

THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine - November 2011



Editorial

All three owls successfully fledged at the beginning of October. Managed to get some photos when one of the owls was taken out of the nest box. They have needle sharp claws; my left hand now displays the punch marks when my handling technique was severely tested.



With Peter & Alex and Gordon we drove in convoy to Bernwode's Nursery in Ludgershall to collect the first batch of trees for the village orchard. Some of the trees were much larger than expected and it was an interesting drive home with a small forest completely filling my car. The tree Judy and I have donated is a Wotton Costard and I was shown an apple recently harvested from a mature tree. It was enormous, quite the biggest apple I've ever seen.

The first batch of trees have been planted. Christine Scott, ably assisted by Peter Knight, planted the first tree - a 'Stewkley Red' plum - see front cover.

Some of my garden apples have been turned into apple juice - and the result is very drinkable. Augurs well for when our village orchard starts to produce fruit.

It was a sad sight to see the majestic horse chestnut at the end of Hunters Close being cut down. There was a lot of debate about the health of the tree after builders managed to sever some of its roots during the construction of a new wall and the evidence of canker reported on by various tree surgeons. Hopefully a new tree will fill the gap in the fullness of time.

At long last the Trustees of the Village Hall have received a lease from the Church's solicitors that incorporates the amendments that have been discussed over many years. Hopefully progress can be made soon to improve the Church Room, especially the kitchen and toilet. I'll keep you posted.

John

IN THIS ISSUE

- VILLAGE ORCHARD - first trees planted
- WHAT'S on in NOVEMBER
- COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS
- ALLOTMENT DIARY
- SRI LANKAN HOLIDAY

THE CHRONICLE
Issue 315
November 2011

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A note to all would be advertisers-
More than 205 households receive
The Chronicle 11 times a year and with
rates from just £25 per annum (far
cheaper than some local Parish
Magazines). Can you afford not to be in?

Copy date for the next issue
Friday 25th November

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
to all Households in Aston
Abbotts, our local Doctors'
Surgeries and to Wing Police
House.

Alison's Gossip Column

BIRTHDAYS

November

Eleanor Farrands	4 th
Thomas Farrands	4 th
John Brancker	7 th
Caroline Hall	7 th
Bridget Brandon	8 th
Amy James	9 th
Percy Humphries	19 th
John Whyte	23 rd
Olivia Gresswell	23 rd
Karen Smith	30 th

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

on the Rec
6pm 4th November

AVDC's Bulk Refuse Container

is scheduled to come on the

15th November

from 12 noon to 3:30pm

Usual spot on The Green

CHRONICLE DISTRIBUTION

Huge thanks to Bob & Cora Carvey who quickly volunteered to take on the distribution of the Chronicle for Nash's Farm and the 'inner' Green. We welcome them onto the 'team' and also thank the other five people who also offered their services on reading my note in last month's issue.

It was very heartening to have had such a good response, indicating that there's a strong interest among our readership to keep our beloved 'journal' viable.

Thanks again to you all.



A belated but warm welcome to Gavin & Elvina Winston who moved into Church Farm Barn in June. Gavin has the distinction of having played the St James Church organ on two occasions.

Letters to the Editor

Orchard thank you

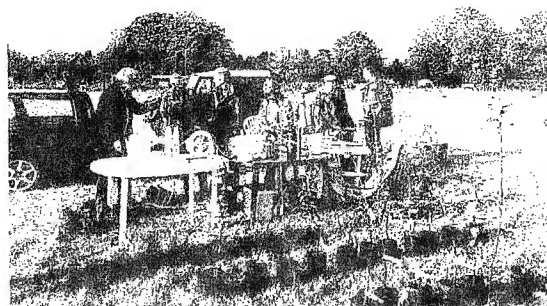
I think that Peter Knight and Alex should be thanked for all their hard work in organising the Vic Scott Memorial Orchard project. I believe over 60 trees were donated and most were planted by Peter and John Dixon over the weekend of 22nd and 23rd October. I know that several other people were involved and deserve credit for their part in the project but the main work was down to Peter and Alex; so well done to them. *Sally Palmer*

I was very saddened to see the felling of the beautiful chestnut tree near Hunters Way. One questions whether the builder should ever have got permission to build around its roots when clearly there wasn't room to do so without damaging some of them. To the lay person however, this lovely tree still looked perfectly healthy and, when the trunk was transported out of the village, the heartwood looked strong and not diseased.

This majestic tree was such a landmark in the village and had helped to soften the impact of the new build houses there. The felling of it has also had an impact on the rooks and jackdaws as it was a historical roost for them and had been used by many generations of these birds - so a great loss to the wildlife of Aston Abbotts too. *Sally Clarke*

Peter Shorrock, in his capacity as Chairman of the Parish Council, has produced an account of all the decisions made prior to this tree being felled. *see page 29*

Village Orchard gets started - 22nd October 2011





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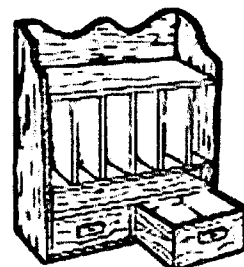
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VIC SCOTT'S DIARIES November

There are not many entries for November in Vic's Diaries – here are the few I found. Ed

November 1948

Woodcock seen (14th at Wingrave, Bucks)

15th two Mute swans flew over in morning (alt. approx 200ft)

17th first Fieldfares of the winter arrive.

November 1952

Grey wagtail (male) seen 30th Nov. in running water of roadside ditch.

November 1954

The weather: In general the month was mild and damp, though a short cold spell towards the end of the month brought a little snow.

Bird Life: The first fieldfares of the season passed over at 10am on the 4th in a flock of about twenty, with the same number of Redwings.

November 1955

The weather: Rather more sunshine than usual for this month, but in general the weather has been quite typical of November; with the usual (for the season) high winds and damp, south-westerly type of weather. Extremely mild.

November 1960

9th Nov. Flock of curlew passed over in the early evening, after dark. Heard calling.

Countryside Matters

Last week at first light I was woken by a wonderful sight on the lawn, there was a convoy of 29 English partridge, very noisy, with their chatter and bossed about by an upright male bird, gleaming in the early morning sun. I am sure they mistook it for a bit of rough ground. Now these are Grey Partridge and are synonymous with wild flowers, small fields, hedgerows and long harvests. The birds have grey legs and are slightly smaller than their French red legged counterparts introduced in 1673. The English partridge are becoming a very rare sight partly due to their dependence on an insect rich habitat for their young brood and the destruction of hedgerows and the widespread use of pesticides. The chicks for the first few days of their lives cannot digest seeds and they only live on insects, therefore headlands need to be wide with a grass and wildflower mix. This is very difficult to maintain on an arable farm with few staff but the Ascott Estates are widening their field headlands under an Environmental Stewardship Scheme. This is all fantastic news for the Grey partridge and with the foresight of the head keeper the future is brighter for these birds. The only problems remaining are they get chased off by their larger cousins, predation by foxes, crows, magpies, jays and I am sorry to say also the kites and buzzards. The foxes being the worst offenders together with the egg stealing magpies. Numbers of grey partridge dropped by 80% in the 40 years after the second world war and in the early 90's there were 145,000 pairs in Britain, now on going monitoring suggests that this number may have halved but the better news is that there is a great deal of support by farmers to conserve farmland wildlife and increase their numbers, together with good land management and forward looking gamekeepers.

Therefore it is important for dog walkers to stop their dogs from entering game cover crops and keep them under control in the spring when it is the nesting time for so many ground nesting birds. Let us all hope we can see their numbers increase.

James Henderson

Our Sporting Life- Buckinghamshire

Do you have a sporting memory? If you have a story, object, photograph or film connected to sport in Aylesbury or Stoke Mandeville that you would like considered for a major exhibition in 2012 come along and see how you can take part or contact the Museum.

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HARVEST FESTIVAL – 9th OCT

With our church, bountifully decorated with, flower arrangements and harvest produce, our new Vicar, Philip Derbyshire, conducted a delightfully traditional and relaxed Harvest Service. Friends & neighbours filled the pews, enjoying the simple service based on a series of readings and poems, interspersed with well known Harvest hymns. It was at once an uplifting, enjoyable and generally well received thanksgiving.

There was also very much a sense of 'village occasion'. With the organ being played by Nigel Palmer, produce and flower arrangements provided by villagers of Aston Abbots, and the prospect of a supper and produce auction, there seemed to be a delightful sense of village tradition. One couldn't help reflecting that our harvest celebrations this year were probably not too dissimilar to all the others held here annually for the last few hundred years.



HARVEST SUPPER & AUCTION

This seems to have become another of those events which has become very popular and firmly embedded into the Aston Abbots social calendar. There was a time when tickets were limited to the thirties and forties. However this year, demand dictated around sixty places were laid. It was a minor miracle of organization that with such limited facilities, this number were able to be seated and served with such a generous and deliciously prepared hot meal.

