

THE CHRONICLE

312

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine - July and August 2011



Editorial

If you didn't know already this July has 5 Fridays 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. This apparently only happens once every 823 years.

The Remembrance Service for Geoff Curnow was full to overflowing with family and friends. Geoff's eldest grandson gave one of many moving tributes. You can read his on page 5.

I'm delighted to be part of the effort, directed by Peter Knight, to establish a Village Orchard. It was apparent at the meeting held on 14th June that there is evident enthusiasm for the proposal. See page 7 for a report on the progress that has been made to date.

I'm looking forward to the Village Fete - it coincides with my youngest grandson's first birthday. We are having a family gathering so I'll be able to introduce him and my other grandchildren to the delights of what I'm told will be a family orientated fete.

Judy and I, on a whim, went to see 'Dinnerladies' at Aylesbury Theatre. The cast worked very hard and there were many chuckles. The theatre was only half full so the atmosphere was a bit lacking. The set was very static and it did feel as though we were watching the tv version.

I was hoping to enter the runner bean competition but my beans this year are a disaster - something is nibbling them as they appear above ground. There is one category for the 'best cheat' - at the moment that's my only option.

Trust you all have a good summer - we've had a bit of rain; not sure it's enough for our farmers though. We are having a family holiday in France at Cap Ferret - it's about an hours drive south of Bordeaux - I guess it's going to be very hot but, as one of my daughters is a teacher, we can't pick and choose the best time of year. At the beginning of the July we have a few days visiting friends in Northumberland - if the weather was predictable there's no better place. We went last year in June and it was gorgeous. Here's hoping we have the same luck.

John

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THE CHRONICLE
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cheaper than some local Parish
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Copy date for the next issue

Friday 2nd September

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

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and distributed free of charge
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Abbotts, our local Doctors'
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House.

Alison's Gossip Column

BIRTHDAYS

July

George Fox	2 nd
Donna Wiggett	2 nd
Margaret Hinds	6 th
Nigel Palmer	6 th
Nicola Lovell	9 th
Gordon Smith	15 th
Andrew Plested	19 th
Ellie Williams	19 th
James Hartnett	21 st
Anne Brancker	24 th
Daniel Smith	24 th
Christy Oldfield	24 th
Jade Smith	24 th
Deirdre Whyte	27 th
Lawrence Hinds	29 th
Julia King	31 st

August

Paul Fletcher	4 th
Liz Barlow	4 th
Ivor Belgrove	7 th
Christine Fox	10 th
Mark Hewitt	11 th
Jackie Coates	12 th
(Glorious 12 th !!)	
Louise McManus	17 th
Zoe Williams	19 th
Andrew Parker	21 st
Zoe Oldfield	24 th
Andrew Peacock	24 th
Jenny Howell	27 th
Dean Wiggett	29 th

**MOBILE LIBRARY 5th, 19th July
2nd, 16th & 30th August 10.30am**

The Mobile Library is one of the few resources we have coming into the village and it's free!!!! At the moment there are only three people using this service! We are so lucky to have it still and it would be a shame to loose it. So please do 'USE IT' or we are in danger of 'LOOSING IT'!

Huge Apologies to Zoe Judd and Adam Scrivener for getting Adam's surname wrong last month.

Almost £100 was collected from houses in Cublington Road & Wingrave Road and The Green for the annual Christan Aid Week in May. Thank you to all who contributed. *Anita Parker*

I would like to express a huge thankyou for all the love and support shown to me and my family since Geoff had his heart attack. The phone calls, cards, letters, flowers and delicious food that magically appeared, just when we were wondering what to eat, have been so appreciated. It was wonderful to know that so many people came to his funeral service and made such generous donations towards the new mower for the Church. This fund stands at £1000.00 at the moment with more promised so thankyou for that also. *April.*

MOVING ON

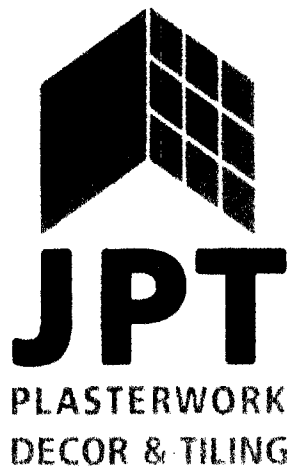
The sudden and very sad loss two dear friends, Ray Wilkinson and Geoff Curnow, coming so close on the deaths of Ivy Brandon and Vic. Scott, has cast a great sense of sadness and loss among most of us in Aston Abbotts this year.

Ray & Geoff had been particularly good friends of mine from the moment they moved into the village. Both were generous, extremely good company and always more than willing to lend a hand, either to me personally or by assisting in village activities. Perhaps above all, they both had that quite rare 'manner' about them, that to me labeled them 'gentlemen', and I delighted in their company. I now miss them greatly.

All four, had in their own way, made significant contributions to our community for so long and were such nice people. Many a tear is and will continue to be shed for them by their families and those of us who were pleased to call them friends.

In my 'darker moments I find it is quite easy to feel that their 'passing' has 'ripped the heart' out of the village. However, as much as we might continue to grieve for their loss, one has only to look around at all the wonderful activities and events taking place or being planned (increasingly by the more youthful amongst us) to appreciate that Aston Abbotts will continue to be the sociable and dynamic community it's long been.

Andy Bystra



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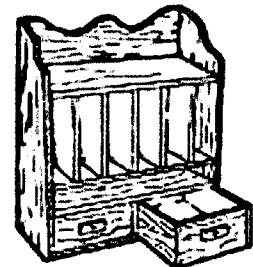
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Grandpa

I would just like to tell you about some of our fondest memories of our Grandpa.

As well as being kind, loving and warm hearted you were so much more.

Whether it was helping us win at scrabble even though when we asked you to play you always refused, then you would come over half way during a game and help out whoever happened to be losing.

Making sure that when we had a family get together that the grass in the garden was always mowed to look like a football pitch and that there was always new tennis balls in the garage even though within half an hour of us arriving those balls would be lost over the fence.

You were a very generous man, especially with your alcohol measures, helping us older Grandchildren out when we got a new car, you would always take us to fill it up with petrol.

You would always take an interest in anything we had to say about our lives be it school, work or our personal interests, it wouldn't matter what we were doing as long as we were happy then you were happy, and if we were ever unhappy you would always be happy to listen and do anything you could to make us happy again, quite often all it took was a big hug.

You had such a wonderful sense of humour and would always make us laugh with your jokes and 'one liners'.

You had so much wisdom and knowledge to give us, you would tell us so many stories about your own life experiences in work, your hobbies, your friends and of course the Arsenal, your club, a proud supporter you are.

We love you and rest assured we will all tell our children, your great grandchildren what a wonderful person you were and make sure that your stories and the knowledge you have given us will be told for many many years to come.

We now hope that you are eating your favourite meal, egg and chips for breakfast, lunch and dinner every single day as you always used to say that grandma never cooked it for you, even though we knew you had probably had it the day before.

We as grandchildren and as a family have always been very close, any Christmas or a family members' birthday, whoever happened to be opening their presents we would all say 'all eyes on that person'

And from all of us today Grandpa, **'ALL EYES ARE ON YOU'**

Byesebye and god bless .xx

Countryside Matters

If you had the chance to watch Countryfile last Sunday, you would begin to understand the catastrophic situation with Dairy Farmers. Only 11,000 left, half the number 20 years ago. Two farmers sell their cows everyday, some cows go to other herds, a large proportion to slaughter. Yes that's right, 700 farms a year close down nationwide. The supermarkets screw the last available penny out of you so there is no point in losing money, even if you love the job.

But the situation has more serious side effects. No bull calves enter the beef chain, fewer heifers for replacement stock, less men working the land, less income for the rural community, for village shops, pubs and garages. I know this sounds like a winge, but examine those facts!

The supermarkets, which I know we all use, have decimated the High Street, with some market towns only left with charity shops, book makers and the occasional estate agent. There are some exceptions, Leighton Buzzard still has 2 butchers and a good weekly market. I see Tesco's are back to selling imported South American meat, so much for supporting the British meat industry.

Lastly, Arla Foods are about to build the largest milk processing plant in the UK on our doorstep in Aston Clinton. Am I missing something here? But of course foreign milk can be tankered in daily. The puppies have all gone to lovely caring families, some with children. We have weekly action email reports and I see they are giving great joy and happiness already. *James Henderson*

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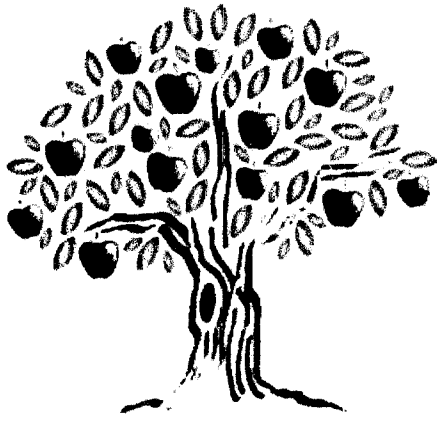
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Village Orchard

At a well attended meeting in the Church Room on Tuesday 14th June Peter Knight set out his vision to establish a village orchard on land immediately behind the allotments.

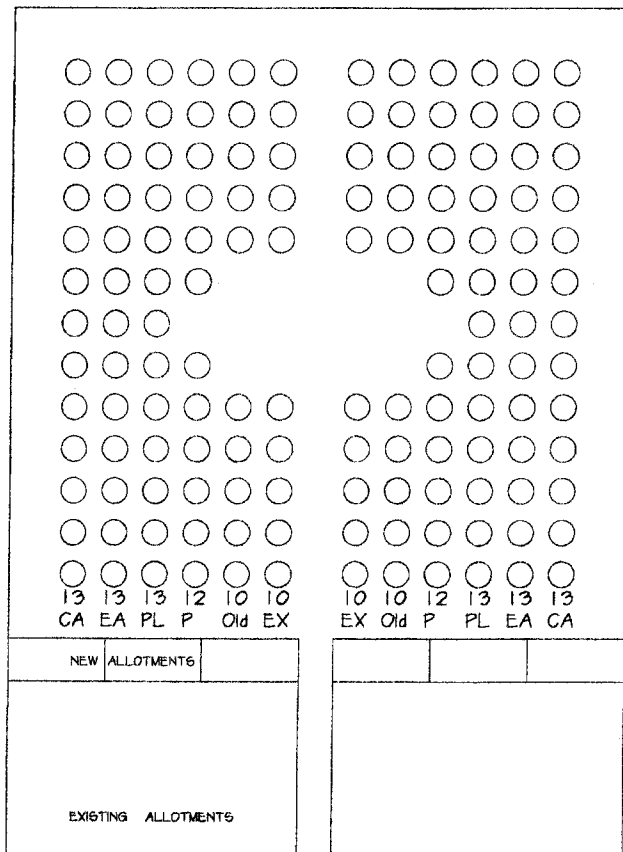
The orchard, to be named the Vic Scott Orchard, will occupy an area of approximately 2.25 acres. It will be possible to accommodate almost 150 trees spaced 20 feet apart. There are approximately 200 households in Aston Abbots – at the meeting it was agreed that initially each household should be limited to one tree. This policy can be reviewed in subsequent years.

It was emphasised that the orchard will be for every villager to enjoy at all times of the year and that all villagers will have the opportunity to be involved in the planting and distribution and receipt of fruit and juice pressings.

An order for saplings will be placed in time for an initial planting this autumn. It is proposed that all the varieties of trees chosen will have an association with Aston Abbots and/or Buckinghamshire. The likely cost of a tree will be £30.

If any villager or household would like to have a tree planted then please contact Peter to discuss the type and variety of tree you would like. Catalogues are available for inspection. It is envisaged that individual trees can have plaques to record the family or individual the tree commemorates.

Below is a layout of the orchard.



The central open area can be used during harvest time and at other events. If wished it will be possible to incorporate benches and to plant areas with bulbs and flowers and to leave some grass areas uncut. When the trees are well grown then nest boxes and bat boxes can be incorporated. It is anticipated that the orchard will be productive within five years (some trees sooner).

The response from the village has far exceeded our best hopes. We are confident this will be a great asset for our village and will provide a focus for many social events in the years to come.

If you did not get to the meeting and want to know more about our plans, or would like to donate a tree, then please contact either Peter Knight, John Hardcastle or Gordon Smith or put a note through Peter's door at 59 The Green. We need to know approximately how many trees we should order to ensure supplies, so please state your preference for variety (apple, plum, pear etc).

Peter Knight, John Hardcastle, Gordon Smith

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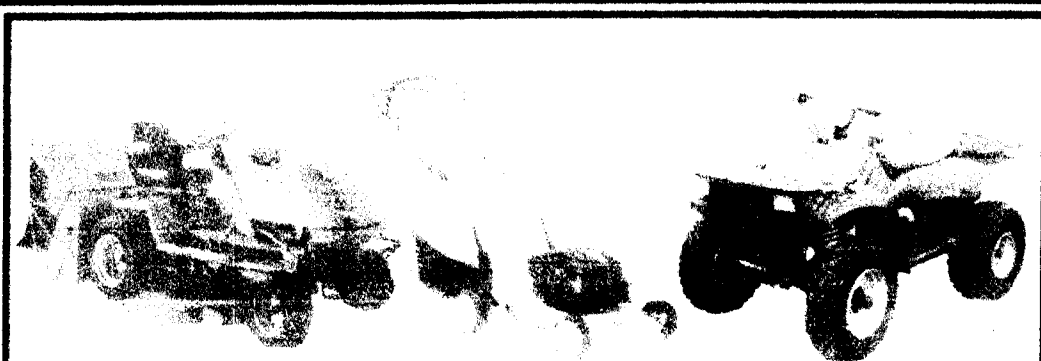
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ASTON ABBOTTS SUMMER BALL

SATURDAY 23RD JULY 2011

So it's onto the business stage with the Summer Ball. We currently have over 160 people attending this year, a glorious marquee, in a wonderful location, with great food, great music and some posh toilets so it is sizing up to be a wonderful evening. We would like to thank everyone who has paid to date, we now really need to ask people that haven't yet paid to do so as soon as you possibly can. We now have an official village account set-up so we can accept cheques made out to – ~~Frank and James's St Tropez Holiday Fund~~ sorry **Aston Abbotts Summer Ball** so if you can arrange your ticket/table payments to be made we would be very grateful.

Some people have asked us what the dress code is for the evening? In our eyes the Summer Ball is an opportunity to break out the glam frock and James Bond costume! I believe one of the great sights of last year was everyone walking through the village in their dinner suits and ball gowns on their way to the ball. It created a real buzz and we would like that to be the case this year. As you may well be aware this year's ball is taking place on the land behind the Firs House by kind permission of Elizabeth McManus. We are going to place directional signs so that you clearly see the entrance and exit to the location although the exit signs maybe a little blurred for a few on the way out (hic). In that vein, to start the night as we mean to go on, this year we have decided that there will be a drinks reception starting at 7pm, we are hoping that people will then have the opportunity to enjoy the view with a glass of bubbly before we all sit down to dinner.

Talking of food, I had a great meeting with Grant Huntley who is our chef for the evening. He is really looking forward to the night (especially after I told him we had sorted out proper refrigeration this year) and has given me a sneak view of the menu and I can honestly say your in for a real treat. We would like to say a

big thank you to everyone who have donated to the Charity Auction this year. There is still time for anyone that wishes to donate to do so, just get in touch. We were pleased with the many of you who have given your positive support for the direction of the proceeds this year, the path down to the crossroads, is something that we think will help many people gain safe access to facilities and transport links.

We only have a few tickets left, they are positioned by the bar unfortunately (or not) so if you would like them please get in touch before they go on Ebay (joke).

So once again we are almost there! I don't know about you but this year has just flown by. It's been a really hectic one with everything that's been going on and now I am really looking forward to just getting together with everyone at all the upcoming village events to, more than anything else, just stop have a chat a laugh and enjoy where we are and the people we are with! We are lucky to be in a village that does so much and I for one will be celebrating that fact, I might evvvvvveeeennn have a couple of drinks!!!!

See you on the Dance Floor!

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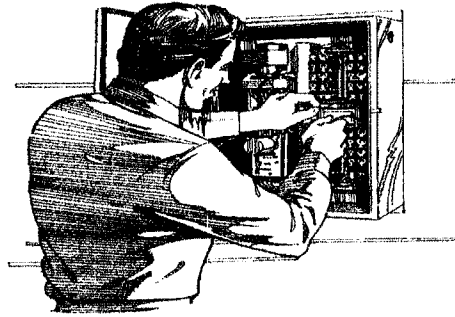
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VIC Scott's Diaries

July 1946

Butterflies

Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Peacock, Marbled White, Ringlet, Holly Blue, Gatekeeper.

Moths

Silver Y, Dark Archers, White Ermine, Brown Plume, White Plume, Yellow Underwings, Five Spot Burnet, Gold Tail, Poplar-Hawk, Humming – bird Hawk, Common and Narrow-bordered Yellow Underwing, White Leopard, Gold Spot, Garden Tiger, Grass Moths, Willow Beauty, Smoky Wainscot, Swallow-tail, Brimstone, Magpie, Small Magpie, Yellow Shell.

Wild Flowers

Scarlet Pimpernel, Angelico, Hairbell, Chicory, Bee Orchid, Nettle-leaved Bellflower, Wild Mignonette, Enchanters Nightshade, Rose-Bay, Great Hairy and Broad-leaved Willow Herbs, Hedge and Yellow Bedstra, Woodruff, Yellow Toad-Flax, Stone-crop, Great Mullein, Foxglove, Wild Thyme, Eyebright, Flax, Corn Marigold, Corn Cockle.

July 1955

The Weather

A wonderful month of almost continuous sunshine. Rainfall negligible.

Bird Life

The outstanding feature of the month was the sight of a Buzzard on 27th, in high, soaring flight at approximately mid-day. Weather at the time fine, wind NW. This constitutes my first record of this magnificent bird of prey at Aston Abbots.

An August Evening (5th August 1945)

The sun sinks below the Western horizon on this perfect summer's evening. The month is August and life in the insect world is at its height. An hour or so ago butterflies of many different kinds were flitting from flower to flower, and thousands of bees were busy in the same manner.

Now, however, the butterflies are resting, the bees have returned again to their nests; or hives, as the case may be; and the day-birds are roosting in the green hedgerows.

The time is 9.20pm and dusk is beginning to fall. In the distance a tawny owl is answering the call of its mate in another tree: the creatures of the day are resting, but the creatures of the night are waking.

Only a couple of yards away from me, primrose yellow sweet scented flowers of *Oenothera* are opening wide, giving forth their mild, but fragrant perfume, as a call to passing moths. On a wide open spray of mauve *Buddleia* four moths are sipping the nectar, while a Silver Y moth flits round the *Oenothera*.

For a moment a large moth, probably a Dark Arches, hovers near my hand, before being lost to sight over the garden wall. Dainty Lace-wing Flies and other nocturnal insects fly gently to and fro. A bat, most probably a Pipistrelle, flies around the house and nearby farm buildings, uttering frequently its high-pitched squeak.

The flowers of Marigolds and *Escheholtzias* are tightly closed, while the giant Sunflowers hang their heads.

Hundreds of moths are now on the wing, pure white Gold-tails and White Plumes drift like snowflakes on the evening air, while higher up large and powerful species dash to and fro.

Now at 9.45pm the sprays of *Buddleia* are almost covered with moths, varying in size from the diminutive moths of the Tineae group to large Yellow Underwings, Brimstones, Magpies, Dark Arches, Turnip Moths and hundreds of others are on the wing as I retire for the night at 10 o'clock.

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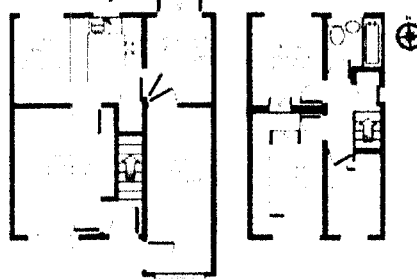
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FLORAL DISPLAYS IN THE CHURCH

It is time for you to start getting your donations ready for the Fete Collection.

Raffle tickets will be coming through your door at any time, please take time to fill them in! Any items you have for the fete will be collected at the same time.

We are looking for **plants** (these can be taken to the vicarage and put behind the gate), **bottles, gifts, brick a brac**, (no electrical goods thank you) **cakes** (better taken on the day!), lots of these as we have both a cake stall and the tea room get through lots!

We are still looking for helpers on the day to man stalls such as '**Splat the Rat**' and '**Horse Race Game**'.

We will be looking for volunteers to stand in the **Stocks** for a while.

The sorting will take place at Dave Lewis's on the 21st at 10am.

We are also looking for a face painter so if you know anyone that might be willing to help please call.

Anyone willing to help on the morning of the Fete would be helpful,

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ALLOTMENT DIARY

You may recall my mentioning in last month's piece that hardly any of my carrot seeds had germinated, and that I was therefore replanting 3 of the 4 rows of carrots. This involved my making a shallow trench in the rows for the new seed, and then brushing the earth back over it. I have good news and bad news to report: the good news is that the second sowing of seeds has worked, and the carrots have germinated nicely. The bad news is that the original seeds have now decided to germinate as well! I now have large numbers of carrots, growing in profusion alongside each of my planned rows, so that it is now very difficult to walk alongside the rows to weed them. While the carrots in the row which I did not replant (an expensive variety produced by the Duchy of Cornwall) are still refusing to germinate, apart from those that had done so before my last article!

Because of the drought, for the first time ever I have been having to take water down to the allotment, since I have virtually exhausted the supply in the many water butts that I keep there. (However, as I write this article (in mid-June), the weather seems to be changing, and has been almost April-like, with numerous showers).

Nevertheless, I mustn't complain: it is just my hobby that is being bugged up by the strange weather we have had this year. I read that Northern Europe is facing its worst drought for 35 years. River levels on the Danube and the Rhine are so low that cargo boats are having to carry lighter loads to avoid running aground. Nuclear power plants in France may have to be closed because they are running short of cooling water from rivers. Cattle in central France are having to eat the hay intended for the winter, after months of drought has turned the fields yellow.

In general, northern Europe has had 50% of its usual rainfall over the last two months, while temperatures have been 4C higher than normal. Some German regions have had only 5% of the usual rainfall this spring. Here in southern England, corn crops are several inches shorter than they should be at this time of year, and we are told that even if the summer is a wet one, they will never recover this missing growth. It seems inevitable that this autumn will see a dramatic rise in food prices. The UN fears rioting in poor countries, and its officials said the global price of cereals had already risen by 70% over the last 12 months.

I have also read that in China the weather has swung from one extreme to the other with bewildering speed, and tragic results. Large parts of central and southern China had had almost no rain since last October, and the Yangtze River had experienced its worst drought for more than a century. Then at the beginning of June the monsoon arrived. However, as the rain fell on ground baked as hard as concrete, the rainwater triggered severe flooding, with around 40 people being killed, and 60,000 being made homeless.

But enough of global misfortune: back here, there has been a silver lining. Strawberries and summer raspberries are very early, and large. I picked my first strawberries and raspberries on 1st June, which I am sure is the earliest I have ever done so. Richard Clarke has just enjoyed his first new potatoes. And with some judicious watering, all my other crops – and so far as I can tell, those of my fellow allotmenters – are thriving – even, now, the carrots!

I am just about to leave for some walking in the French Alps: last time I was there a friend who has an allotment in the village next door to where I am staying was bemoaning the fact that a wild boar had just uprooted all her potatoes: I will let you know in the next Chronicle if there is any equally interesting horticultural news to bring you from France..

Peter Shorrocks

NEW FOR 2011 After 65 years supporting older people local charity Age Concern Bucks is now celebrating changing its name and branding to become Age UK Buckinghamshire. Age UK Bucks will still be the independent charity helping local older people to have a better quality of life. It will continue to provide tailored support and services for people living in the area, including Information & Advice, Advocacy, Welfare Benefits, Befriending and Rural Day Care. But the even better news for older people who are finding it a bit of a struggle to manage everything at home, there are a range of services which will come to you to make your life easier. So if you need a Handyperson, Painting & Decorating, Neat Feet toe nail cutting, domestic house cleaning & laundry, Gardening, Computer Lessons, Therapeutic Massage of feet, hands, shoulders, Gardening, Mobile Hairdressing or even help with relocating or with Independent financial advice – just call Age UK Bucks on 01296 431911.



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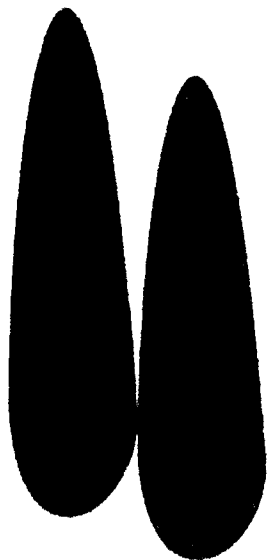
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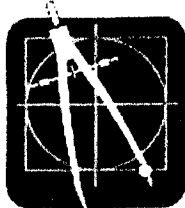
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First photos of nuisance Peacock!

'Lost' in a garden in Nashs Farm!

Such a nice looking bird don't you think!

Beautiful plumage!

'Don't judge a book by its cover' springs to mind!

Paul Williams Nashs Farm



THAT DAMN BIRD!!

A journalist stopped to ask what I knew about a stray peacock since ITV had asked him to investigate the story. Of course, I gave him a copy of the Chronicle and pointed him in the direction of the author of 'That Peacock's gonna get it!' which appeared in last month's.

Keep a lookout on your TV's for the interview..



Aston Abbots Parish Council

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 25th May 2011

Present: - Cllrs. C Higgs (Chair), Mrs J Hardcastle, Mrs K Curry, R Clarke B Carvey and, P Bruton (Clerk). District Councillor P Cooper was in attendance.

Apologies were received from Mr P Shorrocks, Mr J Perkins and County Councillor N Glover

Declarations of interest: Cllr B Carvey declared he had an interest in Item 12, Planning application ref 11/00781/APP and it was agreed to take the item at the end of the meeting at which point he would leave the meeting.

To Co-opt members of the Council: Following the recent Council elections there were 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. Messrs P Shorrocks and J Perkins were proposed and it was RESOLVED they be duly co-opted as Councillors.

To Elect a Chairman: After discussion amongst the Councillors it was RESOLVED to elect Cllr Shorrocks as Chairman for another term. Councillors would consider whether this was a role they would be interested in fulfilling for next year's election in order to maintain a healthy Council.

To Elect a Vice Chairman: Cllr Higgs was unanimously voted Vice Chairman.

To Elect Members to Committees:

Street Lighting Officer: Cllr Higgs.

Planning Committee: Cllr Shorrocks, Cllr Hardcastle, Cllr Carvey and Cllr Perkins.

Transport: Cllr Higgs.

Highways: Cllr Clarke, Cllr Curry, Cllr Higgs.

Recreation Ground: Cllr Clarke and Cllr Curry.

LAF Representatives: Cllr Carvey and Cllr Clarke

Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

Cllr. Curry advised the meeting the broken Gate at Lines Hill had been replaced and it was agreed the Clerk would write a thank you note to Mr Peter Knight for carrying out the work on a voluntary basis and for his continued support in maintaining the Green.

The Clerk reported that the outbuildings mentioned in last month's Minutes at Old School required Planning Permission and a retrospective application had been requested by AVDC Planning Enforcement to resolve the matter.

continued on page 19



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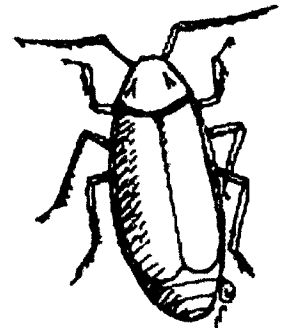
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INSECTS, FLIES, SQUIRRELS.**



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Chairman's report: In Cllr Shorrock's absence the Clerk referred to the Chairman's report to the Annual Parish meeting where he summarised the work the Council had performed during the year. Correspondence to note: – The Clerk advised he had received a letter from BCC Policy and Performance regarding the co-ordination of communication channels with residents. It was AGREED that the Clerk would pass future correspondence to Cllr Carvey who would edit and pass to the Editor of the Chronicle or other media forms.

The Clerk passed round a copy of the Weedon Village plan that had just been completed and it would be used for reference to our own draft.

District Councillor P Cooper wished to thank all those who supported him in the recent Elections. He went on to explain that his focus was to work on local issues as well as actively pursue the cooperation between AVDC and BCC particularly in the area of Finance where the combination of administration services may provide the opportunity for savings and more efficient operations. Cllr Cooper recommended the Parish Council explore the opportunity to introduce a Neighbourhood Plan. Finally he felt that we should look to raise a proportion of the funding for the completion of the footpath to the Wingrave crossroads following the recent granting of funding for Phase 2. Although further grants may be available it was likely we would need a fund in support of any application.

Planning

11/00781/APP (12 The Green – Mr B & Mrs C Carvey)

Increase of pitch roof over existing single storey element including two front dormer windows to provide living accommodation on the first floor.

The application was discussed and it was RESOLVED to have no objections to this application.

11/00799/APP (Longmoor Bungalow, Cublington Road – Mr D & Mrs M Gadsby)

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new two storey dwelling house and detached garage.

The application was discussed and it was RESOLVED to oppose this application as it was felt the proposed Garage was outside the building line and additionally the style and scale of the proposed dwelling was not consistent with the adjoining cottages, The overall bulk versus these cottages is not in keeping.

Egg Production Plant – The Clerk reported we were still awaiting the retrospective application for this facility and it was agreed the vehicle movement data would be forwarded to AVDC.

Neighbourhood Plan – It was agreed that a meeting between Councillors and AVDC to discuss a way forward be arranged.

Village Plan - The Clerk read out a note from Cllr Perkins on the current status of the Plan. The questionnaire had been reviewed and was being formatted, The consultation would then be completed using various methods. It was noted that there were a number of different drafts created by a number of different people and some areas were not completely up to date. A further more detailed review of the plan was to be undertaken and amendments made. There followed a general discussion around the methods of consultation and Cllr Carvey would contact Cllr Perkins to explore the potential of using the Aston Abbots website.

Local Area Forum: The Clerk reported he had submitted our application for Phase 3 of the footpath and this would provide an up to date costing for the works to completion. The date of the next LAF meeting was 21st June 2011.

Recreation Ground Safety Check: Cllr Clark reported that the bench had been broken beyond repair and removed and the issue regarding the broken latch on the gate was being attended to.

Astonbury - It was RESOLVED to allow the use of the Recreation Ground to the organisers, this was subject to Cllr Clark obtaining clarity on the following points. Did the event require a Temporary Event Licence, Parking arrangements in particular in relation to access by an emergency vehicle, clean up arrangements and insurance.

Date of next meeting - It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd June 2011 at 7:30pm in the Church.



Lazy Dog Holiday Cottages

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.

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See our website for photographs and full details - www.lazy-dog.biz

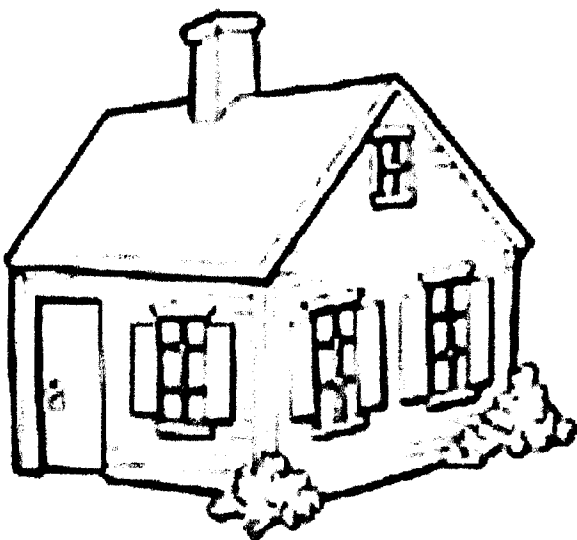
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Aston Abbots & Cublington Ladies Club

Thurs 19th May.

The Club met in the church room Aston Abbots where 7 members were present. In the absence of June Brine, Shirley Ford chaired the meeting and the minutes were read & signed. Our speaker for today, Jo Messenger from Aylesbury was introduced. Her talk was entitled 'The culture and beauty of Nepal'. It proved to be very interesting and was comprehensively illustrated by a wide selection of slides illustrating aspects of life in the region, it's people, scenery and of course the impressive mountains. She was afterwards thanked by Shirley Ford. Tea Hostesses were June Loader and Irene Lowden, and the raffle was won by Christine Scott.

Shirley Ford

Thurs 16th June.

The Club met in the church room Aston Abbots where 10 members and 1 guest were present. The minutes were read & signed. Regrettably, our speaker for today was unable to come but this provided an opportunity for members to discuss the future of the Club and how to attract more members.

A decision was taken to reduce meetings to once a month commencing in September 2011.

They'll take place on the first Thursday of the month in the church room Aston Abbots.

Tea Hostesses were April Curnow and June Brine

Shirley Ford

CAR TREASURE HUNT - Many thanks are due to Colin Higgs and Andy Bystra who organised a Car Treasure Hunt on Friday evening 17th June. The route took contestants around local roads and posed questions about what could be observed en route - answering was made more difficult by the rain that drizzled down the whole time. The event raised £100 for the Church. *Ed*

ASTON ABBOTTS ALLOTMENTS

Due to demand for plots we will be providing 6 additional plots - these will have to be rotivated and prepared ready for use in the autumn. If you are interested in having a plot please let Colin Higgs know (6813430) and if you would like the plot prepared then speak with Richard Clarke (681286) to agree a price for the work.

GRANDPARENTS and TODDLER GROUP

The first group for grandparents looking after children under 4 has started in Aylesbury on Tuesday mornings. We are looking for new people to join our presently small group of 7. The group is held at the Sure Start Children's centre next to Elmhurst School, Dunsham Lane, between 10 and 11.45 am and is free. The centre is modern, airy, clean and well equipped. If anyone knows of anybody that might be interested in bringing their grandchildren along to play while they have a chat please let them know.

Sally Palmer Tel 01296 681152

The following questions
were set in last year's SAT
examination

These are genuine answers
(from 16 year olds)

Q What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on
A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections
A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election

Q. What are steroids
A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs (Shoot yourself now
, there is little hope)

Q. What happens to your body as you age
A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental

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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.



The Aston Abbotts Longest Runner Bean Competition 2011

This year's competition will take place in the Royal Oak at 7.00 pm on either the first or second Saturday in September depending on weather conditions during the growing period. The finally agreed date will be set during August and contestants notified.

There are to be three categories this year.:-

- a. **Longest Runner Bean** Bon fide entries for the will be judged purely on length.
 - b. **4 Best Runner Beans** Each bean pod must be the same, in length width and freshness, beans should be straight and there should be absolutely no signs of the beans inside the pod at all, the judge will snap one of the pods to test for freshness and quality there should be a clean snap with no stringiness at all, each bean should be presented with a length of stem or haulm at the top ideally around three quarters of an inch each must be identical also the point of the flower at the tip end should be present on each pod and ideally you should only touch the stem to avoid marking the pod.
 - c. **The best cheat** Scoring will be based on ingenuity and artistry
3. **Judging** Major Tim Peacocke & Mr Andy ('Carefree') Shillingford have once again 'volunteered' to judge all three categories of the competition. Their decisions will be final!!
4. **The Trophy** This will be awarded for the longest bean and it was felt that it should become known as the 'Ray Wilkinson Memorial' Trophy.. Andy Bystra has been asked to design and make a suitable trophy which will be retained by the winner for 12 months.



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PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW!

QUIZ for ADULTS & CHILDREN

WHO

DO

YOU KNOW?

Answers
on page
27

1 The Doctor is a Time Lord from which planet?

A: Gallifrey B: Ganymede C: Aston Abbotts

2 How many hearts does he have?

A: One B: Two C: Three

3 How old is the Doctor?

A: Over 90 B: Over 900 C: Over 9,000

4 What's the name of his companion in series three?

A: Rose B: Martha C: Julie

5 Doctor Who was first shown on TV in which year?

A: 1963 B: 1973 C: 1983

6 Who was the first actor to play the role of the Doctor?

A: Jon Pertwee B: Tom Baker C: William Hartnell

7 What does Tardis stand for?

A: Terrific Adventures Really Deep in Space

B: Terrifying and Ruthless Daleks in Space

C: Time and Relative Dimension in Space

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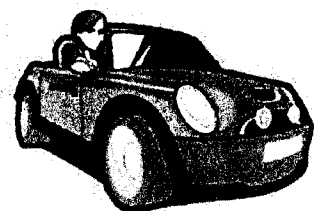
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Sunday	CLOSED

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MEKNES - memories of Moroccan holiday

The traffic inched along passed scruffy shops and cafes as we sought to leave Fes airport for the ancient imperial city of Meknes in Morocco. The driver had promised an hour but after an hour we had only made it to our first significant milestone. "Supermarket!" announced the driver proudly pointing in the fast fading light to an enormous new hyper market on the edge of Fes. Anything less like my image of that exotic city seemed impossible. We were now moving faster passed many half constructed high rise buildings. At last a sign to Meknes loomed out of the dark only 50km to go. Tail gating alarmingly the driver picked up speed, at about 7.45pm we passed many butcher's shops displaying whole carcasses. A heart stopping moment as we overtook a lorry on a blind bend. I closed my eyes praying to God or Allah or anyone else that might be up there, opened my eyes and realised, with relief, we were on a small stretch of dual carriageway.

As we circled the walls of the ancient city of Meknes the driver offers to take us out tomorrow to the Roman ruins of Volubilis, we decline. Finally we stop outside an arch in the wall. We are on foot from now on. A short walk to the best hotel in town the Palace Didi- it looked lovely in the brochure. Part of the now derelict Imperial palace of Sultan Moulay Ismail (1672-1727), the Riad (building with central courtyard) Palace Didi was once the quarters of the Sultan's favourite wives. We are shown to our quarters my senses are assaulted by red. The four poster bed is surrounded by deep red velvet drapes with glass beads, the bed top covered with chiffon embroidered with large red flowers and with deep red and gold bed covers. Huge, intricately worked, metal lanterns hang from the ceiling which is lined with beige material apart from the sheepskin circle around the light fitting. Despite their size the lanterns make little impression so the atmosphere is somewhat gloomy. The windows consist of yellow, blue and orange panes of glass. The huge olive wood doors are elaborately painted in golds, reds and greens. Having flown by Ryanair we are a bit peckish so enquire as to the chances of dinner at 8.45pm. Yes dinner is available in the upstairs restaurant where we discover 4 wise French tourists sitting in the corner away from the blazing fire. We are handed laminated menus, it does not look promising. I choose the set menu of traditional bean soup (harira), vegetarian tagine and oranges. The soup is hearty and hot, the tagine is a mixture of very minty peas, carrot and potato. Nigel has picked chicken tagine with olives. When the waiter lifts the lid a huge pile of olives is revealed but after some judicious prodding chicken is discovered at the bottom. As usual the Moroccan oranges sprinkled with cinnamon are delicious.

I awake next morning. Coloured light is slanting through the windows. Out of bed on the ancient tiled floor the room is chilly. I try to imagine what life must have been like for the Sultan's wives living in such a place day in day out- not great I guess. Breakfast is laid on a table outside our room it is a distinct improvement on dinner and very French in nature reflecting the legacy left by that country on modern Morocco. However in a nod to Moroccan cuisine it includes cumin flavoured egg brought sizzling in a tagine to be eaten immediately as scrambled egg or left to become an omelette.

Fortified by breakfast we set out for a day's sightseeing. First stop is the Mausoleum of Sultan Moulay Ismail. Beautifully decorated with Zilij tiling, carved cedar wood and stucco plaster the tomb itself is bizarrely surrounded by 4 distinctly European grandfather clocks. Apparently the Sultan's ideas of grandeur extended to an attempt to add the daughter to the Sun King Louis XIV of France (who built the Palace of Versailles) to his harem. The Sultan's ambassador was swiftly sent packing with the clocks as consolation. We take a horse drawn carriage ride to the granaries constructed to biblical proportions by the Sultan to store grain, presumably in readiness for a famine, and the pleasure /water storage lake he had constructed in front of them. After an interesting day that included a visit to the local market and trip to a carpet shop (a story in itself) we end the day at an almost deserted but lovely local restaurant overlooking the medina and enjoy delicious trout from the rivers of the Atlas mountains and a Moroccan dessert called briouats (sweet filled filo pastry envelopes).

Sally Palmer

Community News

Is a new feature to the Chronicle where each month information about our community, AVDC and BCC will be passed on. The information will largely come from the numerous notices sent to the Parish Council. Bob Carvey is the compiler and can be contacted at bobcarvey@yahoo.co.uk.

Digital TV – on 14th September BBC2 in this area received from the Oxford transmitter will be switched to “digital”, this will mean that if you are receiving BBC2 on an analogue signal your picture will go blank! People with digital televisions will just retune. TV across the UK is going digital, the switchover for other channels will follow. There are small grants available through this scheme to help people on low incomes and some senior citizens make the change. In 90% of cases because the signal strength will increase most aerials will not need changing, but if you don't currently own a digital TV then a digibox will be needed. It is strongly recommended you seek advice before allowing any “cold call” traders sell you new aerials, digiboxes, recorders etc. If you have an older style TV and need help to understand what will be needed Community Impact Bucks can help you 0845 389 0389. They have been commissioned by the Digital Outreach Organisation to organise help for local people. Or you can contact the Help Scheme run by Digital UK website at www.digitaluk.co.uk or call them on 08456 50 50 50.

Community Impact Bucks – since April 2010 is the combined Rural Community Council, Council for Voluntary Services and Volunteer Centre for Buckinghamshire, their head office is in Bierton. They deliver **comprehensive support** and a **strategic voice** for the voluntary and community sector and rural communities across Buckinghamshire and rural Milton Keynes – see www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk

High Speed 2 – Latest update -The Government's formal consultation on HS2 proposals was launched on 28 February 2011 and ends on 29 July 2011. Documents issued as part of the consultation can be found on the DfT and HS2 websites www.dft.gov.uk and www.hs2.org.uk.

Training for the Voluntary and Community Sectors - AVDC is now offering the training it arranges for its staff to the voluntary and community sector. For details and how to book please call the Contact Officer: Lynne Maddocks (01296) 585364

'Love Your Land Rover' Crime Prevention Campaign - The Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership (AVCSP) has developed an initiative to help reduce the theft of Land Rover vehicles across the Vale. In the last twelve months there has been a significant increase in Land Rovers thefts - particularly older Defender models. The majority of thefts have taken place in rural areas with many on farm premises. The Defender model is particularly attractive to thieves as they can be easily dismantled to provide for spare parts and there is a market for the vehicles in Eastern Europe. For further information contact: Alan Garside, AVDC Community Safety Officer on (01296) 585014 or 07738-314041

Wing North Neighbourhood Policing Update - CRIMES OF NOTE 29/04/2011 – 29/05/2011
Aston Abbots - Nil

Road Speed constraints - Area 12 and 13 Speed Limit Review -Martin Tett (leader) and Mike Appleyard (dep leader) being newly appointed within Bucks CC have announced their intention to more than double the roads budget in order to sort out the 'bad roads of Bucks'. Considerable time, effort and cash has been invested in the speed limit review and until late May, its implementation was ready to go ahead in the next few weeks. It is worth reflecting on the fact that all of the rest of the county has had speed limits reviewed AND implemented. There is also the worry that with the Bucks CC cabinet all representing the non Aylesbury Vale part of the county, road surface improvements will have first and significant benefit outside the Vale. **Update from Netta Glover** – “Just to confirm that the speed limit signs are all ready to go up and will be in place later this year”. Watch this space!

Roof Exchange UK - Community alert from Buckinghamshire Trading Standards - We have reports of a company called Roof Exchange UK who have been calling in the South of the County. A person calling himself James Smith, will cold call on the home owner and state that he can see the roof needs some repair. He may offer to repair the roof for a small fee, then after some work has been completed he will say there are other problems with the roof and the price will rocket!! Please call Trading Standards (01296 383212) if Mr Smith visits!

<p>Q. What causes the tides in the oceans A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins the fight.</p>

HAD ENOUGH OF THE FETE???

When you've seen all the 'sideshows', enjoyed the entertainment, spent your money and your feet are sore, why not pop into the church where you'll find a cool oasis of peace and tranquility?

There's plenty of seating, so rest a while, relax, and enjoy the beautiful, freshly decorated interior, the wonderful flower arrangements and relaxing music.

Take time to totally 'chill out' with your own quiet thoughts and leave relaxed and ready to face the 'outside world' once more.



Astonbury

Already keen people are booking their tickets - and their gazebo places. So don't be shy or get left behind. For tickets contact John Whyte.

We now have a pretty complete programme with new bands plus the return of artistes who have played and sung at Astonbury in the past.

So musically it looks like being a really great night.

If the plans come to fruition we will have a spectacular light show and the best quality sound you can get.

It also looks as though the team to take over the reins for next year are getting into place. If you want to be part of a fun and well worth while experience let us know.

1. **Astonbury X or 10 is on July 16th ,
show starts at 7pm until late.**

Tickets £10 . Under sixteens - with adult supervision - are free. No unaccompanied minors.

Hope to see you there , any queries just see one of the team, we are always around the village.

ROYAL OAK NEWS

We thought it would be a good idea to start a monthly news item on your village pub. This will include a guide to what's going on, news, updates and anything funny we can think of in between.

SPORTING LIFE Why not come down the pub, enjoy a drink and watch your favourite sport on our big plasma T.V. Here are some of the big sporting events we will be showing over the next couple of months!

JULY 2011 Sunday 10th July – British Grand Prix Weekend Sunday 24th July – German Grand Prix
Sunday 31st July – Hungarian Grand Prix

AUGUST 2011 Wednesday 11th August – Football - England V Hungary (8pm) Sunday 28th August – Belgium Grand Prix

ROASTING TIME! The corner stone of every good Sunday is a Roast Dinner and we up the Oak think that ours is one of the best. A choice of Succulent Beef, Beautiful Chicken or mouth watering Pork with crackling is available every Sunday lunch time. 1 Course £9.95 2 Courses £11.95 3 Courses £14.95

ASTONBURY AFTER PARTY – Saturday 16th July 2011 We cannot believe that it's Astonburys 10th (X) year. The event has certainly taken it's toll on some of those old men but they do seem to still be able to get through a few beers on a Friday night! So as it's the last one organised by the Grey Group (Steady) we want you all to come back to the pub to continue the party! You never know we might be still open when the sun rises...

We hope that you found this a little useful. We do spend time (quite a lot actually) thinking of ways to improve your pub further but if you have any other thoughts we would be more than happy for you to come in and have a chat. We might even buy a drink.....*James Perkins*

EXERCISE!!!

On my way to Wingrave to pick Rita up from the garage, I spotted a well known, 'slightly balding' villager walking back to Aston Abbots. On enquiring whether he'd like a lift, he declined, proudly announcing that he walked to Wingrave every day to get his paper as part of his 'keep fit' campaign.

Returning to AA., we were surprised not to overtake him. However, passing a big green bus, suspicions were aroused so we parked at the green and waited. Sure enough, said 'keep fitter' stepped off the bus looking very 'sheepish' indeed!!

His excuse was that it seemed a shame to waste his OAP bus pas!!!



Answers to Dr Who Quiz; 1a 2b 3b 4b 5c 6c 7c

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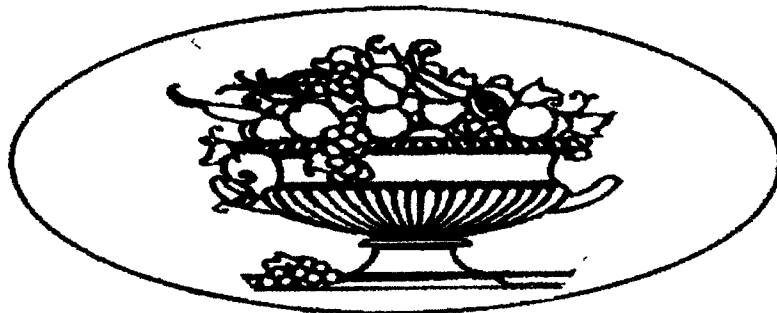
Hester - Clarke

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MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The Mobile Library stops on The Green every other Tuesday between 10.30 and 10.45

5th & 19th July
2nd, 16th & 30th August

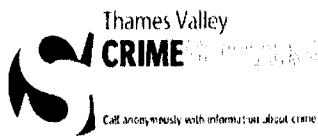
For more information about Neighbourhood Watch or Community Watch contact your local Watch Office on:



0845 8 505 505

the single non-emergency number for Thames Valley Police

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



CHURCH ROOM 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.

Please contact Tracy Hinds on
if you wish to book
688479

July & August 2011

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Shorrocks (Chairman)
Oak Farm House - 681260

Paul Bruton (Parish Clerk)
51 The Green - 682322

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)
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

Bob Carvey
12 The Green - 681053

District Councillor
Peter Cooper
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham - 681250

County Councillor
Netta Glover - 688357

Parochial Church Council

Rev Ian Ogilvie 661479

Caroline Abel Smith 681001 - *Churchwarden*

April Curnow 681459 - *Churchwarden*

Colin Higgs 681343 - *Deputy Churchwarden*

Shirley Ford 681865

Andy Bystra 681690

Ann Goodman 681763

Anita Parker 681325

Gordon Kemp 681763

Caroline Lane 681373 - *Secretary*

100 Club Winners for June

£50 - Mr C Wicks

£10 - Mr F Poulter

June was the time to renew
your 100 Club Membership;
please let Colin have your subscription

The Chronicle

29



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CHURCH CLOCK

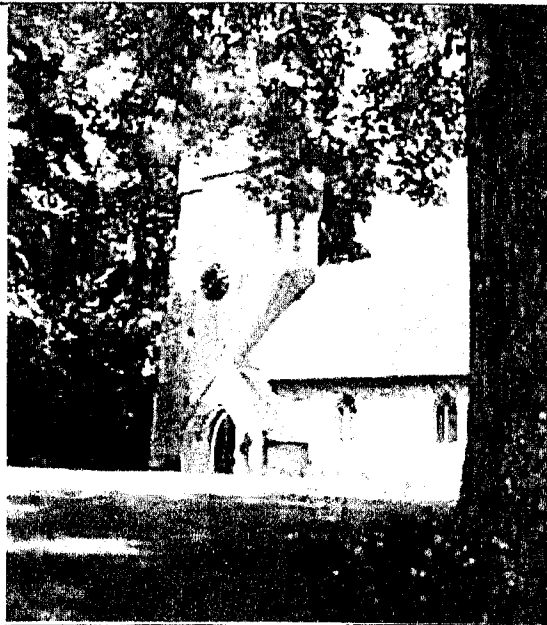
Some time during the winter, the church clock stopped working. Not an unusual occurrence but as it was so damn cold, I had no intention of going up the tower to repair it, so it remained stopped for several months! By mid March it had warmed up a little so Colin and I had a couple of goes at fixing it but it defied all our usual ploys of cleaning the works, trying to see if anything was 'stuck' and liberally spraying WD 40 about. On about the third visit, I traced the problem to one of the 'gearboxes' which transmit the motion of the clock to the hands outside the tower. The offending gearbox was situated out of sight, behind the mechanism and probably hadn't seen oil since it was installed in by Gillett & Co. back in 1889.

Clearly it had to be removed, requiring me to crawl 'snakelike' (not entirely suited to my waistline!) through the mechanism and into the very small place behind the clock; thick with grease, the dust of ages and spiders the size of dinner plates!! Ok, perhaps not quite that big! Anyway, eventually it was removed and taken back to my workshop where I found it to be seized solid with rust and dirt.

Having repaired it, more 'snakelike' manoeuvring through the mechanism and it was re-bolted to the wall and coupled up to it's shafts.

Job done!! The clock worked perfectly and kept good time until the beginning of May then unexpectedly stopped again. This time, the reason was painfully obvious; the pendulum had broken at it's attachment point and in falling, damaged other parts of the mechanism.

At the time of writing the pendulum (less it's 'bob which weighs about 100 lbs) is back in my workshop. Its been stripped down to its 38 separate parts which will be cleaned and reassembled after I've sourced the broken suspension leaf spring.....



The church tower is home to a chiming clock made by Gillett and Co in 1889 and six bells. The clock was fitted with an electric winding mechanism some years ago and it was re-faced in 1991. Three of the bells were cast by blacksmiths the Chandlers of Drayton Parslow in 1652 and bear the inscription "Chandler made me". One of these had to be recast in 1929. Two other bells were made in 1739 and 1740 and are inscribed, "Edward Hall made me". The final bell is more modern and was a gift in 1929 from an American, William Putnam, in memory of his ancestor who left Aston Abbots for the New World about 1630.



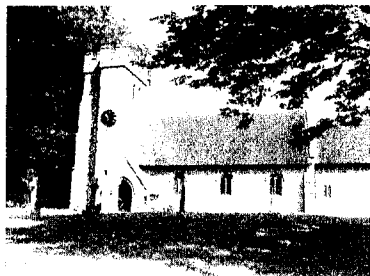
NEW VICAR for ASTON ABBOTTS

The Revd Philip Derbyshire's first service will be Songs of Praise at 5pm on Sunday 24th July. We very much hope that as many villagers as possible will join us to welcome him here. Refreshments will be served afterwards in Church.

Caroline Abel Smith
Church Warden

April Curnow
Church Warden

The village name 'Aston' is a common one in England, and is Anglo-Saxon for *Eastern Estate*. The suffix 'Abbotts' refers to the ancient abbey in the village, which until the Dissolution of the Monasteries was the country home of the abbots of St Albans in Hertfordshire. The present house, known as The Abbey, Aston Abbots was largely rebuilt in the early 19th century.



In 1847 George Lipscomb in his "The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham" listed the following vicars for Aston Abbots:

1325 Walter de Gratteworth, or Gruttleworth
1344 Richard de Streatley
1430 William
1490 Gilbert Stapilton (this date refers to the year he died)

1490 Thomas Crofton
1534 Robert Howys, or Hewes
1554 Robert Chaloner
1581 Thomas Blanchard B.D.
1595 Hugh Whitacres, or Whittakers
1622 Robert Hitchcock S.T.B.
1673 Roger Hitchcock A.M.
1705 Samuel Spatman
1727 The Hon. William Carmichael LL.D.
1753 Richard Penn
1759 John Hotham A.B.
1767 Potts Davies
1777 William Powell
1790 Joseph Smith
1802 The Hon. Thomas de Grey
1804 Philip Stanhope Smelt A.M.
1809 Philip Thistlethwayte Strong A.M.
1810 Charles Smelt A.M.
1823 Philip Strong A.M.

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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



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at espanolvilla.com
01296 670388 Andi or Becky Swain



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NIKKI REEVE 01296 681372 nikkireeve@fsmail**



The Wingrave Scouts have a new GSL and have just reopened the Scout section which had closed a couple of years ago.

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you enjoy working with others, providing direction and achieving results?

Are you interested in providing excellent Scouting in the community?

The Wingrave 1st Scout Group is looking for a new Group Scout Leader

The Group Scout Leader manages and supports the Scout Group and its Leaders, to ensure the Group runs effectively and that Scouting within the Group continues to develop.

Full training is given that is free of charge, plus guidance and support at all times from the District Commissioner. Prior knowledge of Scouting would be useful but is not essential.

This is an excellent way of supporting the local community and developing your leadership and management skills with the largest youth organisation in the world. Being part of an organisation that gives young people so many opportunities to develop, and gaining their feedback on the great adventure of Scouting, is extremely rewarding.

If you are interested in the role, or would like to know more, please contact the District Commissioner, Dave Tichener, tel. 01296 696790, or via email: davetichener@yahoo.com





Wingrave Pre-School offers sessional care for 2-5 year olds.

Children's learning is promoted in a friendly and fun atmosphere.

New Premises:

Wingrave Pre-School, Twelve Leys, Wingrave, HP22 4QG

Contact: Kelly Targell – Pre-school Leader 01296 682217

Or

Sandy Roost – Chair 07932 121317

Session times:

Morning sessions: daily, 9am - noon

Afternoon sessions: Tuesday and

Wednesday, noon - 3pm, or 1pm - 3pm

Lunch club: daily, noon - 1pm

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BROWNIES GO POND DIPPING

At the end of May John Hardcastle kindly let the Brownie group I run visit his ponds for an evening of pond dipping and general messing about. Although slightly overcast the sun eventually came out making the area around his ponds look lovely. We had some parent helpers who took the girls out in John's boat for a trip round the island and they all seemed to enjoy this.



Despite a detail 'letter of instructions' most girls came without wellies, so pond dipping was a bit restricted. The one girl who turned up fully kitted out in waterproof trousers and wellies got a bit carried away, went in too deep and got water in her wellies! Nonetheless we did fish out lots of waterboatmen, a damselfly nymph and a dragonfly nymph, also several water snails. The girls were just as interested in John's two Jack Russells, who were only too keen to join in the fun and enjoy all the attention. Sadly the goslings had left the pond.

I only had to make one trip back up the hill to enable use of the toilet facilities and on the request of one girl made a quick detour to inspect John's vegetable patch which looked very neat and tidy. Obviously she was a budding gardener as she was able to name several plants.

Thanks again John for allowing us use of your property
NB FOR ALL WELLINGTON BOOT WEARERS

Sally Palmer

I was able to continue the consumer testing of my bargain basement wellies from Wilkinsons in Aylesbury that cost under £10. After adding some thermal insoles, I have worn them through much of the winter and they continue to outperform their expensive rivals keeping my feet dry for the evening despite quite a bit of wading about.

Quinton Railway Society Ltd.

Quinton Road Station
Quinton
Near Aylesbury
HP22 4BY



Friday 1st, Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd July Day Out With Thomas
Meet Thomas and Friends and Sir Topham Hatt the Fat Controller; unlimited rides on Thomas's and Percy's full-sized steam trains and their small cousins on the Miniature Railway; Family Magic/ Punch 'n' Judy Show; Thomas Story Telling; Thomas & Friends Video Show; Hands-on Crafts.
Book at least one week ahead to save £2.00 per ticket! Children under 2 go FREE!



(Bookings close on Friday 25th June).

For more information about "Thomas" visit www.thomasandfriends.com

Sunday 31st July REWLEY ROAD STATION - 160th Birthday Celebration

The event will reflect Victorian Life – in particular on the Railways - with two Victorian Locomotives in steam, one of them hauling the Society's unique Victorian Vintage Coaches, an Exhibition of some Rewley Road plans and artefacts not normally on public display and Victorian Cream Teas.

Sunday 31st July to end of August Railway Art Exhibition

An Exhibition of Transport Art in all mediums by Quinton Railway Society Members.

For further information contact the Centre : Visit the web site on www.bucksrailcentre.org, email office@bucksrailcentre.org or telephone 01296 655450 (recorded information) or 01296 655720 (weekdays 9.30 to 4.30)

**THE FRIENDS OF
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Whitchurch
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17th July 2011
RAFFLE Bric-a-brac
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St James Church

The Church is OPEN during daylight hours each year from March until October

- 3rd July 6.00pm - Evensong - Rev. Ian Ogilvie
- 10th July 10.00am - Benefice Communion at Stewkley to say farewell to Rev. Ogilvie
- 17th July 10.00am - Communion - Rev. Ian Ogilvie
- 24th July 5.00pm - 'Songs of Praise' - Rev. Phillip Derbyshire
- 31st July 10.00am - Benefice Service - Rev. Phillip Derbyshire
- 7th August 6.00pm - Evensong - Rev. Phillip Derbyshire
- 14th August 10.15am - Communion - Rev. Peter Binns
- 21st August 9.00am at Cublington - Rev. Phillip Derbyshire
- 28th August 10.30am - Communion - Rev. Roger Hale

CHURCH DUTIES

	<i>Cleaners</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
3rd July	Colin Caroline	Colin
10th	-	-
17th	Ann Gordon	Shirley
24th	Shirley Andrew	Festival
31st	Anita April	Festival

for August watch notice board

The Rev. Ian Ogilvie came nearly two years ago to be a temporary Priest-in-Charge until a new person was appointed. You will have read in a previous Chronicle that the Rev. Philip Derbyshire will be taking over on 18th July and so Rev. Ogilvie will be leaving us. We have to say a huge thankyou to him for all the work he has done to support us here in Aston Abbots and for the way he has brought together all four parishes in the Benefice. We would like to make a collection for a gift to recognise this and we would ask you to be as generous as you can in making a contribution towards something to remind him of his time with us which we would hope to give him at his last service here on 17th July. Please put your donation in an envelope marked with your name and pop it either in to Caroline Abel Smith or April Curnow. Thank you in anticipation.

Caroline Abel Smith Churchwarden April Curnow Churchwarden

CHURCH MOWING ROTA - JULY & AUGUST

2nd July	Phil Spooner
9th July	Andy Stefanczyk
16th July	Marcus Hall
23rd July	Gordon Kemp
30th July	Bob Bean
6th August	Andy Bystra
13th August	Phil Spooner
20th August	Caroline Lane
27th August	Ian Roberts

In the interim I will be taking over from Geoff, my telephone no is 01296 681763 and the mowers should contact me if we need to get petrol, need to repair either of the mowers or if they can't make their scheduled mowing weekend and have been unable to organise a replacement mower themselves. *Gordon Kemp*



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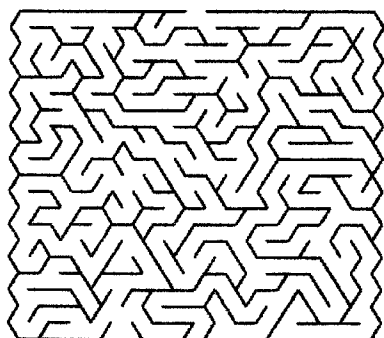
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100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
AVDC	Switchboard	585858
Baby& Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
	Sheila Humpreys	681649
Book Club	John Hardcastle	688070
Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
Buses	L & S	415468
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763
Church Room Hire	Tracy Hinds	688479
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	24 hr Advice Line	0845 4647
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 Moulit	681262
RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Paul Weston	681127
Wingrave Post Office	PO Only	682964
Wingrave Post Office	Stores	681696
Wingrave School	Office	681436

please advise of any errors or omissions



The Chronicle

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Send copy and cheque payable to

'The Chronicle' to

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corriganpc@aol.com

MURPHYS Lesser Known Laws!

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.

The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

What's on this Summer?

There's so much going on this Summer at The Unicorn that you must simply put these dates in your diary!

We look forward to welcoming you to The Unicorn this Summer.

What's on in July

2nd & 3rd Wimbledon Finals - 2pm

2nd Saturday BBQ - from 5pm

4th Monday Night Quiz - 8pm

8th Friday - The Free Acoustic

An acoustic set of an eclectic mix of classic tunes.

8th Friday - Sunday 10th -

BRITISH GRAND PRIX ON THE BIG SCREEN

Come and watch all the action LIVE in the comfort of The Unicorn Club Room

9th Saturday BBQ - 5pm

11th Monday Night Quiz - 8pm

12th Traditional Folk Music

from Halfway House - 8pm

16th Saturday BBQ - from 5pm

16th Soulful and Funky Tunes

from Leslie and the Speakers - 8pm

23rd Saturday BBQ - from 5pm

25th Monday Night Quiz - 8pm

29th Dinner and Jazz

from 'Anything Goes' - 8pm

£ August

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Monday Night Quiz - 8pm

9th Tuesday Traditional Folk Music

from Halfway House - 8pm

19th Soulful and Funky Tunes

from Leslie and the Speakers - 8pm

26th Friday Dinner and Jazz

from 'Anything Goes' - 8pm

26th-29th Beer & Cider Festival

see website for full details



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Award winning pub & restaurant!

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

Coffee & Homemade cake

Every morning from 10.30am

Monday Night is Quiz night

The Unicorn Quiz 8pm - 10pm

Why not bring a team?

Afternoon Teas

served Monday - Friday 3 - 5pm

Saturday Breakfasts -

Full English served 9am - 11am

BBQ's - Saturdays 5pm-9pm

Weather permitting!

Sundays

Best of British Roasts

12pm - 3pm Booking advised

Bar Snacks

available throughout the day!

FREE WiFi internet access



01296 681261

Booking always advisable!

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

What's On In July & August

Saturday 2nd	BL outing to Bournemouth. Coach from Green 7am	
Sunday 3rd	Ramblers Club meet at Woburn 2pm	
	Evensong 6pm	St James Church
Tuesday 6th	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Thursday 7th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Thursday 14th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Ladies Club 2.15pm	Church Room
Saturday 16th	Rambling Club meet at Wilstone 11am	
	followed by lunch at Marsworth	
Monday 18th	Induction of Revd. Philip Derbyshire 7.70pm	Soulbury Church
Tuesday 19th	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Thursday 21st	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Saturday 23rd	Village Festival 1pm	The Green/Grove
Sunday 24th	Song of Praise 5pm	St James Church
Thursday 28th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
Wednesday 3rd	Parish Council 7.30pm	Church Room
Sunday 7th	Rambling Club meet Cublington XRoads 2pm	
Thursday 18th	PCC Meeting 7.30pm	Church Room
Tuesday 2nd 16th	30th Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Thursday 4th 11th 18th 25th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
Thursday 1st Sept	Bucks County Show at Weedon	

Bingo will start again on Thursday, 8th September.
For information contact Pam Dixon 681626 or Sheila Humphreys 681649.

Beasts and Butterflies

A National Trust Event: Kids can be nature detectives on this walk with our warden team. Contact the Estate Office: Times: 11:00 to 12:30. Tickets: Child: £4.00. Booking Essential 01494 755573.

Hughenden Manor, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP14 4LA
Wednesday 27 July, Fri 29 Jul, Wed 3 Aug.

PART TIME JOB VACANCY After school childcare assistant required for family in Aston Abbotts from September. Hours: 2 or 3 evenings per week usually 4 to 6pm. Term time only. Rate of Pay: £8.50 per hour
For more details contact Jayne 681066 or email jaking1@hotmail.co.uk

FOR SALE Pair of binoculars - never used - £25 ono - ring 681454

FOR SALE Electric garden shredder - hardly used - £50 ono - ring 681454

MOBILE LIBRARY

NEEDS YOU!!!!

'USE IT' don't 'LOOSE IT'

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

Classified

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle

Phone us on 01296 688191
or email

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

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

Astonbury X

Saturday July 16th

7pm at Aston Abbotts Recreation Ground

Come and join us for Aston Abbotts' fun family music festival. Now for the tenth and last time. 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.

Tickets £10 — Under 16s free if accompanied by an adult. Limited tickets available.

To book phone 681685



WWW.ASTONBURY.BIZ