

THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine



As Spring arrives the young trees in the Village Orchard are coming into leaf

Issue 362—May 2016

EDITORIAL

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 362

May 2016

Welcome to the May Chronicle apologies for being with you a bit late.

In this Chronicle, probably our youngest ever theatre review from Jack Hardcastle aged 8.

It seems we often have a schism of one type or another in AA, remember the dungheap! This time it's the Astonians. I have received several comments from those who do not care for this feature, see letters. But in fairness I have also had comments from those who enjoy it, and there are probably those that have no opinion. So what to do? I guess it's a case of not being able to please everybody all the time, etc. etc. a while it's not my aim to alienate any of you who may read the Chronicle, if you have strong feelings either way (although I don't wish to prolong the public debate) let me know. In the meantime I hope you continue to enjoy the Chronicle.

Deadline for the next Chronicle 25th May.

The usual apologies for any omissions etc. I have a nagging feeling that I have left something out but despite trawling through my e mails several times nothing has come up, please let me know if it's yours.

Phil

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Dear Friends

Peter Knight

Rooks, as you all know, are sociable birds. There is an old saying - if you see one rook on its own it is a crow, and if you see several crows together they are rooks. By and large this is correct. Rooks have always nested in colonies or rookeries - anything from 8 or 10 nests to 90. Yes, years ago there were about 90 rooks nests in the Aston Abbotts Cover - I counted them as best I could. Obviously they gain security by flocking together and so can easily drive away predators. They always nested in the tallest trees possible, usually Elms and certainly would never have built in a half grown Ash or Willow. Things have changed nowadays and Rooks seem to choose to nest as near as possible to a road - why? Drive down the A418 to Bierton and how many small rookeries will you see? From Aylesbury to Bicester more rookeries and I can think of nowhere where they build and nest across the fields in similar trees - curious.

A curious happening last week - I had a very young Badger cub in my hands. He was about 30 yards from the sett and trying to dig a scrape for him to get down and out of the open field. I put on thick fencing gloves to pick him up in case he tried to bite but I needn't have bothered he made a gentle mewling noise and didn't even struggle. I put him down the sett entrance and watched him shuffle on down into the dark - all this at 10.00 a.m. A Badger cub is a beautiful thing but there are too many of them in this area.

The 8 or 10 Red Kites that spent half the winter on Lines Hill seem to have dispersed - presumably having paired up and gone off to establish their own territory for nesting and rearing young. Many birds flock together for the winter from Canada Geese to Long Tailed Tits; Pewits, Lapwings and Starlings, but I can think of no other raptor (flesh eater) that does this. Curious!

A good friend of mine has already seen 3 swallows over Lines Hill on about 11th April - I usually reckon they arrive between 22nd and 26th April. No doubt by the time you read this you will have seen Swallows. An old farmer once said to me "isn't it marvellous, they like to be around us, do Swallows". Yes, it is marvellous, a wild creature that has flown from Africa to come and raise a family in your stable, barn or outhouse. They like to be around us, do Swallows.

ALLOTMENT DIARY

Well, the allotments have been hive of activity during the last few weeks, as the arrival of April has brought the allotment gardeners out of hibernation. Most arrived on the scene quicker than me, and for a time my patch was looking the poor relation. However, my son Adam, attacking the patch with his Rotavator, has wrought his usual miracle, and by the middle of April he had double rotavated half of the allotment, which has enabled me to plant my first early and second early potatoes, my onions, leeks, beetroot and the first sowing of mangetout peas. This half of the patch is now a picture of beautiful brown furrows, and markers, indicating what has been planted. I am about to go away for a week's holiday in Paris, but by the time I return the other half will have been dealt with for the second time, and I can put in the vegetables which need to be planted in late April/early May. Every year I offer a silent vote of thanks to the inventor of the Rotavator: without it I do not think I would still be running an allotment.

There was no muck heap this year, but again I enlisted Adam's assistance in bringing a trailer of compost from our garden down to the allotment, and I then wheelbarrowed it to my patch (all 21 barrows of it), and spread it out ready to be rotavated in. I hope the vegetables are appreciative!

I had decided I would give up growing brassicas this year, because of the work involved in building and netting a cage to keep the cabbage-white butterflies and pigeons out. Then my other son, Piers, gave me some packets of seed for Christmas, including several members of the brassica family! So I have one more year of cabbage-cage labour ahead of me.

In vegetable-related news, I read that kale is not only the trendiest vegetable of the moment; it is being advocated as the best thing to feed to ducks! Apparently they prefer it to the traditional lumps of bread, and it is good for them to boot! If you can't get hold of kale, then pea shoots were the second most popular vegetable with the duck family. They are also happy with other members of the brassica family, but turn their noses (beaks?) up at lettuce and watercress.

I have also read that the old adage that *“an apple a day keeps the doctor away”* does have some validity. Researchers from the Western Australia School of Medicine & Pharmacology tracked a group of older women for 15 years, and found that those who ate an apple every day had a reduced risk - some 35% - of early mortality. It is suggested that apples provide dietary fibre, flavonoids (whatever they are), vitamin C, potassium and magnesium. The scientists conceded, however, that women who regularly ate an apple a day were probably also maintaining a healthier lifestyle than those who did not, which does compromise the research somewhat. The same researchers also found that eating bananas was associated with a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease.

And finally I bring you news of the latest super-food - broccoli leaves. Yes, leaves! For years they have been left to rot in the fields, but scientists commissioned by Asda say that they are the healthiest part of the plant, far better than the florets we are accustomed to eating, and contain masses of vitamins A and C.

Happy eating!

Peter Shorrocks

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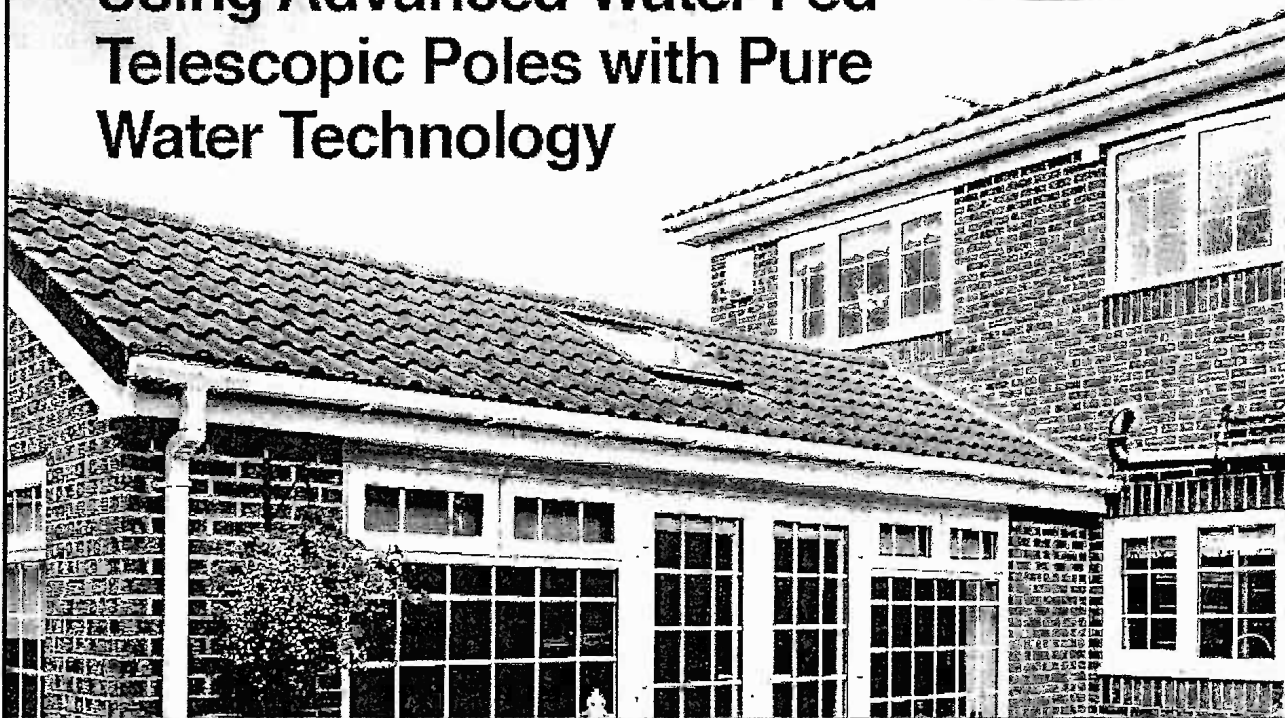
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Village Stuff

Traffic in Moat Lane

Many villagers will have noticed the MVAS speed sign in Moat Lane during February and March. This sign, organised by the Parish Council and shared between Aston Abbotts and Cheddington, records the speed of all approaching vehicles and flashes up the speed limit if they exceed 35 mph.