Not only was our tiny hall packed with families and neighbours but also huge amounts of very varied produce, generously donated by so many people. Every nook & cranny not already filled with people, seemed to be crammed with fruit & vegetables of every sort. Room in the hall was at such a premium, there were even two barrow loads outside waiting to be auctioned.

Once coffee & biscuits had been served, our Auctioneer, Marcus Hall, introduced his team of Assistant Auctioneers; Anysia, Annie, Matthew and Amy. Bidding was strong (well, very generous) from the start for all lots (even the 'hundredweights' of apples). Cakes seemed particularly popular with our Assistant Auctioneers who seemed to buy most of them!!!! Flower arrangements were much sought after by the more romantically inclined and there was as usual, much bantering and competition between a few who generously vied with each other for particular lots, increasing prices to outrageous levels.

Marcus's assistants worked tirelessly distributing produce to successful bidders and charming everyone with their cheerful politeness. By the end of a long evening, everyone seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves, raising £816.00 for Church Funds in the process. Part of this will be distributed to our older residents for Christmas and the remainder set aside for future church improvements.

This was a most amazing and enjoyable event and huge thanks have to go to all of you who supported it.

Thanks also of course to all those who helped prepare, set up and contribute both food and produce etc. Especial thanks must go to April and Caroline Abel Smith, the main instigators, Marcus and his delightful assistants, Francesca for the lovely main course, all the ladies who cooked those 'scrummy' puds and those who stayed behind to clear up.



The Tash is back!

Last year some of you may remember that a few of us in the village decided to support the month of Movember.

During November each year, Movember is responsible for the sprouting of moustaches on thousands of men's faces in the UK and around the world. The aim of which is to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and other cancers that affect men.

On Movember 1st, guys register at Movember.com with a clean-shaven face and then for the rest of the month, these selfless and generous men, known as Mo Bros, groom, trim and wax their way into the annals of fine moustachery. Supported by the women in their lives, Mo Sistas, Movember Mo Bros raise funds by seeking out sponsorship for their Mo-growing efforts.

Currently the Aston Abbots Mo Bros are: *James Perkins Frank McManus James Clough Owen McManus*

Anyone wishing to sponsor us or join our Mo Bro team can do so by checking out –<http://mobro.co/StretchMoBro>

One of us will also drop a sponsor sheet up the pub as well. Thanks in advance to all that support us. Love Aston Abbots Mo Bros



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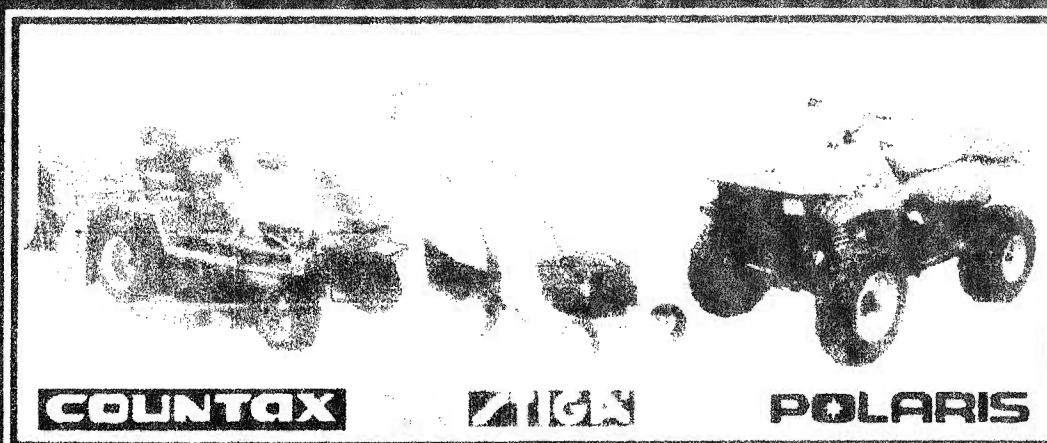
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So what is this New Years Eve Party all about?

You may have seen the advert in the Chronicle last month for the **Aston Abbotts New Years Eve Party** and thought what's that all about....

It's about this really, one night we got drunk and thought it would be a really good idea to have a big party that everyone in the village would be welcome to attend! Simple

On a slightly serious note we thought people spend good money going out of the village to events for NYE so why don't we make it easy for everyone and have something in the village that people can attend and stagger home from. It won't be about raising money as you good people do so much of that; it will be just about getting new friends and old together to have a good time!

So what is the plan...we have utilised our many contacts within the village and arranged a **Grand Heated Marquee** even the posh toilets will be attached so there's no need to go anywhere. The chef who delivers the food for the Summer Ball is on board to provide a glorious three course meal and we have booked Buckinghamshire's premier disco duo "The Old Rockers" think Smashy and Nicey meets Starsky and Hutch.

We also realised that Christmas and News Years isn't cheap so we took the decision to make the event a "bring your own booze" night. That way with all the deals going on at that time of the year the ticket price starts to offer real value for money.

So that's it pretty straight forward really, tickets are priced at £50 per person and with half the 150 maximum already sold we think it's going to be a fantastic party!

Tickets are available from –

John Whyte – 01296 681685

Frank McManus – 01296 681599

solution on page 40

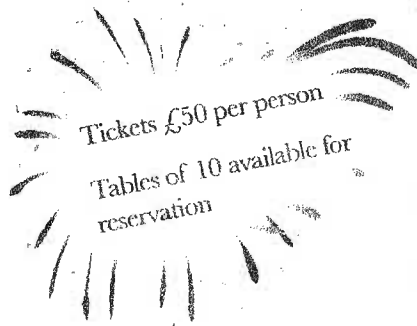
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		6				3	
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	5			3		9	
		2		8			6
	6		9			7	1
4					3		

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Tickets available from:

John Whyte - 01296 681685

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Design by Andy P

QUEEN'S

DIAMOND JUBILEE

do you have any thoughts on how the village should commemorate/celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year?

Your chance to put your views will be at the Parish Council Meeting

7th December in the Church Room

There will be a special bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the United Kingdom (UK) on Tuesday, June 5, 2012. This event honors the 60-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II in the UK. Moreover, the late May bank holiday will be moved to Monday, June 4, 2012, giving people across the UK a four-day long weekend.



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Village Orchard

It was a truly wonderful occasion; so many villagers, young and old, turned up to watch/help plant the trees they had donated. The first tree, a 'Stewkley Red' plum, was planted by Christine Scott. Throughout the weekend Peter Knight and John Dixon worked tirelessly to get all the trees planted. At the final count 62 trees have been planted - a further two trees, donated by Bernwode Nurseries will be planted shortly and a further 13 trees are on order and will be planted in the near future.

Three further orders/donations have been made and there are a further three orders that may be confirmed in the near future. If you would wish to be included we would like to hear before the end of November please.

Maggie Smith has kindly donated a timber shed for use by the orchard. This should be in place in the next few weeks.

If you took any photos during the planting weekend could you please email them to the editor. We would like to keep a comprehensive photographic record over the coming years.

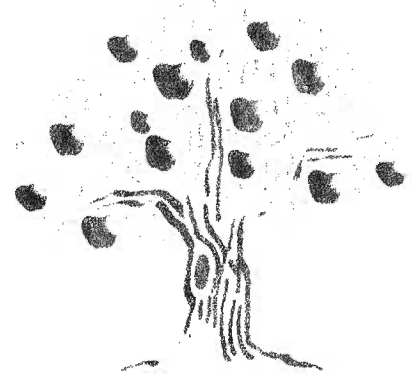
More labels have arrived and these will have been attached by the time you read this.

As many of you will be aware Gordon has started the book that records the the type of tree, the donor and special memories. Alex has spent many hours collating orders and ensuring that the right tree is planted in the correct location and that the labeling is accurate.

We will be calling an open meeting for the village in the near future to get your further views and comments and to explain the future for the orchard.

Thank you for all the emails we have received expressing thanks and encouragement. Please take the time to look at your orchard. This is your orchard; there is an old saying in agriculture 'The best manure for a field is the farmer's boot'.

Peter Knight 681478 John Harcastle 688070 Gordon Smith gordon.smith53@btinternet.com



Vic Scott Orchard Tree sponsor form

We would be grateful if those who have offered to sponsor a tree could complete and return this form, with their cheque made out to 'The Vic Scott Orchard', to Peter Knight at 59 The Green.

We shall keep a record in the form of a book that we hope to have easily available. This will contain a 'map' of the orchard, to help with identification and finding trees that have been individually sponsored; a photographic record; and whatever words sponsors might like to include in the record. Some villagers have said that they would like to consider 'their' tree as a form of memorial, and this would be a good place to express that. We would like to put the variety of the tree and the name of the sponsor. Beyond that, it is entirely up to sponsors what they wish to put; we suggest up to a limit of about 150 words. To make sure that we have these words correctly, would you please put below or on a separate sheet what you would like to say.

