

THE CHRONICLE

325

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine - October 2012



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SUNDAY 7th OCTOBER

Editorial

In my editorial in this year's June edition I mentioned the frustration for those on the Church Room Committee in trying to secure a lease. The Parochial Church Council have twice asked the Bishop of Oxford to intervene and unlock the delay and lack of response to letters and emails.

I recently emailed the Church's solicitor the following: 'We exchanged brief correspondence in October last year when you advised you would be submitting a draft lease to the Charity Commissioners. Do you think a lease will be issued soon?'

The solicitor replied '.... I attach a copy of the draft Scheme which I have sent to them (Charity Commission). It transpires that they had destroyed all their earlier papers, so I have supplied them with a complete fresh set of papers going back to 1898, and hope to hear from them shortly with a revised Scheme, on which the trustees can then pass resolutions and give formal publicity.

As soon as I hear back from the Charity Commission I will be in touch with you and Peter Shorrocks again...' - I'll keep you advised of any progress made.

The AVDC Barn Owl Project Team came to see the owls near my ponds. There were no chicks; two adults were in the box; a male was caught and ringed, the female managed to avoid capture. The male was two years old and a bit underweight (315grams when it should weigh 360). The pair will probably disperse over winter but hopefully will be back next year. I was told that generally barn owls have bred late this year due to the wet spring and early summer - but that numbers are up on previous years.



Sadly we had to have our nearly 17 year old Jack Russell, Poppy, put down. She had lost a lot of weight and didn't want to go for walks. Judy and I thought it was for the best - just hope when my time comes I'll get the same love and sympathy. We are planting poppies over Poppy's grave - sounds a bit maudlin I know, but she was one of the family. Our other dog Pickles has taken the sudden absence of her life long companion with apparent ease and is wallowing in our undivided attention.

There will be fireworks on the Rec on November 5th - see ad on page 5. The Parish Council and others make contributions towards the cost but the event does rely on you making your own monetary contributions.

John

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

Copy date for the next issue

Friday 26th October

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 Abbots, our local Doctors' Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

Alison's Gossip Column

BIRTHDAYS

October

Denise Robinson	2 nd
David Gray	3 rd
Juliette Gutierrez	3 rd
Stuart Biddle	5 th
Devon King	8 th
Edward Picking	11 th
Alex Perkins	12 th
Juan Gutierrez	14 th
Elvina Chu	17 th
Christine Scott	24 th
Jackie Farrands	24 th
Rita Robinson	26 th
Val Espley	27 th
Tori Smith	27 th
Mandy Thornhill	29 th
Hayley Wilkinson	31 st

ROMANIAN SHOE BOX APPEAL
Contact Shirley Ford 681865
if you would like to help.

We ask people to fill a Shoebox for a family - not just a child. Our list contains items for all family members and includes items such a shower gel/shampoo, family games, stationary items, gift for mum and dad as well as sweets, soft toys, hats, scarves etc. Boxes also go to the Ukraine, Bulgaria, Moldova and Albania.

The **Family Shoebox Appeal** has been running since 1992 and has delivered smiles to thousands of people in Eastern Europe over the years. In fact, we have sent over of 550,000 shoeboxes to hundreds of different locations!

Gavin Winston and Elvina Chu, who have been renting Church Farm Barn for a year, like the village so much that they have now bought a house and moved to 4 Humphreys Close.

Please note that the October session of **Good Samaritans Bingo** will now be on Thursday, 25th October 2012.
Pam Dixon

There are still 2 allotment plots available -
contact Colin Higgs tel 681343 if you would like one.

A warm welcome to the new residents of Church Farm Barn
- James and Jenny

Juan and Brigitte are having a bumper crop of grandchildren! Maria, 6lbs 12ozs born to Pablo and Becca on 11th September in Plymouth. Then twin boys born to Juliette and Alfred 21st September in London. Dillon weighed in at 6lbs 9oz and Twin 2 (name TBA) at 6lbs 8ozs. Well done and Congratulations to everyone.



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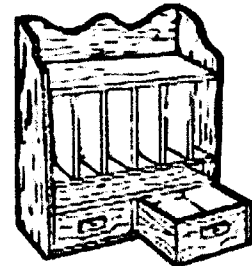
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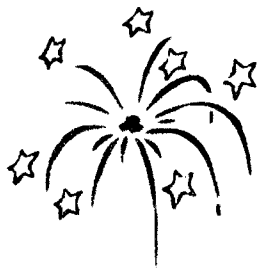


A Cat's Tale

Reading about the dog who found his way from here to Milton Keynes reminded me of a similar incident which happened nearly 40 years ago. Nash's Farm was a farm then with dutch barns full of hay and straw bales, a grain drying plant and large silos. We had a tabby cat called Mitzi and this was a fine hunting ground for her but she always came home. Then one day in June she didn't - nor the next day; so we went over there and began searching and calling her name, but to no avail. Day after day we searched but in the end we had to give up believing something horrible had happened to her. Then early one morning in October we heard a loud meowing at the door; on opening it there was Mitzi, thin, a bit bedraggled with sore paws, but alive and well. We think she may have climbed on or under a grain lorry and been carted off to wherever the grain was going and it had taken her 4 months to find her way home. After about two days sleep she was none the worse for her adventure.

Margaret Hinds

Monday 5th November 2012 Lighting of Bonfire - 6.30 pm Fireworks at 7.00 pm on the Rec

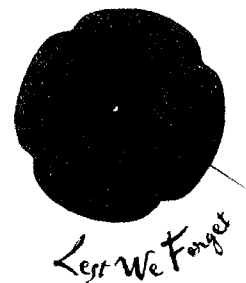


Mulled wine, hotdogs and soup

No admission fee!! PLEASE support YOUR village event!!
Monetary donations towards fireworks gratefully received.

Please pass to Kevin or Jane
at Home Farm, Aston Abbots
ASAP (the earlier the order the better the value!!)

The Poppy Coffee Morning
will be held on the 10th November
and **The Poppy Bingo** on
the 17th November



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Annual General Meeting of the Wingrave and District Branch (your Local Branch) will take place at 8pm on Wednesday 10th October at the Rose and Crown Public House in Wingrave. All members are asked to attend.

Alan Jones - Chairman

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COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

So a controlled Badger Cull is about to start on 300 farms in West Gloucester, not before time, in the opinion of the NFU and a vast majority of its Dairy and Livestock members. TB in cattle is a truly devastating disease not only to the infected cattle of course, which are quickly slaughtered, but to the dairy and livestock farmers whose business is totally disrupted, causing financial loss and uncertainty, but also in some cases, unseen trauma and illness brought on by stress and worry. Often on the instructions of the Ministry vet, the best cattle are taken as a result of being "reactors" to the TB test. The farm is in reality, is closed down for movement of cattle on and off the premises, which can take months or even years, until the tests run clear on the entire herd. If you follow Country File on a Sunday evening, you may recall the outstanding Adam Henson had some reactors on his farm recently and for no obvious reason he lost, apart from many others, one of his rare breed White Park cattle (Starsky or Hutch). He was training these rare cattle to pull a cart for filming or television work, you could see the anguish on his face when the vet told him the bad news. What about his Father who had put a lifetime into that herd, poor chap. So the cost so far is in excess of £500 million of tax payers money in the last decade and shall run to over £1 billion in the next few years. How many hospitals could that build? I have never met a farmer, livestock farmer, gamekeeper or proper country folk who want to shoot badgers, but it is necessary to stop the spread of the infection. The whole point is to stop the spread of the infected ones and not to exterminate the badger population. We would all love to have a vaccine, but we haven't got one. Scientists are working very hard for that to happen. So lets stop all this sentimental nonsense and get on with a very unpleasant job and hope the vaccine arrives sooner rather than later.

James Henderson

Aston Abbots and Cublington Ladies Club

The first meeting of the 2012/2013 programme began with a gentleman called Colin Oakes telling us about the "50's and the 60's" entitled "You never had it so good". These famous words were uttered by the then Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

Fourteen ladies enjoyed the afternoon immensely as Mr. Oakes was great fun and told his stories in a very humorous way.

Our Chairman, June, provided some delicious home made cakes for our afternoon tea which Mr. Oakes stayed and enjoyed with us.

The next meeting is on October 18th when a Mr. Ken Pearce will tell us about the diary of a lady called Emily Fearn in 1853.

On 15th November the AGM and Bring and Buy will be held at April's house as the Church Room has been commandeered by AVDC for the Police Commissioners elections.

April Curnow



Ladies Club in the Church Room 1950's

A man goes to the vet about his dog's fleas. The vet says: 'I'm sorry, I'll have to put this dog down.' The man is incredulous and asks why. The vet says: 'Because he's far too heavy.'

WINGRAVE GARAGE

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Community News

Gardeners Wanted – Can You Spare 1 Hour Occasionally? Elderly and disabled people in your neighborhood need help with their gardens. You don't have to be an expert, all you need is enthusiasm. If you would like to help, please contact Leona on 01296 744736. Or send an e-mail to leona@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust Diamond Jubilee Concert - FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2012 at 7.30pm Featuring Buckinghamshire Musicians and Singers, Young Professional Violinists, Alexandra & Charlotte Reid, Aylesbury Music Centre Big Band and Wingrave Singers. *ST MARY'S CHURCH, AYLESBURY*. Tickets: £12 to include a glass of wine. For tickets or further information contact: Caroline Abel Smith 01296 681001

The Community Safety Partnership traditionally see an increase in personal robbery offences during the winter months, says Faye Blunstone the AVDC Community Projects Officer. Aylesbury Vale is a low crime area and Thames Valley Police and AVDC are working to prevent future offences. The partnership would like to remind residents of the following crime prevention tips:

- Don't advertise expensive belongings such as mobile phones and mp3 players.
- Always be aware of your surroundings- turn off iPods & mp3s so you're more alert.
- Property mark your valuables with a UV Pen- if your belongings are stolen and later recovered your valuables can be returned to you.
- Register your phone/mp3 for free at Immoblize.com - this helps the police to recover your phone if it's stolen and capture thieves.

Join Thames Valley Alert! This free service enables subscribers to be sent crime prevention messages and alerts as well as witness appeals local to the area in which you live. To join, visit www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to sign up and be in the know!

Community Oil Buying Scheme Goes from Strength to Strength! Buy minimum 1200ltrs at a time at a very competitive price based on buying over 100 times this amount! Interested? call 0845 3890389 or visit www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk

Bob Carvey

ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

In September we met to discuss 'The Sense of an Ending' by Julian Barnes; chosen by Pam Hewitt. This is a very well written book, almost a detective novel in style. None of us liked the principle characters - they lead such a vacant life style with some questionable habits; it was hard to make sense of the book and the twist in the *tale* meant you might choose to read the book again in order to fully understand the relationships. It's a fairly short book and packs some unexpected punches.

Our next read is Anita Parker's choice 'The Restraint of Beasts' by Magnus Mills. Meet at Anita's house 24th October 8pm.
John Hardcastle

A group of chess enthusiasts were kicked out of a hotel reception for discussing their winning games.
The manager can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer.

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One or two people have suggested that I should put an article in the Chronicle about our Coffee Mornings and how we use any money that we might make.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Many people will have seen that a sign goes up outside the Church Room on a Thursday morning saying CAFE OPEN 10am to 12 noon. For the last seven years this has taken place and many people come and thoroughly enjoy what is on offer from buttered scones with jam, sausage rolls, toasted teacakes, bacon rolls, lardy cake (always made by Andy Bystra) and this week, being National Muffin Week, we had a choice of three types of muffins for people to have with their coffee or tea. Francesca Bean kindly donated the muffins for the coffee morning and they were delicious. The charge is £1 for coffee and biscuits and whatever the choice is for the day.

Many generous donations towards the coffee mornings come my way from spare jars of coffee to boxes of tea bags so we do manage to make a profit which we donate mostly to the Church. For example last year we paid for the Church organ to be tuned which was over £100, and we have contributed £150 towards some work that needs doing on the wildlife area in the Churchyard.

We made a donation of £50 to the NSPCC and supported Astonbury with the sum of £150.

However we do like to have some money built up around Christmas time as we have a special lunch for the people who come to our coffee morning regularly.

If you haven't been down to visit us on a Thursday morning then you are missing a treat as the lovely sound of laughter is a regular noise that comes out of the Church Room doors quite often along with the smell of frying bacon. We hope to see you soon.

April Curnow

WINGRAVE CE COMBINED SCHOOL

As we start the new academic year a warm welcome goes to all the new children who have joined us, not just in reception but across the whole school. The children have quickly settled into the routines of school life and are thoroughly enjoying playing on the new tyre adventure trail which was installed over the summer. A BIG THANKYOU goes to the PTFA who meet half the cost of this purchase.

As the nights start to draw in I would like to set you all a challenge. How many words of three letters or above can you make from Wingrave CE Combined School. All entries welcome by 19th October. Any pupils of Wingrave School will be awarded a house point for each word they find.

As October is being renamed 'Stoptober' please can I encourage all members of the community not to smoke in the vicinity of the school but especially around the boundary paths.

Finally please can I encourage you to visit our school website which is full of useful information including: diary dates, contact details, newsletters and photographs of the children in their smart new uniforms.

www.wingrave.bucks.sch.uk

Val Britnell



Ride and Stride 8th September

Every year on the second Saturday in September there is a sponsored ride around rural churches in Bucks (and other counties) – you can ride a bike, ride a horse, walk or even run, and half the sponsorship money goes to the local historic churches trust, half to the church of your choosing. The Bucks trust has given us help in Aston Abbots, but I can't say any sense of gratitude sent me out on my bike on 8th – it was a lovely day and a good excuse! I rode a route very close to the Aylesbury Ring and very nice it was too. I stopped at 18 churches, most of which were open and offering refreshments, so no health benefits there! Some highlights: the wildflowers in Whitchurch churchyard (hope we will have our own next year); lovely quiet Over Winchendon watching the late swallows; a wedding at Nether; a look around the 50th anniversary exhibition of old photos at Little Kimble Free Church; medieval wall paintings at All Saints, Little Kimble; excellent cake stop at Wilstone, and back through Long Marston and Wingrave. Back in Aston Abbots we had 30 visitors, and I was back just in time to say hello to the last of them, Colin Antosiewicz, who had just run over from Cublington. Many thanks to my sponsors, and if anyone else is able to spare a pound or two that would be lovely – through my door (2 Church Row) or give to any of the PCC by Monday 8 October.

Caroline Lane

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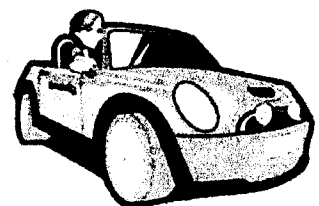
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A number of people asked for tickets to see Joan Armatrading. When I emailed the theatre with my request for the tickets you have asked for so far, Aylesbury Theatre advised the following - *The only show I have reached capacity on is Joan Armatrading, therefore I won't be able to get you a pair of tickets for this one, all others are absolutely fine however.* Ed

JULIUS CAESAR

On Wednesday 19th September Peter and I went to the opening night of the RSC's production of William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar at Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre. This new production was first performed in May 2012.

As we had press tickets - (amazing the perks that come with editorship of a village newsletter!) we started our evening at a press launch held in the theatre's Second Space, where we sampled the wine and some rather tasty food as we listened to guests from the upcoming season chat about their productions. The nibbles we were given were delicious – apparently Waterside Theatre is planning to start serving food soon.

On entering the auditorium we were greeted by a magical atmosphere. The impressive set, which ascended in a series of huge steps to a massive statue of Caesar, was covered with drummers and musicians playing African rhythms, while dancers cavorted on the stage in front of them. In fact, this was the start of the play, in which the people of Rome celebrate Caesar's triumphant victory over Pompey the Great, and once we were all seated it moved seamlessly into the first scene.

This interesting production takes Shakespeare to Africa, with reminiscences of Africa's fierce politics. The cast gave an impassioned, dramatic performance, much appreciated by the audience. However, I found the African dialects difficult to follow, and sometimes struggled to hear what some of the characters were saying. Nevertheless, we both thoroughly enjoyed our evening, and would recommend any Shakespeare fans to go and see this new production. Thanks again Ed for the tickets. Kate Curry

ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS

I have the opportunity to offer a pair of tickets for some forthcoming shows at Aylesbury Theatre to anyone in our village who would like to apply for them.

If you are interested in seeing a particular show (listed below) then let me have an email (editor@aachronicle.co.uk) or put a note through my door at Marloes, Lines Hill, with your name and telephone number, when I will put names in a hat to draw the winner for each show. The draw for each event will take place 2 weeks before the show.

The pairs of tickets are free and are usually in the stalls about one third back. Parking opposite the theatre costs £1 for the evening after 6.30pm. The list of shows available will hopefully be updated every month in the Chronicle.

In return it would be nice if the 'theatre-goers' gave a short review of the show they saw. Ed

DREAMBOATS AND PETTICOATS	MON 01.10.12 7.30PM
JOAN ARMATRADING (limited tickets)	TUE 09.10.12 7.30PM
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES(limited tickets)	THU 11.10.12 7.30PM
LIVESCREEN - TIMON OF ATHENS(limited tickets)	THU 01.11.12 6.45PM
MOTOWN GREATEST HITS(limited tickets available)	SAT 13.10.12 8.30PM
THE INCREDIBLE DR GUTTMAN	SAT 20.10.12 7.30PM
GREAT EXPECTATIONS	TUE 30.10.12 7.30PM
HALFWAY TO PARADISE – THE BILLY FURY STORY	FRI 09.11.12 7.30PM
NORTHERN BALLET – BEAUTY AND THE BEAST	TUE 13.11.12 7.30PM
SHOW OF HANDS(limited tickets)	SUN 18.11.12 7.30PM
42ND STREET	TUE 20.11.12 7.30PM
COMEDY CLUB (limited tickets)	FRI 07.12.12 7.30PM
LIVESCREEN – ROYAL OPERA HOUSE THE NUTCRACKER(limited tickets)	THU 13.12.12 7.15PM

Aston Abbotts Squash League

Are you a squash player?
We are looking to put together
our very own squash league.

Entrants will play each other
twice (i.e. home and away) and
the competition will run from July
to 31st December 2012 – so
plenty of time to play.

There are a few players locally,
so let's have fun and make it
mildly competitive! Some
villagers are members at courts
in Aylesbury, Laighton Buzzard
and the surrounding areas, so
there are plenty of places to play!

The emphasis here is on fun,
but with a competitive edge!
All ages, genders and abilities very welcome. Please pass
on to anyone else you think might want to play.

If you are interested, please contact:
Chris Phillips at 67 The Green or call 07879 660115.



There will also be a family ticket (4 tickets) for a panto competition to run in the November edition of The Chronicle. Ed



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ALLOTMENT DIARY

I read some extracts from a very interesting book recently about what senses plants have. Remarkably, despite the absence of any brain or sensory organs, it seems that plants do share many of the senses that we have.

Sight is their most obvious ability: we all know that plants grow towards the light. In some case, like sunflowers, the whole of the flower head turns towards the sun as it moves across the sky. Many others, like the humble daisy, close their petals at night time. I had no idea, however, until reading these extracts, that plants respond towards the blue part of the visible spectrum; whilst using the red light to measure the length of the night. This latter ability is traded upon by chrysanthemum growers, who ensure their blooms are ready for Mother's Day (when they can be sold for the maximum price) by giving their flowers a burst of red light in the middle of the night through the autumn and winter, so tricking the plants into believing the nights are not as long as they are. Two weeks before Mother's Day, the growers turn off the red light, and the flowers duly oblige by blooming in time for the big day.

As for smell, it is well known that bananas cause other fruit to ripen by giving off ethylene gas, which the other fruit "smell". Another example is the dodder plant, a weed found in tomato fields in America. As it grows, the dodder plant waves its shoot in circles until it "smells" a tomato leaf. Having located one it then moves down to the stem of the plant, which it then taps for the sugary sap. It has also been discovered that some trees, having detected the odour given off by neighbouring trees with a caterpillar infestation will pre-emptively release chemicals which deter the caterpillars from moving to the tree which has produced the chemical.

While there is no evidence that trees like being hugged, there is plenty of evidence that many plants do respond to touch. The supreme example is the Venus fly-trap. The tiny hairs inside the "mouth" of the plant have tiny hairs which trigger electric charges: once the charge passes a certain threshold, the jaws snap shut. It is also clear that climbing plants put on a growth spurt as soon as they touch a likely support.

Whether any plants can hear is a very interesting question. At one point in his career, Charles Darwin, who was a keen amateur bassoonist, played his instrument to his mimosa pudica plant, to see what would happen. He was inspired to do this by the fact that the plant, also called the "Shy virgin" plant, or "Don't touch me", would droop and protectively fold its leaves inwards when touched. Darwin wanted to find out if sound could produce the same reaction. It did not. Again, Prince Charles once famously said that he talked to his plants, and was convinced they grew better if he did so. There is no evidence to support this hypothesis, but researchers at Bristol University have discovered, carrying out experiments with corn saplings, that their roots emitted clicking noises (inaudible to the human ear). They then used a loudspeaker to play a continuous noise at the same frequency as the clicks, and found the plants grew towards this. While the researchers do not know why this should happen, it clearly demonstrated that the corn was "hearing" the clicking noise.

Happily, however, the author dismisses the old claim that plants can feel pain, on the fairly obvious ground that they have no brain with which to assess unpleasantness. We can therefore all tuck into the produce of our gardens or allotments without guilt!

Peter Shorrock

Orchard Report

I am delighted with the growth in the orchard thanks to the wet summer. The walnuts look well and have put on some growth; that is more than was expected given their poor roots at planting. One cherry MERTON GLORY hasn't grown whereas the cherry at K13 has grown really well. Most of the pear trees have grown a little but Nigel & Sally Palmers' EYEWOOD PEAR has done very well from a small start. One pear is outstanding GLOU MORCEAU - it has shown great vigour. Of all the trees the ones that have grown best are: BRAMLEY RUSSET *Jackie & Selwyn*, VIOLETTE *Rosemary Todd*, and BLENHEIM ORANGE *Peter Kent*.

OXFORD BEAUTY *Piers Parker*, looks very strong and full of vigour as is the BAZELY.

Sally Palmer's BRAMLEY SEEDLING also looks very strong and healthy and raring to go next year.

In the long term race for the biggest apple THE REVEREND WILKS has slowed down to gather strength for next year. WOOTON COSTARD has kept growing but displays one outstanding feature - a very special caterpillar - it has two horns and a tail and along its back are tufts of bristles interspersed with red spots.

Truly magnificent and it should slow up the WOOTON COSTARD enough to allow THE REVEREND WILKS to catch up. The sponsor of the WOOTON COSTARD should be proud of his/her contribution to the rare wild life of the orchard.

Peter Knight

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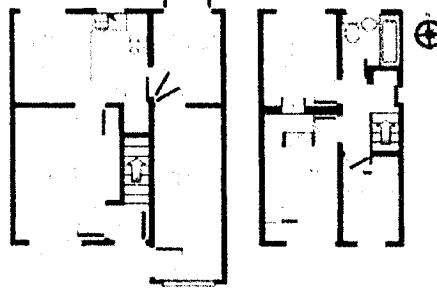
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THE LONDON OLYMPICS and PARALYMPIC GAMES 2012

'THE BOX THAT ROCKS' 'THE TIN THAT TINKLES'



It was in the summer of 2010 that I became aware of the need for volunteers for the London Olympic Games. At that time I had vague thoughts of retirement but no definite plans. Despite my complete lack of interest in sport, I had an overwhelming urge to "join in". All the usual clichés passed through my mind - "Once in a lifetime ..."; "If you are 10 now you will be 90 when the Games are next in London". Never in a million years did I think what a fantastic and unique experience it was going to be.

The selection programme began in August 2011 with an interview at the Excel Centre. It was an impressive, professional presentation and certainly stimulated me to carry on. I initially applied to work as a medic but was surprised to discover that I would likely to be trackside or event side dealing with injured athletes in full view of the world's media. As a GP for 34 years I decided emergency sports medicine was not for me so I changed my application to "Event Services". I understand 240,000 people applied, half of whom were interviewed and 70,000 were made Gamesmakers to cover 34 venues and 100 non-competitive venues.

Training began in February 2012 with an orientation session at Wembley in the snow along with 10,000 other volunteers. It was following a truly inspirational presentation from Jonathan Edwards and Eddie Izzard that I began to realise that this was going to be an exciting and fun event. Two further training sessions in London and a trip to the depths of the East End to collect my uniform and ID and I was ready to go.

I was assigned a "front of house" duties for the Handball tournaments at the Copper Box in the main Olympic Park. This unprepossessing building, at least from the outside, housed a spectacular arena for 6000 spectators. Multi-coloured seats, lit from above by a field of ceiling light tubes all created a vibrant location. The nature of the sport, free scoring, high energy and appearing to consist of a legal form of wrestling whilst throwing a ball into a net with a mega watt sound system made the venue a riot of colour, noise and excitement. Of all the venues the "Box that Rocks" attracted the most media comment highlighting a magnificently "unknown" sport along with the sort of ecstatic, partisan but fair-minded support that embodies the Olympic spirit.

If the venue and the sport created the occasion, it was the people who made it. Spectators came in extraordinary numbers with good humour and fancy dress: Monsieur Le Chicken from France, blue toboggan suits with the yellow, Swedish, cross and every conceivable costume made from union jacks. My job description included, scanning tickets, directing spectators, finding lost children and grannies, calming down over-excited supporters, checking the auditorium after 6000 people had left, or were trying to stay for the next match, lost property, indicating the best places for breast feeding and taking photos - I became something of an expert on the basic use of a 100 different cameras.

There were some 150 volunteers at the Copper Box alone. It was a fascinating mix of people - students, housewives, a vicar, lawyers - from every part of the UK. Many had made great sacrifices in terms of jobs on hold - "It's cost me £1500 but it was fun" - sleeping on friends' floors or in tents, and very early or late train trips. One unexpected outcome was that with everyone in the same uniform, everybody looked the same and you didn't know who you were talking to and so there were no pre-conceptions. Everyone was there with the same "ideals" and motivations; to get people to have as much fun as possible in a safe and secure way.

Indeed I enjoyed the Copper Box experience so much that I volunteered to return there for the Paralympics. The sport being played was Goalball, also which I had never heard of let alone seen. In fact the sport was diametrically opposed to Handball. As it was for visually impaired competitors, with a bell inside a ball, there was a need for complete silence while the game was on. Once a goal had been scored, the arena erupted. Completely different but just as warm, humorous and fun as Handball. Unfortunately, my time there was cut short by a family emergency and I only completed half my scheduled days for the Paras.

There were the inevitable low times. Catching the 4.40 am from Leighton Buzzard and then walking from Stratford International to the Copper Box at 6.15am in the rain; eating Cornish pasties for supper at 8.30 pm as the competition continued and not being allowed to use the food concessions when in Volunteer Uniform. Yet the whole experience was wonderful - cheering on Team GB, checking the Swedish and Croatian men's handball team accreditation (very thoroughly!), seeing the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge having such a great time, hearing the cheering from the stadium on Super Saturday; if it had had a roof it would have been lifted.

I feel proud to have played a tiny part in creating a brilliantly good-humoured, exciting and successful Games which managed to develop a sense of national unity and pride rarely achieved. Thank you LOCOG and thank you Les for putting up with a very tired wife and driving around Leighton, London and all points south at all hours.

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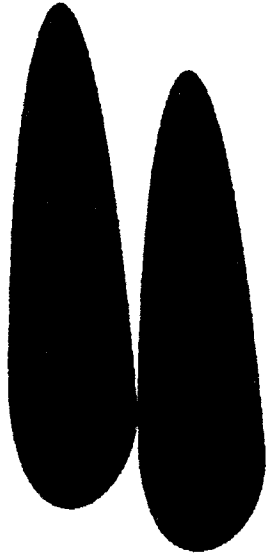
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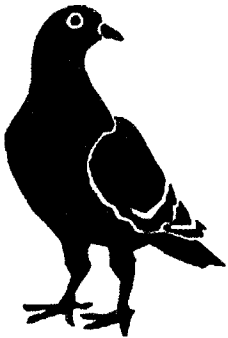
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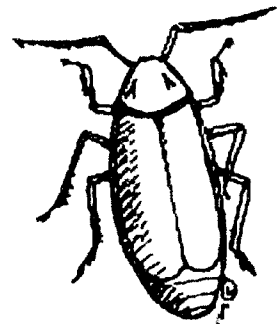
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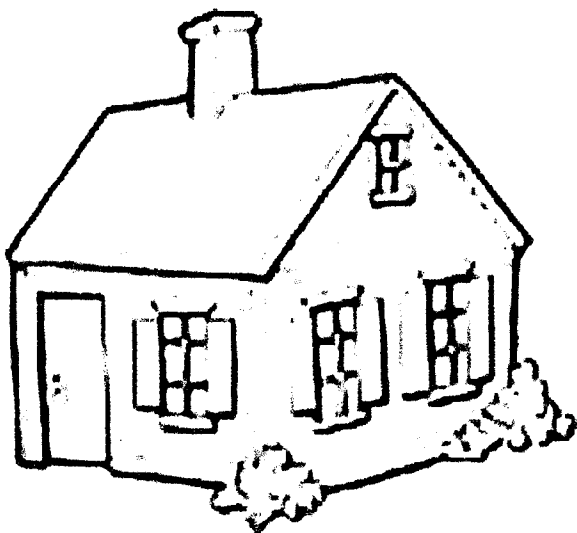
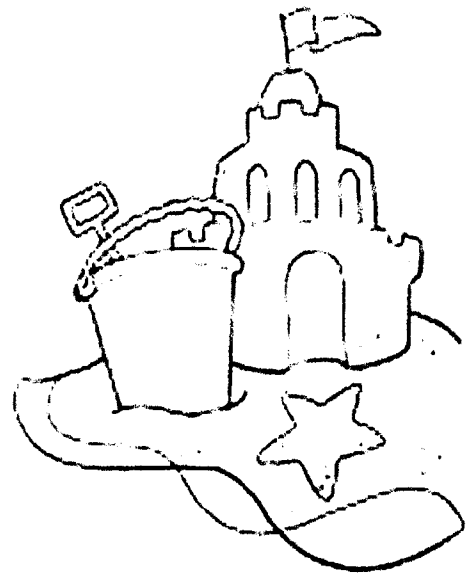
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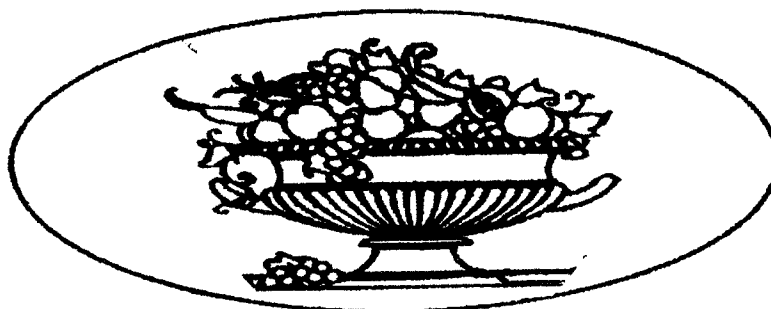
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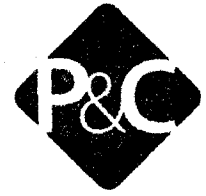


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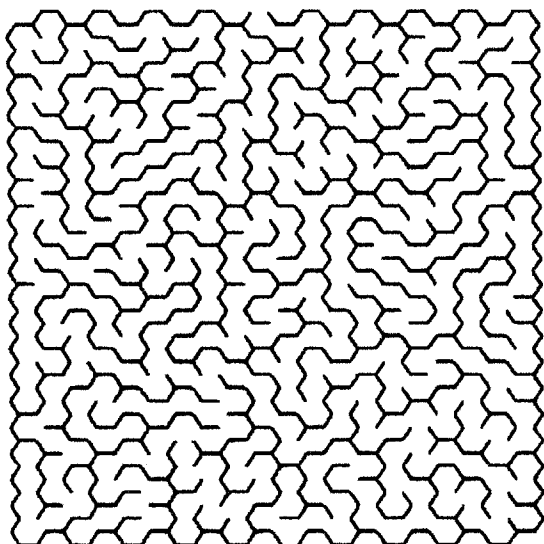
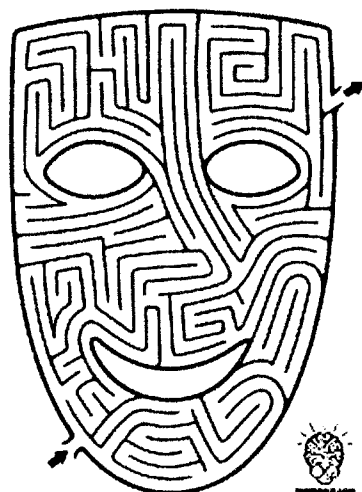
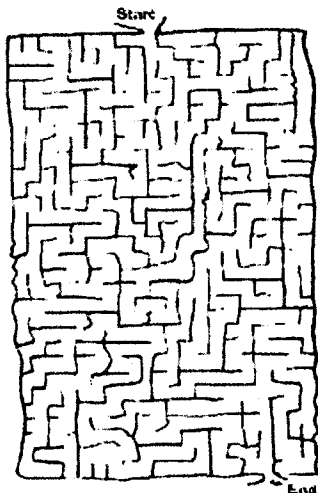
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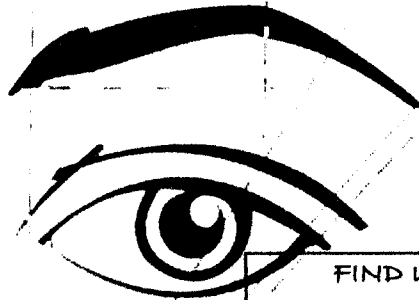
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Hello from the Vicarage.

I think Autumn is a lovely time---some people say the loveliest of all.

Crisper mornings, misty days and that special unique quality of light. The leaves turning brown and falling might not be so great! September turning into October brings us the great Harvest celebrations that only took off in the way we know the festival in the 1820's in Morwenstow, Cornwall.

As time has gone on we've added all sorts of extra 'bits' such as lunches, suppers, 'traffic light' soup, auctions of produce for Church funds or other charities or donating to food banks like our local one in Milton Keynes.

There's also an increasing awareness of the global nature of the farming business. It's a great opportunity to give thanks to our farmers and fisherman, food processors, retailers and distributors. But also and above all to give thanks to God our Father-creator for the pattern of our birth, growth and evolutionary development. Increasingly I see very little real fundamental conflict between science and faith in this area; they are just different languages for the same thing and indeed frequently complement one another. We are still in the early stages of understanding the human mind and I suspect that the seat of all our drives and motivations will be found there rather than in our bowels, liver or heart as we have formerly believed.

However things work out in this exciting area of research we still give thanks to our creator-God for all He gives us through the wonderful world of nature.

Enjoy and God Bless to you all---*Philip.*

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE, SUPPER & AUCTION

SUNDAY 7th OCT

The Harvest Festival Service will commence at **5.30 pm**

followed at **7.00 pm.**

by a delicious supper and the ever popular auction of locally grown produce in the Church room

Tickets for the supper and auction are available from
Andy Bystra (681690) and Colin Higgs (681343) priced at:-
£12.00 adults & £7.00 for youngsters under 14 years old.

We recommend you book early as tickets numbers are restricted by the size
(or lack of it) in the Church Room.

*Donations of produce can be left at the Church or with Andy or Colin
All profits shared between Christmas gifts for our older villagers and church repairs.*

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 Humphreys	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 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	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

The Chronicle

Advertising rates per issue

Full Page	Back	£100
	Inside	£90
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	Quarter Page	£35
One Offs	Full	£20
	Half	£15
	Quarter	£10

Seasonal and short term ads are also accepted at these rates

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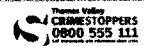
'The Chronicle'

to Phil Corrigan,

5, Nash's Farm, Aston Abbotts, Bucks.

01296 688191

corriganpc@aol.com



Inspector Emma Garside
A/PS Jared Levens
PC Steve Brisley
PC Rachel Ingram
PCSO Jackie Dodson
PCSO Christina Pringle
PCSO Natalie Hall
PCSO Paula Boston
PCSO Tina Hobson

Working from Wing Police Office
Any of us can be contacted on 101 or via email at WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or WingNorthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The neighbourhood policing team works on issues identified by local residents and businesses.

To contact them call

101

This is a non-emergency number. Alternatively, email them on: WingNorthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

The site of 'The Abbey' at Aston Abbotts was previously occupied by an ancient country residence of the Abbotts of St. Albans.

The present building is a listed Georgian building and was known as Aston House until approximately the late 19th Century. Some of its walls are believed to date back to the original house sold by Henry VIII to Lord Russell after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1519.

In 1534 the house was transferred to the Dormer family and they held the estate until the early 19th century. It then appears to have been sold to the Duke of Buckingham and then sold again in 1848 to Samuel Lloyd. He and his daughter, Lady Wantage, kept the property until 1924 when it was sold to Harold and Beatrice Morton.

Between 1538 and 1924 however, the house was never lived in by its owners and instead it was usually rented out. One of the most famous tenants was the polar explorer Sir James Clarke Ross who

discovered the magnetic north pole. He lived in the house from 1842 until he died in 1862, and he now rests in the grounds of Aston Abbotts church, a short walk away.

The very next tenant, Frederick Straw, renamed the House 'The Abbey' and this name has been retained ever since.

Following the death of Beatrice Morton in 1988, an auction of belongings from her estate was held in 1989 and the house sold to Laura & David von Simson. They owned the house for 15 years until October 2003. The Abbey is now owned by Mr and Mrs Olley.

On the 31st of October 1943 in the driveway of The Abbey, a ceremony was carried out involving the planting of a Czechoslovak lime-tree of 'Liberty'. This was to commemorate the 25th anniversary of independence of Czechoslovakia - perhaps a little ironic with the country at that time still under occupation by the Nazis.

What's On in OCTOBER

Tuesday 2nd	AVDC Transport Meeting 2pm	County Hall
Thursday 4th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Sunday 7th	Rambling Club 2pm	Brogborough
	Harvest Festival 5.30pm	St James Church
	Harvest Supper & Auction 7pm	Church Room
Tuesday 9th	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Thursday 13th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
Sunday 14th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green
Thursday 20th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Ladies Club 2.15pm	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Tuesday 23rd	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Wednesday 24th	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	Church Room
Thursday 25th	Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room
Saturday 28th	Clocks Go Back 1 hour	
Thursday 1st Nov	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	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

SMALL PIECE OF LAND REQUIRED

Does anyone in Aston Abbotts have a small piece of land that they would be prepared to sell to me. I would like enough land to build a two bedroomed bungalow with an area suitable for a small garden.

Alternatively if anyone owning a bungalow in the village is planning on moving in the near future would they please give me first option. My telephone number is 01296 681459.

April Curnow

Buckingham Garden Centre Apple Weekend

We have one of the country's best apple fruit identification experts, John Edgeley, who will be on hand throughout the event. Visitors are welcome to bring along their apple fruits for identifying. There is no charge for this service; however the process can take time so you will need to be patient! We also have Fritz De Zutter and he is offering the best fruit advice plus tips on rootstock selection for the garden. We are hoping to stage a good exhibit of apple varieties, together with some apple fruits for tasting and sale, plus plenty of apple trees to buy. New this year we are highlighting the importance of bees and bee keeping for fruit pollination. We'll have some educational displays set up, plus local wildlife charities, an exhibit of traditional agricultural/horticultural tools, etc

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th October 2012, 10am-4pm each day.

Admission: Free. Parking: Free.

Buckingham Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham MK18 4AE Buckinghamshire MK18 4AE

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.

MOBILE LIBRARY

9th & 23rd October
 The Green 10.30am

MOBILE LIBRARY

NEEDS YOU!!!!
 'USE IT' don't 'LOOSE IT'

Open Day Priestfield Arboretum

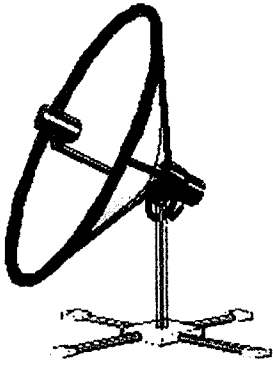
Private collection of rare & specimen trees growing in a small woodland setting, approx 5 acres. Managed by volunteers, guided tours throughout the day. Sturdy footwear advised. Regret, not suitable for wheelchairs.

Sunday 14 October 10.30 -- 4pm Entry £1

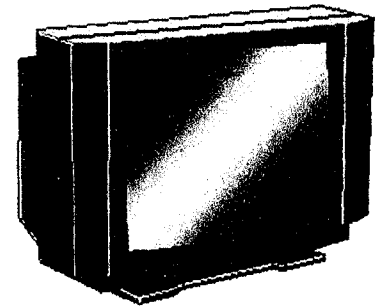
Stony Lane, Little Kingshill, Bucks HP16 ODS Buckinghamshire

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

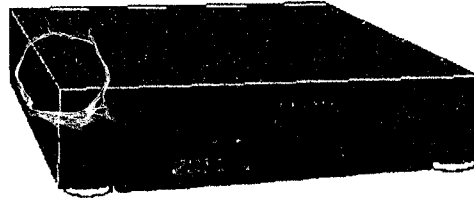


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RENTALS, NEW
AND USED SALES

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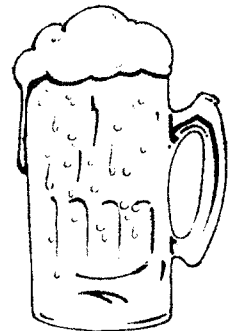
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Ain't That The Truth !

- ◆ Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- ◆ We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- ◆ Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- ◆ Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- ◆ Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- ◆ Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt.
- ◆ The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
- ◆ God must love stupid people. He made SO many.
- ◆ A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- ◆ Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- ◆ Worrying works! 90% of the things I worry about never happen.
- ◆ Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go.
- ◆ A bargain is something you don't need at a price you can't resist.
- ◆ If 666 is considered evil, is 25.8069 the root of all evil?
- ◆ Whoever coined the phrase "Quiet as a mouse" has never stepped on one.

A Message To All 630 Club Member's Wives

If your man promises to do something, it means that he'll do it. There is no need to remind him every six months!



FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY