, mayonnaise and sauces. A total of 100,000 tonnes of eggs (57% increase on last year) that represents 3.5 million truck food miles.

ASDA has recently declared a commitment to the UK beef industry and was found to have just 43% of retail packs on its shelf of UK origin. How abysmal is that?

While Tesco imports millions of litres of milk a year from Poland and other Eastern European countries, these countries have much lower hygiene standards than ours. All this is driving the desperate plight of our dwindling dairy farmers down hill even further. Please don't get me started on the chicken imports from former eastern communist states. Please look for the little red tractor logo when you go shopping, buy British and help to keep 188,000 people in the livestock industry working.

It has always bewildered me that so called well meaning environmentalists don their white disposable boiler suits and proceed to rip up and destroy trial plots of GM Maize, (these very trial plots are to discover if the GM versions are safe to grow without harm to an expanding population of millions of people on a decreasing acreage) and then the very same people queue in ASDA to pick up their cheap imported frozen turkeys from Brazil, fed on GM Maize and soya beans. How strange is that?

To end on a less grumpy note, we recently took the cocker spaniels to Appleby in Cumbria, picking up on a shoot in the grounds of the wonderful Dalemain House. One of the guns dropped a high cock pheasant over the flooded river in the field in front of the house. Behind him our Fudge jumped into the river swam to the other side found the bird and swam back climbed the bank and all this was done with the pheasant's wing covering her eyes, so she had no idea where she was as usual and dropped this huge heavy cock bird. The gun said it was worth the drive from Essex just to see that retrieved. I think Fudge was pretty chuffed as well, I know we were!! Little Fern is growing well and at 4 months is nearly as big as her mother and aunt. Next year there could be three dogs to work, Ellie, Fudge and Fern. The story continues.

*James Henderson*

**Village Networks** is a Buckinghamshire based company which uses wireless links to deliver high capacity (6-10 speed) broadband services to village communities in north Bucks. It is their intention to eventually cover most of the county. They have offered to make a presentation at any parish council meeting they are invited to. Normally they charge £50 connection fee and a monthly fee of £29. A BT line is no longer required for Broadband access. 6ff

Their website is: <http://www.villagenetworks.co.uk/info/>

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Money can't buy you happiness .. But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.- Spike Milligan

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## LETTER to the EDITOR from Frank and Louise McManus

While sorting through some papers we came across this poem, which must have been found during the time we spent running the pub - put to one side and forgotten about.

We're sure it will bring back some interesting memories to a few local characters.

It sounds like some colourful times were had even then! The poem is called The Inn Mates of Today.

1 Bull & Butcher, House of Fame  
However did you get your name.  
Within your walls there must have been  
Hundreds of characters that you've seen.

2 Now tell me, do they live today.  
In those who come and spend their pay.  
Were sayings used by our forbears  
Like now-a-days, 'get up them stairs'.

3 Did one like Larkins ever prevail  
In those days of good old ale,  
And did he in those days of yore  
Discuss Poona and Lahore.

4 Would he show signs of deep emotion,  
While supping back that luscious lotion,  
Upon seeing someone sitting there  
By the fire, in his chair.

5 And would he moan about the floods,  
And curse his luck with little spuds,  
Then stop and rub his hands and knees,  
And shout 'another missus please'.

6 Was there ever in these parts  
A man so nifty with the darts,  
Like Herbert Whinney the local groom,  
With whom so many meet their doom.

7 Did you ever amongst the millions  
Spot such a one as Bertie Williams.  
When chauffering he's not much cop,  
But watch him get double top.

8 Had you in the days before the fiver  
Someone to sing, 'Old Man River'.  
For it's nothing to hear the locals say  
Tom Brazier's singing here today.

9 His brother Rinkie tops the ridge  
When he renders the 'Rustic Bridge'.  
Tho'fore commencing he must first  
Drink two pints to quench his thirst.

10 Today we've one so full of jokes,  
He always spins 'em to the blokes.  
Doubtless you had such a one  
As Johnny Brandon, the Blacksmith's son

11 If a prize for drinking stout  
Was offered during the local drought,  
I can tell you who's bound to win it,  
That grand old lady Mrs Minnit.

12 I wonder if in the good old days,  
When women wore those awful 'stays'.  
If you had seen one so fine and fair  
As our Miss Winnie of Mayfair.

13 Beneath your roof you've two fine girls  
Who before the glass, comb their curls.  
While Frank, he struggles in the rear,  
That blooming glass he can't get near.

14  
Now Tom, he's known throughout the town,  
For he's a man of great renown.  
And everyone they know his name,  
Because his doughnuts bring him fame.

15 The cricketers think they're really novel  
And often stand inside the hovel  
Crying for doughnuts at any cost,  
Or else the game is good as lost.

16 So far I haven't mentioned Percy,  
With with motors, has no mercy,  
For when he has mechanics fits,  
He pulls the bakehouse all to bits.

17 Through all the hard times we are having  
Just think of poor old Mr Gavin  
For he never went to bed to slumber  
But we think he did the Rumba.

18 For one night, there came a crash  
And to his bedroom Tom did dash  
And found old Gavin there a kneeling  
Peering through the downstairs ceiling.

19 Cried poor old Gavin good as gold  
Mr Humphreys, 'Lo and Behold'!  
As I was about to sleep  
The whole darn lot fell in a heap.

20 Now there's a Lady of the house  
No one ever hears her grouse  
And there really is no knowing  
To the limits of her sewing.

21 So 'Bull & Butcher' house of cheer  
Keep on rolling out the beer  
And never fear of running dry  
For Tom will get some on the sly.

*Written by a 14th Army Wallah who is  
longing for the days when he can raise a  
thirty sixer to his lips, and say, "Here's mud  
in your eye".*

*Typed by another 14th Army Wallah who  
after reading this is speechless.*

21st June 1944      IN THE FIELD

[If you can add any memories to this poem  
about the people mentioned or about the  
times it was written then I be pleased to  
hear. Ed]

## A Valentine Gift For The Young Driver In Your Life - Young Driver Course

The next course will be held during February half term. There is an evening Presentation on Thursday 11th February 2010 from 6.15pm - 9.00pm, where they will see a presentation by the Fire service and have an opportunity to practice the theory and hazard perception tests. This is followed by an all day session (9.00am-4.30pm) on Monday 15th February 2010.

The venue is Derehams Sports Centre, Loudwater, High Wycombe and the course costs £50 for the two days. It is open to 16 - 18 year olds

The course introduces novice and young learner drivers to driving and road safety. It includes car handling in a safe, non-highway location, carried out by experienced local DSA Approved Driving Instructors. Attendees will be shown procedures for obtaining a licence and preparation for the DSA theory and practical Driving Tests. There will also be presentations by representatives from official bodies.

For more details about the course, or to request a booking form contact:-  
Julie Martin on 01628 523235 or Mick Lewis on 0793 955 7542

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## **Coming soon**

Additional trading hours

**Fridays**—Commencing 16<sup>th</sup> October

Licensed cafe will be offering an Evening menu including children's selection until 7.30pm

**Mondays**—Commencing 16<sup>th</sup> November

Cafe 8.30am—2.30pm

Shop 8.30am—3.00pm

**Aston Abbotts Parish Council**  
**Parish Meeting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**Present:** - Cllrs. C Higgs, D Dicken, Mrs J Hardcastle, P Shorrock (Chair), R Clarke and P Bruton (Clerk).  
County Councillor Ms N Glover, District Councillor P Cooper and one member of the Public were in attendance. Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. K Curry.

**Casual Parish Council vacancy** – There was interest in the Parish Council vacancy from a resident who had written to the Clerk and Mr J Perkins who was in attendance. Councillor Shorrock would discuss with both parties the vacancy given the potential cost of an election and report to the Clerk in order to progress the matter.

**Correspondence to note** – The Clerk handed to Councillor Clarke details of the consultation on Post Office services and a seminar on Play area sponsorship. The quote from A Muskett for the annual maintenance of the streetlights was accepted and the Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation for the upgrading of the remaining lights.

**County Council, District and matters** - County Councillor Glover gave an overview of items that she felt were of interest to Parishioners and details would be passed to the Chronicle for inclusion in the next issue. The BCC budget increase in rates for 2010/11 had been set at 2%.

District Councillor Cooper advised that a consultation had been notified on the Supplementary Planning Documents from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Of interest to our Parish was the planned development of the Northern Arc that included the housing near Bierton. There were exhibitions for members of the Public and the Clerk had posted details on the Parish Notice Board.

The meeting was updated on the progress of the Pathfinder process to provide savings in the District budget. If any parishioners had any questions regarding the forthcoming election and in particular the situation regarding Mr J Bercow a good reference was the internet and an article on the House of Commons website entitled Speaker and the General Election.

**Village Plan** – Councillor Dicken reported that various pieces of the plan had been prepared and a meeting was to be arranged. Councillor Dicken to contact Mr Elwood to arrange.

**Land Sale A418** – Councillor Shorrock reported he had attended a recent Parish meeting of Wingrave Council to offer our support in any action that may be possible. It was clear that until there was any breach of planning then here was little we could do, therefore it was important that everyone remained vigilant any suspected breach is reported to the Planning Enforcement Team at AVDC.

**Footpath to Wingrave Crossroads** – The meeting discussed the recent work on the 1st phase of the footpath and there was general consensus that it was very welcome. However Councillor Shorrock raised whether a footpath similar to one at Weedon would cost less and therefore completion to the Crossroads could be achieved sooner. There was concern over the suitability of this type of footpath particularly for the needs of the potential users including pushchairs. Additionally it was felt a grant may not be available for a lower specification. Our application for Phase 2 would be discussed at the Local Area Forum meeting scheduled for the 4th February.

**Planning** - The Clerk advised he had received details of a feasibility study being undertaken for 5 wind turbines near Wing. There would be a consultation before any planning application. The details were handed to Councillor Shorrock and the matter would be discussed at future meetings.

**Recreation Ground** - The monthly inspections had been carried out and there was nothing to report. The Clerk reported that we had been awarded a £700 Grant from the Community Chest Scheme, and Councillor Clarke would progress the works.

The dates of future meetings were agreed and it was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be

## **Animal Funtime**

Two day event. The countryside comes to town to give everyone the chance to feed and stroke ducks, lambs, rabbits and many more farmyard animals.

**Location:**

**Kingsbury Square Aylesbury**

**Date(s): 06/02/2010 to 07/02/2010**

**Time(s): 11:00AM to 3:00PM**

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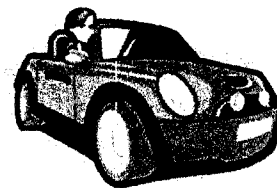
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Saturday	9:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

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# Aston Abbotts & Cublington Ladies Club

The club arranges for speakers to give talks at most of their fortnightly meetings. They cover a very wide range of topics as can be seen from the list I've published below.

The invitation is not restricted to just ladies!!

So!! - If you feel you might be interested in any of these, why not 'get out of the house for a while and come along and enjoy a n interesting and convivial hour or so.

A small charge of £2.00 is made to help with the cost of speakers but this includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

## PROGRAMME FOR EARLY 2010

- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Jill Carey "Island Odyssey"
- Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Dr. Tony Maisey "Spare Parts"
- March 4<sup>th</sup> Alison Lewis "The role of a Magistrate"
- March 11<sup>th</sup> Coffee morning
- March 18<sup>th</sup> Jackie Green 'Modern poetry made fun & easy'.
- April 1<sup>st</sup> Valerie Carroll ' Behind the scenes of a Royal Footman'
- April 15<sup>th</sup> Spring Lunch.
- April 29<sup>th</sup> Rosemary Wakeman 'No phones on Saturdays'
- May 13<sup>th</sup> Sue Cato 'Fundraising can be such fun'
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Peter Knight 'A talk on various subjects with humour'

**Ladies Club – Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.**  
15 members and 2 guests were present at today's meeting held in the church room Aston Abbotts. The Chairman, June Brine welcomed everybody and the minutes were read and approved. She then introduced our speaker for today, Mr. Peter Wenham who had brought along a box of items dating from Victorian to the 1940's. He proceeded to talk about each, revealing their interesting and diverse histories. She was thanked by Mrs. Shirley Ford for a very interesting and nostalgic talk. Our tea hostesses today were April Curnow and Margaret Hinds and the raffle was won by Avril Bradley Davis

*Shirley Ford*

## New Year, New Presents – keep them safe

How better than to start the new year with a resolution to keep your property safe. Aylesbury Vale District Council and Thames Valley Police are working in partnership to keep burglary low over the New Year period by encouraging residents to safeguard Christmas presents by using property marking kits.

The kits include a UV marker, which enables valuables to be marked with your house number and postcode so if goods do get stolen and then recovered by the police they can be returned to you.

Marking your property is quick and easy and is a fundamental deterrent to thieves as it exposes them to risk if caught and prevents them from selling goods on.

For a free UV property marking kit, please call into Customer Services at Aylesbury Vale District Council, 66 High Street, Aylesbury.

The UV property marking pens will also be available for residents to collect from the AVDC desk in the Buckingham Centre/Library, Buckingham from the beginning of February



**Council and Police working together to reduce crime and disorder.**

Student Howlers - collected by humorist Richard Benson

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Two polar bears  
~~Three~~ Four Seals

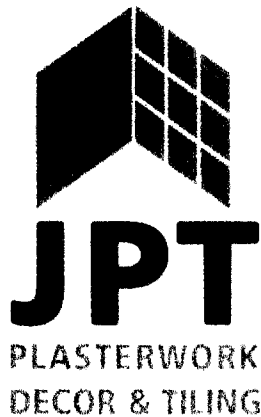
What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?

Unusual names

What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for Bicycles.

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe.- Jimmy Durante



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## ALLOTMENT DIARY

What does one do in the winter months, to fill an allotment diary, when no-one in his right senses is going anywhere near his allotment? I've been down to my allotment two or three times in January, to pull up some cabbages, and to pick sprouts, and each time I have had the place to myself. I went there twice during the big freeze at the end of December and the beginning of the month, when the snow was still laying 6 inches thick on the ground; and while I have never been to Siberia, I had the strong impression that this was what Siberia would be like. It was also quite evident from the lack of footprints in the snow, that most of my fellow allotment holders were relying on vegetables they had already picked, or else were buying their stuff from a supermarket or greengrocer.

Talking about footprints in the snow, did you see the wonderful story in the papers during the first two weeks of January, about police being called to investigate a burglary. They turned up in the morning after the offence had taken place, and were able to follow the burglars' footprints in the snow from the burgled house to a house two blocks away, where the burglars lived! I don't know if the culprits said "It's a fair cop, guv, you've got us bang to rights", but that would have been the icing on the cake.

Since I've got nothing current to write about, let me tell about some interesting allotment history that I have just read. It seems that the first mention of allotments comes from late in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, when allotments of land were attached to tenant cottages in recompense for the repossession of common land, but there was continual argument and dispute between the old landowners: the Crown, the nobility and the Church on the one hand, and the allotment holders on the other.

In 1649, after the end of the English Civil War, and the execution of Charles I, one Gerald Winstanley led a group of starving men in a protest that the common people of England had been robbed of their birthrights by the Normans. (This seems a bit rich, bearing in mind that the Norman invasion had occurred nearly 500 years earlier – a bit like Flanders & Swan joking in the 1960's that the Irish were still inclined "to blow up policeman, or so we have heard, and blame it on Cromwell and William the Third")

Be that as it may, they took over common land in St. George's Hill, Surrey, and, with food prices at an all-time high, began to cultivate it. Winstanley claimed that all men had a "right to dig". They were therefore known (many years before the discovery of Australia) as "The Diggers". He also argued – many years before Lenin – that if the common people would form themselves into self-supporting communes, there would be no place in society for the ruling classes: all men, he said, were equal.

The movement spread, and although the basic ideas of growing vegetables seems mild enough, the threat to the established order and the class system in England was regarded as so great that Winstanley and his "Diggers" were subdued by thugs hired by local landowners, and the experiment had to be abandoned.

However in the industrial Revolution, and its aftermath, it became apparent that the people who had moved from the country to work on the new-fangled machines in the new towns that sprang up needed to be fed (and kept out of the alehouses and mischief), and the modern allotment system came into being – even if Winstanley's ideas of social equality proved to be elusive. *Peter Shorrocks*

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On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January all of Key Stage 2 children visited the Mosque in Havelock Street in Aylesbury. We were welcomed there by Mr Mohammed Khan who is a member of the Mosque Committee. He showed us around and gave us a fascinating insight into his faith. In the afternoon Class 5/6 wrote reports about their visit. Please take the time to read the one written below by Josie Featonby- Roberts a Year 6 pupil. As well as being an interesting and lively account, it is a good example of the high quality writing being produced in the top years of our school.

*On Wednesday this week Mrs Perkins peeped through the doorway and said the words we'd all been waiting for,*

*"The bus is ready!"*

*"Right, let's go" said Mrs Britnell and we all jumped up, grabbed our coats and walked down to the bus.*

*After a diverted journey into Aylesbury we arrived at Havelock Street. It was quite a long, narrow street in which many cars were parked, so we had to walk down the road past what seemed like an endless row of coloured houses, until the sight of the Mosque jumped into view. It was the most beautiful, amazing sight of a huge, silver, sparkly dome and a huge tower called the minaret.*

*Eventually a Muslim man came driving through the big black gates and told us he was Mr Khan and he was going to show us around the Mosque.*

*The first thing we had to do once we got inside the beautiful building was take our shoes off to respect the Mosque and the Muslim religion. After removing our footwear we walked up some stairs and the sight was magical. It was a huge room with lots of big wooden doors leading off into more rooms. The floor was the best part, it had a colourful carpet with lots of patterns and pictures of beautiful leaves and flowers. Mr Khan told us that the room was called the Courtyard as it used to have no roof.*

*We saw many other rooms such as the prayer hall, wash room, girls learning room, boys learning room and the room I loved the most was the main worship room. It had a big chair at the front of the room, which was where the Imam would sit. The ceiling was very interesting as it had many writings from the Qur'an and a big chandelier shone from it too.*

*I thought the Mosque was a very beautiful building and I feel the Muslim religion is quite a bit like our Christian religion as they believe in one god and have messengers like us.*

*I think it was very good going to the Mosque as I loved learning about the Muslim religion and I think it is very important to learn about other religions including ours.*

*By Josie Featonby-Roberts, Year 6*

**Valentine's Day** has regional traditions in the UK. In Norfolk, a character called 'Jack' Valentine knocks on the rear door of houses leaving sweets and presents for children. Although he was leaving treats, many children were scared of this mystical person. In Wales, many people celebrate Dydd Santes Dwynwen (*St Dwynwen's Day*) on January 25 instead of or as well as St Valentine's Day. The day commemorates St Dwynwen, the patron saint of Welsh lovers. In France, a traditionally Catholic country, Valentine's Day is known simply as "Saint Valentin", and is celebrated in much the same way as other western countries. In Spain Valentine's Day is known as "San Valentín" and is celebrated the same way as in the U.K, although in Catalonia it is largely superseded by similar festivities of rose and/or book giving on La Diada de Sant Jordi (Saint George's Day). In Portugal it's more commonly referred to as "Dia dos Namorados" (Boy/Girlfriend's Day).

In Denmark and Norway, Valentine's Day (14 Feb) is known as *Valentinsdag*. It is not celebrated to a large extent, but many people take time to eat a romantic dinner with their partner, to send a card to a secret love or give a red rose to their loved one. In Sweden it is called *Alla hjärtans dag* ("All Hearts' Day") and was launched in the 1960s by the flower industry's commercial interests, and due to the influence of American culture. It is not an official holiday, but its celebration is recognized and sales of cosmetics and flowers for this holiday are only exceeded by those for Mother's Day.

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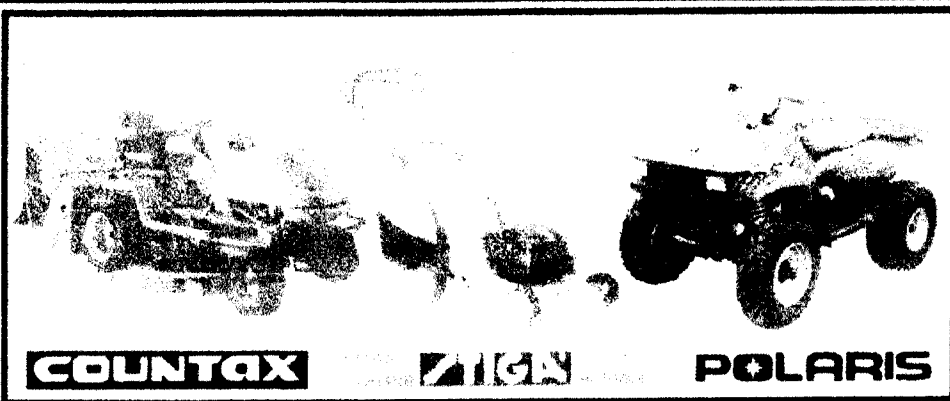
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**FOUR THINGS YOU PROBABLY NEVER KNEW YOUR MOBILE PHONE COULD DO**

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:

**EMERGENCY**

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialled even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

**KEYS**

Have you locked your keys in the car? Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone: If you have a mobile phone, you can use it to unlock your car door. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock.

Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk). Editor's Note: It works fine! We tried it out and it unlocked our car over a mobile phone!

**BATTERY**

Hidden Battery Power Imagine your mobile battery is very low. To activate, press the keys \*3370# Your mobile will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your mobile next time.

**STOLEN**

How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone? To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: \* \* 0 6 #

A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone gets stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

**ATM**

If you should ever be forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine, you can notify the police by entering your PIN # in reverse. For example, if your pin number is 1234, then you would put in 4321. The ATM system recognizes that your PIN number is backwards from the ATM card you placed in the machine. The machine will still give you the money you requested, but unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to the location. This information was recently broadcast on CTV by Crime Stoppers however it is seldom used because people just don't know about it.



**START TO DISCOVER YOUR FAMILY HISTORY**

A six hour taster day for absolute beginners

Do you want to learn about your ancestors? This brief introduction to family history gives you the chance to find out how to go about it, from talking to relatives to using Record Offices. It will set you on your way, wanting to know more!

**SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH FROM 10 TO 4**

This WEA course will be held at Wingrave Methodist Church. Course fee £22 Pre booking for this course is essential. If you would like to find out more, or book a place, please contact Roberta Smith on 01296 681219 before 6<sup>th</sup> March.



Explain the phrase 'free press'.

When your mum irons trousers for you.

Joanna works in an office. Her computer is a stand-alone system. What is a stand-alone computer system?

It doesn't come with a chair

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.

Learning to speak Latin.

Snowman spotted early in the Snow Season gracing 50 The Green. Ed

**£1,000 REWARD**

information lead to/or safe return:



Stolen from Claydon on 31st Dec 2009, at 10 am

Contact Paul:  
07793 601523

Date: 08-02-2010 to 27-02-2010  
Time: Saturday afternoons  
Location: Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury

Drop into the Museum on Saturday afternoons and find a little extra to add to your visit, from family back packs and gallery activities to trails and talks

**Discovery Saturday themes in February**

- 6th Roman coins
- 13th Amphibians and reptiles
- 20th Toys through the ages
- 27th Old photographs

**Distribution**

Firstly let me thank all the distributors of the Chronicle who turn out throughout the year, in all weathers, to deliver to each door in the village.

Unfortunately, the January issue was a little late; not because our distributors couldn't 'tear themselves' away from their firesides, but because of the snow.

Although John had got the 'camera ready' copy to me before the new year and I had got it to the school, they couldn't print it before the school's staff had returned from their Christmas break. On the day that it should have been ready, (the Friday) I decided it was unwise to attempt to go to Waddesdon because of the state of the un-gritted minor roads. On the following Monday when I did get there, I discovered the school had been closed all the previous week anyway!!

Jill Carter who prints and compiles the Chronicle for us, and who lives in Waddesdon had tried to get in to print it on the Friday, only to find the school locked up and deserted. By the time I arrived they had just been printed so we shared the task of stapling together.

If your Chronicle was rather untidily stapled, it was probably one I had done!! *Andy Bystra*



I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue : - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.' - *Eleanor Roosevelt*

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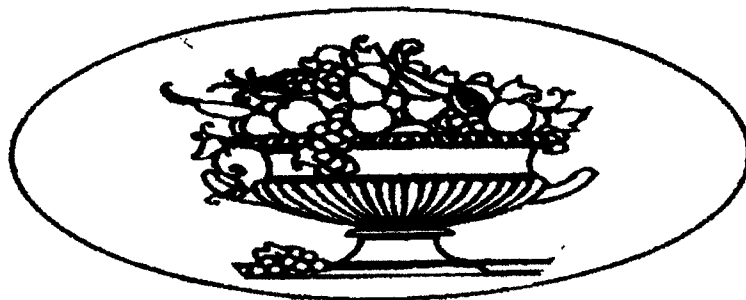
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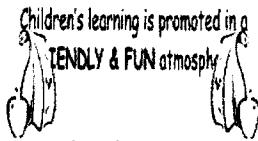
Monday to Friday 9.20-11.50

The Community Centre, Church St, Wingrave

Contact: Sally Remsell - Pre-School Leader  
07983 422752

or

Paul Weston - Committee Chairman  
01296 681127



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Please telephone Jayne for further details or email to receive a selection of sample photographs.

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2nd & 16th February

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

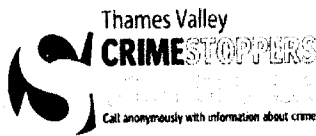


**0845 8 505 505**

the single non-emergency number for Thames Valley Police

or log on to the website at

[www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org](http://www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org)



## CHURCH ROOM

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£20 per hour for non residents  
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Please note that 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

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

**Kate Curry**  
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane – 681137

**District Councillor**  
**Peter Cooper**  
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham – 681250

**County Councillor**  
**Netta Glover - 688357**

### Parochial Church Council

(Ian Olgivie 01296 661479)

**Shirley Ford 681865 – Churchwarden**

**Colin Higgs 681343 - Churchwarden** **Gordon Kemp 681763**

**Andy Bystra 681690**

**Anita Parker 681325**

**Ann Goodman 681763**

**April Curnow 681459**

**Caroline Abel Smith 681001 – Secretary**

**John Abel Smith 681001 - Treasurer**

### 100 Club Winners for January

£50 - Mr K Bignell

£10 - Mr G Brown

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



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28<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006

6<sup>th</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007

#### High season £ 350.00 / week (€ 550)

1<sup>st</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2007

#### Mid season £ 300.00 / week (€ 450)

20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2006

20<sup>th</sup> December 2006 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007

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

16<sup>th</sup> September – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007

For more information or to book call Andi or Becky Swain on 01296 670388 or visit our web site at [www.espanolvilla.com](http://www.espanolvilla.com)



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QUARTER PAGE	Full	£ 20
	Half	£ 15
	Quarter	£ 10

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**Phil Corrigan**

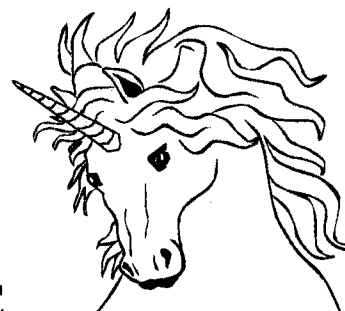
5, Nash's Farm, Aston Abbots, Bucks

01296 688191

[corriganpc@aol.com](mailto:corriganpc@aol.com)

# Come and sample the delights of the new look Unicorn!

Come and sample the delights of the new look Unicorn. Great beer, warm log fires with completely refurbished facilities including a brand new kitchen and new Depths of Winter menu from January 13th. You'll be sure of a very warm welcome and we would be delighted to see you very soon.



THE  
**UNICORN**  
at Cublington

*Aylesbury Vale Pub of the Year 2009!*

## Forthcoming events at The Unicorn

### February

Live Televised Coverage of the Rugby 6 Nations to be shown throughout February and March with National Food / Drink Promotions for selected games.

#### Saturday 6th - Sunday 7th

Ireland v Italy, England v Wales, Scotland v France

#### Friday 12th - Sunday 14th

Valentines weekend (Special Valentines Menu)

#### Saturday 13th - Sunday 14th

France v Ireland, Wales v Scotland, Italy v England

#### Tuesday February 16th - Pancake Day Menu

#### Friday 26th - Sunday 28th

Wales v France 8pm, England v Ireland, Italy v Scotland

#### Friday 26th

Fine Dining with Jazz from Anything Goes

### March

#### 1st St Davids Day -

lunch and dinner with a Welsh flavour

#### Saturday 13th - Sunday 14th

Ireland v Wales, Scotland England, France v Italy

#### Sunday 14th Mother's Day

Treat your Mum to an unforgettable Mothers Day Meal and we'll do the washing up!

#### 17th St Patricks Day

- lunch and dinner with an Irish flavour

#### Saturday 20th

France v England, Ireland v Scotland, Wales v Italy



## PLUS enjoy these Unicorn Regulars:

Every Friday and Saturday a  
**special Kids menu** from 6-7.30pm

### PLUS:

**Coffee mornings** now on **Wednesdays**  
as well as **Fridays** - home made cakes,  
coffee and chat from 10.30am

### PLUS:

#### Monday Nights is Quiz night

The extremely popular Unicorn Quiz.  
Starts at 8pm - why not bring a team?

#### Special Quizzers Menu

**PLUS:** Tuesday Nights are Club Nights -  
A steaming Bowl of Homemade Soup with Freshly Baked  
Bread only £3.50 to Cublington club members.

If you plan to eat at The Unicorn we suggest  
always booking in advance. Please contact Sharon  
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The Unicorn, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 0LQ

Please see web site for full details [www.theunicornpub.co.uk](http://www.theunicornpub.co.uk)

# 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**

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

7/2 6 pm Evensong - Ian Ogilvie  
 14/2 10 am Holy Communion - P Binns  
 17/2 10 am Ash Wednesday Service - Ian Ogilvie  
 21/2 10 am Holy Communion - visiting priest

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. 6pm – worshippers from all 7 Parishes (Aston Abbots, Cublington, Cheddington with Menmore, Soulbury, Stewkley, Wing and Wingrave) are invited to gather for a Songs of Praise at Stewkley.

SIDESPERSION	CLEANERS	FLOWERS
7th Andrew	Colin/Caroline L	Colin
14th Caroline L	Ann/Gordon	Colin
21st Gordon	Shirley/Andrew	No flowers in Lent
28th April	April/Anita	No flowers in Lent

## Mayonnaise Jar & Two Beers...

*When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 beers.*

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him.

When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and filled it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full... They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two beers from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand.. The students laughed..

'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.

The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions---and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else---the small stuff. 'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls.

The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children.

Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents.

Enjoy your friendships. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18.

There will always be time to clean the house.

Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented.

The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked.'

The beer just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers with a friend.

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Shampoo, set + put up.....£30.00  
Shampoo + set.....£15.00

Mens

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Wet cut.....£10.00  
Cap hi lites.....£15.00

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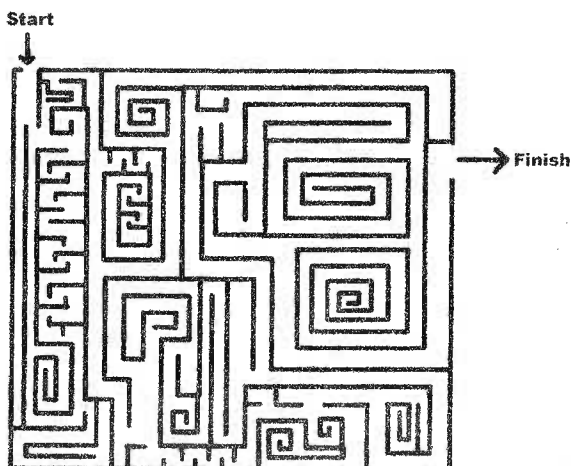
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Buses	L & S	415468
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Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070
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County Councillor	Netta Glover	688357
Dial-A-Ride		330088
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250
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Fete Coordinators	Tracey Hinds	TBA
	Vanessa Worrall	TBA
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865
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Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrock	681260
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Police	Non-Emergency	0845 8505505
Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
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Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Paul Weston	681127
Wingrave Post Office	PO Only	682964
Wingrave Post Office	Stores	681696
Wingrave School	Office	681436

*please advise of any errors or omissions*



Get To The Other Side Of The Maze

## THROUGH A STRANGER'S EYES

For the past 3 years or so, a very pleasant fellow (Malcolm) who lives in Aylesbury, regularly parks his car at the top of Lines Hill to enjoy the view. A widower, he's nearly always on his own, so, if I spot him during one of my daily (well almost) walks to Weedon, I stop and have a chat. We cover all the usual topical stuff but he nearly always mentions how much he appreciates the peace, quiet and beauty of Aston Abbots and the surrounding countryside. Last week, we had a longer than usual chat since he's shortly due to go into hospital for a rather serious stomach operation. As I left him, I was in a somewhat reflective mood and tried to see our village through his, an outsider's eyes. Certainly the village is very attractive and must appear something of a sleepy backwater to the casual observer (particularly during the week). However, as I've tried to get across to Malcolm during our 'roadside' chats, we're a very social village and there always seems to be plenty 'going on'.

For example, we have the amazing team of people who organize, set up, run and clear away our major fund raising event, the annual fete. Then there's the 630 Club who've been meeting in the pub for nearly 20 years and who's 'membership' is steadily increasing. There's the 'GNOMES' for those ladies who like to chat over a 'social' drink while the Ladies Club (who now welcome guests) prefer to take afternoon tea whilst listening to interesting speakers. Of course there are our 'thespians' who produce a wonderful Cabaret (if you can get tickets) and of course that amazingly popular event 'Astonbury' each year, to which most the village, both young and old love to attend.

There's also the dedicated team who produce and distribute 'The Chronicle' each month through the year; without doubt the best presented and interesting village magazine for miles around.

We've a conscientious and hard working Parish Council and our bell ringers who wake us every Sunday! Also, despite considerable 'bad luck'!!! 'loosing' several Vicars recently, we've a growing congregation at our church and an enthusiastic PCC who organize many fund raising events in the 'hope' of eventually being able to afford some of the much needed ongoing church repairs.

There's that great bunch of 'lads & lasses' who mow the churchyard grass throughout the summer, the emerging 'Book Club', those who organize and attend our very popular Thursday coffee morning, the Gun Club who cause 'mayhem' in the pub every other Sunday!! Oh, and of course all those who regularly attend our very own 'watering hole', The Royal Oak.

As all these village activities ran through my mind, I realized we're like that proverbial swan; serene to the casual passer by but with a large number of people 'paddling' away beneath the surface to ensure this lovely village of ours remains an enviable and glorious example English country life. Long may it thrive!!





# Pest Control

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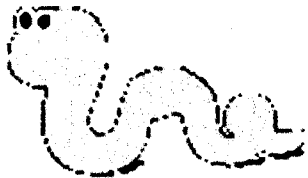
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**E: [jim@mtsfc.co.uk](mailto:jim@mtsfc.co.uk)**

# What's On In February

Monday 1st	PCC Meeting	Church Room 7.30pm
Tuesday 2nd	Mobile Library	The Green 10.50am
Thursday 7th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon
	Ladies Club	Church Room 2.15pm
	Whist Drive	Church Room 7.30pm
Saturday 7th	Rambling Club meet Milton Keynes Pagoda 2pm	
	Evensong	St James Church 6pm
Thursday 11th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon
	Bingo	Church Room 7.30pm
Sunday 14th	Valentines Day	
	Village Footpath Walk	The Green 2pm
Tuesday 16th	Pancake Day	
	Mobile Library	The Green 10.50am
Wednesday 17th	Ash Wednesday Service	St James Church 10am
Thursday 18th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon
	Ladies Club	Church Room 2.15pm
	Whist Drive	Church Room 7.30pm
Wednesday 24th	Parish Council Meeting	Church Room 8pm
Thursday 25th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon
Friday 26th	Rambling Club Games Evening	
		at Moorlands Wing 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 6.30 pm. 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 8 pm onwards - all Ladies very welcome - GNOMES specialises in intelligent conversation over a glass of something.

### SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED

FREE! YORKSHIRE TERRIER. 8 years old. Hateful little bastard. Bites!  
 FREE PUPPIES Half Cocker Spaniel, half sneaky neighbour's dog.  
 FREE PUPPIES. Mother, a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd. Father, Super Dog . . Able to leap tall fences in a single bound.  
 FOUND - DIRTY WHITE DOG. Looks like a rat. Been out a while. Better be a big reward.  
 FOR SALE - Small herd of COWS - NEVER BRED. also 1 gay bull  
 JOINING NUDIST COLONY! Must sell Hotpoint washer/drier £100.  
 WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE . Worn once, by mistake. Call Stephanie.  
 FOR SALE BY OWNER, Complete set - Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition.. £200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married last month and wife knows everything

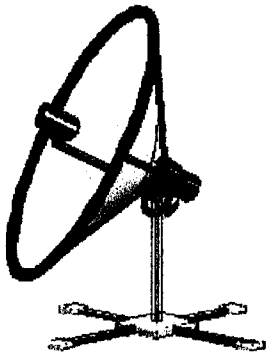
BOOK THESE DATES  
**Saturday 24th &  
 Sunday 25th July -  
 Village Festival Weekend**

**ASTON ABBOTTS  
 GOOD SAMARITANS  
 BINGO**  
 Thursday, 11th February 2010  
 starting at 7.30pm  
 in the Village Hall.

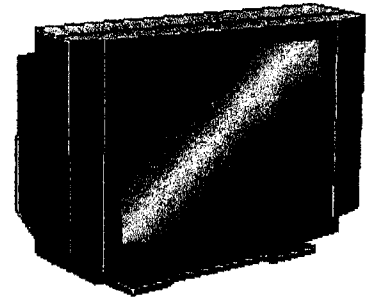
**FISH & CHIP VAN every Wednesday on The Green 9pm approx**

# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS



- **PLASMA**
- **LCD**
- **DVD**
- **HDTV**



RENTALS, NEW  
AND USED SALES

**01296  
682126**

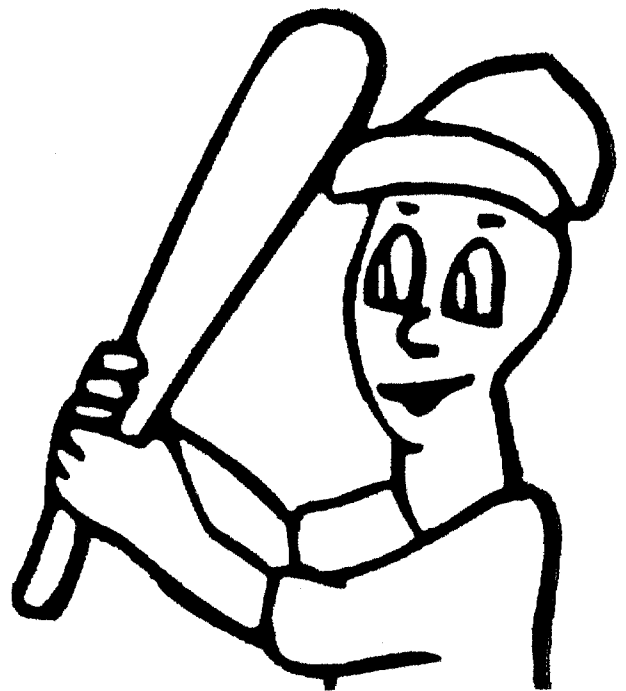


**01296  
682126**

## A Victory For Common Sense

When Munir Hussain was given early release from prison with a much reduced sentence after being jailed for using a cricket bat to beat a knife-wielding burglar who threatened his family there were quite a few who called it a 'victory for common sense'.

However, one villager, whose politics are somewhat to the right of Genghis Khan's, was outraged by Mr Hussain's release. Hearing the subject aired on the Jeremy Vine radio show he immediately send off an angry email to the show. "I don't think Mr Hussain should have been released at all," he raged, "for the simple reason that he failed to finish the b\*\*\*\*r off!". The email was not aired. Now who could that villager have been, I wonder?



*M. Hussain  
(artist's impression)*

**FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY**