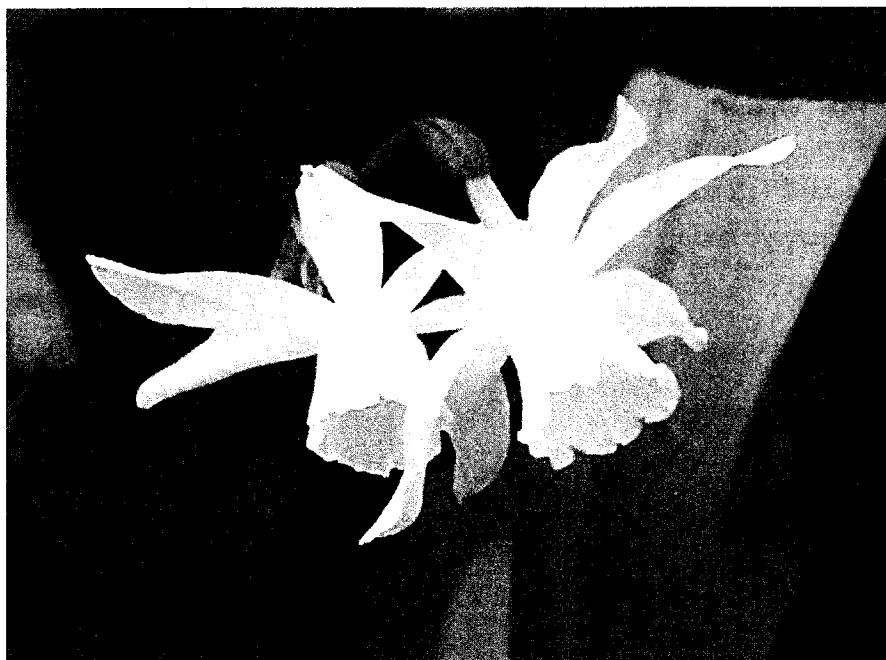


THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine - March 2011



Editorial

Firstly huge thanks to Janice Issitt for all her good work in editing the last 6 months of the Chronicle. Janice, ably assisted by Ian, has put a lot of effort into each edition. I hope she will continue to wield her camera and put together those marvelous colour front pages when sponsorship can be found.

In the absence of a new Editor being discovered I will continue where I left off, hoping that in the near future fresh blood can be persuaded to take up the challenge. The Editor gets little feedback except when errors are made - this seems to especially apply to birthdays and the spelling of names. So if mistakes are made can I plead that your recriminations are put in as pleasant as way as possible.

The Chronicle relies on a great number of people giving their time and effort at little or no cost. The finances that are needed are raised from the advertising revenue and an allocation of funds from the proceeds of the Village Fete.

The Chronicle is lucky to have regular contributors. If you have any interesting accounts of village life, holidays, information on people moving in or out of the village, births, deaths and marriages, then please let me have your news.

There is also the opportunity for residents of Aston Abbotts to advertise items for sale, barter or 'take away'. No charge is made. Send me an email or put your ad through my door (or in the post box on the gate).

Since my last editorial Judy and I have celebrated the arrival of our third grandchild, a healthy boy called Finn, born in July. Our daughter Sally and her husband Cathal are the proud parents. Christmas this year was a full house; it's on these occasions that you need a large mobile home to appear in the garden to provide overflow accommodation. One consequence, possibly, was a blocked drain that was not discovered until some weeks later. Precise details I won't bore you with.

I got one Valentine's card - thankfully.
Hopefully Spring will arrive soon.

John

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- the 308th Edition
- WHAT'S on in March
- COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS
- ALLOTMENT DIARY
- NATURE WATCH

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 308

March 2011

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A note to all would be advertisers -
More than 205 households receive
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cheaper than some local Parish
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Copy date for the next issue

Friday 25th March

Please pass items to the
Editor John Hardcastle or to a
member of the Production
Team as early as possible.

Printed at Waddesdon School
and distributed free of charge
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Abbotts, our local Doctors'
Surgeries and to Wing Police
House.

Alison's Gossip Column

BIRTHDAYS

March

Isabel Hall	3 rd
Andy Bystra	8 th
James McManus	8 th
Paul Williams	9 th
Andrew Dutton	10 th
Sam Worrall	12 th
Sophie White	13 th
Lydia Smith	15 th
Ann Goodman	15 th
Abby Louise Bowden	16 th
Tracey Fletcher	17 th
Francesca Bean	19 th
Charlotte Ellis	26 th
Harry Roberts	28 th
Amber McManus	28 th
Mary Rust	28 th
Bob Bean	30 th
John Hardcastle	30 th

Warm welcome to Steve & Meera Markwell and Mick & Tracy McVeigh who have recently moved into Norduck House. I'm told that Mick and Meera are brother and sister.

LITTER BLITZ

It is proposed to have a LITTER BLITZ on **Saturday 26th March** - meet outside the Church Room at 10am.

Hopefully the section of the village you volunteer to clear will take about half an hour.
PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY

Am pleased to report that Paul Bruton, our Parish Clerk, is making a good recovery from an operation to improve his hip. He's hoping it will also improve his golf handicap.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Vic Scott who has returned home after a spell in hospital.

Congratulations to Alex and Marisa Abel Smith on the safe arrival of Archie who weighed in at 7lb 10oz on 13th January and is very happily settled at 33 The Green.

MOBILE LIBRARY

1st 15th & 29th March
10.30am The Green

The pancake mixture (Delia's)

- 1 110g/4oz plain flour, sifted
- 2 pinch of salt
- 3 2 eggs
- 4 200ml/7fl oz milk mixed with 75ml/3fl oz water
- 5 50g/2oz butter



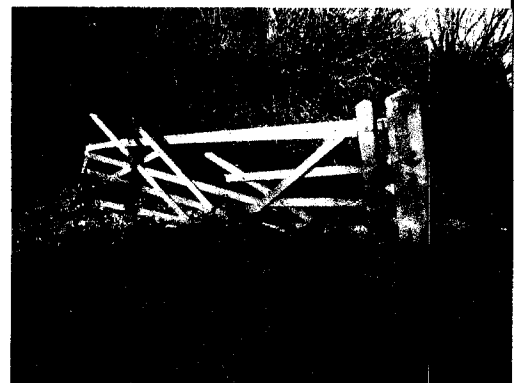
Congratulations to Karen and Rob Hunter who produced their 3rd boy, Harry James on 30th December weighing in at 8lb 1oz.

Get Well to Rena Coleman who spent a short time in hospital.

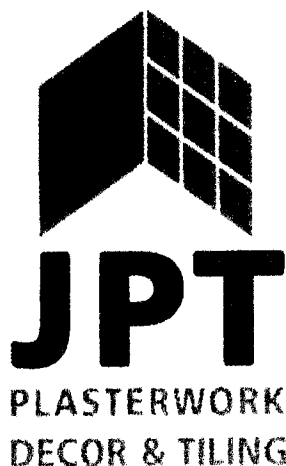
Many congratulations to Fred Poulter who celebrated his 90th on 21st February.

A fractured gas main between Bierton and Rowsham caused the closure of the A418 at the beginning of January. The amount of traffic having to divert through Aston Abbots was a sight for sore eyes. Heavy goods vehicles are supposed to be diverted away but on this day some really large vehicles exited the village towards Weedon. Great damage was caused to the gate at Lines Hill. Hopefully a repair will be done. If anyone has a spare gate that can be installed please contact the Editor.

The remains of the gate were removed at the beginning of February.



Shrove Tuesday 8th March



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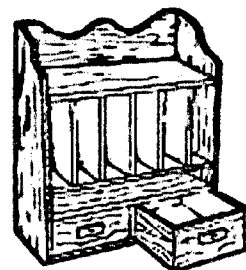
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Dickie & Ann Dicken and Bob & Amanda Dewhirst moved out of Norduck House at the end of January. Dickie, especially, contributed a great deal to Village life. He was a member of the group, led by Clare Shorrock, that wrote the Village History in 1999 (Aston Abbotts 1000-2000). He researched the history prior to the 1900's. This was followed by a request from Ivan Greenway to help with the organisation of the Millenium Party that was eventually held in Peter Shorrock's garden – Ann made/cooked most of the Dicken's contribution. Both Dickie and Ann participated in the Village Fete under the auspices of Linda Bellingham in 2000 – Ann doing 'Teas' with Francesca Bean and then the cake stall. Dickie became Treasure in 2000 and handed over to April Curnow for the 2010 celebration. His involvement with the Parish Council began about the same time – *(Dickie recalled that Ann volunteered him for both offices - further commenting [tongue in cheek] that Ann continued with the onerous task of sometimes helping with the Church flowers).*

Dickie was a leading light in the opposition to the chicken farm. The unsuccessful campaign highlighted for Dickie that democracy has no place in local politics. Despite the largest demonstration of village solidarity (except that for the new London airport at Wing) AVDC ignored the pleas. Dickie was also in at the start of the attempt to obtain a Lease for the Church Room from the Church Solicitor. Tom Manning, as Chairman of the Parish Council, started the ball rolling in the late 1990's and Dickie joined as a bright eyed and bushy tailed enthusiast in 2001/2. He assumed the chairmanship of The Trustees in 2008 retiring in 2010. Dickie was also involved with the formulation of the Village Plan. This was began three years ago with a dynamic start that slowly dissipated with time and seemed doomed to failure, but has at last been resurrected by James Perkins, who hopefully will complete it this year.

The Dickens and Dewhirsts were hosts for the first three Astonburys. These were held in Norduck House garden; they also hosted a pig roast to help raise funds to pay for a solicitor to oppose the chicken farm.

Dickie and Ann have moved to Hartley Wintney in Hampshire whilst Bob and Amanda have moved to France, somewhere east of Paris. We wish them all well.

BE VIGILANT! Jane Copping reports that they had a break-in at their offices in Cublington with a substantial loss of work tools. Jane has heard that the the Old Masters had the heating oil stolen from their tank. Both crimes occurred at the beginning of February.

We should all be vigilant for each other. If you see anything suspicious ie, vans 'hanging around etc', try and find out if they are legitimate. Parrots Butchers had an attempted break in the night before the Copping's offices were burgled. The same van was spotted as was seen near the Copping's yard. It could just take a phone call if someone even just suspects, but isn't sure, to prevent a crime from happening. Sometimes people might assume 'someone's having work done ' if they see a van coming and going in the middle of the day; but this isn't always the case.

Please be vigilant and look out for your neighbours! Ed

Ladies Club

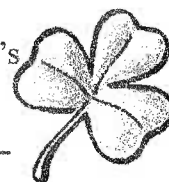
February 10th. Eleven of our members were present at today's meeting in the Church Room. The Chairman welcomed members, and the minutes were read and signed.

The Club then made plans for the Annual Spring Lunch on March the 10th. Tickets will be £10.00 each and will include food, wine and a raffle ticket.

At our next meeting, we will choose a venue for our summer outing.

Business over, we then enjoyed the photographic competition of photos taken of member's at an 'younger age'. April Curnow was declared the winner.

Shirley Ford



St Patrick's Day Thursday 17th March

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Countryside Matters - February

Am I the only person in the country thinking that this High Speed Rail Link from London to Birmingham is a complete joke? It will cost a staggering amount of money and at a time when the country cannot really afford it. Projected to cost £20.5 billion, I suspect it will be more like £50 billion when completed. (Remember the Olympics, they have now cost £20 billion when the original bid price was £3 billion!!)

I do sometimes feel that I am negative when writing this column but do we really need a vast swathe of sensitive and important local landscapes lost forever, along with tens of thousands of acres of prime farm land, in order that we can save 20 minutes on the journey time to Birmingham. Come on, let's get real. In order to catch this train we must all travel to Euston!! The plan is that no freight is to be carried on the line and at peak times the trains are departing every 12 minutes and travelling at up to 250 miles an hour. One problem being that at this speed the train doesn't much like going round corners, so it will be overhead in most valleys and the whole line will be virtually straight, therefore ignoring all the natural land contours. Many people, if they are lucky, will have their property compulsorily purchased, while others will sit a few metres outside that line and have their lives made hell with near constant noise and their property totally unsaleable.

In the mean time, we are told that this rail line shall revive the economic fortune of the Midlands and the North. I am sure the Chinese are running for cover already, quaking in their boots at the thought of their economic manufacturing base being moved from Shenzhen to Birmingham.

James Henderson

Countryside Matters - March

According to a report in the Mail on 28th January, "Scientists are to cull crows and magpies to find out whether they are wiping out the nation's songbirds". What a waste of money, they only need to ask a gamekeeper, (of which I know many excellent ones); they shall tell you to add jays to the list. The jays are the most prolific egg thieves and I am afraid in future, sparrow hawks, carrion crows, jackdaws and even buzzards can be added. However, the dear old RSPB come out with the most inane drivel blaming the serious downfall of farm and woodland birds on the farmers, due to "the destruction of hedgerows and loss of habitat, together with more winter sown crops". Destruction of hedgerows and trees has been illegal for some 15-20 years, (except in the cases of environmental vandalism we see carried out on swaths of land for huge new building sites, new roads and proposed railways.)

I can take you to farms that have planted thousands of meters of new hedgerows, and woodland in the last few years and have added wild flower margins to their fields and grass headlands. No the truth is, the loss of the special species, such as skylarks and tree sparrows, numbers of these are down 50% since 1970. Whilst the lesser spotted woodpeckers and willow tits are down 25%. Yet the numbers of sparrow hawks, which kill around 50 million songbirds a year, have gone up 150% and magpies have reached 100% increase. The RSPB also states that "the countryside has a lack of nesting areas, a lack of food for chicks and a lack of food in winter". All Farm 'Shoots', that I know, from Sept to end of Feb, feed anything up to one or two tonnes of wheat a week to their game birds, of which a vast amount is consumed by large numbers of other species and this helps them survive the winter. I think the real reason the RSPB are against the reality of a 'predator cull' is they want to keep their subscribers on side, there is a danger they might leave their money elsewhere if they thought they were party to the loss of a single magpie.

James Henderson

Red Nose Day Friday 18th March

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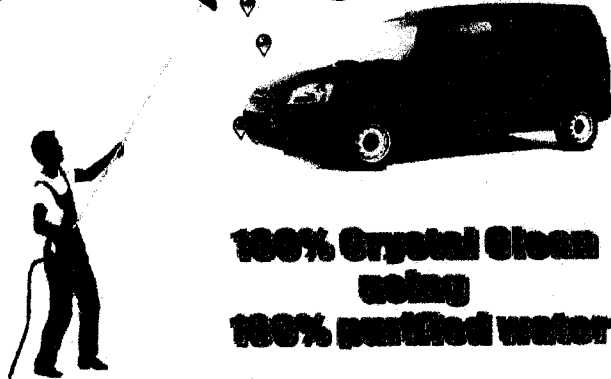
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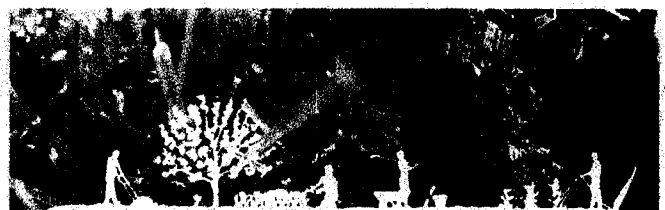
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proposal for Village sign

Over the years the various music functions held within the village, running from the shows incorporating a pantomime all the way through to Astonbury, have built up a surplus of funds. Some of this is re-invested in equipment and some has been used to make donations to village and other causes.

For a number of years the plan over the longer term aim was to use this surplus to help to fund improvements to the Church Room, once it transferred to village ownership. Despite the good efforts of all involved this process has not yet reached a conclusion.

A discussion a few months ago led to a proposal that some of the money could be put towards the erection of a village sign on The Green.

This idea is about to go before the Parish Council so that their views can be ascertained. Some background research into the course of action which would need to be taken has been carried out, for example with the planning department of AVDC.

In addition the make up of other village signs has been looked at to see if that gives inspiration for a future design for Aston Abbots, should this idea go ahead.

Assuming that there is support for the erection of a sign – something that would be around for many years and would hopefully add to the ambience of the village – we would look to have some sort of wide consultation on all of the issues which would follow. Issues such as siting and design come immediately to mind.

It is important to stress that nothing has happened yet other than some very general enquiries but, through The Chronicle, we wanted to make this proposal more widely known, even at this very early stage.

John Whyte On behalf of those involved with Astonbury and other music functions

THURSDAY COFFEE MORNING

On Thursday 20th January the 'coffee morning' folk said thankyou to Rita Robinson for more than five years' of serving refreshments in the Church Room. She has been there come rain or shine and even snow to make tea and coffee for many people from the village and passers by, such as walkers and cyclists, who spot the sign on the fence advertising the fact that we are open from 10am to 12noon on a Thursday. Rita is hanging up her apron but will be with us as often as she can to enjoy her morning coffee with the usual bunch of lovely people who regularly come.

Also on 20th January, and after the coffee morning, all the regulars went to the Cock Hotel in Heath and Reach where they enjoyed a typical pub lunch of two courses, coffee and a drink from the bar. This meal was instead of the usual Christmas dinner normally prepared in the Church Room prior to Christmas. As December is such a busy time for many people it was seen as more of a treat to brighten the dull January days.

We advertise Coffee and Biscuits for 50p but always manage to include a sausage roll, a danish pastry, a bacon roll or some other treat. We have been able to do this due to the generosity of many people who have kindly donated many things including cakes, coffee, sugar and sometimes even money to help us keep the prices low. Also I buy in bulk when I see special offers of "buy one get one free". However with so many price increases in recent times we may have to raise the amount people pay slightly in the New Year.

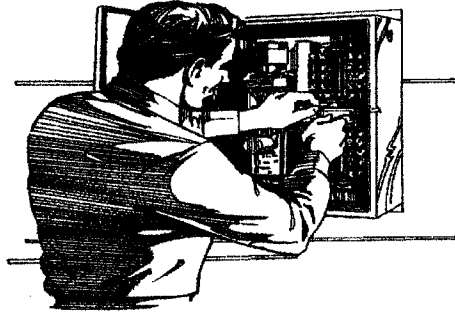
On a final note we are hoping that in the next little while Steve, from the Wingrave Stores, will be returning after his very long illness to bring lots of general groceries, fresh bread, stamps etc, and people can pay their paper bill, bring things to be dry cleaned and put up with his cheeky banter which we have missed very much.

April Curnow

British Summer Time Begins Sunday 27th March



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*Bring your favourite 'tippie'
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for a pint or two at the 'Oak' afterwards!!!!*

Tickets at £5.00 each are available from **Colin on 681343**
Tickets will also be available 'on the door' but please let us know if you're coming to assist us with the catering.

Price includes a 'Ploughman's Supper' by April & Rita

All funds raised will go towards the completion of church repairs so please give us your support.

MERRY MOWERS



The PCC have asked me to thank and congratulate the Mowers on the excellent appearance of the Church grass throughout the summer.

Nothing has ever been Chronicled about the band of "Merry Mowers" very few of whom are regular Churchgoers but all love their village and realise that the Church ground covers a large area and people travel through and admire it especially, I am told, from the bus.

For the unknowing, we have fifteen of us mowing so each person mows twice in the thirty week summer period. It takes an average of two hours being split between the sit-on tractor mower and the hand-held motor mower for edges and round the graves. We attempt to cut it on a Saturday each week to keep an even spread of days between mows but, obviously, this must occasionally vary according to the weather and avoidance of weddings etc.

Keep up the good work chaps I will be circulating the rota shortly.

Geoff Curnow

True Reports from British life!!!

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS

At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coast guard and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff.

Mothering Sunday 3rd April

You deserve the best

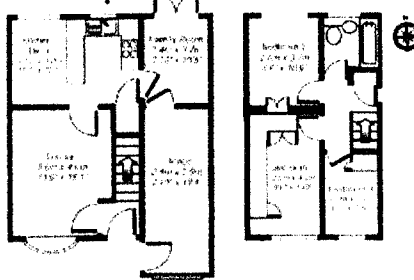
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Leopard Skin Pants

I really didn't know how to title this article as it covers quite a few subjects so I opted for a random eye catching heading, I hope it did the job.

Firstly thank you to the "petite" number of people who have replied to the village plan survey to date. As I was saying to a very "foxy" group of ladies on Tuesday night the intention is still to go around to the social groups and also visit people in the coming weeks to ensure that we try to get as many views as possible for what is an important document.

I have ummmmed and arrrgggghhhhed over whether to hold the Summer Ball again this year and I've decided..... wait for it - wait for it.....

TO DO IT..... so the Summer Ball this year will be on **SATURDAY 23rd JULY 2011** after the fete.

The money raised from the event, as I have said before, is not the main reason for holding it but as we have some big projects on the horizon (footpath to the cross roads and re-fit of the Church room) every little will help. To wet your appetite I have secured a new venue, this year the Ball will be held in the grounds of the Firs with the kind permission of Elizabeth McManus. For those who aren't aware the Firs is the large house opposite the Royal Oak. The grounds have fantastic views over the Buckinghamshire countryside which will make for a great scenic venue. More details will follow.

Another date for your diary is the evening of **Sunday 30th May 2011**. I have been asked to hold another **Race Night** in aid of the restoration work on the Church. I did one of these last year and everyone seemed to have a good night. It will run along the same lines with food, a bar, TOTE and a crazy M.C.

Lastly and following a night where I wore a ladies wig whilst eating paella and drinking A LOT of sangria (Don't ask). I have agreed to hold a **NEW YEARS EVE Event**. I don't know about you but NYE for me is always a bit of a let down, everything seems to cost more (Taxis, Getting into places etc) and it just ends up being a bit of hassle. So to keep things simple there will be an event in the village so people can get together and stumble home. I have good commitment from a group of very old men (who organise a reasonably successful music event in the village) to make it happen and so I think it will be nothing short of epic.

As I'm writing this I'm thinking that people who don't know me might be thinking this bloke is a bit much... Three events this year... who does he think he is? But to be honest, for me, one of the great things in life is getting people together to have fun. Yes there is a bit of work involved, O.K a fair bit of work involved but with a little help you can create something special. The Summer Ball showed me this and I think if you asked the other people who organise events in the village they will say the same. So whilst I'm here and people want to dance I will do my best to make sure they have a dance floor!

Cheers

James Perkins 81 The Green

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The Household Waste Recycling Centre on Rabans Lane, Aylesbury, will be closed for two weeks (21 February to 4 March) as essential maintenance works are carried out including resurfacing the operational and public areas of the site.

Whilst the centre is closed, residents and trade customers are asked to use Aston Clinton recycling centre, which is located just outside Aylesbury, sign posted off the A41 Aston Clinton by-pass heading towards Hemel Hempstead.

The site is open 7 days a week between 8.00am and 5.00pm, accepting a range of recycling materials including glass, paper and card, garden waste and wood. House holders can also use the site to recycle plastic bottles, used cooking oil, textiles and electrical items including batteries and florescent tubes. Trade waste facilities are available Monday to Friday.

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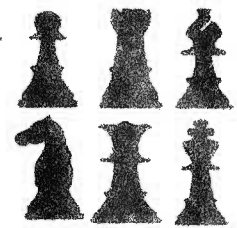
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REVIEW OF MUSICAL CHESS *by Sally Palmer*



Just before Christmas I remarked to my son that I had never seen the musical Chess that I had heard somewhere was good. So for Christmas I was presented with 2 tickets for the Milton Keynes Theatre show.

It was only at this point that I looked up the story/plot to discover it was somewhat unpromisingly based around 2 world chess championships, broadly relating to the classic battle between the American Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky in 1972, and a love triangle set against the backdrop of the cold war as the 2 champions compete for the same woman. To make matters worse there were hardly any memorable tunes, according to the internet reviews. Bearing in mind that Nigel had agreed to give up his annual golf group dinner to accompany me, I was a little apprehensive about the evening.

Having had trouble parking near the theatre on a Saturday evening we had barely time to read the programme before the show began which was a pity as this revealed that the music was a collaboration between the famous Tim Rice (lyricist) and the 2 guys from Abba (Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson) which was a hopeful sign. In addition the choreography and direction was by one Craig Revel Horwood (of Strictly Come Dancing fame) who has been experimenting with the use of actor musicians at the small Watermill Theatre and had brought this relatively new concept to a bigger stage with this production of Chess. Basically the ensemble cast, or chorus, of the show played all the music on stage as well as singing and acting. Only 2 off stage musicians were used (a drummer and keyboard player). All other instruments, including cellos, trombones, accordions and violins were carried round and played by the ensemble cast who were brilliantly dressed as chess pieces; the costumes of the white king and queen being particularly striking.

In order to accommodate the movement of these actors around the stage, the props were pared back to the minimum with half the stage occupied by a raised chess board with the white/clear blocks able to change colour to change the atmosphere, and a chequered backdrop where various pictures could be displayed like a split TV screen. The singing of the main cast was extremely good with the lead female, Florence, having a particularly strong voice. Some of the songs were very operatic in nature, especially for the Russian Chess player who had a wonderful tenor voice. Actually the show does contain one stand-out song, 'I know him so well', that was a massive hit for Elaine Paige and Barbara Dickson. This song was well sung on the night by the two women vying for the Russian chess champion. This production concentrated on the moral dilemmas faced by the 2 chess champions regarding love with the Russian having to choose between his new love, Florence, and his Russian wife Svetlana. He is faced with losing Florence but gaining her Hungarian father's freedom or gaining Florence at the expense of her father's freedom and his wife and children.

While Chess would not appear on my list of most favourite musicals, this production was very well done. The music was good and very well performed by a cast of extremely talented people.

I've not heard of it before, but thought it might be of interest to some of you - for recipe see page 41. *Ed*
Chess pie has long been associated with the South (USA). Though the origin of the name remains uncertain, there are plenty of guesses and a bit of folklore surrounding it.

The earliest printed reference to the pie was in a cookbook published by the Fort Worth Women's Club in 1928. The unusual name has many possible origins. Some think it is derived from the word "cheese", even though there is no cheese in chess pie. According to Sara Belk in "Around the Southern Table," old cookbooks often referred to cheesecakes and pies that did not actually contain cheese, using the term to describe the curd-like texture. Elizabeth Hedgecock Sparks, author of "North Carolina and Old Salem Cookery," said chess pie was "an old, old tart which may have obtained its name from the town of Chester, England." In "Southern Food," John Egerton offers two more possibilities. The first has to do with a piece of furniture common in the early South called a pie chest or pie safe. Chess pie may have been called chest pie at first because it held up well in the pie chest. The second story is that a creative Southern housewife came up with the concoction and tried it out on her husband, who loved it. "What kind of pie is this?" he is said to have exclaimed. His wife shrugged and smiled. "I don't know," she said; "it's ches' pie."

A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a phrase is unexpected and causes the reader to reframe or reinterpret the first part. *see below and on following pages for some examples*

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.



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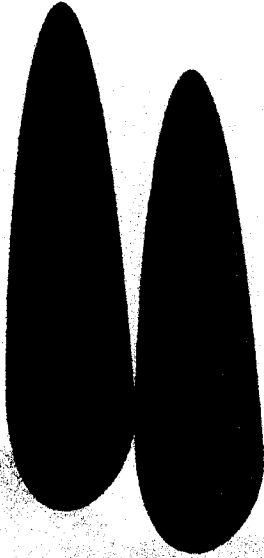
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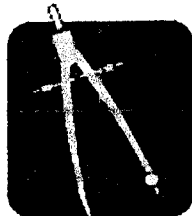
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Aston Abbots

ALLOTMENT DIARY

Pride, as they say, comes before a fall: in my last Allotment Diary, I was rash enough to offer some advice about storing vegetables, and told you of the methods that had successfully worked for me over the last few years. Hardly had the printing ink dried, when we entered into the coldest cold spell I can remember, and my method of storing potatoes was found wanting. You may remember that I advocated putting them into dustbins, and keeping them in a garage or other outbuilding. In my defence, I did say that you would need to insulate the dustbins in some way, with blankets, insulating material, etc, to guard the potatoes against very cold weather. I did do this, but clearly did not use enough insulation for the extreme cold spell we experienced. When it was over, and I went to check on my crop, I found that around half of the potatoes had been affected by the cold. What happens, I believe, is that the water content in them freezes, and this in some way destroys the molecular structure, so that when they thaw out, they become mushy, starting from the inside.

This mushiness then spreads through the whole tuber, and the vegetable has to be thrown away. You can tell the potatoes that have become affected, because they feel rubbery to the touch. As the problem gets worse, a nasty blackish fluid begins to weep out of the potatoes, and they give off an unpleasant smell. The upshot was that I have had to throw away about half of my crop. I believe that the ones that were affected were those on the outside of the bins: those on the inside were the ones that survived. I shall know better next year. They say that experience is the name you give to your mistakes!

From my point of view, there is no much allotment news to bring: I have only a few leeks and parsnips left to dig up, and have not so far done any work on the allotment for some months. Others have been more industrious, and some patches have been dug over, and are looking very smart. Simon and Mike have invested in a new, bigger, shed which they have bought from John Masters in Rowsham, and have already destroyed their old one. Bob Carvey, who is now working Vic's old plot has added a smart hand-made cold frame, which I think is the first on the Allotments.

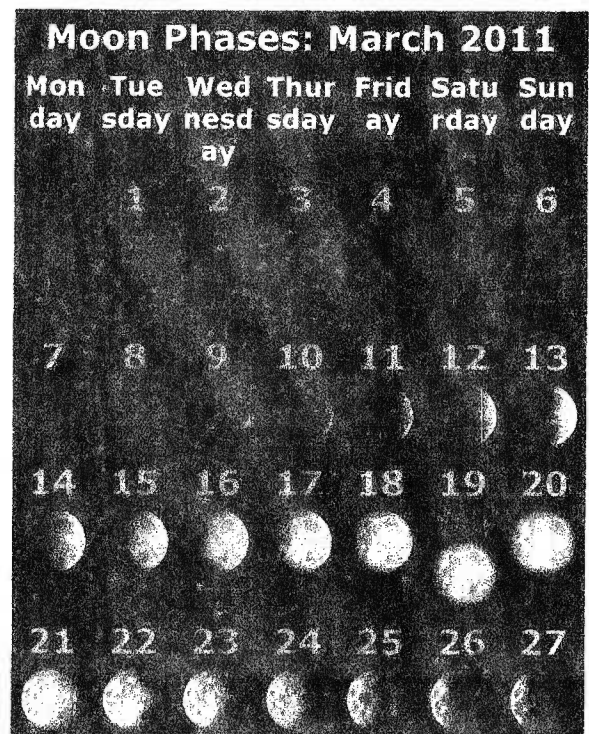
Over the holiday period, I was reading a new gardening book, and came across something that intrigued me. A man called J R Gower has produced a book called Gwydion's Planting Guide. (Why "Gwydion", I do not know: according to Wikipedia, Gwydion was a mythological Welsh magician and trickster). This guide is the "definitive moon-planting manual", and suggests that vegetables should be planted not by reference to the seasons or the weather, but the phases of the moon! Some of the advice that is given includes the following:-

"Root vegetables should be sown, planted or transplanted in a period that starts 2 days before a full moon; and ends 3 days before the following new moon. All other fruit and vegetables should be sown, planted or transplanted in a slot that starts 2 days before a full moon, and ends 3 days before the following full moon"

And "The beneficial signs of the Zodiac for sewing and planting are the water or earth signs: i.e. Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn & Pisces – and one should sow or plant during these signs if possible"

The theory is that the moon in some mysterious way, which is not apparent to me, affects the fertility and crop yield of the plants. If any of my readers would like to try this – preferably with a control batch of vegetables planted in accordance with normal rules, I shall be glad to hear how they get on.

Peter Shorrocks



War does not determine who is right - only who is left.



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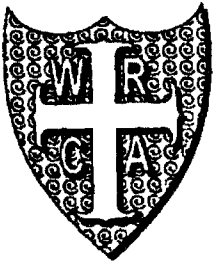
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Dear Villagers

News from Wingrave CE Combined School

We are now in the middle of a very busy half term. Our pupils are working hard and making progress in their learning. This progress is closely monitored by the staff and where necessary interventions are quickly put in place to support individual children. We are proud of the high standards we achieve here. In the recently published primary league tables Wingrave was in the top five schools in Buckinghamshire both in terms of attainment and progress.

We are also committed to enriching our pupils' learning by providing rich experiences for them both in and outside school. Here are some of the opportunities we are currently providing.

This term Reception and Year 1 children have visited Windsor Castle to enrich their topic on Castles. Pupils from Years 2-4 have been to the Waterside Theatre to see a production of George's Marvellous Medicine. Year 6 and Year 2 pupils are taking part in mini-enterprise competitions. Year 5/6 pupils are also taking part in a "Dance Extravaganza" at Cottelsoe School and will be singing at the Albert Hall in March with other County schools. We have both specialist rugby and multi-sports coaching for our Key Stage two pupils this term. All our pupils have taken part in a Salsa workshop and we have a Science Challenge Day planned for after half term.

If you would like to visit the school to see the improvements we are continuing to make and to see our well behaved and well motivated children as they learn, then please contact the school office to make an appointment on 681436. We would love to show you around.

Patricia Gurton Headteacher

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Easter Holidays	9 April - 25th April 2011
May (Summer) half term	30 May - 3 June 2011
Summer Holidays	25 July - 31 August 2011
October (Autumn) half term	24 - 28 October 2011
Christmas and New Year	19 December - 3 January 2012

some dates may vary for private schools

Additional Bank Holiday

29th April 2011

Royal Wedding

WHY TEACHERS (sometimes) DRINK

Steve is driving his car. He is travelling at 60 feet/second and the speed limit is 40 mph. Is Steve speeding?

He could find out by checking his speedometer.

What is the meaning of the word 'varicose'?

Close by

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.

Learning to speak Latin.

What is a fibula?

A little lie

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Saturday 8.30am –
3.00pm
Shop: Tuesday to Friday
8.30am-6.30pm
Saturday 8.30am –
4.00pm

We have created a kitchen garden so we can use freshly picked vegetables and herbs for are
soups and salads.



ASTON ABBOTTS CABARET 2010

The annual Cabaret took place on February 5th at the Church Room. A small, but select audience arrived eagerly anticipating an evening of comedy and music. Unfortunately, the size of the Church Room dictates that tickets are only available by invitation. After a spicy supper of chilli con carne, the entertainment began with the well known ensemble 'The Chunkies'. This was swiftly followed by a keyboard compilation by Nigel, challenging the audience to identify the various well known tunes. In honour of Nigel's other village role, as church organist, Neil Cheshire gave his alternative rendition of Amazing Grace. On then to a relatively new talent in the form of Simon Longman, fresh from his recent storming performance at Astonbury, he performed 2 songs during the evening with his 2nd number 'Just a Gigolo' proving particularly popular with the ladies who are now rushing to book his services as a handyman.

After Simon a hilarious turn by Peter Knight in his comic persona of George. Neil had given him the broad topic of old age and this threw up a large number of hilarious stories and jokes all brilliantly delivered with enviable comic timing. John Whyte OBE, attending as the Aston Abbots celeb, had a hard act to follow but rose magnificently to the challenge with the song 'Quando Quando'. As usual Dave Lewis treated us to his annual joke fest, considerably down-rated this year from XXX to a paltry X rating, but none the worse for that. After a short break Nigel revealed that his lifelong ambition was not to be an accountant but a Lumberjack, though the long list of trees included in the Monty Python hit had clearly proved a challenge to learn. I can report however that claims of dressing up in ladies clothing do not occur in our house as there are none that will fit!

Down to more weighty matters as the sub-committee (AARSE) of Aston Abbots Parish Council deliberated on a contentious planning application for wind farms in the Village, including the outrageous proposal to site turbines in Margaret Hind's front and back garden, and the payment of outlandish expenses to the planners. Where was the Daily Telegraph I wonder? Now running seriously over time, Neil sang Benny Hill's wonderfully inventive hit song 'Ernie' - the fastest milkman in the West- before the showing of Aston Abbots' very own Strictly come Dancing. Phil Spooner had filmed 2 local couples for the final. First up Darrell and Tommo, who, after a serious altercation, performed their waltz with grace and style. However they were totally upstaged by the second couple John and partner (a manikin) prone to losing parts of her anatomy doing the paso doble. I was waiting for her head to fall off but actually that remained in place.

To wind up the evening the Chunkies sang in honour of Cliff Richards 70th birthday 'We're all Going on a Summer holiday'. To accompany this Phil Spooner had expertly prepared a brilliant slideshow of old photos including a group of intrepid villagers in raincoats and wellies on the beach. Other pictures, bravely handed over to Phil, were photos taken as children and young men and women sporting various amounts of facial hair (Nigel, Phil & Ivan) and dodgy clothing.

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Thanks to Neil for coordinating it all, Bob for providing new stage blocks, Dave and Phil for setting up (and taking down) all the lights, speakers etc, Francesca for coordinating the food plus cooks and waiters and of course all the entertainers.

Can you guess what AARSE stands for? Answer hidden elsewhere in The Chronicle

Sally Palmer

True Reports from British life!!!

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for South East Gas said, 'We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house.'

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

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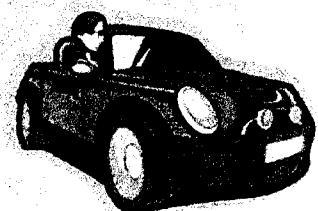
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Saturday	9:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

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NATURE WATCH

“Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the boidies is!”

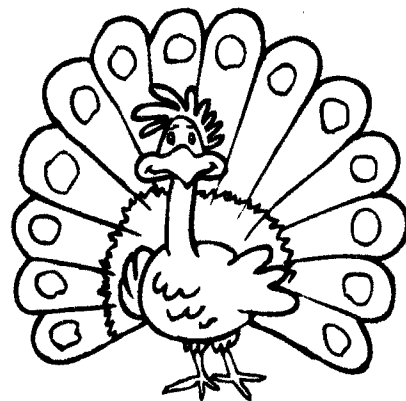
Well spring is indeed sprung although the grass is not riz very much as yet and here in Aston Abbotts we are very lucky because unlike the Bronx we are nearly always surrounded by a large variety of birds. Our winter visitors will be getting ready to leave, and far away in the Savannah of sub-saharan Africa our summer residents will be preparing for their long long journey. When I say getting ready I don't mean booking flights and packing bags! They must eat, almost eat until they burst. A warbler for instance, and there are a number of different species, will just about double its normal weight of about 10g building up large reserves of fat. Fat equals energy and the bird will burn it all off during its migration. Our warbler will fly North at about 25mph, provided the sky is at least partially visible, and must cross the Sahara in one go which may take some 40 plus hours flying non-stop until it reaches the northern coast of Africa. Winds do not always help and then there are predators, various falcons and of course men with mist nets in southern Europe where small birds are often on the menu. I once ate a quail, it was a very tedious business and I suspect I expended more energy dissecting the bird on my plate than I actually got from the fragments of meat I managed to extract! Goodness knows what you would do with something as small as a warbler!

Anyway enough of that. When our warbler eventually arrives it must be able to feed immediately before it reaches a weight below which its metabolism cannot recover. This means insects, and lots of them, so a cold snap when they arrive is a disaster.

When I said that in Aston Abbotts we were surrounded by birds, we are. Most people don't realise just how many. A friend of mine who lives some five or so miles away had a count of 94 different species in his garden. How many can you make it by this time next year?

We have started well this year with a peacock which apparently has been on the loose for some months and has travelled as far as Whitchurch. While it is nice pretending that we are a stately home we do have to share that status with our neighbours and it also likes eating flower buds! So if you want a peacock, or know of someone who has lost one, we are more than willing to forego our stately status.

Alan Jones



It is thought very unlucky to have the feathers of a Peacock within the home or handle anything made with them. This is possibly because of the eye shape present upon these feathers i.e. the Evil-Eye associated with wickedness.

In some parts of the UK meeting two or three Ravens together is considered really bad. One very English superstition concerns the tame Ravens at the Tower of London. It is believed if they leave then the crown of England will be lost.

Unlucky to see one magpie, lucky to see two!

Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.

Astonbury

2011

Saturday July 16th

7pm at Aston Abbotts Recreation Ground

Come and join us for Aston Abbotts' fun family music festival. Once again we will be featuring the best local bands and performers - some you may not have seen before and some familiar faces. Bring a picnic and something to sit upon. Bring the kids (under 16s free). Bring your friends. Then why not come to party on with us afterwards in The Royal Oak.

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ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

Our Christmas Party (15th December) was held at Val Smith's house. We were joined by Les Smith, who acted as quiz master for a 'Trivial Pursuit' style literary board game. We drank mulled wine etc and ate an amazing array of nibbles of the highest standard (the sausage rolls would have won prizes). The questions were impossibly difficult but, given the choice of three possible answers, occasional success was achieved. The winning team, who each earned a gold medal and shared a packet of jelly beans, were Sally Palmer, Alan Jones and Anita Parker.

January's meeting (26th) was held at Pam Hewitt's house. We discussed her choice 'The Alchemist' by Paul Coelho. This is a modern parable that deals with the hopes and dreams of a young Spanish shepherd travelling towards the pyramids seeking treasure. He puts his trust in the hands of various people he meets on the way with varying results. It is possible to put endless variations on the meaning of the fable. We concluded that this would be an excellent book to recommend to young people to give them some perspective on life's journey. This book is an easy read. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th February at Anita Parker's house when we will discuss 'Dreams from my Father' by Barack Obama. The book we will be reading in March is Sam Crawley's choice 'False Impressions' by Jeffrey Archer.

If you would like to join in the discussion you would be very welcome. John Hardcastle

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP/PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

We are working with the Parish Councils for the Wing North villages to hold a Police Matters section to the Parish Council Meeting where we are planning to listen to concerns from parishioners (or from the councillors on your behalf) and use this system to incorporate the Neighbourhood Action Groups. Issues will be listened to and with a multi-agency approach we will look to work on the problems raised and deliver results/findings at the next meeting we attend.



We will be attending the public participation section of the following parish council meetings in ASTON ABBOTTS Parish Hall 7.30pm :

11th May

3rd August

7th December

Theft of Metals – Awareness Letter

Over the past 12 months we have seen a huge increase in metal (Lead & Copper) thefts from houses & commercial premises. In order to increase awareness, encourage reporting and lower the level of these crimes we are contacting all home owners, tenants and business premises who have Lead or copper on their properties or who are having construction work carried out.

My purpose in writing to you is to help you avoid the distress and expense this kind of crime can cause.

Where possible:

- Put sensor security lights up.
- Lock and secure all tools, ladders away.
- Be aware of any unusual behaviour in your street, (Vans driving slowly up & down, people paying particular interest to your property).
- Report any suspicious activity to the police.
- Report any thefts as soon as possible.

By following this straightforward advice, and working together, we can ensure that this type of crime starts falling.

PCSO Boston C9668

A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.

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Terry Bracey-Wright & Michael Mitchell
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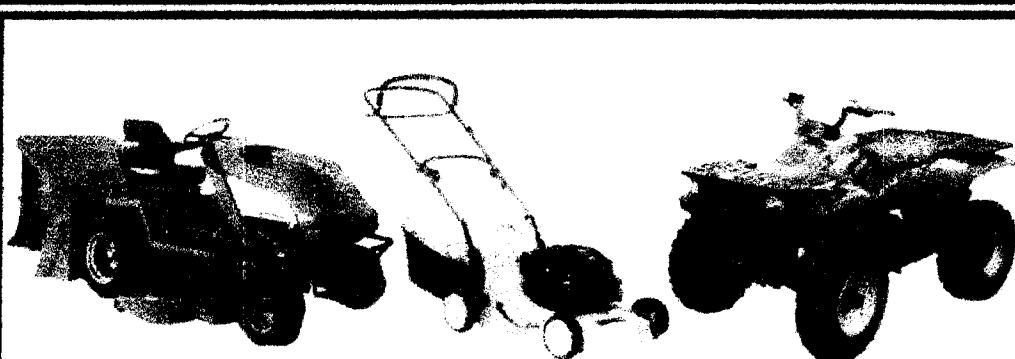
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Aston Abbotts Parish Council Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 19th January 2011

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

County Councillor N Glover.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mr J Perkins and District Councillor P Cooper.

Electoral Review of Buckinghamshire – The Clerk reported he had received notification of the consultation stage of the Electoral review by Bucks CC as they seek to reduce the elected members from 57 to 49 elected members. The next stage will run from 11th January to 3rd April and the Boundary Commission invite all councillors, parish and town councils, local political and community groups and local residents to submit proposals. Details are available to review on their website www.lgbce.org.uk

Bucks CC Budget Consultations – The Clerk advised he had received a letter from Bucks CC giving details of the results of the recent budget consultations and that all the information along with copies of the documents and on line survey for responses can be found at www.buckscc.gov.uk/budget.

The annual street light maintenance quotation had been received and it was RESOLVED to accept the proposal.

County Council - County Councillor Glover updated the meeting on a number of issues and this included an overview of the situation regarding Wing Library that was earmarked for closure in the current review. The local residents were looking at organising a voluntary group and a workshop at Wing Village Hall was scheduled on the 1st March to investigate ways the Library might be kept open. It was also noted that text alerts regarding the refuse collections were available for registration on the AVDC website.

It was noted that the Community Police would be attending the following meetings scheduled during the forthcoming year – 23rd February, 11th May, 3rd August and 7th December. It was hoped that residents who had any issues or queries would attend.

Village Plan – The Clerk read the report received from Cllr Perkins advising that the 1st stage of he consultation on the actions to be included in the Village Plan to include an article in the Chronicle had been completed and he had received 2 emails giving feedback. The next stages involved canvassing via door knocking and visiting the social groups in the village. It was AGREED that Councillors P Shorrocks and Mrs K Curry would contact Councillor Perkins to discuss the best approach for these stages.

Community Contingency Plan – The Clerk reported we had received the relevant document regarding the compilation of a Village Contingency Plan and he was to circulate the document and Councillors would consider for the next meeting.

Local Area Forum – A meeting had been held with Jackie Wesley to look at possible funding opportunities in order to complete the next phase of the footpath to the Wingrave crossroads. Although it had not been possible to identify any new funding sources the meeting was positive and we would know more following the next LAF meeting on the 15th February.

Gate at Lines Hill – It was noted that a vehicle had damaged the gate at Lines Hill. The matter had been reported to Highways and the Clerk was awaiting a response. Cllr Higgs would also obtain a quote for the cost of repair.

Footways – Cllr Higgs reported a number of issues regarding the condition of the footways and the Clerk was to report them to Highway on call.

continued on page 29

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

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Local Transport Plan Consultation – The consultation document was discussed and it was AGREED that Cllr Higgs would respond on behalf of Council outlining the areas to be considered for prioritisation.

Planning Application reporting – There was concern that our reporting of Council's responses to planning applications was not being fully covered in the minutes of meetings. It was AGREED that future minutes would include the detail of Council's responses.

Egg production plant – The Clerk reported he was awaiting a further response from Planning enforcement and that it was understood that a retrospective planning application had been requested in respect of the plant and the owners had 28 days to submit.

Planning Policy AVDC – Nothing to report

Recreation Ground Safety Check: The monthly inspections had been carried out and there was nothing to report.

Annual inspection – The report was handed to Cllr Clarke and he would review and report at the next meeting on the actions taken and required.

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd February 2011 at 7:30pm in the Church Room.

?SOME USEFUL INFORMATION?

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England and English expatriates designed the US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways and that's the gauge they used. Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since. And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots

were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. Now - the twist to the story: A Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad has two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at a factory in Utah. Engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but they had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's backside.

I presume the proposed high speed link through Bucks is similar. Ed.

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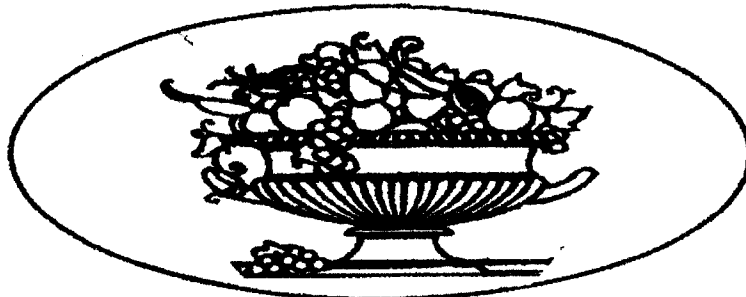
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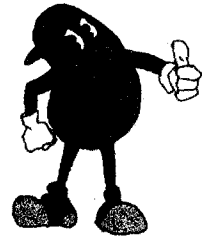


BEAN'S TALK!!

It was a Saturday early in February, the last of the bitterly cold weather had relented for a while, and during the day, there had been just the merest hint that the sun might still exist.

Enjoying a pint at The Oak that evening, and warming my backside in front of a fire Simon had just so skillfully tended, I overheard a conversation about the various merits of 'designer compost'!! At first it was in rather furtive and hushed tones. However, as more ale was quaffed it became clear that since last year's event, certain 'enthusiasts' have been concocting highly potent and experimental composts in secret with the express purpose of winning this year's 'Longest Bean' competition. Evidently, the same 'duo' are erecting a large 'Bean Emporium' to house the very specialist paraphernalia they intend to use to ensure success. Work on this is progressing rapidly and it was rumoured that it's to be formally opened by 'Lord' Hinds, that well known equestrian entrepreneur and winner of last year's 'Largest Bean' competition.

Soon, the topic was being discussed widely amongst other '630 members' and even potential rules and regulations were discussed. There was a touch of 'spring fever' in the air as others pledged to enter the competition and the best source and variety of seeds were argued over.



THE ASTON ABBOTTS LONGEST BEAN COMPETITION!!

Following the success of last year's event and diverse discussions, it has been agreed to hold a brief meeting in
the

Royal Oak,

at

7. 00 pm.

on

Sat. 16th of April

Discussion will include
the timing and rules for this years competition.
This will be chaired by Simon Guy who will prepare
an agenda to be published in the next
issue of The Chronicle.

All welcome!!

I'm reliably informed that Championship quality beans can be obtained from the man, you might see, leading a cow round the Village. *Ed*

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

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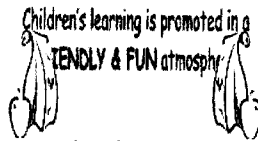
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07983 422752

or

Paul Weston - Committee Chairman
01296 681127



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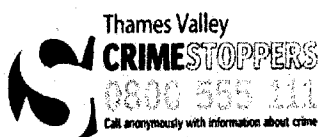
For more information about Neighbourhood Watch or Community Watch contact your local Watch Office on:



0845 8 505 505

the single non-emergency number for Thames Valley Police

or log on to the website at
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if you wish to book
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YOUR

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51 The Green – 682322

Colin Higgs
6 Wingrave Road – 681343

Richard Clarke
Maplewood, The Green – 681286

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

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(Revd Ian Olgivie 01296 661479)
Shirley Ford 681865 – Churchwarden
Colin Higgs 681343 – Churchwarden
Andy Bystra 681690
Ann Goodman 681763
Anita Parker 681325
Gordon Kemp 681763

Caroline Abel Smith 681001 – Secretary
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100 Club Winners for January

£50 - Mrs Ford

£10 - Mr J Hardcastle

100 Club Winners for February

£50 - Mrs Coleman

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01296 670388 Andi or Becky Swain



CHURCH REPAIRS

Well!! Despite all the bad weather in January, the removal of the old Victorian heating chimney and subsequent reinstatement of the roof has been successfully completed. Further progress was made when the interior of church was painted just in time for Christmas, enabling it to be decorated by various village groups. As many of you will have seen, it all looked very welcoming and festive. PCC members have since been busy replacing the furnishings, polishing all the brass-work and generally cleaning up after what has been a major re-decoration. One member has bought and fitted new brass rails for the curtain around the font and restored and re-gilded the badly damaged picture frame of 'The Sistine Madonna' above it. It all looks very pleasant; a typical, cared for English, village church, so why not come and have a look for yourselves?

With 'phase one' of the work completed, the scaffolding has been re-erected around both the tower and south wall. This will facilitate the removal of masonry bees from the south wall and replacement of badly damaged stonework on the tower. Both areas will then have to be extensively re-pointed. At the time of writing, work has been delayed since the cut stone required for repairs is in short supply. Much of the setback has been due to severe frost damage to cutting equipment at the supplier's quarry. However, the latest information is that the stone we need should be delivered within the next few weeks allowing the work referred to above to be completed. The final job before our current funding runs out and Wards leave the site will be repairs to the porch wall and roof. I will hope to get an 'up-date' from them shortly and let you know the details in the next issue of the Chronicle.



Descriptions and Travel

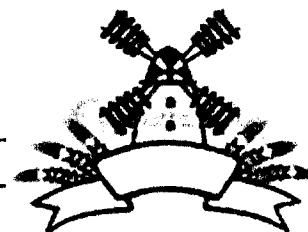
In 1927 "The Victoria History of the Counties of England: Buckinghamshire" states as follows: At Aston Abbotts the land is high, rising to 468ft. above the ordnance datum at a point north of the village, whence extensive views can be obtained of the surrounding country. The village, which includes several buildings of the 16th and 17th centuries, is small and compact, with a small green in the centre, on the north side of which is the church. Near by is the vicarage, a substantial building dating from c. 1830. The present school was built in 1874, the former one together with five ancient cottages having been pulled down. There is an Independent chapel, built about 1839, and a Primitive Methodist chapel dating from 1862.

Slightly to the west of the village is the site of the ancient country house of the Abbots of St Albans, from whom the parish derived its distinctive name. The present house, known as the Abbey, is a modern building of brick covered with stucco, having been practically rebuilt in the 19th century. Some of the walls, however, are of exceptional thickness, and may be part of the original building. The house stands in grounds containing a sheet of water, with a view over the town and vale of Aylesbury. It was once occupied by Sir James Clark Ross, discoverer of the Magnetic Pole in 1831, who died here in 1862. It is now the property and residence of Lieut.-Col. Henry Mitchell Sholto Douglas.

Phil Spooner made a delightful video of last year's Village Fete. Take a look - you might spot yourself - the youtube link is printed below.

<http://tinyurl.com/astonabbottsfete>

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St James Church

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1st Sunday of month Evensong 6pm

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays Holy Communion 10am

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.

Dates in March	CHURCH SERVICES		
Sun. 6 th	Evensong 6 pm.	St. James Church	Rev. Ogilvie
Wed. 9 th	Ash Wednesday 10.00 am.	St. James Church	
Sun 13 th	Holy Communion 10.15 am.	St. James Church	Rev. Binns
Sun. 20 th	Holy Communion 10.00 am.	St. James Church	Rev. Hemsley
Sun. 27 th	Holy Communion 10.30 am.	St. James Church	Rev. Hale
Sunday 3 rd April	Mothering Sunday Service 3.30 pm.	St. James Church	Rev. Ogilvie
	LENT COURSES		
Thur. 17 th	8.00 pm.	Soulbury Church	
Wed. 23 rd	8.00 pm.	Stewkley Church	
Wed. 30 th	8.00 pm.	Aston Abbots Church	
Wed. 6 th April	8.00 pm.	Cublington (The Unicorn)	

	SIDES PERSON	CLEANERS	FLOWERS
6 th March	Andrew Ford	Colin & Caroline Lane	None during Lent
13 th March	Caroline Lane	Ann & Gordon	None during Lent
20 th March	Gordon Kemp	Andrew & Shirley	None during Lent
27 th March	Anita Parker	Anita & April	None during Lent

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent begins on 9 March 2011 and ends on 23 April 2011, which is the day before Easter.

In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival *Carnival*, which is Latin for *farewell to meat*.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

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	Vanessa Worrall	688429
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Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Mould	681262
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The Chronicle

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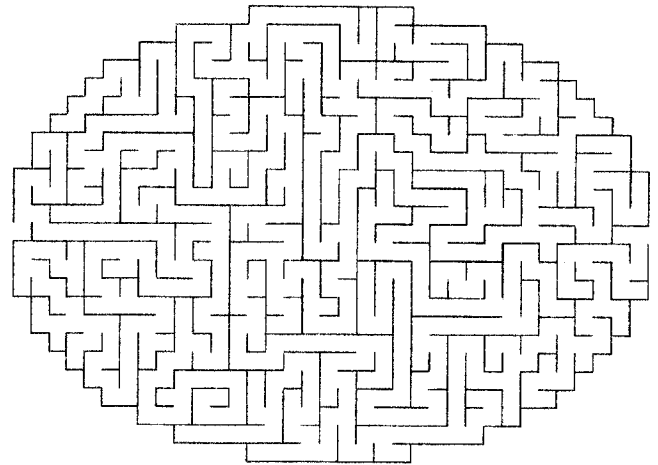
Phil Corrigan

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01296 688191

corriganpc@aol.com

Can you get from one side of the brain to the other?



Well known phrases or sayings. Can you figure them out?
answers to words and numbers on page 41

LIP LIP	MINUTES MINUTES MINUTES MINUTES MINUTES	Life LIVE LIVE
▲ 1. thing 2. thing 3. thing	MOOTION MOOTION MOOTION	COAST

Use the numbers 1 through 9 to complete the equations.

	+		-		1
-		+		+	
	x		-		29
-		x		-	
	x		-		-1
-10		9		1	

The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.



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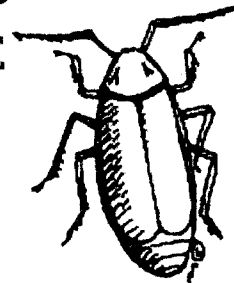
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Confessions of a chocolate addict

I'm lying at the foot of the stairs and my nose is twitching with the heavenly smells from the box he has hidden in the bedroom cupboard. I'm waiting for my chance to get at those delicious irresistible chocs. But I must take care, she is not happy after my recent hit and has threatened me with cold turkey - though that doesn't sound too bad.

It all started after my old partner, Lucy, left us a nearly 2 years ago now. After a bit my owner brought home Magda, oh what a beautiful bitch with her silky chocolate brown coat, doleful eyes and fantastic figure. It was love at first sight, I even felt compelled to growl at any males that came near her. Oh yes beautiful, but bad! You see Magda was a thief, and a very good one too. Within days she was taking all manner of things from the kitchen worktops and chewing them up. She chomped through boxes of all shapes and sizes releasing all kinds of scrummy food. One day, near Christmas, my owner brought home lovely smelling boxes and took them upstairs. Now I had never gone upstairs, well not for years, because Lucy had told me there were rules and one of the most important was never to go upstairs. Magda did not believe in rules – said they were only there to be broken and so when owner popped out for a bit, Magda was upstairs in a flash. Well what was I to do? Gingerly I followed to find her ripping into one of the sweet smelling boxes and chewing into these brightly wrapped shapes. I was able to get hold of a few and oh! were they good? Suddenly we heard the car and hurtled back to our cushions in the lounge pretending to be asleep. It wasn't long before owner found out about the box and I can tell you Magda got a good telling off. However I escaped a reprimand since my owner thought I never went upstairs.

The final straw was the great baking cupboard raid that took place about 3 weeks later. Magda managed to open one of the kitchen cupboards while the owners were out. After we'd eaten the bar of cooking chocolate and bag of chocolate chips we couldn't decide what to have next so pulled everything else out onto the floor for a good sorting out. We tried some nasty tasting white powder which we spat out on the floor where it stuck fast. We tried dried fruit, nice squares of meaty tasting stuff wrapped in shiny paper as well as sugar, nuts and breakfast cereal. Eventually I had to go and lie down as my stomach was hurting. I also knew that my owner was going to shout a lot when she got home. I was right she did shout a lot and worse still got on the telephone and talked to someone about collecting Magda. Shortly after that a lady came to take Magda away.

Well that was a bit of a shock I can tell you! I didn't want to be sent away back to that dog home I came from so I thought I had better mend my ways. Trouble is I think I have become addicted, hooked on those sweet tasting things. It doesn't help that, according to my owner, I have over 200 millions olfactory (smell) receptors in my nose making my sense of smell 25 times better than humans. So, this Christmas when my owner came home with those funny shaped, beautifully smelling boxes I was unable to resist the temptation to eat them. Likewise the owner's mother's wrapped Christmas present placed under the tree the night before Christmas. I knew what it was immediately and as soon as I was alone on Christmas morning I was able to pick it out and eat it - well most of it - before being interrupted. Now we've just had Valentine's Day and I've relapsed again unable to resist the M & S chocs wrapped up for him. I know it is bad for me, apparently chocolate can kill us, but I just can't resist and I'm dreading Easter. I need help can anyone provide an answer?



Yours

Desperate Chocolate Addict of Aston Abbots (please send answers to Sally Palmer c/o Tyler)

Answers to Picture Quiz

1. Tulips
2. Back in five minutes
3. One Life to Live
4. First Thing in the Morning
5. Go Through the Motion
6. The Coast is Clear

CHESS PIE (see page 15)

Ingredients: 4 ounces butter 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed 1 cup granulated sugar 3 large eggs
1 tablespoon vinegar 2 teaspoons vanilla 1 tablespoon cornmeal

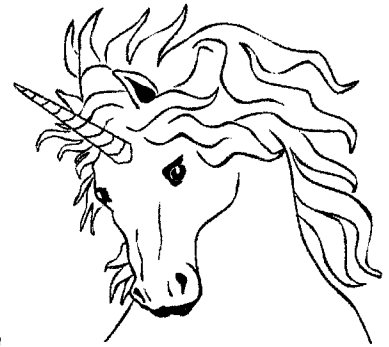
Preparation: Melt butter; blend with sugars. Add eggs and other ingredients and stir until blended. Do not beat. Bake in unbaked pie shell for one hour at 350°.

3	+	2	-	4	1
-	■	+	■	+	
5	x	7	-	6	29
-	■	x	■	-	
8	x	1	-	9	-1
-10		9		1	

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March brings the start of British Summertime.

Come and join us at The Unicorn as the days get longer and evenings warmer!

What's on in March

Friday 4th - Leslie and The Speakers -
Live Soulful Funky Tunes from 8pm

Tuesday 8th - Halfway House -
live traditional folk music 8pm onwards

Tuesday 8th - Pancake day

Thursday 17th - St Patricks Day -
Irish set Menu available & plenty of Guinness

Friday 25th - Dinner and live music
from Anything Goes 8pm onwards

Live 6 Nations Rugby shown throughout March

April 3rd - avoid disappointment and book now
for Mothering Sunday

PLUS enjoy these Unicorn Regulars:

Shop now open for milk, butter and other essentials. Pre-orders required for freshly prepared produce.

Coffee & Cake Every morning from 10.30am

Monday Night is Quiz night

The Unicorn Quiz 8pm - 10pm
Why not bring a team?

Full English Breakfast -
served Saturday 9am - 11am

Sundays

Best of British Roasts
12pm - 3pm
Booking advised

Bar Snacks

available throughout the day!

We serve food Sunday evenings 7-9pm – Booking is essential

FREE WIFI internet access



01296 681261

The Unicorn, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 0LQ
Please see web site for full details www.theunicornpub.co.uk

What's On In March

- Mobile Library** Tuesday 1st 15th & 29th The Green 10.30am
Pancake Day Tuesday 8th
Ladies Club Thursday 3rd 17th & 31st Church Room 2.15 pm.
Whist Drive Thursday 3rd 17th & 31st Church Room 7.30 pm.
Bingo Thursday 10th Church Room 7.30 pm.
Coffee/shop Every Thursday 10.00 til 12.00
Quiz & Nibbles Social
Friday 1st April Church Room 7.30 pm.
Rambling Club Sunday 3rd April Meet at Wing 2.00 pm.

Address

Please note that all submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to
John Hardcastle
Marloes, Lines Hill
01296 688070

Email submissions to:
editor@aachronicle.co.uk

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

LITTER BLITZ

Saturday 26th March 10am

meet outside the Church Room

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY

Classified

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle

Phone us on 01296 688191
or email

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

If you have access to Frog Spawn, and are happy to let me have some, please let me know. I have tried before, with no apparent success, to populate the ponds on my Wild Bit. Perhaps the tadpoles are being devoured by the fish and newts. I'd like to give it another go - there ought to be some frogs and toads given how damp it is. John Hardcastle 688070

Come along to the Farmers Market to buy some fabulous local produce. Get your taste buds tingling this month with samples cooked by a Michelin Star chef from Aylesbury College.

Market Square Aylesbury 22 March 2011 9:00AM to 2:00PM

The Big Ballet at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre

The Big Ballet are an ensemble of 16 Corps de Ballet dancers, each weighing no less than 16-Stone and united in a common cause; not to lose a single pound. These ladies enchant audiences with classical and modern ballet pieces in a hilarious comedy show full of fun and astonishing choreography, proving that you shouldn't take life, or yourself, too seriously. **Wed 2 March 2011**

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

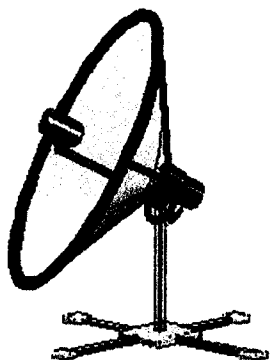
630 Club - meets every Saturday in the Royal Oak at 6.30 pm. New members very welcome. Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.

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.

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

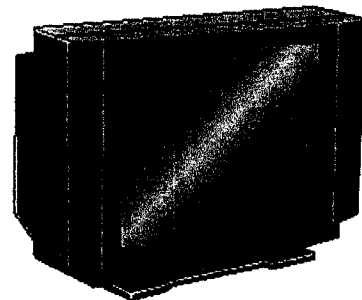
FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

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NEW AND
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C.F.C.F.C

For some months the **Church Farm Cycling Fitness Club** have met every Saturday morning in an attempt to stave off the dual ravages of age and excess alcohol consumption. The members, which include at least two chunky people, have been undertaking a punishing exercise regime in an attempt to lose weight.

The Saturday regime is as follows:

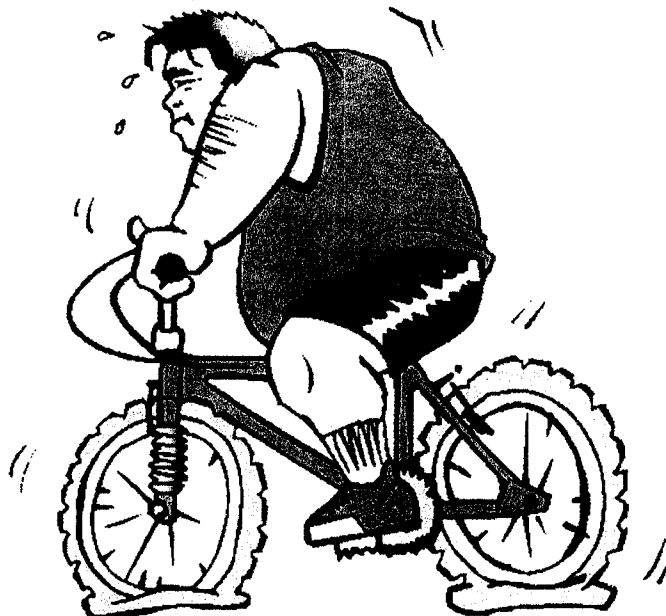
1. Meet at Church farm with bikes. Inflate bike tyres. Depart for Cublington.
2. Pause *en route* to instruct Astonbury chairman Phil Corrigan on the finer points of changing gear (yet again).
3. Reach Cublington and disembark at The Unicorn. Journey time 7 mins.
4. Enter The Unicorn public house, consume full English breakfast with extra toast and 2 cups of *latte*. Put world to rights.
5. Back on the bikes, cycle home to Aston Abbots. Time 8 mins. Total exercise time 1½ hours.

Now let's look at the mathematical facts:

FACT: 1 minute of cycling burns 8.85 calories.

FACT: 3500 calories burnt equals one pound of body fat lost.

Therefore: if we do this every Saturday for a year we will each burn $15 \times 8.85 \times 52$ calories and we will each lose nearly two pounds of excess body weight! The conclusion is inescapable. Come on chaps let's stick to the regime and show them that we can do it!!!



FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY