

THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine - December 2010 - issue 306



*Merry Christmas to all in
Aston Abbots*



FIRST WORDS

THE
CHRONICLE
ASTON
ABBOTTS
PARISH
MAGAZINE

Many many thanks to Liz and Ivan at Livanti Alpacas for sponsoring this months cover, a Merry Christmas from them and all their furry friends.

My Edvertorial this issue is a newly opened business in Wing, simply called Sixteen. They have kindly sponsored the colour inside this issue.

Front cover photos are taken by me, Janice, one is a detail from the East window of St. James, the others are the church window decorations from

last year and some snowy Alpacas with cheeky faces.

The Community Matters page this issue outlines what is required to get a grant from AVDC for village projects. It has come to light that we are able to lay our hands upon several computers and quite a few people are interested in lending their knowledge and time to help set up an 'internet cafe' for non-computer owners to learn and use a p.c. Perhaps we could set something up in the church room and help more villagers become familiar with the benefits of going on the internet for their food shopping etc.

Please let Janice know if you think this is a good idea and if you can help and maybe we can discuss further at a meeting. We could request funding from AVDC perhaps for a phone connection at the church room and money towards bills.

Thanks to all the contributors this issue, you will see that I've asked anyone with a new baby to get in contact so that I can photograph the little ones for the New Year issue. Janice/Ed

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Well what can I say except what a fantastic display was put on for the people of Aston Abbots last Friday. My family all joined us to enjoy some wonderful mulled wine (first of the season) a great hot dog and then an unbelievable display of fireworks - even the rain held off to make it a wonderful occasion. Please extend my sincere thanks to all for their hard work. We are very pleased to have moved in to such a wonderful village.

Kind regards Bob Carvey 12 The Green

On October 30th we took my sister and brother-in-law to san Francisco airport where they boarded a plane for Heathrow after a 3 week stay with us in the San Francisco Bay Area. My sister is Carol Spooner and her hubby is, of course, Phil.

Our 2 daughters both got married this year and Carol flew out for both weddings with Phil joining her for the second one on Oct. 16th. We had a blast and while they were here we went on a 8 day, 2300 miles road trip through 4 states including California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah. We visited 4 National parks and one State park and stayed 2 nights in Las Vegas (fantastic!). We saw rock formations and scenery that defied imagination including snow capped mountains, an inland salt lake, the Grand Canyon and the lowest point in the US (-228 feet in Death Valley, CA). We watched sunrises and sunsets over amazing vistas and travelled through deserts that looked like they were straight from Starwars movies. We all ate too much (eating out is an American pastime!), walked a great deal uphill and downhill, and drove many long miles-and we had a wonderful time!

So next time you see Carol or Phil in the village, ask them about their visit! Phil kept our fridge filled with beer (mostly Blue Moon)- which everyone enjoyed-thanks Phil!! I'm looking forward to visiting Carol next year when I fly out to visit her and our mum who lives in Aston Clinton. Everyone should have family like Carol and Phil: we miss you both!

Carol brought me the AA Chronicle to read and I'd love you to print this article as a surprise for her and Phil! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in the Village from Bernadette and Robert Buchanan of San Leandro, California



Alison's Gossip Column

The Dickens and the Dewhirsts were leaving the village in mid December – to Hampshire and France respectively. But like the best laid plans it's now probably mid-January. Happy Christmas Anne and Dickie, one last Aston Abbots Christmas for you.

John Whyte popped in to Buckingham Palace on the 19th to collect his OBE from the Queen and they had a little chat about combating drug crime in Jamaica. Liz was obviously very impressed! Well Done Whytie.

A Very Merry Christmas to all friends in Aston Abbots from: Bob & Francesca, Ivan & Liz, John & Deirdre, Dave & Alison, Nigel & Sally, Phil & Carole, Andy & Rita, Tony & Margaret, Juan & Brigitte, and Bridget. Donations will be made to charity in lieu of cards.

Geoff and April would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hopes that next year is a healthy and happy one.

Ivy Brandon would like to wish all her friends and neighbours, a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ann Goodman and Gordon Kemp send Christmas wishes to all in the village and will be contributing to charity rather than sending cards.

December

Ivan Greenaway	2 nd
Phil. Spooner	2 nd
Jo Perkins	4 th
Allison Hewitt	11 th
Bridgette Guitierrez	11 th
Rosie Manning	12 th
Stella Howell	14 th
Kevin Copping	15 th
Claire Barnett	18 th
Derek Ludlam	19 th
Michael Ellis	19 th
Peter Curry	19 th
Robert Smith	20 th
Jane Copping	22 nd
Shirley Hanlon	22 nd
Nicholas Osborn	25 th
Val Smith	25 th
Mollie Poulter	30 th

Forget the stress of Christmas.

Come along and celebrate the true meaning
of christmas at the ever popular

Christingle and Carol Service

The Christmas Service for all the family
Aston Abbots Church

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2.30PM

(in our newly decorated church)

Come and sing Carols accompanied by
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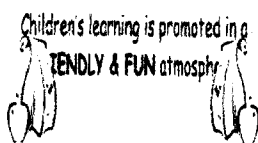
Monday to Friday 9.20-11.50

The Community Centre, Church St, Wingrave

Contact: Sally Rensell - Pre-School Leader
07983 422752

or

Paul Weston - Committee Chairman
01296 681127



LUNCH CLUB SESSIONS
AVAILABLE DAILY
11.50 TO 1PM



Flowers for all Occasions

I am an experienced city and guild trained florist and can make and deliver professionally designed bouquets, arrangements, table decorations or funeral flowers

Prices range from £5 for a child's gift posy, table decoration from £10, hand tied bouquets from £20 and funeral flowers from £30.

I am based in Aston Abbotts and will deliver your chosen design, free of charge, to any address within a 5 mile radius of the village. I can also deliver outside this area for a reasonable charge.

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

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AROUND AND ABOUT

SANTAS GROTTO - FRIARS SQUARE SHOPPING MALL. Closed Mondays starts 1st December to 24th.

Wendover Parish Council's Christmas Charity Markets, over 30 stalls and Circus Unlimited. At The Manor Waste, Wendover HP22 6DU
4th December 10.30 - 12.30

Waddesdon Manor Christmas Food Market. 8th - 12th Dec. 10.30 - 4 pm

Senior Citizens Christmas Tea
The Healthy Living Centre, Walton Court Shopping Centre, HP21 8TJ
10th December 2 - 4 pm £9.50 per person
please book. 01296 334562

Valuation Day by Bonhams – Bring along items (max of 3) for valuation.
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre
The Old Gaol Museum,
Buckingham
MK18 1JX
07/12/2010
10:00AM to 2:00PM

Step into the tiny village church of St Giles in Cheddington and join the Manor House String Quartet for an evening of festive music. Profits go towards the 'Cherish Your Church' campaign and St Giles Church Bell Restoration Appeal. 10th Dec. 7.30 pm

Classic and world cinema on the big-screen - and on your doorstep! Great films on alternate Fridays in the Winslow Centre, from now until April 2011.

Buckinghamshire Railway Centre news and events update

Forthcoming Events

Santa's Magical Adventures 2010 – 4th/ 5th/11th/12th/18th/ 19th December
The fun starts the moment you arrive! You will be shown to your reserved seats on the steam train where you will be joined by Santa himself. One of Santa's pixie helpers will pull your gifts from the huge toy sack and the magic begins! Your Magical Adventure includes soft drinks and biscuits for children, seasonal refreshments for adults, 25-minute live magic show, badge making, story telling and miniature railway

Please note that on 4th/ 5th/11th/12th December the train will be pulled Thomas himself!

Thomas and friends will be celebrating along with Santa and his helpers on these very special festive days.

Tickets for Santa are on sale now.

For further information visit our Website www.bucksrailcentre.org

For more information about "Thomas" visit

www.thomasandfriends.com Information provided by Lee Upton – for further information contact brcpres@bucksrailcentre.org, tel. 07534919101.

FIREWORKS - 5TH NOVEMBER 2010

We'd like to say a huge thankyou to everyone who helped make this year's fireworks display for our village a success.

Thanks go to : Tom Carless, Marcus Hall, Tony James, Dave Lewis, John White, Chris Looker, Adrian Bystra and Jeff Bannister for doing a fantastic job on the actual display in very wet and cold conditions (amongst other jobs on the night).

Also, huge thanks to : Francesca Bean, Dawn James, Jane Hall and Ness Bystra for their invaluable help (and donations of food and mulled wine to the cause!) in serving the food and drinks. April and Geoff also kindly donated mulled wine, cups and the use of the flasks to keep the soup warm.

Mandy Bannister kindly agreed to be our designated first aider on the night, thankyou! And Jeff and Mandy also provided the use of their gas stove to help us keep the mulled wine warm!

Without all of their help, we wouldn't have been able to put the display on and raise money for next year's display, to hopefully, make it bigger and better.

A special thankyou MUST go to the Parish Council and Astonbury, without them, we'd have no fireworks!

Lastly, thanks to those of you who donated beforehand and, by eating, drinking and donating in buckets during the evening. Money raised will go towards next years display. Yet another example of the fact that we are very lucky in this village that we have the generosity and commitment of so many of you that enables us all to enjoy events like this.

Thanks again

Kevin & Jane, Home Farm

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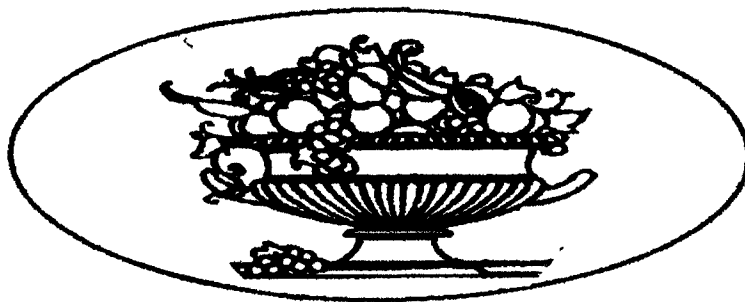
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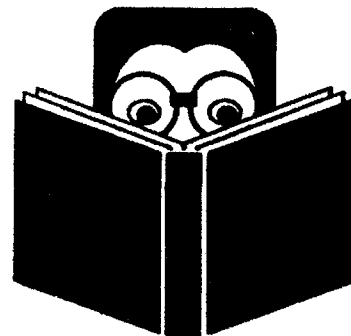
TEL: 641 179

ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

Last month's meeting (17th November) was held at Brigitte Guterrez's lovely new house. We discussed her choice 'Brixton Beach' by Roma Tearne. The book deals with the conflict in Sri Lanka and the persecution of the Tamil population. The beauty of the island contrasts with the misery that the conflict brought to many families. Those who chose and/or were able to escape to Britain found their lives no better. A well written book about a melancholy time.

We are having a month off during December. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th December at Val Smith's house when we will indulge in a literary Trivial Pursuit type quiz.

If you would like to join in the Quiz you would be very welcome.



ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB



December 2nd - Pam Pearce - "BBC Choir/Instrument Making"

December 16th - Carol Service - Aston Abbots

November 4th - 11 members were present and 3 apologies were received. The AGM began with the reading of last years minutes and then reports were heard from the Treasurer, Social Secretary and Chairman who thanked all the officers and committee.

Members decided to vote officers and committee back en bloc.

Proposed by Diane Smart seconded by Daphne Rogers. April

Curnow then organised a quiz of 35 general questions and the

winner was Irene Lowdon with 19 correct answers. Tea hostesses

were Diane Smart and Daphne Rogers. Raffle Winner was Margaret Hinds.

18th November - 12 members of the Ladies Club met in the Church Room today expecting to hear a talk on the Suffragette Derby but unfortunately the speaker was unable to attend through illness. However we had the most delightful talk about "Bees" from Caroline Luxford who is a daughter of one of our members. She brought along a hive and explained each and every part of it, how the bees look after the Queen, how intelligent the bees are in the use they make of the wax, how the bees tell other bees where there is plenty of nectar. This lady is clearly an expert in her field. She has enough bees to produce about 1700lbs of honey each year and also makes furniture polish, floor polish, hand and face creams from the beeswax. She is now thinking about making candles also. Altogether one of the most interesting afternoons we have had at Ladies Club.

**DO YOU HAVE A NEW BABY IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?
IF YOU HAVE A BABY UNDER ONE YEAR PLEASE CALL JANICE
BEFORE 10TH DECEMBER IF YOU WOULD LIKE A
PHOTOGRAPH TO APPEAR IN THE CHRONICLE
JANICE WILL COME AND PHOTOGRAPH YOUR BABY
CALL HER ON 680 464**



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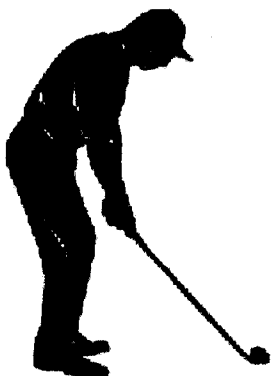
The property "Cornamusa" is a modern fully furnished 3 bedroom house just 50m from the sandy beaches of Los Alcazeres.

The Costa Calida (warm coast) nestles in the South eastern corner of Spain - the 'real Spain'. It's an area of long sandy beaches (the one at Alcazeres is over 5km), promenades and traditional towns and villages popular with the Spanish and the British.

The coast here is dotted with national parks, nature reserves and there's heaps of shopping, culture, golf courses, sports, and spas

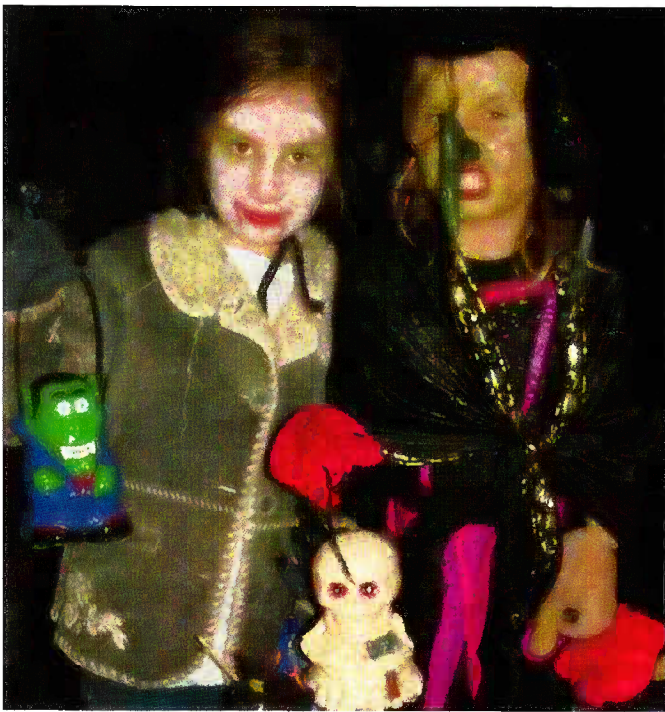
The Cornamusa beach house sleeps up to 7, air conditioning, luxury furnishings, fully fitted kitchen, balcony on main bedroom. Everything you need for a fantastic holiday. It's just a 10 minute transfer. Direct low cost flights from Luton Airport to Murcia San Javier with Ryan Air.

Prices range from £260 - £350 per week



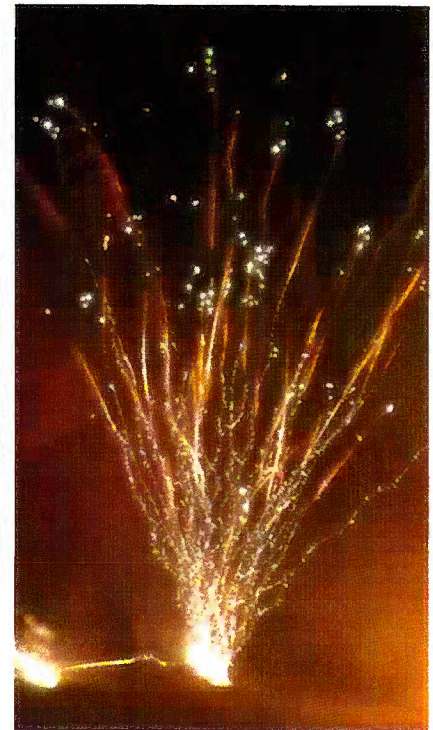
for more information visit our website at www.espanolvilla.com
01296 670388 Andi or Becky Swain



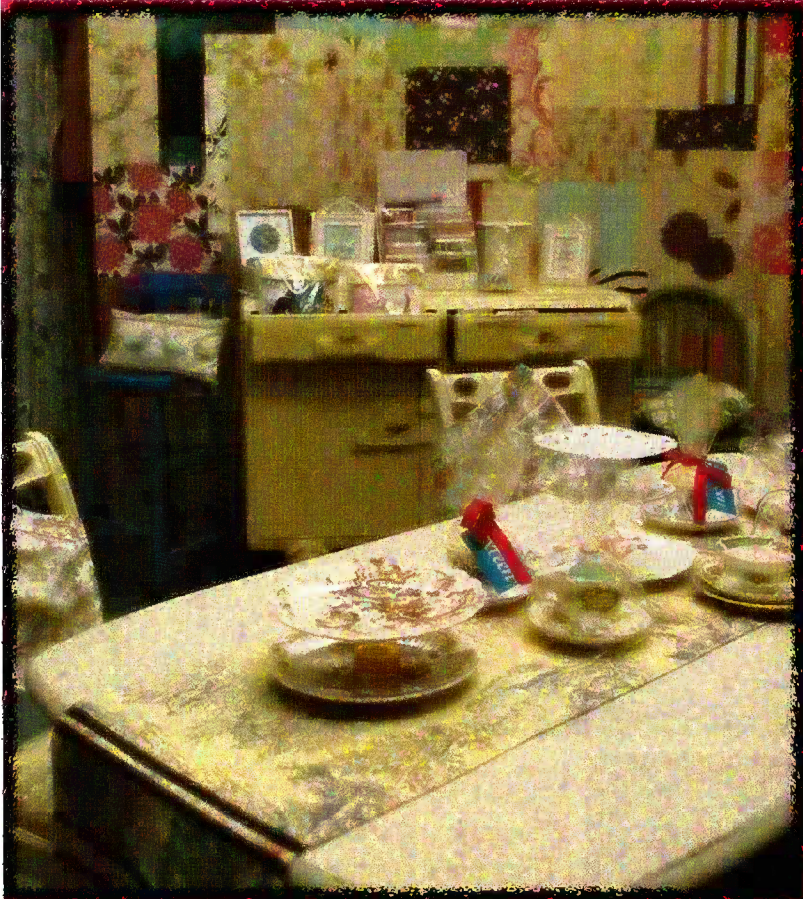


Isabel Hall (20 The Green) and her friend, Zoe, enjoyed carving these pumpkins. They put a couple of them on show on the gate posts and they did their job of attracting all sorts of Ghosts and Ghouls to knock at our door (and there were some really scary ones!)

Halloween and Guy Fawkes nights went off with a bang. Thanks to all those who took part and oversaw the events. The village children really enjoyed themselves despite the awful weather. Special thanks to the ladies who kept us all warm with their food and drink on the Rec. for the wonderful fireworks display.



The Aston Abbots Regular Sewing Experts - or AARSE as they like to be known, presented their quilts to Brenda (Quilts For Injured Servicemen) at the shop "Threads and Patches" in early November. The ladies met many other patchwork quilt makers, all of whom were also delivering their quilts for the injured soldiers at Headley Court. Brenda had a mountain of them to take away for the soldiers and was really overwhelmed with the donations. Pictured here are Val and Dorothy with Brenda, Sally the shop owner and two other quilters.



number sixteen

Wing

Another 'hidden away' local gem has just opened up in Wing. Nestling at the back of the chip shop is the best way to describe this lovely little warehouse specializing in hand painted furniture and unique, quirky gifts. Also mixed in you will find some vintage originals, particularly kitchenalia. The owner Nicola Holder is happy to track down and paint furniture to order, so give her a call on 01296 682 662. This cute little gift shop could be a lifesaver if you have forgotten to buy a present for anyone.

OPENING TIMES

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 10.00 - 19.00

SATURDAY 10.00 - 17.00

SUNDAY 11.00 - 16.00

The 2011 Census is coming – a message for Bucks and Milton Keynes Parish Councils and residents

Sunday 27 March is census day. It's very important that everyone in the country completes a census questionnaire. Decisions about the allocation of millions of pounds of grants from central government to local authorities and health authorities depend directly of population estimates made by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) based on census data. And service and business planning by organisations in public, private and third sectors also is carried out to a great extent based on information from the census. Encouraging and enabling everyone to complete the 2011 Census will ensure that these vital population estimates are as comprehensive and accurate as possible.

ONS is an entirely independent government agency, though I am working in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Milton Keynes Council for the purposes of early community engagement and, in the new year, actual census operations.

Part of the job of census area managers like myself is to publicise the census well in advance, and to engage and communicate especially with population groups that we know from experience may tend to be undercounted, for various reasons. We believe that some of these groups may be represented in your parish. They include, for example:

- Older people (80+), especially if living alone or with some physical or sensory disability
- Young adults (18-29)
- People from black and minority ethnic groups
- Migrants from overseas, both long established and more recent (such as young eastern Europeans or Africans)
- People with more than one home
- People with physical, sensory, learning disabilities that affect ability to complete questionnaires
- [Families of] pre-school children

The aim of this message is to remind you that the census is coming, and to ask you to think about how you might wish to help your residents to realise that the census must be completed and that help will be available for those who require it. Some important points to note:

All census information can be found at www.census.gov.uk

Questionnaires will be delivered to every household by post, and to certain communal establishments by hand-delivery to, for example, the establishment manager for internal distribution with arrangements made by us for collection

The questionnaire may be completed and returned by post, or else completed securely on-line

The census telephone helpline will be active from 4 March to respond to any request for help - which may include pointers to multilingual guidance booklets or accessibility aids such as large-print or braille questionnaires, easy-read versions, text relay and British Sign Language resources, or a request for a member of census field staff to visit personally to give assistance with completion

ONS is developing a 'Carers Protocol' which will explain how carers can help their less able clients to complete the census, whilst preserving confidentiality, dignity, and autonomy in this matter as far as is possible

ONS is also developing a 'Completion Session Protocol' which will set out how joint sessions may be run in local community premises, for example, for groups of people requiring assistance with completion

And finally, as your local census area manager, I'd like to offer my advice or assistance with any aspect of the census, and I would certainly welcome any ideas or suggestions about how we can help you to publicise the coming 2011 Census locally.

With thanks for your attention, and best regards

Suzanne MacLeod

2011 Census Area Manager (Milton Keynes, Aylesbury Vale, South Oxfordshire)

Tel 07801 331477

Visit www.census.gov.uk

The latest crime statistics are in for this area from (PCSO) Paula at Wing Police Station. Aston Abbotts happily has NIL crimes reported for October. Other villages can report 3 thefts from vehicles, 2 burglaries other than dwelling, 1 drug possession and a partridge in a pear tree, (sorry couldn't resist). Also reported was theft of Jack O Lanterns on High Street Stewkley and someone not paying at an establishment in Wing. Two push bikes stolen from Wing and two mobile phones. Arrests have been made on : One male pestering his ex. A small amount of Cannabis and some Graffiti at Wing Tennis club.

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ALLOTMENT DIARY



This year has been a spectacular one for autumn leaves: indeed I cannot remember a better. Although some leaves start turning as early as the end of July, climate change means that most are still on the trees at the end of October, and nowadays, as this year, even into early November.

Why was this year so good? The answer is that we had a long relatively hot summer, which builds up the starch and sugar in the leaves, ready for the autumn period. We then had a mild autumn, without any very windy days (which of course would blow the leaves off), followed by a sudden frost, which “flicked the switch” to tell the trees that summer was over. Leaves change colour and eventually drop because, as the sun gets lower and loses its power, the days get shorter, and the temperatures fall; so that the advantages of photosynthesis (the process by which trees and other plants convert sunlight into energy) get less and less for the tree, until ultimately the cost to the tree in having leaves on it, becomes greater than the energy that is produced by photosynthesis). A frost will convince the tree that there is no longer any advantage in photosynthesising.



The tree then stops making chlorophyll (the pigment that makes leaves green), and instead the leaves start to show the colours produced by the other pigments in them – carotenes (which produce the yellow colour), xanthophylls (which produce the orange), and anthocyanins (which produce red). Nobody knows what the last two pigments are for, but it is known that carotenes are responsible for leaves eventually turning brown and then falling.

Since not all trees respond as quickly as each other, we have the pleasure, in a good autumn like this one, of seeing trees showing at the same time a whole range of colours from green through yellow and orange to red – a pleasure which is enhanced these days with a large number of imported trees such as maples which respond even more dramatically than our native trees.

Like many of you, I suspect, I had been aware that grass did not grow in the winter, but had never stopped to wonder why. Something else I discovered recently, is that the reason why grass only grows from the spring through to the autumn, is the result of another “switch being flicked”; with grass, this occurs when the temperature drops below 5°C, and it is then that it stops growing

Since writing my last Allotment Diary, my knee having recovered, I dug up my final two rows of potatoes – a variety called Sarpo Axona – and a massive crop it was too. However, my pleasure was dissipated when about three weeks later I went to the dustbin in which I was storing them, to find they were turning into mush. My first thought was that they had been infected by some potato blight spores that had been left in the ground from the last year my crop suffered from this disease, namely 2008; however, my son reminded me that, having washed the earth off them when I got home in the evening, I then left them out overnight; and it is possible that there may have been a frost which froze the water content in the potatoes, and so caused the problem. Whatever the reason, I had to throw over 90% of them away, which was very frustrating, having spent 6 months growing them and 2 or 3 hours digging them up! They say experience is the name you give to your mistakes!

Finally I would like to welcome a new member to the allotment: Bob Carver, who moved into a house on The Green a couple of years ago, and, having put his name on the waiting list for an allotment, has at last risen to the top of the list He is currently busy on the backbreaking job of weeding that is necessary so that his plot will be ready for action next spring

Peter Shorrocks



WINGRAVE GARAGE

Terry Bracey-Wright & Michael Mitchell
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CHURCH STUFF

CHURCH REPAIRS At a meeting with our Church Architect (Alan Frost), and the builders selected to carry out repairs (Wards), we agreed that the first phase would include the removal of the Victorian chimney and re-instatement of the roof in that area to resolve leakage issues. Additionally, damage caused by water seepage will be repaired so that the interior of the church can be painted.

The arrival of a 'Portaloo' a few days later (8th of Nov.), heralded the fact that work was about to start, and so, as the scaffolding was being erected, members of the PCC removed most of the internal fixtures and fittings in readiness for painting.

At the time of writing (21st Nov.), the interior of the church resembles a set for 'Pillars of the earth' but hopefully it should look much more 'welcoming' well before Christmas.

A specialized paint has been used for which there is a quite a restricted palette. Boards painted with a selection of what turned out to be mostly whites/creams were prepared and a light cream chosen.

While this was being done, plasterers were starting to repair the walls and prepare them for painting which should commence on Monday the 22nd.

It's hoped that this first phase of the repairs will be completed in time for our Christmas Carol Service on the 19th of December. Since the remainder of repairs are to the outside of the building, it's been agreed that they should start some time in the spring and will include pointing the tower stonework to enable it to resist frost damage, removal of masonry bees from the south wall and repairs to stonework and roofing of the porch.

Coming back to my initial meeting with the builders, it was very nice to find that Paul Turnham is now a Director of Wards and is in charge the project. Paul lived in Aston Abbots for several years during which he built the house in which our Editor now lives and he also converted



the old village telephone exchange into a house.

THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS

DECORATION'S The Church will be decorated for Christmas on **Friday the 17th & Sat. 18th Dec.** and once again, families, local businesses and village organizations are invited to adopt an area or window of the church to decorate. This year's decorations should look particularly good against the freshly painted interior so let's make a special effort!!

CAROL SERVICE The Rowsham Band will lead carol singing at the Carol and Christingle Service which is to be held on **Sunday 19th Dec. commencing at 2.30 pm.** Children (of all ages) will be offered 'Christingles' so that some carols can be sung by candlelight.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE This will be a Family Communion Service held on **Christmas morning at 10.15 am.** It's hoped that children will bring along a few of their presents for the Vicar to play with. They will of course be rewarded with chocolates!!

BOXING DAY The Boxing Day, Benefice Holy Communion Service is to be held in Aston Abbots this year. It will be conducted by our Vicar, Ian Olgvie, and **commence at 10.00 am.**





Lazy Dog Holiday Cottages

**** We still have some availability during the ****
**** 2010 school summer holidays ****

Tregerrick - sleeps 4 - a 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom contemporary character cottage in the heart of Padstow, North Cornwall. Gas central heating and all mod cons inc dishwasher, washer/dryer, leather sofas, flat screen TV/DVD etc. Within walking distance of Rick Stein's restaurants.

Annet - sleeps 4 - a 2 bedroom spacious character cottage with large garden, large living room, separate dining room, ideal for families with children, 3 miles from Padstow. Gas central heating & all mod cons inc dishwasher, washer/dryer, TV/DVD etc.

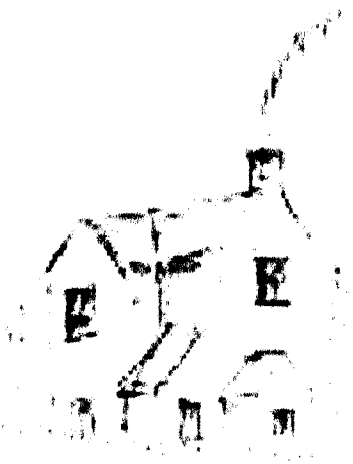
See our website for photographs and full details -
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COMMUNITY MATTERS

Vital Villages Grant Scheme

The Vital Villages grant scheme is aimed at maintaining the key economic and social infrastructure essential to rural vitality and vibrancy.

Eligibility

To qualify for the grant, applicants must be:

- a local pub, shop, post office or social enterprise
- a local organisation that is a registered charity or an incorporated body based in a village or rural area
- a community group provided they are working in partnership with (or with the backing of) a registered charity or incorporated body Also
- applicants must be residents in rural communities with a population of less than 10,000 residents
- applicants must provide local projects and/or services in rural areas which benefit the community
- applicants must provide evidence of 50% matchfunding

Level of grant available:

- up to £5,000 with a minimum of £1,000

Activities that qualify for funding:

- capital expenditure: vehicle, machinery, tools, computer and other equipment
- property improvements: expanding existing premises, security improvements and partitioning
- marketing and advertising: promotional literature and website development
- staff training: ICT training relevant to supporting the initiative

Documents required

- action plan with key objectives
- evidence of consultation with relevant local community organisations and groups
- evidence of community support
- evidence of 50% matchfunding
- most recent annual audited accounts for the organisation
- three estimates for proposed expenditure

Assessment criteria

- quality of action plan
- degree to which the project improves/protects the social and economic environment of the locality where the funding is to be spent
- degree of service improvement
- suitability of applicant to manage proposed project
- evidence of community support for the applicants project
- evidence of the applicant's organisation's financial viability

Conditions of the Vital Villages grant scheme

- Vital Village grants must not duplicate a grant from another organisation
- organisations/groups must acknowledge that the project is funded through the Vital Villages programme in their own literature or publicity material
- the purpose for which the grant has been awarded cannot be changed without prior approval from the Vital Villages grant panel

Offer of a Grant

- a funding agreement setting out the conditions which the grant has been approved must be completed and signed by the successful applicant
- prior to the project taking place, targets will be agreed.
- Vital Villages grants need to be claimed within six months
- Vital Villages grants will be paid in two instalments – fifty per cent will be paid up front; the remainder will be paid once evidence has been received that the expenditure and targets from the action plan have been met

For further information please contact the Business Relationship Officer on 01296 585657 or email mcaldbeck@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

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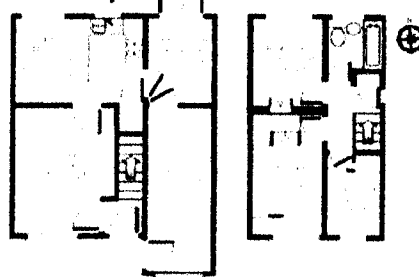
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TURKEY CURRY RECIPE - FOR YOUR LEFTOVERS FROM POONAM GUPTA

This sauce can be made ahead of boxing day ready for the left over turkey meat to be stirred in.

Serves 4

Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons of cooking oil

1 tsp Cumin seeds

1/2 tsp of chilli flakes

1 onion finely chopped

2 garlic cloves (crushed)

1/4 inch piece of ginger (grated)

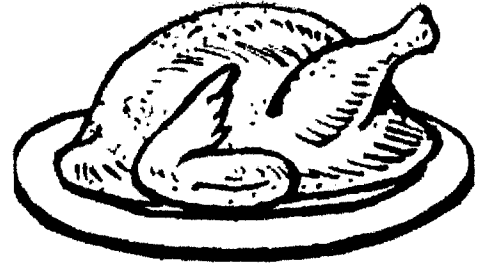
1 tsp turmeric powder

2 tsp of coriander powder

1/2 tsp of garam masala

1/2 tsp of salt

1 250g jar of passata or a 1/2 tin of chopped tomatoes (preferably liquidised) this makes a smooth sauce.
(optional frozen chopped spinach- two handfuls)



Method:

Heat the oil then flavour oil by adding Cumin and chilli flakes for a few seconds.

Now add the chopped onions, garlic and ginger, reduce heat and sweat for 5 minutes till onions become translucent.

Next add your powdered spices, turmeric, coriander, garam masala and salt to the onion mixture, maybe a little water if you find the ingredients are sticking to the bottom of the pan.

remember this has to be done over a low heat in order to bring out the natural oils in the spices and hence more flavour. Allow this process 5 to 8 minutes.

Finally add the tomatoe passata or tinned tomatoes and continue to cook on a low heat till oil water present in the tomatoes has evaporated. You will know this has happened once the oil surfaces to the top of the sauce.

Now your curry sauce is ready to be cooled and stored till you need it.

If you are planning to make a turkey curry thats fine, however if you would like to add a little twist to it this is when you add the spinach again once excess water has evaporated, I would give it 5 minutes then add your cooked turkey torn into bitesize pieces - enjoy over rice or some naan bread.

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

**Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.**

**The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.**

**When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.**

**The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tinny reindeer.**

**With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!**

**"Now Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! on, on Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"**

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Forthcoming events in **October**

Thursday 7th - Call My Bluff Wine Tasting Evening

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Friday 29th - Dinner with Jazz

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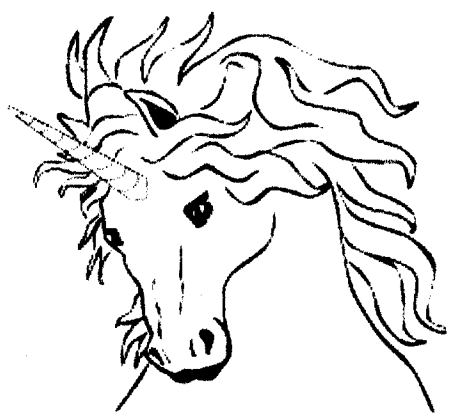
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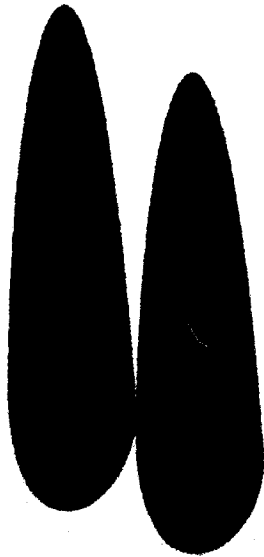
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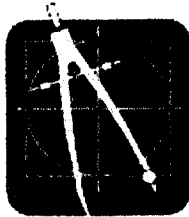
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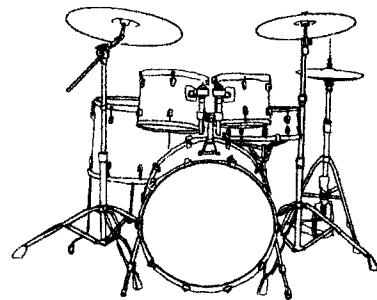
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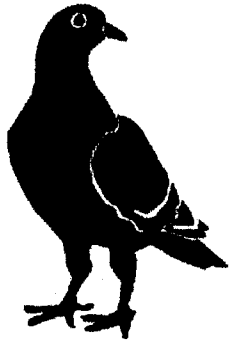
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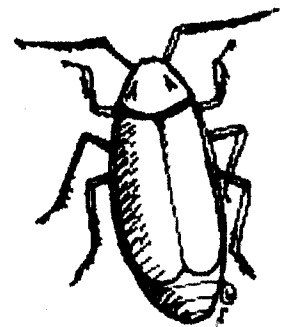
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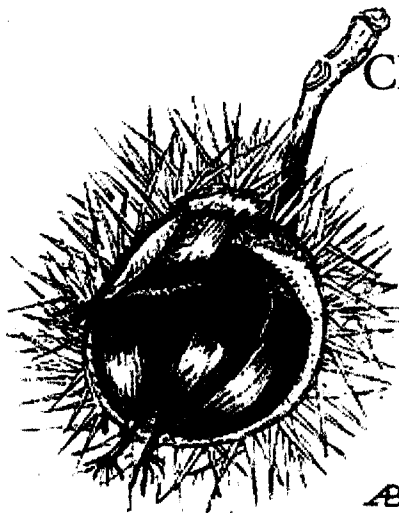
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CHESTNUTS ROASTING BY AN OPEN FIRE



If you are lucky enough to have a Sweet Chestnut tree here are some ideas for you, if you are on the lookout for one then don't get it confused with Horse Chestnut (inedible conkers).

The broad trunked tree has long leaves and catkins in the summer. The horse chestnut fruit is soft with short stubby spikes containing one rounded conker (although very rarely two or three). The sweet chestnut spikes are longer, with hair-like spikes which make the skins harder to tackle, and contain numerous nuts that have a flat side to them.

If you are lucky enough to know where there is a sweet chestnut then the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Hunt project is working with volunteers across Britain to draw up a map of sweet chestnut trees as their numbers are unknown. Maybe you have a horse chestnut, in which case keep a check on it as 49% now symptoms of bleeding cankers. This is caused by a bacteria.

To keep until Christmas here are some tips. Check chestnuts for holes or cracks, be ruthless at this stage. After much trial and error, by far the best method is to blanch the chestnuts before freezing. Add the chestnuts to a large pan of boiling water, bring back up to a rolling boil for 5 minutes, drain and refresh in cold water for 3 minutes. Peeling straight away means that the skins come off easily, so settle down in front of the fire and get to work. If you want to keep the Chestnuts for roasting then it is good to keep them hanging in onion bags, this keeps air circulating round them, if they get damp, they get mouldy and can deteriorate quite quickly.

Chestnut stuffing

3 large shallots, peeled and diced
2 tbsp olive oil
1 large clove garlic peeled and crushed (optional)
110g (4oz) streaky bacon
55g (2oz) butter
170g (6oz) fresh white breadcrumbs
400g (14oz) chestnuts, peeled whole and roughly crumbled
Juice and zest of a lemon
Salt and pepper
2 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped

Heat the oil in a pan and fry the shallots and diced bacon until golden. Add the garlic, butter and chestnuts and cook for a further 1-2 minutes.

Now stir in the other ingredients seasoning well with salt and pepper.

If you want to eat your chestnuts straight away, it's best to roast them. Make a small nick in the bottom of the nut. It will open up as they are cooking and make them much easier to open and peel. The Italians like to pour over a little wine or grappa which certainly brings out the flavour!

chestnut butter for sprouts

1. Put the 25g butter, 25g chopped chestnuts and 1tsp sage in a bowl and mix well. Scrape the mixture onto a large piece of greaseproof paper or foil and shape into a log. Wrap up and refrigerate until firm.

2. Cook the Brussels sprouts in salted boiling water for 5-8 minutes, or until tender, then drain.

3. Cut the chilled butter into slices. Toss four of the slices with the hot sprouts until well coated, then season generously.
serve at once.

SPICED CHRISTMAS CHESTNUTS

Ingredients:

15g melted butter
½ tsp cinnamon
½ tsp mixed spice
3 tbsp soft dark brown sugar
375g peeled chestnuts, blanched

Method:

1. Heat the butter in a roasting tin and stir in the spices. Cook for 30 seconds in the butter, then add the sugar and nuts and stir until coated.
2. Roast at 150° C 15 minutes stirring from time to time. Serve warm from the oven, or allow to cool, then store in an airtight tin for up to two weeks.

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When: Saturday mornings 9.00 to 10.00am (term times only ie: not at half term)

Cost: £20 per term or £55 per annum - payable to 'Wingrave Netball Club'

Contact: Issy (Junior Club Co-ordinator - 01525 240048)

Please wear trainers and comfortable clothing ensuring layers of clothing for hot and cold days. Hair to be tied back and no jewellery is allowed. Please ensure your child has suncream applied before they come. **ALWAYS BRING A DRINK.**

Adults - Come back to Netball

Haven't played for years? Can't remember the rules?

Just want to play for fun and not be in a league?

Then why not come down and have a go and see if you like it?

Where: Netball Courts, Wingrave Park, Winslow Road, Wingrave, HP22 4PS

When: Thursday evenings 7.30-9pm starting from Sept 9th term times only

Cost: £2 per week

Contact: Georgie (Senior Coach 01296 681935)



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The Christmas break allows British families time for play, which some may choose to spend around a board game; others turn to the fiesta of puzzles in their newspaper. The most traditional of these, and the one with the strongest British flavour - with its mixture of cricket and carols, pantomime and parliament - is the Christmas cryptic crossword.

At other times of year, the cryptic crossword tends to be a solitary pursuit: stereotypically, the pin-striped businessman tackling the Telegraph on his morning commute or the university don dashing off the Times in a 20-minute coffee break.

The Christmas puzzle, though, is a different affair.

Usually larger, and often with a theme, Christmas cryptics demand more time, possibly a few sessions over the holiday, and those who create them know that any member of the family may be called on to work on individual clues.

But what is a cryptic crossword?

Each clue is a small word puzzle in itself. Solvers are given the number of letters in the answer and a phrase which is, on a first reading, meaningless or absurd.

Cracking it involves spotting which part of the phrase gives a straightforward definition of the answer. The rest gives you another chance to grasp the solution, in the form of wordplay - an anagram, perhaps, or a string of abbreviations which combine to give the word or words to write in the grid.

But if you haven't lived in the UK, that wordplay may prove a little challenging

"Pub", for example, is often an indication that the word contains an "PH", as in public house - and the same goes for "local", "boozer", or any other word used in the UK to describe an ale-house.

That PH abbreviation is familiar to anyone who has used an Ordnance Survey map. And OS for Ordnance Survey may also appear - a reference to "map-makers" in the clue could be the hint. That goes whether you live in the Home Counties ("SE", for the south-east of England) or the area crossword compilers like to describe as Ulster ("NI", for Northern Ireland).

Then there are the sporting abbreviations. If your family is going to complete the grid, you'd hope to have one member who can pick out a piece of cricket terminology - "caught", say (C), or "not out" (NO) - and another with a grasp of the UK armed forces ("Jolly", slang for a Royal Marine may indicate RM).

But it could equally be gardening, knitting or political parties.

Some Cryptic Tips

Lawrence: DH or TE (the novelist and the soldier)

Duck: O (cricket term for nil)

Church: CE (Church of England)

City: EC (postcode of City of London)

Lines: RY or BR (railway, or British Rail)

Gunners: RA (Royal Artillery)

Conservationists: NT (National Trust)

Can you work out this anagram...?

"O hark the herald angels sing the
Boy's descent which lifted up the

FESTIVE FAVOURITES -

What Father Christmas doesn't do in a quiet way
(5)

Sweetheart who kept on sending Christmas
presents (4,4)

Stocking up time? (9,3)

High spirits when hamper is ordered (8)

Present the woman's beginning to expect (4)

Country not celebrating Christmas? (6)

Christmas A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z? (4)

answers: SHAVE. TRUE LOVE. CHRISTMAS EVE.
SERAPHIM. HERE. TURKEY. NOEL

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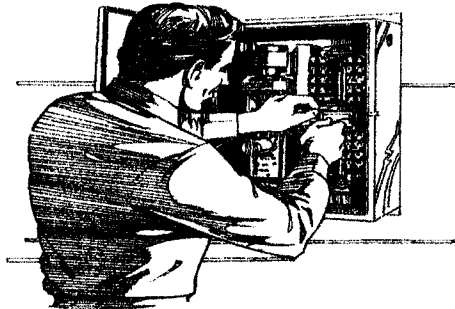
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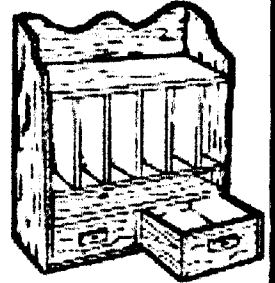
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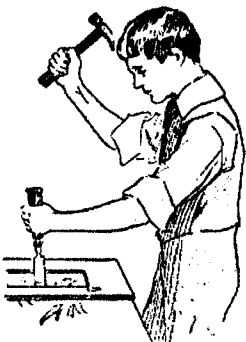


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St James Church December

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.

SIDESPERSION	CLEANERS	FLOWERS
5TH Andrew	Colin/Caroline	Colin
12th Gordon	Ann/Gordon	Ann Goodman
19th Andy /children	Shirley / Andrew	Christmas Trees
25th Church Wardens		Christmas Decorations
26th Colin		Christmas Decorations
2nd Jan. Andrew	Colin/Caroline	

CHURCH ROOM DIARY DECEMBER

COFFEE SHOP EVERY THURSDAY
10 - 12 NOON

LADIES CLUB - 2ND
2.15 PM

LADIES CLUB CAROL SERVICE 16TH
IN CHURCH 2.15

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1ST - 7.30

BINGO - 16TH
7.30 PM

WHIST DRIVE - 9TH & 23RD
7.30 PM

P.C.C. - 8TH
7.30 PM

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
2ND - 9TH AT COFFEE MORNING
10TH - 6PM - 9PM WITH DRINK AND MINCE
PIES 7.30PM

Bookings

£6 per hour for residents
(plus metered electricity)

£20 per hour for non residents

(plus metered electricity - a returnable deposit of
£50 at the time of booking is required)

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.
bookings Tracy Hinds

December

5th Evensong 6pm Rev Ogilvie

12th Holy Communion 10.15 Rev Peter Binns

19th CHRISTINGLE 2.30 Rev Ian Ogilvie

25th Christmas Day Family Communion 10 am
Rev Ian Ogilvie

26th Boxing Day Benefice Holy Communion 10
am Rev Ian Ogilvie

2nd January 2011 Evensong 6pm TBA

WHATS ON IN ASTON ABBOTTS IN DECEMBER

RAMBLING CLUB MEETING - 5TH
ASHRIDGE 2PM

MOBILE LIBRARY - 7TH & 21ST
THE GREEN 10.30 - 10.45

VILLAGE FOOTPATH WALK - 27TH
THE GREEN 2PM

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

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

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- St Tropez Tanning
- PhD Waxing
- Brazilian Waxing
- Eyelash Extensions
- Thai Massage
- Indian Head
- Wedding Packages
- Mothers To Be Packages
- Special Occasion Makeup using Virgin Vie Cosmetics

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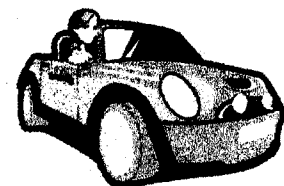
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Wednesday	9:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday	9:00am - 8:00pm
Friday	9:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday	9:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

4beauty

4beauty Ltd, 56 High Street,
Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire,
HP22 4JS
T. 01296 640644
www.4-beauty.com



The Aston Abbots Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
AVDC	Switchboard	585858
Baby& Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Book Club	John Hardcastle	688070
Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
Buses	L & S	415468
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690
Chronicle Editorial	Janice Issitt	680464
Church Mowing Rota	Geoff Curnow	681459
Church Room Hire		
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 1264056
Bucks County Council	Switchboard	395000
County Councillor	Netta Glover	688357
Dial-A-Ride		330088
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250
Doctor	(emergency out of hours)	331511
Fete Coordinators	Tracy Hinds	688479
	Vanessa Worrall	688429
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865
Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240
Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
Mobile Library	Buckingham	01280 813229
NHS Direct 4647	24 hr Advice Line	0845
Parish Clerk	Paul Bruton	682322
Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrock	681260
Police	Emergencies	999 or 112
Police	Non-Emergency	0845 8505505
Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 5165165
Ramblers Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Rector	TBA	
Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Royal British Legion	Alan Jones	682366
Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Paul Weston	681127

Parochial Church Council

(Revd Ian Olgvie 01296 661479)
Shirley Ford 681865 – Churchwarden
Colin Higgs 681343 - Churchwarden
Gordon Kemp 681763
Andy Bystra 681690 **Anita Parker 681325**
Ann Goodman 681763
Caroline Abel Smith 681001 – Secretary
John Abel Smith 681001 - Treasurer

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Mrs. R Robinson £50

Mrs. J Loader £10

THE CHRONICLE Contacts

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oldariel@tesco.net

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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

James Perkins (co-opted) - 07882 980415

District Councillor

Peter Cooper

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham – 681250

County Councillor

Netta Glover - 688357

Anagram answer; While Shepherds watched their
 flocks by night all seated on the ground.



Merry Christmas

and a happy new year

from

Alison & Dave

Flackwell Electronics