An analysis has been made of the data downloaded from the sign. Here is a brief summary

- Nearly 1000 vehicles a day travel along Moat Lane
- The average speed of vehicles approaching the sign was 30.2 mph
- 15% of vehicles were exceeding 35 miles per hour
- The average speeder (defined as a vehicle doing over 35mph) was doing 38.5 mph
- Around 2.7% of vehicles were averaging 45mph or greater
- The fastest speed recorded was one vehicle doing 60 mph at 1.15 pm on the 27th February

The graph below shows the distribution of vehicle speeds, with the largest group being 30 to 35 mph.

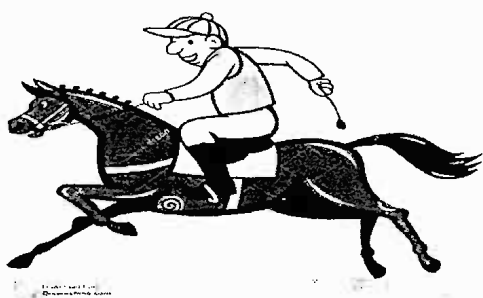


The MVAS sign has now been moved to the Wingrave Road for a six-week period.

It will soon be augmented by a manned Speed Watch. This will use police-approved equipment to video-record speeders. You have been warned!

Phil Spooner

A DAY AT THE RACES
TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY
SUNDAY 12TH JUNE FROM 1PM
IN THE ORCHARD



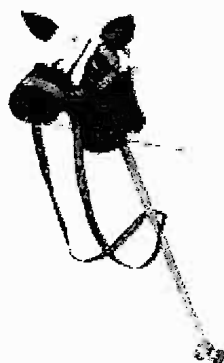
Dig out your hats, hampers and rugs for a communal picnic.

Activities to include treasure hunt, snail racing, garden games, table skittles, tractor rides, hobby horse races (horses provided), human steeplechase and a mystery auction

Bring your own "feed" and water

Tea and cake stall

THIS IS A FREE EVENT but small donations to cover expenses appreciated



20th April 2016

DEVOLUTION OF GRASS CUTTING


Dear Residents,

As you will be aware local County Councils are having their budgets cut and are looking for further ways to save money. One of the areas Bucks County Council (BCC) has considered is the grass cutting of verges and green spaces within Parishes. This year they will be reducing the number of cuts they do in these areas from six cuts to just four cuts over the growing season (roughly March to October). BCC are looking to dramatically reduce the number of Parishes who receive this service, with an aim to stopping it altogether over the next three years. After much careful consideration Aston Abbots Parish Council (AAPC) have decided to take up BCC's offer for devolving the grass cutting to us now. By taking up this offer AAPC have secured partial funding for the next three years, enabling a smoother transition towards AAPC completely funding the grass cutting. To this end AAPC have increased the Precept to ensure that there is enough money to maintain at least six cuts this year.

Aston Abbots Parish Council would also like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Knight for keeping 'The Green' looking so neat and tidy. He has mown the area for many years with only the promise of receiving 'One Old Penny' for his trouble. Thank you for your hard work, it is very much appreciated by the village.

If you have any questions or queries about the devolution of grass cutting, please do get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

Yours,



Mrs Zandy Ayres, Parish Clerk
On behalf of Aston Abbots Parish Council

ASTON ABBOTTS

(FABULOUSLY BRITISH)

SUMMER BALL

IN AID OF
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

SATURDAY 9th JULY 2016

ENTERTAINMENT BY
ED CUSICK

PIMMS ON ARRIVAL

SUMMER BUFFET

BAR

CHARITY AUCTION

BLACK TIE

6:30 PM START

1:00 AM CARRIAGES
FIELD

ROAD

TICKETS £65.00

VENUE

THE FIRS

WINGRAVE

ASTON
ABBOTTS
HP22 4LP

CONTACT

May 2016

FRANK MCMANUS

07771 882412

Church Duties May

	Cleaning	Flowers	Mowing
7th	Colin & Caroline L	Ann	Andy
14 th	Gordon & Ann	Ann	Adam
21 st	Alex & Anita	Donated	Mark
28th	Colin & Gay	Donated	Phil
4 th June	Colin & Caroline L	Colin	Peter

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS - 11th AND 12th JUNE

There is to be a Flower Festival in St James' Church over the weekend of 11th and 12th June and Nigel Palmer will be giving organ recitals on the Saturday. It will be open from 10am until 5pm that day.

On the Sunday, the church will again be open from approximately 11.30am after the Morning Service until 5pm, when Gavin Winston will be playing the organ for visitors.

Also on the Sunday afternoon, tea and home-made cakes will be organised by the PCC at the Picnic in the Village Orchard. Any offers of help or cakes would be gratefully received! Please contact Caroline 681001 or any member of the PCC.

What's on in May

Sun 8th	Rambling Club meet Tesco LB	2pm
Tues 10 th	Mobile Library The Green	10.30 am
Thurs 12 th	Coffee Shop Village Hall	10 -12
	Bingo Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sun 15 th	Breakfast Service Village Hall	9.3 ^{0am}
	Followed by Church Service	
Thurs 19 th	Coffee Shop Village Hall	10-12pm
	Whist Drive	7.30 pm
Thurs 26 th	Coffee Shop Village Hall	10-12 pm
Sun 29 th	Village Footpath Walk The Green	2 pm
Mon 30 th	Spring bank Holiday	
	Nether Winchendon House & Gardens Open	

It is hoped to hold our first horticultural show in September, Proposed classes:

Children - Garden on a Plate, animal made out of a vegetable

Ladies - 5 Plain Scones, A Country Garden in a vase

Gents - Longest Marrow, 3 Potatoes, 3 Beetroot stalks attached, veg box variety

If interested please let Simon know, entry per class £1.00



As The Chronicle goes to press we are waiting for a decision on our major grant application. Fingers crossed!

Thanks to those who attended the Annual Parish Meeting and voted a share of the fete proceeds to the Hall this year.

We have launched our **furniture fund**. If you are able to help with a monthly or one-off donation between now and May 2017, Nigel would love to hear from you. Please contact any one of us or email astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com for a form

Every little helps, though - if you are playing the online **Vale lottery**, please buy your tickets from our page and we get 50%:

www.valelottery.co.uk/support/aston-abbotts-village-hall-trust

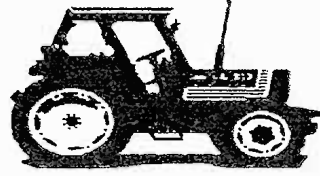
We held our **annual general meeting** on 19 April, attended by Janet Blake, AVDC councillor representing the Community Chest/Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust, who have awarded us funding conditional on our raising the rest. She was very encouraging! And also about the lottery, which she helped set up. Prizes getting bigger and chance of winning far better than the National Lottery.

Queen's birthday weekend 11-12 June - we are working with the church and orchard groups on this party weekend. With help from Colin and others we are planning a display of photographs and items relating to the last 90 years in Aston Abbotts - in the Village Hall, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm with morning coffee and afternoon tea on Saturday, donations at the exhibition to the village hall improvement fund. Come and see the flowers in church, see the displays in the village hall, and join the fun at the orchard on Sunday afternoon!

Caroline Lane - Aston Abbotts Village Hall trustees

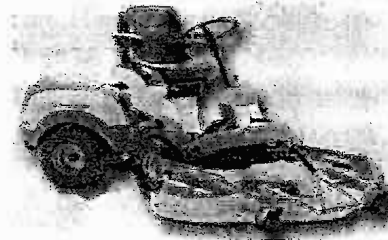
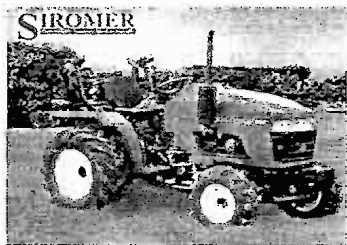
Aston Abbotts Village Hall Trustees group: Caroline Lane (Chair), Liz Hall (Secretary), Nigel Palmer (Treasurer), Peter Shorrocks, John Whyte, Kevin Copping. Email: astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com

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The Arty BitsBooks.....Music....Theatre...Travel & Food....
and the bits I'm not sure where to put!

Book Club Review March 2016

Elizabeth is missing is the debut novel of Emma Healey.

Maud is an aging grandmother who is slowly losing her memory and her grip on everyday life. Yet she refuses to forget her best friend Elizabeth, whom she is convinced is missing and in terrible danger.

But no one will listen to Maud - not her daughter, Helen, not her caretakers, not the police, and especially not Elizabeth's son, Peter.

Prepared with handwritten notes she leaves for herself and a feeling that Elizabeth needs her help, Maud resolves to discover the truth and save her friend.

This obsession leads her into the past, to another unsolved disappearance: her sister, Sukey, who vanished shortly after World War II.

Most of us found this book very moving, well written, funny in places and gave a good understanding into the gradual deterioration of the behaviour of a person with dementia.

Francesca

Letter (s)

Dear Ed

I start by thanking you for your continued work on the Chronicle. I am very aware of the effort that makes a good issue.

I am therefore sorry that I feel the need to write to you regarding 'The Astonians'. Having read the first edition I admit to choosing not to read any further issues as this was not to my taste. When my adult daughter visited and pick up the latest issue of the Chronicle and read 'The Astonians' she was astounded that such language and innuendos were being included in a Parish Magazine that is there for all ages to read and I agree with her.

Judy Hardcastle

Dear Ed,

I would like to say a huge thank you for your continuing enthusiasm in editing the Chronicle, which I invariably read from cover to cover as soon as it arrives. It is great to celebrate what is good about our wonderful village. I find it interesting to read the items from the regular contributors as well as up-to-date village news, and I do appreciate the enormous amount of effort that goes into making the Chronicle the success it is.

However, when I read the April edition, I have to admit to a feeling of dismay on reaching the article entitled 'The Astonians'. This has been a regular contribution to the Chronicle for some time, and in my opinion it is often quite offensive both in language and innuendo. I do not believe this is suitable material for a publication which is intended to be read by the whole family.

Once again, thank you for all the hard work I know you put into the Chronicle, and I hope you will accept this letter in the spirit in which it is written; as a personal comment on a particular item.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Curry

The Astonians

My apologies to anyone who I have offended with my giggle type stories within 'The Astonians'. I am aware that someone has attempted to drum up opposition complaints to these stories due to being very close to the mark on some of them. Can I please say that I was originally concerned that no one was reading the Village magazine, The Chronicle, so I started an experiment.

Let's bring something into the mag' that would draw attention so that if people were reading it, we would soon realise when complaints started.

Well it's taken 18 months for the first complaint, so my experiment has finally been proved. There is some people reading and getting through much to get to 'The Astonians'.

However I must now say that many more people do read the Chronicle because of 'The Astonians'.

Please remember that some stories 'May contain strong language' and that, 'The Astonians is purely fictional and holds no association to anyone unless stated'.

astonpete

ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS

Aylesbury Waterside Theatre – Spring 2016

I'm pleased to advise that the Waterside Theatre is continuing to offer pairs of Press Tickets for the following shows. The tickets are free and you will usually be offered a programme and a drink during the interval. If you would like to enter the draw for any or all of the shows then send me an email to johnhardcastle@me.com. The draws will take place two weeks prior to the show date.

Show	Date & Time
Ellen Kent Opera <i>DIE FLEDERMAUS</i>	FRI 1 APR 7.30PM
<i>TOM: A Story of Tom Jones. The Musical</i>	TUE 5 APR 7.30PM
<i>GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM</i>	TUE 12 APR 7.30PM
Richard O'Brien's <i>ROCKY HORROR SHOW</i>	MON 18 APR 8PM
<i>BARRY STEELE & FRIENDS</i>	THU 28 APR 7.30PM
<i>ILLEGAL EAGLES</i>	FRI 29 APR 7.30PM
<i>LET IT BE</i>	MON 2 MAY 7.30PM
<i>AN EVENING OF BURLESQUE</i>	THU 12 MAY 7.30PM
<i>THE SOUND OF MUSIC</i>	WED 18 MAY 7.30PM

My Day at the Super Slam Wrestling

Is Saturday 26th March , me and my dad are driving to Aylesbury for the super slam wrestling. I'm feeling excited because I have never been to WWE before.

The first fight was my favorite, even though one of the wrestlers shouted at me, then every one booed him. Deano (in picture top right) won this fight and the crowd went wild.

The final match was a Royal Rumble , with all 10 Wrestlers in the ring at the same time , Deano won this as well . The crowd shouted DDEEAANNOOO DDEEAANNOOO !!!!!

I had great fun at Super Slam , looking forward to going again ..

By Jack Hardcastle
Aged 8

All characters are fictional and hold no association to anyone

Being a fully paid up member of the Royal Oak you get to experience some sights.

Norbert, the northern knob, who stayed at the pub whilst working locally notices the very large jar on the bar stuffed solid with £10 notes. He guesses there must be at least £10,000 in it. He asks Stroppy Stuart, the barman, "Why is money in that jar?" Stuart replies, "You pay £10 and if you pass 3 tests you get all the money in the jar."

"You're joking", says Norbert and asks, "What are the 3 tests?" "You must pay first," says Stuart, "those are the rules." So after thinking it over a while, Norbert gives Stuart a £10 note which he stuffs into the jar. "Okay," says Stuart, "here's what you need to do: First - You have to drink a whole bottle of whisky in 3 minutes or less and you can't pull a face while doing it." "Second - There's a pit bull chained in the back garden with a bad tooth. You have to remove that tooth with your bare hands." "Third - There's an old woman by the name of Mincy Bumgardner upstairs. She's a fellow resident and is known to cripple men she has sex with. You have to show her you can survive the experience!"

Norbert is stunned! "I know I paid my £10 but I'm not an idiot, I won't do it. You'd have to be mad to drink a whole bottle of whisky then do those two other crazy things, I won't do it!" "Your call," says Stroppy Stuart, "but your money stays where it is, that was the deal."

Well sometime passed, Norbert downs a few drinks and finally says, "OK, Where's the bloody whisky?" He grabs the bottle with both hands and drinks it as fast as he can. Tears stream down both cheeks but he doesn't pull a face and he drinks it in 2 minutes 58 seconds.

He stands up slowly, staggers out the back door where he sees the pit bull chained to a pole. Soon, the rest of us inside the bar hear loud growling, screaming and sounds of a terrible fight. Then suddenly silence, not a sound comes from the back.

Just when we think that Norbert must be dead or badly hurt, he appears in the door, he staggers back into the bar. His clothes are ripped to shreds and he's bleeding from bites and gashes all over his body.

Slurring badly he says, "Now..., where's that old woman with the bad tooth?"

Exhibitionism - The Rolling Stones

You may have seen the recent publicity from Keith Richards and Mick Jagger to introduce the Rolling Stones Exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, near Sloane Square. We paid a visit just after it opened in early April. A colourful kaleidoscope of history introduced us to the band, which started after a chance meeting of boyhood friends. The statistics concerning the Stones performances over more than 50 years are phenomenal, over 1,850 live concerts in 53 countries seen by over 40 million fans and they're still going.

We next took a walk through a recreated flat that the some band members lived in during the early sixties, all the period furniture and decoration, detritus littering the floor and a strong reminder of how life was at that time. In the kitchen dishes were piled high in the sink and some visitors were only prevented from lending a hand with the washing up as the taps didn't appear to be connected to the water supply.

Then to a room where original contracts and instruments were displayed, videos explaining how their blues influence came from meeting Muddy Waters, an American blues musician. Indeed the very name 'Rolling Stones' came from his 1950 song 'Rollin' Stone'.

There were instruments galore, with an explanation of who played each on which tracks. In the recording studio a soundtrack made it seem that the session was going on whilst visitors watched. Sound desks with headphones allowed visitors to remix and listen to a selection of their songs. The tour continued through displays of artwork, stage sets and a dazzling array of fabulous costumes worn at various gigs. This was no static museum display but an experience that culminated in the climax of a 'live' concert performance of 'Satisfaction'. The fantastic 3D photography and surround sound gave visitors the best seat in the stadium.

If you were ever a Stones fan, or even if not, get yourself down to the Saatchi Gallery before 4 September. You will not be disappointed.

Nigel Palmer

Royal Barges

You may well remember seeing the elaborate royal barge “Gloriana”, carrying the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh down the Thames at the head of a flotilla to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in early 2012. The weather that day was appalling and it would be no surprise if it came to light that she declined the suggestion of a repeat performance to mark her 90th birthday.

Whilst on vacation on Bangkok earlier this year we paid a visit to the Thai Royal Barge museum. The Kings of Thailand have built a number of barges over the years, some 49 still survive many having been restored after being damaged by bombing during the Second World War. Thailand’s most celebrated and opulent event is the Royal Barge Procession down the Chao Phraya river. These take place very rarely, the last two in 2006 and 2012 marking King Rama IX’s Diamond Jubilee and 85th birthday respectively.

Finding the museum proved to be tricky. We alighted from the river ferry at the correct quay and then walked past a large modern hospital, through a street fair / market and climbed the stairs on to a bridge spanning a tributary of the main river. The obvious route was through a military barracks which we decided might not be the sensible option. After walking for quite a distance along the main road we were stopped by a street cleaner who asked where we were going. He directed us back in the direction we had just come. Approaching in this direction the blue finger post indicating the way was obvious to see but there was no sign on the other side. We went down a long narrow alley that zigzagged past people’s houses, local shops fronts and across narrow canals, the directions randomly painted on buildings and walls. We did eventually reach the museum after a good half hour and paid the modest entrance fee of £2 each and the £1 camera permit.

There are six levels of barge, major ceremonial barges, minor ceremonial barges, barges for personal use, barges for use on small canals, those with a pavilion to allow the king to change in private and finally those used for journeys to rural areas of the kingdom. The Museum houses eight barges including four major vessels, the remainder of the fleet being stored by the Thai Royal Navy.

The most noteworthy features of the major ceremonial barges are the figureheads. The iconic Suphannahongse ‘the Golden Swan’ was completed in 1911, being constructed out of a single teak tree trunk. It sports an elaborate gilded swan’s neck and head and is 46.15 metres long (the Gloriana is just 29 meters long) and 3.17 metres wide. It is powered by 50 oarsmen with a further 14 crew whereas the Gloriana has just 18 oarsmen and two electric engines. Other barges feature an ogre faced bird, seven serpents, and an uncrowned monkey warrior. Examples of costumes worn by the crew were also on display. All in all it was a fascinating insight into royal Thai tradition. Nigel Palmer

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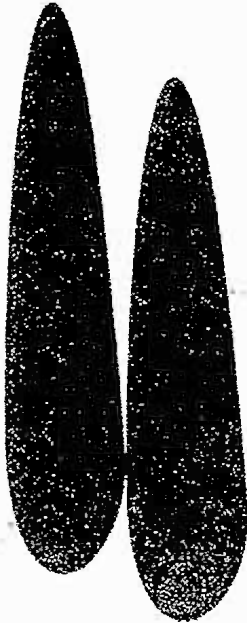
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**Services at
Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts
May 2016**

1st May.	6.00pm	Evensong	Revd. Philip Derbyshire
8th May	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Peter Binns
15th May	9.30am	Breakfast in the Village Hall followed by a short service	
22nd May	10.3am	Parish Communion	Revd. Roger Hale
29th May	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Roger Hale

Unfortunately the Revd Derbyshire, Team Rector and Priest in charge of Aston Abbotts, now finds that he is unable to manage to come to Aston Abbotts to take a Parish Communion Service in the morning on the first Sunday of the month so we are reverting back to Evensong. Apologies for any confusion!

We look forward to seeing you

100 Club Draw April 2016

1st Prize, £50: Shirley Ford

2nd prize, £10: Liz Hall

Church Matters



The diary of St. James's

This is the season for Annual Meetings so following the Annual Parish Meeting on the 13th April the Annual PCC and Vestry meetings were held on 20th April. Nothing too dramatic as there was no competition for the posts up for renewal. However under 'any other business' we identified an opening for one or two extra members of the Church cleaning rota. The Church is cleaned each weekend but every quarter there is a five week month so we need a willing couple to clean just four times a year. It is not a particularly arduous task involving about one hours work, tidying and vacuuming the main body of the Church. If you could let Colin or any other PCC member know we would be most grateful if we could add an extra two pairs of hands to the cleaning rota.

The Church clock is driven by suspended heavy weights which were originally raised the 6m from ground level to the clock floor, by manual winding each day. This labour intensive task was most recently undertaken, with great dedication, by Shirley Ford's late husband John and this drive was only replaced relatively recently by an electric motor which now does the job automatically. However in a recent extended power cut the motor failed, the weight descended to its lowest point and the chain snagged. When power was restored two of the internal gears were damaged causing an electrical overload within the motor. Thanks to Andy Bystra the motor has been removed, repaired by the manufacturer (at a cost of £480) and replaced in the bell tower. He intends to build a small platform below the 'winder' to minimise the chances of a similar failure in the future. Our grateful thanks to Andy for his time and effort in sorting the problem. Those of you who have noticed that the clock had stopped can rest assured that it will soon be working again.

We have a new Bishop of Oxford, the Rt. Revd Dr Steven Croft. The Diocese is one of the largest and most complex in the Church of England, stretching from Milton Keynes in the north to Newbury in the south; from the Cotswolds in the west to Slough in the east. It has a population of 2.3 million and more than 800 Churches supported by almost 600 parochial clergy. It included 12 secondary and 270 primary Church Schools.

Many passers-by comment on how neat and tidy the churchyard is kept. Thanks to Gordon Kemp's team of mowers and a number of Parishioners who tend the area. Work has started on digging over the final part of the 'wild area'. Hopefully it will be a little less wild by the summer.

Finally please keep an eye out for the 100 Club forms that will be coming through your door early next month. Support your Church by renewing or starting a membership by the end of June

The Novice

Dear friends,

It seems amazing that as I write this we are towards the end of the Easter season and yesterday we had a mini snow storm followed by a beautiful late period of afternoon sunshine! All this is why we can cope with a certain level adversity even if we might moan a bit at the same time.

In former times we called it the Dunkirk spirit which we now have to explain the meaning of if it should pop out of our mouths..... Although we live in villages they themselves have changed and will continue to change as new housing is put in place and more of our old established families die off to be replaced by people who may never have lived in a small community before.

It's not only our Churches and pubs which are affected by this relentless march of 'progress' but also our theatres, football clubs (other than premier ones maybe) and all sorts of other activities we once took for granted. For those of us with a faith the one thing which doesn't change is God at the heart of all we hold dear and gives meaning to life in the midst of a great deal of crazy stuff.

Enjoy the lovely sunnier days and longer evenings.

God Bless, Philip.



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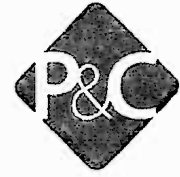
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100 Club	David Gray	07935 414495
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
AVDC	Switchboard	585858
Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
	Sondra Dickason	682249
Book Club	Sally Palmer	681152
Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
Buses	L & S	415468
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191
Chronicle Distribution	Marisa Abel Smith	681411
	Zandy Ayres	682419
Chronicle Editorial	Phil Corrigan	688191
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	David Gray	681952
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	Zandy Ayres	682419
Parish Council Leader	Kate Curry	681137
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	Free phone	0808 802 8080
Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Kelly Targell	681127
Wingrave Post Office	PO Only	682964
Wingrave Post Office	Stores	681696
Wingrave School	Office	681436

Please advise of any errors or omissions

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.

WINGRAVE POST OFFICE AND STORES

21 Winslow Road, Wingrave

SHOP 681696 POST OFFICE 682964

Fresh food available to order: Fruit and Vegetables - order by Wednesday, collect on Friday/Saturday Bread baked fresh daily - Large White Split Tin, Small White Farmhouse, Large and Small Wholemeal, French Sticks and Baguettes Pastries on Saturday and Sunday - Croissants, Pain au Chocolat. Pain au Raisin

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£6 per hour for residents

(Plus metered electricity)

£20 per hour for non-residents

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

Please note that an additional hour over and above the period of the event must be booked to cover setting up and clearing away.

Weddings and Christenings -
a fixed charge of £50.

Please contact Tracy Hinds on 688479 if you wish to book

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YOUR

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Kate Curry (Chair)
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane – 681137

Mrs Zandy Ayres (Parish Clerk)
astonabbottsclerk@gmail.com
682419

Richard Clarke
Maplewood, The Green – 681007

Judy Hardcastle
Marloes, Lines Hill – 688070

Peter Shorroch
Oak Farm House – 681260

Phil Spooner
The Birches - 681544

Bob Carvey
12 The Green – 681053

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)
6 Wingrave Rd - 681343

District Councillor
Peter Cooper
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham – 681250

County Councillor

Parochial Church Council

Rev. Philip Derbyshire 01525 240287
Caroline Abel Smith
Churchwarden 681001
Elvina Chu 07709607171
Ann Goodman 681763
Anita Parker 681325
Gordon Kemp 681763
Caroline Lane Sec 681373
David Gray 681952
Treasurer & Synod Rep 07935414495
Gay Walker 688632
April Curnow 707833



Atorkor Development Foundation

Atorkor Development Foundation
Eradicating Poverty in Atorkor

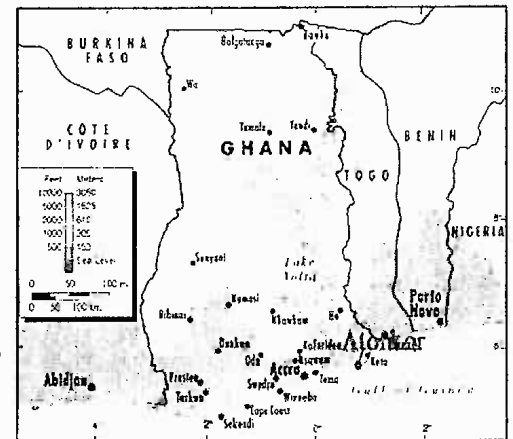
Sunday 26th June Open Garden fundraising afternoon at Seven Acres, Tring Road, Wingrave



For my fundraising event there will be:

- A chance to see how the woodland is developing
- Coffees, Cakes and Crafts
- Book sale
- and much more

The volunteer program is organised by the Atorkor Development Foundation (ADF). The Foundation is a community based charitable organisation, to raise money for a several projects in education, health and hygiene. My event will contribute towards this.



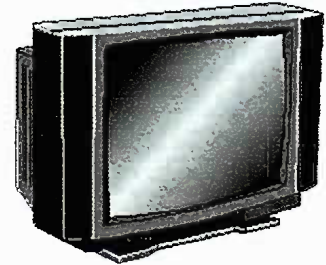
I (Nikki Greaves) am travelling to Atorkor, Ghana to help with the volunteer programme. So far my school (the Royal Masonic) has raised the funds to build the kindergarten for the school. The completion and official opening will take place during my visit in August 2016.

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Is Aston Abbotts about to be beset by rampant hordes of marauding septuagenarian Mods racing up and down Moat Lane, posing and preening outside The Royal Oak, and terrifying pensioners at the Thursday Coffee Mornings?

Whatever next in Aston Abbotts?



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