In addition, we think that sponsors might like to have a record in the orchard itself, in the form of tags on the actual trees - this is optional. The tags used will come from Bradenham Hall (we have a sample if you would like to see one). They cost £2.50 each: these will need to be bought in bulk, which we will do. They will have a small fixing hole and the date of planting. Apart from that there is room for four lines, each of which can have 25 letters or spaces. We would like the first line to be the variety of the tree; after that you have 3 lines, so for example:

WORCESTER PEARMAIN
Donated by John Brown &
Elizabeth Brown
i.m. Frederick Brown

Please fill in here what you would like to say if you order a tag.

.....(variety of tree, if known)

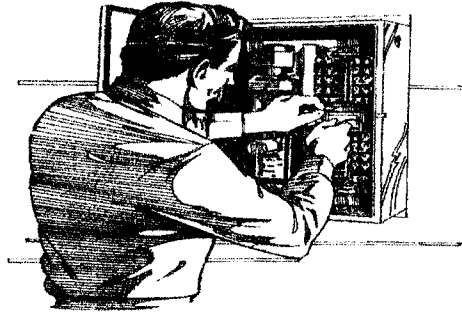
Name:

Phone/email

I enclose a cheque for one tree/two trees at £30 each. I want/do not want also to have individual tree tags, and have/have not added £2.50 per tag.



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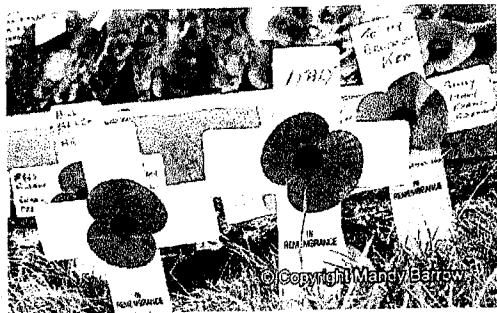
GRASS CUTTING - HEDGE CUTTING

ROTOVATING - STRIMMING

TREE WORK - GUTTER CLEANING

On behalf of the branch members I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is kind enough to support the local poppy appeal by attending the fund raising events and also by purchasing their poppies each year from the ladies and gentlemen who give their time to call around house to house in the village.

Alan Jones, Branch Chairman



POPPIY
THE POPPY BRANCH
LEGION

BINGO

SATURDAY
19th November

7.30pm start

ASTON ABBOTTS
VILLAGE HALL

Line & House Prizes

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All ages welcome

In aid of the Poppy Appeal

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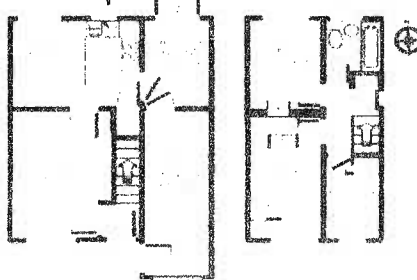
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Just for information – I went to a burglary in an outbuilding yesterday and many hundreds of pounds worth of Stihl equipment was stolen as well as other items. None of the items were security marked with any identifiable markings such as postcodes etc and serial numbers not noted down. This was not an unusual scenario, many stolen items are not security marked.

It's dreadful when you are a victim of crime but it's a double blow if the items are found but cannot be returned as it is not identifiable to you – and yes, the offenders get to keep them if it cannot be proven that they are your stolen property!!

Please take time, as soon as you can, to mark your property - engrave it, paint it, weld your postcode onto larger items. Make your property less attractive to criminals – if they are going to have problems selling it on they may not take the chance of stealing it!

Kind regards Paula

PCSO Paula BOSTON C9668 Wing North Neighbourhood Team

Wing Police Office 73 Leighton Road Wing

Leighton Buzzard

Beds LU7 ONN

07800 702998 TVP Non-Emergency No. 0845 8 505 505

ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

The October meet was held at Alison Lewis's house to discuss 'When a Crocodile eats the Sun' by Peter Godwin.

This is a sad story of the destruction of Zimbabwe, the violence and racial hatred. Peter Godwin's father is seriously ill. He was a successful farmer but everything changes for the worse. Peter discovers that his father has kept from him that he was originally a Polish Jew - the father keeps this knowledge from his children as he does not want them to suffer in the way his parents and siblings did. There are painful references to the sufferings of the Holocaust.

The book created a lot of debate. It is well written and dealt with all the pain and misery of this once wonderful country in a matter of fact style. The title refers to the total eclipse of the sun - a moment of great significance to the African tribes.

Our next book, chosen by Pam Hewitt, is 'The Life of Pi' by Yann Martel - meet 8pm Wednesday 16th November. We look forward to our Christmas Quiz evening hosted by Val Smith on 9th December.

January's book, chosen by Sally Clarke, is 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens. *John Hardcastle*

Charles Dickens was born on 7 February 1812. In 2012, to celebrate 200 years since his birth, organisations worldwide are planning festivals, exhibitions and much more in honour of the most internationally acclaimed British novelist.

Update from the 1st Wingrave Scout Group

Beaver Scouts (for Girls and Boys aged 6-8)

So far this term we have completed our Imagination Badge, which involved junk modeling and role play. We are currently working towards our Creative Challenge – in the last couple of weeks we made musical instruments and we also made cakes. We had a joint meeting with the cubs which involved cooking bananas covered in chocolate on the campfire and singing campfire songs.

Cub Scouts (for Girls and Boys aged 8-10)

This term we have completed our Athletes Badge and we have started working towards our DIY Badge (Arkala is a bit worried about this!). We are also going to be visiting Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes.

Scouts (for Girls and Boys aged 10-14)

The Scouts are working towards their Mechanics Badge, which includes studying cars and car engines. We recently went on a night hike with the Cheddington Scouts and used the Cresta Run at Phasels Wood Scout Site. We will be hearing about the 2011 Scout Jamboree, which was held in Sweden.

The whole Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) has been very busy preparing for the Scout Group Autumn Fair, to raise funds for urgently needed repairs on our Scout Hut.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are open to girls and boys aged between 6 and 14. We meet weekly at the Scout Hut in Chiltern Road. Anyone interested should contact the Group Scout Leader, Michelle Parker, on 01296 681911, or via email to: quaveriw@yahoo.co.uk



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WINGRAVE CE COMBINED SCHOOL



The first half term at Wingrave School has flown by; we have been very pleased to welcome children, not only into our Reception class but also Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6. We have grown to 132 from 107 this time last year. All of the children have settled well into school and quickly adapted to the new routines.

Over the Summer holidays the classrooms were refurbished which has given the school a really bright and cheerful atmosphere, along with all the wonderful displays of children's work

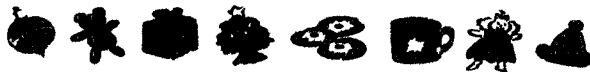
This has been a busy half term with parent consultations, Saturn class assembly; where the children shared their learning on Africa and healthy eating. The assembly clearly showed how a creative curriculum helps to make learning meaningful as well as 'fun'. Harvest Festival in the church was celebrated by each class performing a song, poem or story and it was lovely to see the church full with parents and carers who had come to help us celebrate.

To end this short review of half term at Wingrave I am happy to say that I have been appointed as Headteacher and look forward to developing the school's links with the community.

Val Britnell Headteacher



**Christmas Prize Bingo at
Wingrave School
WEDNESDAY 30th NOVEMBER
7.00 for 7.30pm**

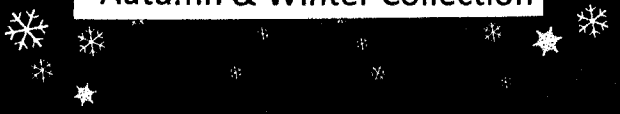


50p Entrance
Includes tea/coffee/mince pie
Great fun for all ages
In aid of children's Christmas parties

Ladies

Fashion Show

Autumn & Winter Collection



Friday 25th October

7:30pm

Wingrave Community Centre


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For further information on this event, please contact the Wingrave Community Centre on 01293 813131 or visit our website at www.wingravecommunitycentre.co.uk

For further information on this event, please contact the Wingrave Community Centre on 01293 813131 or visit our website at www.wingravecommunitycentre.co.uk

Here come the girls!



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12 November
10am to 12 noon



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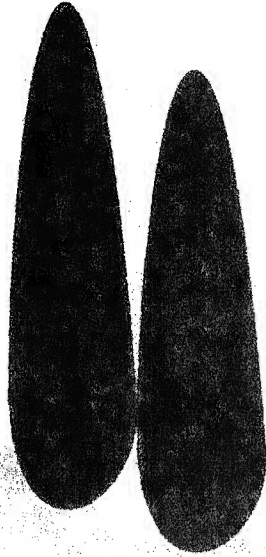
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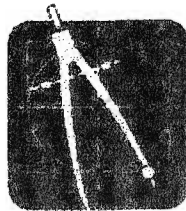
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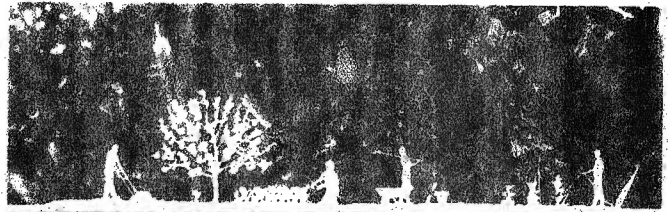
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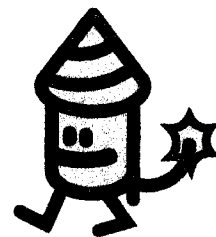
by the Bonfire from 6PM!

FIREWORKS FROM 6.30PM

FREE ENTRY

**The fireworks are being kindly sponsored
this year but if you wish to
make a monetary donation this can
be made**

**to Kevin Copping at Home
Farm
opposite the Church Room.**



Someone's just pinched a pair of my knickers off the washing line. I'm not bothered about the knickers but I want the 12 pegs back. (ouch!)

You won't hear from me for a while. Being investigated for stealing swimming pool inflatables.....I gotta lilo.

A young man shopping in a supermarket noticed a little old lady following him around. If he stopped, she stopped. Furthermore she kept staring at him.

She finally overtook him at the checkout, and she turned to him and said, "I hope I haven't made you feel ill at ease; it's just that you look so much like my late son."

He answered, "That's okay."

"I know it's silly, but if you'd call out 'Good bye, Mum' as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy."

She then went through the checkout, and as she was on her way out of the store, the man called out, "Goodbye, Mum."

The little old lady waved and smiled back at him..

Pleased that he had brought a little sunshine into someone's day, he went to pay for his groceries.

"That comes to £121.85," said the clerk.

"How come so much? I only bought 5 items." The clerk replied, "Yeah, but your Mother said you'd be paying for her things, too"



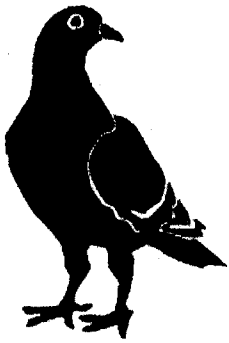
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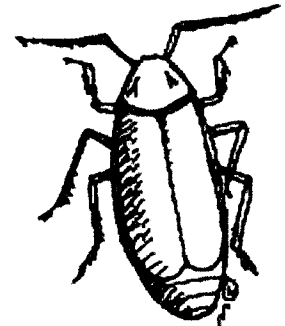
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Kandy – Sri Lanka

The Kandy Lake Club turned out to be something akin to an English village hall without side walls with a lot of interior dark wood panelling, a stage and a distinctly dodgy roof. A rather utilitarian bar stood to one side of the stage from which an extremely thin, elderly man was collecting and delivering drinks orders. The chairs had seen better days, as had the whole building and after much rushing about to make the early evening show we were amused to see a sparse audience of maybe 50 people. Avoiding the reserved seats, that remained empty throughout, we took our place. Fortunately it was not raining as the corrugated iron roof had several gaps in it. The show was made up of a selection of local dances performed by men and women in traditional costumes and masks accompanied by drummers. The male dances were extremely energetic, though some dancers were not a svelte as one would have expected. There was a harvest dance, plate spinning and fire eating. After the main show we went outside to an amphitheatre at the side. I could imagine the British colonists performing amateur productions of Shakespeare but now we were treated to a short fire walking performance. All the dances we saw are performed during the annual Esala Perahera festival so it gave us an idea of the sort of things to see at that event.

The next day we visited the famous Temple of the Tooth in Kandy in pouring tropical rain. Required to remove our shoes, we splashed in bare feet up to the temple with the many other visitors. Situated beside the large artificial lake that dominates Kandy, The Temple holds the precious relic of the Buddhas' tooth. We had already visited 2 or 3 temples that had previously housed the tooth at the old Sri Lankan capital of Anuradhapura. Moved to Kandy to protect it from attacks by the kings of India, the precious tooth now resides inside a jeweled casket. In fact it is inside the smallest of 7 caskets one inside the other. This is kept locked behind golden doors and every day the Buddhist devotees, dressed in white, queue up in their hundreds to catch a glimpse of the box. Buddhists bring their new born babies here to be blessed, so you have to step round whole families surrounded by their various flower offerings. We arrived in time for the daily offering of rice which we expected to have some kind of ritual attached to it but found it rather random with people coming and going in and out of doors. There were a few drummers who started to play but they seemed to act as some kind of call to the local troop of monkeys who can be found at all such temples where food left by visitors make an easy meal. At the sound of the drumming they could be seen clambering along the roof and upper parts of the temple. After a bit, a young man arrived and deposited a plate of rice onto a table and, as nothing else of interest seemed to be happening, we left to explore the rest of the temple.

Every year a replica of the box is paraded through Kandy on a tusker elephant at the head of a procession of over 100 elephants each covered in jeweled and decorated covers during the spectacular Esala Perahera festival. Beside the temple is a museum to the famous tusker elephant called Raja who led the parade for many years before dying in 1988. So revered was he that a National Day of mourning was declared on his death and he was given the rare privilege of being stuffed for posterity and now stands in his own museum beside the Temple. *Sally Palmer*

Aston Abbotts Website - further updates

www.aston-abbotts.co.uk

This is a website for the village and I want it to be useful to villagers as well as to people looking up Aston Abbotts on the internet. If there is something you would like to see on the site then please email me - you will find contact details on the site. I would also be interested in adding more photo galleries, so if you have taken some interesting pictures of Aston Abbotts or village events please get in touch. I would also like to add any pictures of Aston Abbotts in the past and I'd be grateful if I could borrow any for scanning - they will be returned unharmed and very promptly. Thank you. *Phil Spooner*



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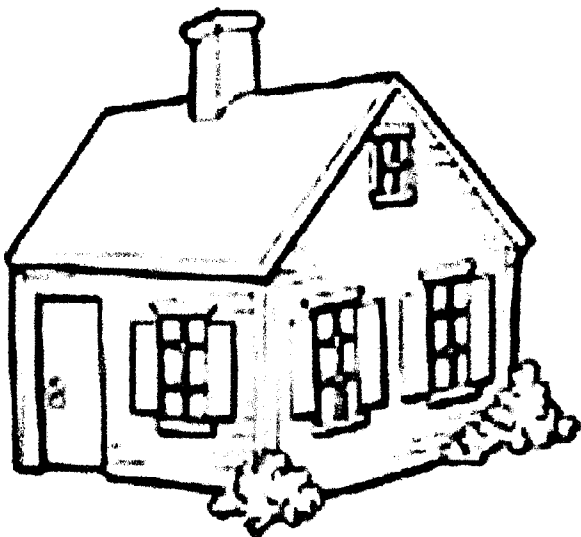
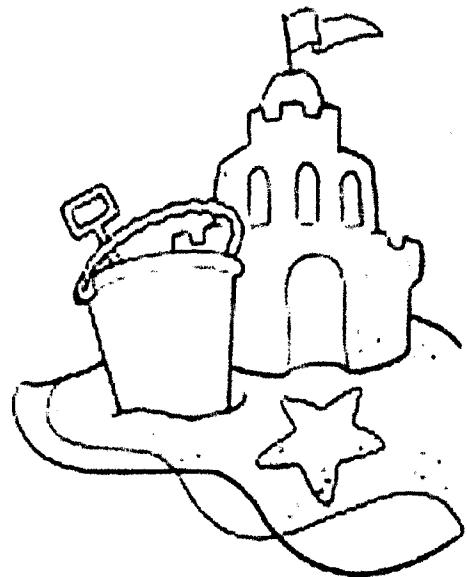
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Tea and Railways



"Tea - best drink of the day." ran the 1980's advertising slogan conjuring up that feeling of contentment and well being. Britons have always been renowned for being a nation of tea drinkers, where the average person drinks three cups of tea a day and gets through nearly 75,000 cups of their favourite brew in a lifetime. In fact, Britons are the world's second biggest tea drinkers, behind only the Irish, consuming 165 million cups a day.

So when we visited Sri Lanka recently, paying a visit to the tea plantations featured highly on the list of must do activities. Tea was first planted in Ceylon in 1867 by James Taylor, following the complete failure of the coffee crop. In 1872 he opened his first tea processing factory and the first consignment of Ceylon tea arrived in London in the following year. Transportation was a problem as few roads had been built which served as a form of defence. Kandy is just 1640 feet above sea level and was at that time surrounded by virgin jungle. To put this in context, in Sri Lanka the best tea grows at an elevation of between 4,000 and 6,250 feet.

The construction of railways commenced in 1864 and the main line reached Kandy in 1872. The project continued at a somewhat stately pace. From Kandy the line was extended up into the tea growing hill country, reaching Nanu Oya in 1885, the summit at Pattipola at an elevation of 6,226 feet in 1894 and finally descending down to Badula by 1924. The line runs up steep gradients through scenic mountains, jungle, pine forests, the high slopes of the tea plantations, across bridges and through long tunnels making this one of the most spectacular railway journeys in the world. Completion of this project after 60 years was a truly monumental feat and the infrastructure doesn't appear to have changed at all, and certainly not since the British granted independence to Ceylon in 1948. The points, signals and level crossing gates remain mechanical, although the steam trains were retired and largely replaced with diesel locomotives in the 1950's. Nothing appears to have changed since – even the timetable was simply chalked on a blackboard. The station master continues to wave off trains resplendent in a smart pristine white uniform.

We were fortunate to secure reservations for the first class observation car, joining at Peradeniya junction for our 4½ hour journey to Nanu Oya a distance of at most 50 miles. Good job this was the express service. Of course, possession of a reservation matters little in Sri Lanka, but our guide ejected the occupants of our seats before alighting from the train himself, leaving us to settle down to enjoy the journey in comfort. It turned out that a family of five had in fact booked only two seats so they cosyed up together. Another local family settled down just outside the toilet spreading a plastic sheet on the floor but were quick to take up the seats vacated when a couple left the train at Hatton. The guard made no attempt to check their tickets which was just as well as they clearly didn't have any. In spite of the modest speeds being achieved, the carriage rocked alarmingly from side to side providing ample time to take photos of the passing landscape and abandoned trucks which had simply been pushed over the side.

Health and safety didn't appear to have reached Sri Lanka either. The observation window had developed a crack, but fortunately that was no reason to take it out of service. It was possible to hang out of, and take photos through, the open doorway, although I restrained myself from climbing on to the roof for a better view. A group of teenage boys and girls met up in the passage outside and shortly after the boys began to tap out a rhythm on the side of the gently rocking carriage whilst the girls began to sing along melodically.

Our train arrived pretty much on time, although this was probably more by luck than judgement as on the following day the very same observation car was derailed. We heard this tale from young couple staying in our hotel. Their driver had driven to a point where he could see the train in the distance and bribed a tea picker to take a note to his passengers suggesting that they walk back across the tea plantation to rejoin him. This plan failed as after a couple of hours of indecision, the derailed car was simply unhitched and abandoned. The displaced passengers crowded into second class and the journey continued, leaving the poor tea picker to run back across the fields to inform the driver that the train had gone. No doubt she retained her tip which probably represented a week's wages.

We spent three nights in tea country which included a visit to the Norwood tea plantation, guided by resident planter, Andrew Taylor, a descendent of James. I think what surprised us is that the tea industry continues to thrive today in a way that hasn't changed in over a century. Tea is still Sri Lanka's 4th largest export (after tourism and gemstones). In many areas carefully manicured tea bushes, interspersed with tall trees for shade, extend for as far as the eye can see. Even today each bush is hand-picked every four weeks throughout the year by the largely Tamil workforce. Mechanical pickers have been tried but have not been successful as the key is to pick only 'two leaves and a bud'. But this is a good thing as a whole way of life

continued on page 25

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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.



for a large number of people revolves around the tea industry. After 4 years each bush is vigorously pruned, but within a few short months it is back in production. Some of these bushes were planted in the 19th Century and continue to produce tea today. Tea plants are very hardy, suffer from very few pests and are well suited to the prevailing weather conditions.

So how is tea made? Tea factories are generally four stories high with windows that allow the temperature to be vigorously controlled. The direction that it faces is a vital part of this process as the tea moves through the building. The first pickings of the day arrive from the slopes around 10:00am. They are first put into long troughs which are 12 inches deep. Air is then blown through underneath the leaves by huge fans for around 12 hours, a process known as withering. The leaves become limp rather than brittle. Without a good wither, a lot of the vital properties of tea would be lost.

In the next stage the withered leaves are rolled, twisted and parted which allows the enzymes in the leaves to react with oxygen in the air. This oxidation process continues and the green leaves take on a coppery colour. The exact timing of this process is vital to the quality of the tea that will be produced and the factory manager will take account of the prevailing temperature and weather conditions. The tea is then passed through a firing chamber to stop any further chemical reaction from taking place. The tea is now blacker and harder and the grading process can take place.

These industrial machines are indeed dangerous as the signs made clear saying such things as 'intoxication in factory is prohibited' and 'near miss should be brought to the attention of the authorities and investigated'. As visitors we were able to view the machinery whilst it was working at close quarters – it wouldn't happen in a factory back home. Other signs on the wall read 'no child labour' and 'no betel chewing'. Well it could damage the delicate flavour of the tea.

Finally the graded tea is packaged in lined paper sacks. Samples from each pallet are taken and sent away to the buyers for analysis. The result of this analysis determines the price that the estate can expect to receive for that batch of tea when it is sent for auction.

We were then shown how to taste tea, which is not unlike wine tasting. The taster looks at a sample of the dry tea, and inspecting and smelling the brewed leaves. He will smell the cold brewed tea before taking a large sip, swirling it around his mouth. Are there any foreign smells or odours, is there a tingle on the tip of the tongue, does the taster get a feeling of well being? Never add sugar as this destroys the health properties of the tea, whilst a dash of milk may be acceptable.

Back at the bungalow, afternoon tea was served with sandwiches, cakes and scones with jam and cream. The tea that you drink here is quite unlike that sold in our supermarkets. We were asked whether we wanted a light tea or something stronger. They served none of the blends that we see back home or tea with additives, Earl Grey for example. Sitting on a warm sunny terrace admiring the gardens, overlooking a lake with the ordered tea plantations above - what more could one ask for? Relaxation, contentment, tea - best drink of the day.

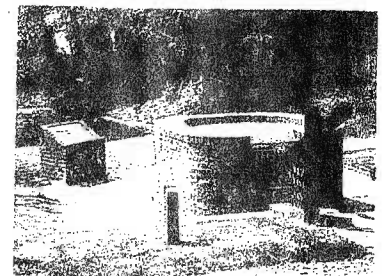
Nigel Palmer

St Osyths Well

Osyth was the daughter of Frithwald sub kings of the Mercias & Wilburga, the daughter of pagan king Penda, born in Quarrendon 650AD where a holy spring was supposedly situated, her aunts were St Edith & St Edburga and on one visit to them she fell from a bridge and was drowned miraculously reviving 3 days later. The aunts must have had a profound impact on Osyth as she indicated her ambition to become an abbess. She was of noble birth, but her father wanted her to marry King Sighere of Essex, but about 665AD dynastic duty prevailed, Osyth successfully managed to prevail on two local bishops to allow her to take holy orders and become a nun. In 700AD vikings raided the Essex coast and demanded that Abbess Osyth worship their gods, but she refused and was beheaded by the chief Hubba. The decapitated body picked up its head and walked with it at arms length to St Peter & St Pauls church and knocked on the door, the first of many miracles attributed to her.

Her distraught parents shipped the body to Aylesbury in a lead chest to the Lady Chapel in St Marys Church. and it was said a spring sprang up at each resting place. She was canonised and her feast day 7th October was celebrated in Aylesbury; she was also a patron saint for women 'Who have lost their keys'. Under orders from Alexander VI a papal decree was issued in 1500 and the body of St Osyth was disinterred and moved to a secret place, most likely in the dead of night, the exact whereabouts of her body still remains a mystery. One arm bone is said to rest in the Chapel Royal at Windsor underneath the high altar along with other saints bones. Very little remains in Aylesbury to remind us of her except for a house named St Osyth in Parsons Lee and St Osyths Well at Bierton.

Colin Higgs



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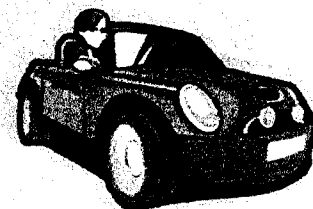
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ALLOTMENT DIARY

My pumpkin seeds failed to germinate this year, so that I have no personal knowledge, but I understand that the dry spell in the spring, followed by a fairly gloomy summer, has meant that pumpkins have struggled to get going, and generally speaking, pumpkins are about half the size they were last year. I also read that although the potato crop has, despite earlier gloomy forecasts, been very good; in the south of England, where the weather has been very dry of late, the potatoes have suffered from bruising as they are lifted out of the dry soil by harvesting machinery – and some farmers have stopped harvesting altogether for the time being due to this.

I also read that the weather this summer led to a terrible onslaught on lawns (although I am happy to say that mine did not suffer), since the damp weather kept the ground wet, with the result that there was a bonanza of earthworms close to the surface for the moles to feast on – and therefore a corresponding increase in molehills. Now the weather has turned drier, the earthworms have pushed deeper underground, and moles are seeking new territory where they can find their favourite food.

Last year my brassica plants were chewed to lace by cabbage white and other caterpillars: this year, for some inexplicable reason, they have hardly been eaten at all – not even the dozen or so plants which I had to plant outside the cabbage netting. Very strange! However at the other end of the scale, my carrots have never suffered so much from the depredation of carrot fly. Next year I shall only grow the carrot fly resistant varieties such as “Flyaway” and “Resistafly”.

One fascinating bit of gardening news I read recently is that the Chinese claim that they have produced vegetables and fruit which have higher crop yields, and sometimes better flavour, by packing the seeds into their Shijian-8 satellite, which then orbited the earth for 15 days. It is said that the seeds were thus exposed to cosmic rays and powerful blasts of electro-magnetic radiation emanating from the sun and the stars. These can rip apart the DNA molecules, which then rejoin in different ways. The zero-gravity conditions may also play a part. Most of the resulting mutations were harmful, but a few were beneficial, and these are being made available to the Chinese market, to help feed the fast growing Chinese population, and compensate for the archaic farming methods used by the majority of China’s farmers. These claims are being treated with some scepticism by agronomists in the West, but the Chinese claim that one of the seeds produced in this way, a species of fast-growing rice, called Hangyu-2, is now planted on more than 400,000 acres.

Giant cucumbers, with a yield 20% higher than normal, are said to have been developed in the same way; and cherries and tomatoes with a far higher sugar content, and which are said to taste excellent. If this trend continues, it could give a whole new meaning to the term “rocket salad”!

By the time you read this article, you may have forgotten about it, but in early September we had a late heat-wave. One effect of this was that Richard Clarke’s strawberries thought summer had come again, and produced a second crop: the first time he has ever known this happen. My autumn raspberries are still producing, and I am optimistic that, as has been the case the last two years, I will be able to pick a final bowlful of raspberries on 5th November.

My gardening activities have been sadly curtailed recently. While I was away for a few days with some college friends at the end of September, I went for a short walk with them – only 5 miles or so – but when I got back I was in some pain from my left hip. My doctor thinks it is osteo-arthritis, and at the moment I am waiting for the result of an X-ray, to see what this reveals. In the meantime I am having to avoid serious digging, since even without doing this, the problem is getting worse and not better. My remaining potatoes will have to stay where they are for the time being.

Peter Shorrocks

News from the Royal Oak

It’s that time of the year when we start to light the open fire at the Oak to help warm the customers’ cockles.

What we also hope will help make your visit more enjoyable is a new wine menu. To help us build that new wine menu we are holding a wine tasting evening on **Sunday 6th November 2011** so come along and let us know what you think should be on our list.

As we head towards Christmas and New Year the Oak we will be staying open throughout so were looking forward to seeing you through the festive period.

As per normal we have the usual social events at the pub including the 630 club on every Saturday at 6.30pm and GNOMES who meet on a Tuesday evening.

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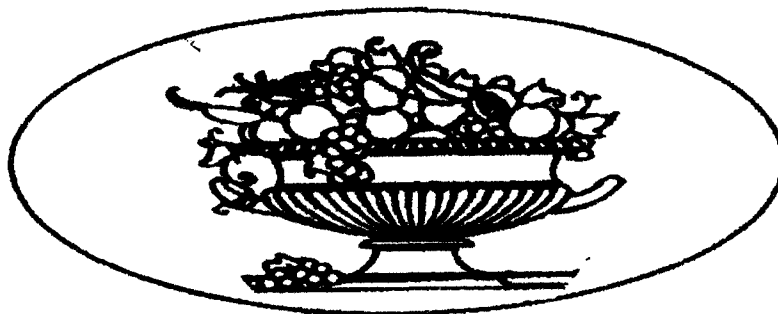
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HORSE CHESTNUT TREE

In October, Neil & Yvonne Gibson of Hunters Way had a large horse chestnut tree in their garden felled. They were subjected to a number of hostile visits from villagers who were unhappy about the tree being removed, and as chairman of the Parish Council I should like to set the record straight.

Far from wanting to have the tree removed, Neil & Yvonne were very fond of the tree which they acquired when they bought their house – and indeed, they even called their home “Chestnut House”, after the tree. The problem began when they contacted an arboriculturist in the spring of 2009, to advise on the general maintenance of the tree and the condition of an extremely large branch, which was overhanging their carport, and which would clearly crush it if it ever came down. To their dismay, they were advised that the whole tree was unsafe, and should be cut down.

The reason for this depressing advice was principally that the developer, in constructing the carport, and the 3 metre high brick wall which was built to separate the Old House from the development, had cut through so many of the tree roots, and so close to the trunk of the tree, that the tree was now unsafe, and likely to come down without warning in a strong wind. (For a tree of this size, no root should have been cut through closer to the trunk than 7.5 metres; what had happened was that roots had been severed as close as 2 metres from the trunk, and it was estimated that the developer had encroached into 90% of the recommended root protection area). In addition, like a large number of horse chestnut trees in the country, this tree was already suffering from a disease called “bleeding canker”, which as it developed, could cause whole branches to come off without warning.

Neil discussed the situation with David da Silva, who then lived in the Old House, and had formerly owned the developed land. He in turn contacted Vic Scott. Vic said that he did not think that so many roots had been cut through that the stability of the tree was affected, and suggested that it would be alright to remove the branch overhanging the carport. These points were put to Neil & Yvonne’s arboriculturists, who strongly disagreed, and stuck to their view that the whole tree should be taken down. Neil & Yvonne therefore contacted AVDC for permission to fell the tree, in the thought that by doing this, they would also get the benefit of the AVDC tree officer’s opinion.

The Parish Council then became involved, since it was given details of the planning application. Neil attended a council meeting to explain his position; but since there was a strong feeling on the council that we would like to see the tree preserved if possible, we decided to commission our own report. We used an arboriculturist who was independent, and not connected with any firm which also carried out tree surgery, reckoning that if he had no financial stake in cutting a tree down, he would be totally impartial. Unfortunately, his view was exactly the same as that of the expert consulted by Neil & Yvonne. In the light of his report, the Parish Council decided that it could not oppose the cutting down of the tree. The AVDC tree officer then came to the same view, and did not recommend a Tree Preservation Order, which would have prevented this happening.

Notwithstanding the fact that three experts had decided that the tree could not be retained, Neil & Yvonne commissioned a report from yet another firm of arboriculturists; but yet again the advice was the same: to quote from its report, the excessive cutting of the tree roots *“has compromised the structural integrity of the tree and its safety cannot be guaranteed. . . age and disease further increase the risk”*

However, I understand from Neil Gibson that the position was further complicated by the fact that when he sold the land to the developer, David da Silva had imposed a covenant on the developer to the effect that the tree could not be cut down without his consent, which was then passed onto the the Gibsons when they bought their house: and David refused to give his consent. It was not until the late summer of this year that agreement was finally reached, and permission given for the removal of the tree on agreed conditions.

I hope that this account of what happened will enable you to see that it is not Neil & Yvonne who are the villains of the piece, but the original developer and/or his workman. Indeed, far from being the bad guys, they have spent a large amount of their own money in having surveys carried out, to try to avoid the tree being felled, as well as having to pay the not insubstantial sum required to pay for its removal. It should also be pointed out that their insurers would no longer cover them against any damage or injury caused by the tree falling down, or a branch breaking off. AVDC should perhaps have policed the development better than they did, and ensured that an area 7.5 metres from the trunk was fenced off, and that no tree roots within this area were touched: however, to quote from one of the survey reports *“Evidence suggests that no protection measures were implemented by the developer or enforced by Aylesbury Vale District Council”*.

Peter Shorrock

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ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

The talk at the September meeting of the Ladies Club was entitled *A Secret War in Bedfordshire*. This may well not have sounded particularly exciting to many people but the speaker Jean Yates made it so very interesting. She had interviewed many local people for their memories of the war and it seemed that they hadn't had a real opportunity to tell their stories to anyone. Some very surprising details came out that even Jean, a researcher and author, had not heard before and she spent the afternoon sharing some of the stories with us.

It seemed that Bedfordshire was the spy capital of Great Britain and the A5 linking London and Birmingham with the telephone lines running alongside made communication easier. In various places, particularly on Dunstable Downs, nissan huts were built and covered with hay to look like a haystack. One we hear was used as a radar station and one as a meteorological office so that weather reports could be given to our pilots before taking off.

Bletchley Park of course was where messages were decoded and we know the Germans were very clever at decoding our messages so a system called "one pad" was used which was basically changing the code everyday. That would have confused them! At a printers in Woburn a lot of "black" propaganda was prepared such as German newspapers printed with false stories and dropped over Germany and probably the piece de resistance was when they copied German ration books and dropped those over Germany also. The poor civilians would have thought all their birthdays had come at once but then the shops would have run out of food.

At the October meeting Edwin Rye, who was BBC2 Gardener of the Year in 2002, came to talk about "Colour in the Garden". Sadly I didn't hear this talk as I was a few hundred feet above the ground in a hot air balloon over Oxfordshire. However, having heard his talk on how he became BBC2 Gardener of the Year and another when he talked about David Austin roses, I know it would have been a super afternoon. The ladies tell me it was and he had also brought a lot of plants that he had grown himself to sell. All money raised goes to an African charity that he supports as did his fee for coming.

The next meeting of the Ladies Club will be the A.G.M. on 10th November and in December we will have our Carol Service on 15th.

If any of the above sounds interesting please come along and join us. We meet in the Aston Abbots Church Room at 2pm and after we have heard from our speaker there is always a cup of tea and cakes.

April Curnow

Community News

Aylesbury Parking – AVDC have again this year made parking free for the run up to Christmas (yes there are only 50 days to go!!!) in their Aylesbury car parks each Thursday from 17th November 4.30pm onwards. Please note this does not include the Friars Square car park.

Queens Diamond Jubilee – there are moves afoot for the village to be doing something for this event, there is still much discussion to be had around who does the organising, possible grant funding and perhaps more importantly – what to do! The Parish Council will be discussing this at their next meeting on 7th December. Perhaps interested parties would like to come along with ideas for what to do and how to go about doing it?

Village Plan – in case anyone is sitting anxiously awaiting the results of the questionnaire circulated round the village mid-July, Councillor Perkins has promised the findings for an article in the next Chronicle. He says a good number of people replied and that the results will be quite revealing!!!!

Neighbourhood Plan – sorry, we know you have been bombarded with paperwork lately, blame AVDC and the government. The NP is not to be confused with the VP, Peter Shorrocks wrote an excellent article in last month's Chronicle explaining the difference – the main thing is that both documents are very important for Aston Abbots future. We have had quite a good response on this NP questionnaire circulated early October but we fear that people feel overwhelmed with all these questions. We would love some more responses, but please be quick and if you need another copy it is on the website or drop by 12 The Green.

Faye Godleman, Community Safety Project Officer, has written an article on **Keeping safe this winter**. Keeping your home safe - A dark house at this time of the year is a sure sign that there's no one at home. You can fool a burglar by having a light on a timer switch that comes on when it gets dark. In the event your property is stolen, marking your belongings with a UV pen helps identify them. Keeping yourself safe -Thieves love Christmas. The crowded shops are a magnet for pick pockets. You can protect your purse by attaching a cat bell to. These and many more great ideas are included in the article published on the AA website.

Alice Fisher, Democratic Services Officer, AVDC has set up a "News for the Parishes" bulletin covering many subjects like local Wildflower Meadows, Sky Ride Local Programme of Bike Rides and North Bucks Swift and Bat Project – see the link on the AA website.

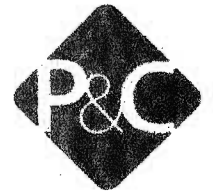
PCSO Paula Boston, Wing North Neighbourhood Team has produced the October **Wing North Newsletter**, her newsletter can be found on the AA website.

Services, more will be published over the next couple of Community News about the changes proposed by a combination of mostly savings being made by AVDC and/or Bucks CC as changes to street cleaning and grass cutting services affect AA, the stoppage of the bulk waste pick-up from the green and the lights being turned off at the crossroads!

Waterside Theatre are extremely pleased that in their first year they have exceeded expectations and sold over 200,000 tickets!

School transport – we have been asked to bring to parents' attention the proposed changes to the transport to our senior schools. Transfer September 2013 entrants in particular are affected.

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8th & 22nd November

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



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the single non-emergency number for Thames Valley Police

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



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688479

YOUR

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Paul Bruton (Parish Clerk)
51 The Green - 682322

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)
6 Wingrave Road - 681343

Richard Clarke
Maplewood, The Green - 681007

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. Philip Derbyshire 01525 240287

Caroline Abel Smith 681001 - Churchwarden

April Curnow 681459 - Churchwarden

Colin Higgs 681343 - Deputy Churchwarden

Shirley Ford 681865

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PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW!

WINTER DRAWS ON!

Yes, the old ones are the best! But if the old joke helps to draw your attention to help for local older people, then it has worked.

We all know that a long, cold winter can have a devastating effect on older people. Remember last year when we were snowed in? Some people could not get to the shops for food and supplies, and many older people were scared to turn their heaters on much for fear of the big utility bills that they knew would come along later.

How can we prepare for this winter? If you are a neighbour to an older resident, regularly checking that they have supplies in would be a great help. Make sure you have exchanged phone numbers so you can keep in regular contact. Perhaps heat up food if they are off-colour or find it a struggle.

Older People can contact Age UK Bucks for help in many ways. Checking welfare benefits entitlements, advocacy support when a problem arises that you can't sort out, or wanting a befriender to visit during long, lonely winter days. Our Information & Advice service has a wealth of expert information at their fingertips.

Extra support at home can be provided by Handymen, Neat Feet toe nail cutting service, Clean Up home cleaning & laundry, One2one Computer lessons in your home, Gardening, Seamless Relocation, Mobile Hairdressing, Therapeutic Massage of shoulders, hands, feet. Also Age UK Bucks can arrange stairlifts, personal alarms, bath lifts, assistive furniture and much more.

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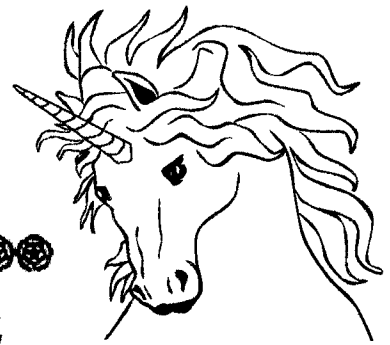


I was sat in a restaurant and got hit on the back of the head by a prawn cocktail.
I looked round and this bloke shouts, 'That's just for starters!'

Winter is Warmer at The Unicorn

Our Christmas menus are on The Unicorn website so you can plan your personal, corporate or club festive dining. But before we all get caught up in the festive season, the log fires are already blazing and we have some special events lined up at The Unicorn in November for you to enjoy. There are two nights especially for the Ladies (spot them below)!

We look forward to welcoming you whenever you visit The Unicorn.



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What's on in November

Wednesday 2nd - Girls Night In – 7.30pm

Monday 7th Quiz - 8pm

Sunday 13th Come Dine with Me –
Pippa Naylor and team – 7.30pm

Monday 14th Quiz

Tuesday 15th Folk Music with Halfway House – 8pm

Saturday 19th Band: Lesley and The Speakers

Monday 21st Quiz

Thursday 24th TUGS – last Golf Society meeting of 2011 at Whipsnade Park GC

24th Cocktail Night – with guest 'Mixer' Tom Palfreeman - 7.30pm

Friday 25th Dinner and Jazz with
Anything Goes – 8pm

Sunday 27th Come Dine with Me –
Carrie Yates and team – 7.30pm

Monday 28th Quiz

PLUS enjoy these Unicorn Regulars:

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Please see web site for full details www.theunicornpub.co.uk

St James Church

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6th November - Evensong 6pm - Rev. Philip Derbyshire
 13th November - Remembrance Service 10.45am - Rev. Peter Binns
 20th November - Communion 10.15am - Rev. Philip Derbyshire
 27th November - Communion 10.30am - Rev. Roger Hale

"Remember, remember..." so the old rhyme goes. Certainly November is a month of remembering. The 1st is All Saints Day when the church has traditionally remembered the great heroes and martyrs of history. The next day is All Souls when we remember all 'ordinary' Christians who have died -- a peculiar kind of 'class structure' there I think!

But of course, the old rhyme refers particularly to November 5th, when we recall the Gunpowder Plot by Guy Fawkes and others in 1605 -- except we don't any more -- it's just Bonfire Night like Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day -- the slippery slope to not remembering at all? The one festival/ceremony which has actually revived and been revitalised of late is Remembrance Day, recalled on November 11th itself but fully commemorated in churches and at war memorials around the world on the second Sunday of the month. This revival of course is because of the large number of conflicts we have been involved with recently, from the Falklands to the ongoing war against the Taliban and Al-Quaida in Afghanistan.

The month ends on a more upbeat note as we begin the season of Advent and the countdown to Christmas (although some supermarkets started that around August 28th, with mince pies with 'use by' dates of 11th October!).

Whatever you remember this month -- happy or sad -- take care and God Bless. *Philip*

It was reported that the Race Night, held on 23rd September raised approx £250; this has now been revised to £513. Congratulations to all involved. *Ed*

LINK ROMANIA FAMILY SHOEBOX APPEAL

Once again, I'm asking for people to fill shoe boxes for needy families in Romania, Moldova, Albania, Bulgaria and the Ukraine.

I know that many people in the UK have been having a difficult time financially and sometimes it's not always possible to support charities. However, when you see the smiles, when the recipients open their boxes, for such everyday items for all the family, you know it has been worthwhile. Should you wish to take part, please contact me, *Shirley Ford on 681865*

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

10.45am

13th November
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Ideas for filling your Family Shoeboxes

Because our boxes are for families we ask that you fill them with gifts appropriate for all age groups.

Personal grooming items Toothbrushes and toothpaste
 Shampoo/shower gel (max 250ml) Deodorant Safety razors
 Bar of soap and flannel Nail clippers/scissors Brush/comb

Fun stuff Crayons and felt tips Colouring books Travel-sized games, such as dominoes, draughts and playing cards
 Small toys, such as yoyo's, skipping ropes, bouncy balls, puzzles, balloons Teddies/dolls/soft toys including handmade knitted toys

Treats Sweets Chocolate Hair accessories

School items Solar powered calculators Pens and pencils
 Pencil rubbers and sharpeners

Family essentials Plasters Small sewing kits Screwdriver/
 tape measure New socks/tights Gloves/hats/scarves

CHURCH DUTIES

	<i>Cleaners</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
5th Nov	Colin Caroline L	Colin
12th	Ann Gordon	Remembrance
19th	Shirley Andrew	Remembrance
26th	Anita April	No flowers in Advent

The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

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 Coordinator	TBA	
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 Shorrocks	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	Rev Philip Derbyshire	01525 240287
Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Royal British Legion	Alan Jones	682366
Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Paul Weston	681127
Wingrave Post Office	PO Only	682964
Wingrave Post Office	Stores	681696
Wingrave School	Office	681436

please advise of any errors or omissions



2	7	9	3	1	6	8	5	4
3	8	5	2	7	4	6	1	9
1	4	6	8	5	9	2	3	7
7	2	4	5	9	1	3	8	6
9	3	8	7	6	2	1	4	5
6	5	1	4	3	8	9	7	2
5	9	2	1	8	7	4	6	3
8	6	3	9	4	5	7	2	1
4	1	7	6	2	3	5	9	8

The Chronicle

Advertising rates per annum

FULL PAGE	Back	£100
	Inside	£ 80
HALF PAGE	Inside	£ 40
	Quarter	£ 25
QUARTER PAGE	Inside	£ 25
	Full	£ 20
	Half	£ 15
ONE OFFS	Full	£ 20
	Half	£ 15
	Quarter	£ 10

Seasonal and short term ads are also accepted at these rates

Send copy and cheque payable to

'The Chronicle' to

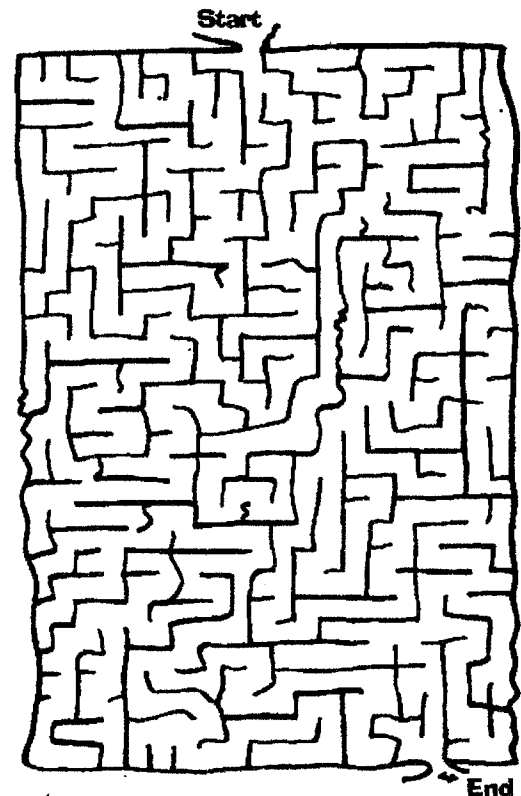
Phil Corrigan

5, Nash's Farm, Aston Abbotts, Bucks

01296 688191

corriganpc@aol.com

This maze is hard ! Can you make it to the end?



WHIST

DRIVE

Our Whist Drives have been going for over 70 years, but due to old age and many have passed away, our numbers have dropped. We are desperate for new members. So if you cannot play and would like to learn come along on the 10th November 7.30pm at the Church Room. *Colin Higgs*

What's On In November

Tuesday 1st	PCC Meeting 7.30pm	Church Room
Thursday 3rd	Coffee Shop 10-12noon Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room
Friday 4th	Bonfire/Fireworks 6pm	The Rec
Sunday 6th	Ramblers 2pm Evensong 6pm	Caldecote (MK) St James Church
Tuesday 8th	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Thursday 10th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon Ladies Club 2.15pm Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room Church Room
Saturday 12th	British Legion Coffee Morning Musical Evening 8pm	Church Room St James Church
Sunday 13th	Remembrance Service 10.45am	St James Church
Tuesday 15th	Refuse Freighter 12-3.30pm	The Green
Thursday 17th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
Sunday 19th	British Legion Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room
Tuesday 22nd	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Thursday 24th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room
Saturday 27th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green
Thursday 1st Dec	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room

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

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Over 50 exciting and different stalls including jewellery, seasonal food, presents for men, beauty products, stocking fillers, gifts for teenagers, kitchen products, silver, silk flowers, books, cashmere, clothes and much more.

Waddesdon Plant Centre Queens Street Waddesdon
10th November 2011 10:30AM to 2:00PM
Entry £5.00 - all proceeds to Action Medical Research

MOBILE LIBRARY 8th & 22nd
November 10.30am The Green

Almost new Double Ikea Bed
for sale - £150. Tel no. 682004

MOBILE LIBRARY

NEEDS YOU!!!!

'USE IT' don't 'LOOSE IT'

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

Field available to rent - approx 4 acres with shelter, water and generator.
Contact Jackie 681182

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS
4th NOVEMBER 6pm on the REC

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

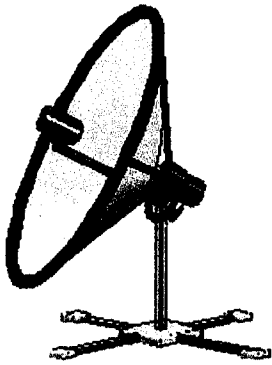


630 Club - meets every Saturday in the Royal Oak at 6.30 pm. New members very welcome. Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.

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.

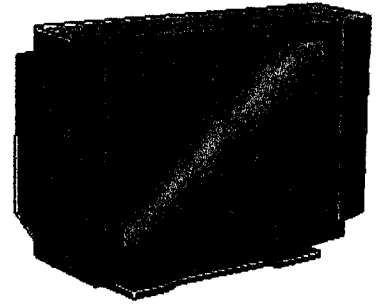
FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS



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

**+ REPAIRS +
NEW AND
USED SALES**



01296 682126

LewisAir

JOB VACANCY

Air Hostess Required

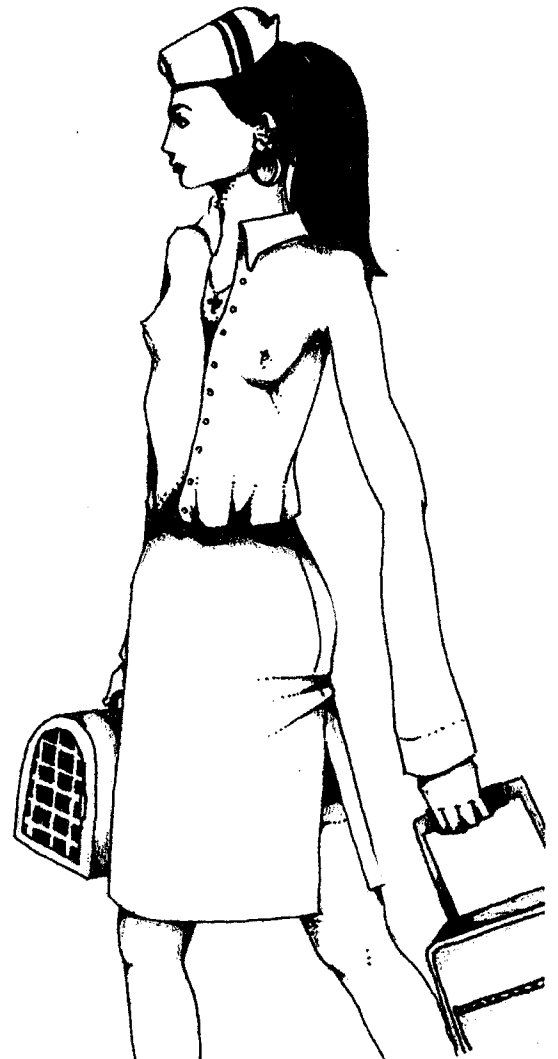
LewisAir of Church Farm have an immediate vacancy for an air hostess. Principal duties will include: correct runway identification, filling the plane with the correct fuel, serving champagne to the pilot.

This position would suit a slim attractive young person looking for a challenging hands-on role.

- A working knowledge of the Spanish language will be required.
- Familiarity with foreign customs procedures would be an advantage
- A passable grasp of the English language is always going to be useful, innit?

The successful applicant will enjoy many staff benefits including unlimited Baileys and coffee, a smart company uniform designed by V. Secret, and guaranteed swift automatic membership of the LewisAir mile-high club.

Interested parties should in the first instance apply in writing to D. Lewis. Please include a recent picture of your tattoos.



FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY