

The Chronicle

Aston Abbotts Magazine

Classic Film Night on the Big Screen



At The Royal

Oak Pub on

Thursday 26th

February

7.30pm

*And Every last Thursday
of the month.*

*Come and join us celebrate
classic movies you will*

*never see again
at the cinema.*

*We will
show your*

*favourites on the big
screen.*

Free Entry



Our first classic film night, Casablanca, went off well and the original Psycho was voted for our next screening. So come along on Thursday 26th February at 7.30pm. Hot dogs, popcorn and special ice cream along with a full menu is available.

THE
CHRONICLE
February
Issue 370

From the ED

Hi fellow Abbots. The Chronicle is no easy task to produce but once the contributors have submitted their work and the magazine is put together, proof read and printed, the delivery team do their work delivering to every house in the village. Marisa Beckman and I would like to thank all the contributors and the delivery crew including Judy Hardcastle and Andrew Peacock who have joined the team of deliverers. Our thanks also to Shirley Ford for all her hard work in the past. You have been a star.

The January Quiz Night at the Royal Oak was more the banter of fun especially being on the amount of med's I was on and a few pints to remind myself that I had taken them. Thanks to everyone who takes part. There is still room for more so come and join us on Sunday 12th February at 7.30

NEED FOR VILLAGE FETE CO-ORDINATOR FOR 2017

Due to family commitments, including a family holiday in LA in early July, I am not able to take responsibility for the 2017 Fete. The need for someone to come forward to take overall responsibility for the event is now becoming more urgent. In the last few days I have had to make some decisions in order to ensure that a 2017 Fete is possible. I have been contacted by the Band and the Vintage Tractor Club who are keen to support us again but are receiving other requests for their attendance elsewhere. I have therefore had to decide that the Fete will take place on Saturday 22nd July 2017 and notified them accordingly.

If you are willing to take on this responsibility or form a small group to do it, then please contact me as soon as possible.
ukdavidgray@gmail.com or
Tel 681952.

David Gray

What's going on in February?

Wednesday 1st	Village Chip Van	9pm
Thursday 2nd	Coffee Shop	Church 10.30 – 12noon
Thursday 2 nd	23 rd Whist Drive 7.30pm	Royal Oak Pub
Sunday 5 th	Ramblers Club.	Meet at The Green 2pm
Sunday 5 th	Evensong	St James Church 6pm
Wednesday 5 th	Village Chip van	9pm
Sunday 12 th	Quiz Night	Royal Oak 7.30pm
Tuesday 14 th	Mobile Library	The Green 10.30am
Tuesday 14 th	Valentines Night	Royal Oak for a romantic set menu. Please book.
Wednesday 15 th	Village Chip Van	9pm
Thursday 16 th	Coffee Shop	Church 10.30 – 12noon
Thursday 23 rd	Classic Film Night	Royal Oak. Food available

For Sale

2 Men's Jackets XXL

1 Leather made by Shelter Bay.

1 Cotton wool lined by Next

Never worn £20 ono

Tel; 01296 681454

3 Villagers Wins Vale Lottery

Many thanks to those who support the village hall via the Vale Lottery. I'm delighted to report that we have just had our **third cash prize winner** in Aston Abbotts!

You can join the Vale Lottery any time at www.valelottery.co.uk - buy your tickets from our page and we get 50% of ticket sales. It costs £1 per week (there is a draw every Saturday), minimum 12 weeks. It's especially helpful to us during the building works while we have no lettings income, and we hope you are a winner too!

Caroline Lane - Aston Abbotts
Village Hall Trust



**The Friends of Whitchurch
Surgery
Reg Charity no:1064109/0
AGM
Saturday 11th February
at
Whitchurch Surgery
10.00am
We invite you to join us and
learn what new equipment has
been purchased for the surgery
by
The Friends.
Coffee and biscuits will be
served.
New committee members
welcome.**

Your Letters

And it begins with the 'Astonians' again.

In 3 recent editions of the
Chronicle - I read

'Shove it up your arse'
'Poke her in the arse with a
coat hanger'
'Had a cucumber in his rectum'

This is gutter language for gutter people

Would you use this language to
your mother NO
Would you use this language to
your grandmother NO
Would you use this language to
a child NO
Would you use this language in
church NO
Would you use this language to
the checkout girl in Tesco NO

And yet you print this language
in a village magazine and
deliver it to every home

In Jan 2017 you print quotes
from seven people praising
your efforts

If these people require this
type of language why don't
they type 'Arse joke' into the
internet and it will come up
with thousands on the other
hand type in clean joke it will
come up with millions

In the meantime the other 300
residents who dislike any form
of gutter language stand quietly
by

Edmund Burke in the
18th century said 'The only
thing necessary for the triumph
of evil is that good men should
do nothing' (there have been
various similar quotes since)

The Chronicle cannot apologise
as it has repeated it too many
times despite protests It can
only in future editions print
suitable jokes for the 300 and
not for the 7 who enjoy gutter
language

Stuart Ritchie

**Astonpete's reply on next
page.**

Dear Stuart

Thank you for your postbox posting regarding the 'Astonians'. As the Aston Abbotts Postbox is not a discussion group, I thank Phil for allowing me to have the right to reply on this occasion. I must also thank you Stuart for reading the 'Astonians' article in the Chronicle instead of turning the page and ignoring it.

I have had very few complaints regarding these fictitious stories; of which I have printed every one in full. Of the seven that have taken the time to comment praising the 'Astonians', these have been just a few of many and have been printed only in part due to pressure of limited space. I might add as we have all heard, to complain is far more common than to praise.

As I have said before; this series is a fun take on a village life with fictitious stories and

characters which is usually clearly printed along with the words 'May contain strong language'.

On the issue of gutter language for gutter people. I would agree with the article, at times, containing strong language. However that same language is heard everyday in meetings, in public and read in many magazines, newspapers, blogs, on social media, seen on TV and films.

To state that "This is gutter language for gutter people." You as well as I and others would do well not to be so judgmental!

All I would suggest is, give 'The Astonians' a miss if it offends you. However, in response to your complaint I will take your sensitivity into consideration and tone the article down in the future.

astonpete

Dear Editor,

The January 'Astonians' poked fun at Mr Jeremy Corbyn leader of the labour party. How very dare you! You will recall it was a sorry tale about a deceased man found wearing various womens clothes and a cucumber in his 'bottom region' perceived to be less embarrassing than the 'Corbyn for Prime Minister' T shirt he was wearing! Some villagers will no doubt be shocked and offended by the 'cucumber issue' and indeed the womens clothes, but some of us might take even greater offence at the implied denigration of the esteemed Mr Corbyn! (yes, Comrades might be living in Aston Abbotts!). If the Chronicle is to maintain its reputation for political impartiality, it's your duty to poke fun at MPs from **all** political parties in future editions! Otherwise you could be accused of trying to indoctrinate your readers with your political views! Also, please bear in mind that some of your readers are only 6 years old and could be easily

influenced by your blatant political rhetoric!

Thank you.

Paul Williams

Love it (ED)

Dear editor,

I am writing to let the person know who let his dog crap in my driveway on the night of 2nd/3rd December (Sat/Sun) that I would be delighted to return the compliment with bells on it if he would be so kind as to let me know who he is. It is probably the same person who lets his dog crap regularly down the lane off Chapman's Lea without bothering to clear it up. By the way, CCTV cameras are ever so cheap now so be careful next time! See attached picture for your perusal.



To all at Aston Abbots Many thanks for the letters , cards and donations in memory of Mollie. Considering we have only lived From A.A. to Baschurch six months the church service was so well attended. Ultimately of course I shall end my days in this area, I'll always remember the 35 years of friendship and assistance that many offered to us. Mollie too was also unhappy about leaving A.A. but she realised, the advantages of being close to family, she was tragically proved right. However via the Postbox, I know of the activities in the village and maybe later in the year I'll be able to visit, providing I can still drive. Meantime if anyone is up this way, pop in. I am 5 miles off the A5 , close to the Welsh border and Oswestry.

Regards to all.

Fred

Mentors needed to help unemployed people find jobs

Volunteers are needed to spare an hour a week mentoring unemployed people to help them find jobs.

Buckinghamshire County Council needs the mentors to lend a hand at the end of employment courses run by its Community Wellbeing Programme. The courses are designed to give the unemployed new skills in care or construction or simply boost their confidence in the job market.

Martin Phillips, Council Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, said: "All we are asking for is for the volunteers to give an hour a week to help someone else achieve their education, training and employment goals. It's only a small amount of time to give but may make all the difference in supporting them to find new opportunities to learn new skills or to apply for jobs that suit their lifestyle."

Prospective mentors, who will be unpaid, will be trained and matched with an individual with similar background or experiences.

If you are interested, contact Kat Johnston on 07747 476820 to find out more.

Mincy Bumgardner's is in a spot of bother again. As you know I'm not one to gossip but I have a problem with this bit of news regarding Mincy Bumgardner.

Now some have been known to have brushes with the authorities from time to time, often on the way home after a "social session" with family or friends. Well, two days ago, this happened to Mincy, (the drunken sloshy mare).

She was out for an evening over New Year with friends and had more than several Vodkas followed by a couple of bottles of rather nice red wine and then vodka shots. Although relaxed holding her own outside the Aylesbury Kebab takeaway, she still had the common sense to know she was very much over the limit.

That's when she did something she's never done before. She took a taxi.

Sure enough on the way home there was a police traffic block, but since it was a taxi they

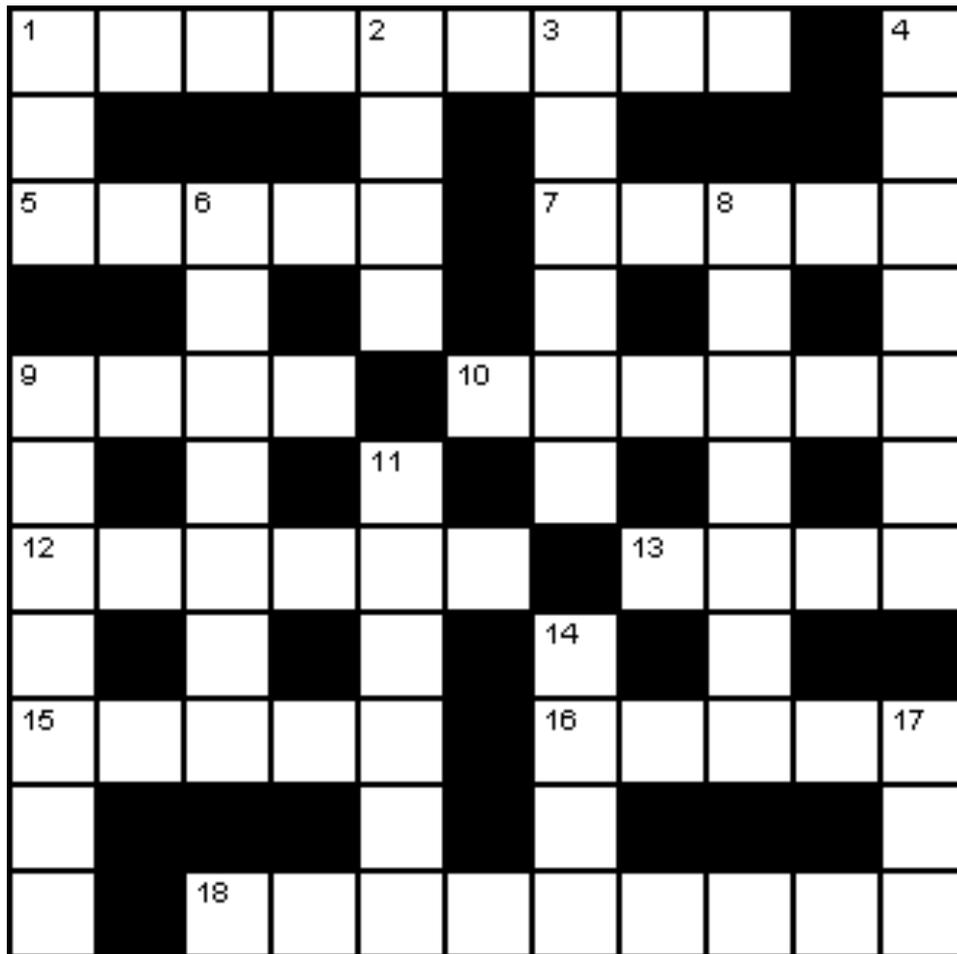
waved it past and she arrived home safely without incident.

This was a real surprise to me, because she's never driven a taxi before!

She doesn't know where she got it and now that it's parked at the side path of her house, she doesn't know what to do with it.

So if anyone knows of anyone missing a bone shaking taxi with bald tyres and a cranky cam shaft, it's up Mincy Bumgardner's back passage.

As an add on, I did hear that Mrs Cartright invited some people including Mincy Bumgardner to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old granddaughter and said, 'Would you like to say Grace?' 'I wouldn't know what to say,' her granddaughter replied. 'Just say what you hear Nanny say,' Mrs Cartright answered. The granddaughter bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite Mincy Bumgardner to dinner?'



Down

- 1. Cutting tool (3)
- 2. Remedy (4)
- 3. Wildcat (6)
- 4. Contradiction in terms (7)
- 6. Article of clothing (7)
- 8. Findings of a jury (7)
- 9. Of times long past (7)
- 11. Attack (6)
- 14. Dull pain (4)
- 17. Concealed (3)

Across

- 1. Oily or greasy (9)
- 5. Bet (5)
- 7. Young eel (5)
- 9. Land measure (4)
- 10. Sultry (6)
- 12. Dairy product (6)
- 13. Hex (4)
- 15. Crowd scene actor (5)
- 16. Hidden drawback (5)
- 18. Accumulated (9)

Answers Page 14

The farmer who built her own broadband is here to help.

A call to farmers and the other parts of the community to come together.

By Zoe Kleinman Technology reporter, BBC News

"I'm just a farmer's wife," says Christine Conder, modestly. But for 2,300 members of the rural communities of Lancashire she is also a revolutionary internet pioneer. Her DIY solution to a neighbour's internet connectivity problems in 2009 has evolved into B4RN, an internet service provider offering fast one gigabit per second broadband speeds to the parishes which nestle in the picturesque Lune Valley.

That is 35 times faster than the 28.9 Mbps average UK speed internet connection according to Ofcom.

It all began when the trees which separated Chris's neighbouring farm from its

nearest wireless mast - their only connection to the internet, provided by Lancaster University - grew too tall.

Something more robust was required, and no alternatives were available in the area, so Chris decided to take matters into her own hands.

She purchased a kilometre of fibre-optic cable and commandeered her farm tractor to dig a trench.

After lighting the cable, the two farms were connected, with hers feeding the one behind the trees.

"We dug it ourselves and we lit [the cable] ourselves and we proved that ordinary people could do it," she says.

"It wasn't rocket science. It was three days of hard work."



Her motto, which she repeats often in conversation, is JFDI. Three of those letters stand for Just Do It. The fourth you can work out for yourself.

And JFDI she has.

B4RN now claims to have laid 2,000 miles (3,218km) of cable and connected a string of local parishes to its network. It won't connect a single household, so the entire parish has to be on board before it will begin to build.

Each household pays £30 per month with a £150 connection fee and larger businesses pay more. Households must also do some of the installation themselves.

The entire infrastructure is fibre-optic cable right to the property, rather than just to the cabinet, with existing copper phone lines running from that to the home, as generally offered by British Telecom.

The service is so popular that the company has work lined up for the next 10 years and people from as far as Sierra

Leone have attended the open days it holds a couple of times a year.

The bulk of the work is done by volunteers, although there are now 15 paid staff also on board. Farmers give access to their land and those with equipment like diggers and tractors do the heavy work. However other landowners can charge - **B4RN has complained on its Facebook page** about the price of cabling under a disused railway bridge owned by Highways England.

A spokesperson told the BBC these are "standard industry costs" which include a £4,500 fee for surveying, legal fees and a price per metre for the cable installation.

While B4RN has yet to make a profit, once it has paid back its shareholders it should be in good financial health - although one of the conditions is that profits must be ploughed back into the community.

Chris's services to rural broadband have recognised by the Queen - she was awarded

an MBE in 2015, alongside Barry Forde, a retired university lecturer who now leads the co-operative.
UK.

Incredibly, many B4RN customers had been surviving on dial-up services or paying high fees for satellite feeds. Chris says that some still are.

With farmers having to register online with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) within five days of every calf being born in order for it to enter the food chain, connectivity is vital.

"All the farmers who haven't got broadband have to rely on land agents or auction marts or public wi-fi spaces which we haven't got round here either, or paying somebody to do it," says Chris. "What the farmers were finding was the dial-up just couldn't cope with it.

"They bought satellites, but then the children would use all the satellite feed to do their things and then they came to use it at night and there was no feed left, they'd gone over the

data and they were being charged a fortune for what they then used.

"So the farmers have been incredibly supportive of this and that's why they've given us free rein throughout the fields, which we go through to connect them and then we get to the villages which subsidise the farmers' connections.

"You couldn't do it just for the farmers alone, but you couldn't get to the village without the farmers so it's tit for tat."

There are other independent fibre broadband providers out there, like Gigaclear which serves around 50,000 customers based in several UK counties and Hyperoptic which is active in 13 cities. They all claim to offer 1Gbps speeds.

"The best way to make sure this country catches up is to support the alternative networks," says Chris.

"Wherever there's competition BT will then up their game.

"We can't do the whole country. [BT, Virgin etc] are good businesses. They are in it

to make a profit, that's what businesses are supposed to do." Openreach, currently a division of BT, owns the UK's largest broadband infrastructure. "The big picture is that we've got a plan, alongside the government, to get to 95% UK fibre coverage," said Kim Mears, Openreach's managing director of Infrastructure Delivery.

The provider has also upgraded 90 small communities through its Community Fibre Partnership, set up to work in areas it describes as "hard to reach". Ms Mears appealed to those struggling with poor connectivity to make contact. "There is lots available if communities come together. We are really sitting here waiting to help," she said.

Supplied by David Gray

Crossword Answers

S	E	B	A	C	E	O	U	S		P	
A				U		C				A	
W	A	G	E	R		E	L	V	E	R	
		A		E		L		E		A	
A	C	R	E		T	O	R	R	I	D	
N		M		A		T		D		O	
C	H	E	E	S	E		J	I	N	X	
I		N		S		A		C			
E	X	T	R	A		C	A	T	C	H	
N				I		H				I	
T			C	O	L	L	E	C	T	E	D

Moral at Pancake time

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say,

'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said,

' Ryan , you be Jesus !'

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Get together and save on Energy Prices

Buckinghamshire County Council is again giving you, your family and friends the opportunity to save an average £280 a year, by signing up for the latest collective switching auctions.

The scheme brings consumers together to negotiate a better deal with gas and electricity suppliers via an auction where energy companies offer competitive prices.

The supplier with the cheapest tariffs gets to offer registrants a new contract. You can compare their bid with your current supplier, see how much you'll save and then decide whether to switch.

The Council has been working with iChoosr, the Government's approved organisation, to offer the opportunity for people to join the next auction on February 14 2017.

This is a great 'no strings attached' opportunity for residents to be part of a simplified switching process combined with a very competitive deal. The more people who sign up, the better the savings could be.

Residents can register online at www.bucksc.gov.uk/switchedon or call 01296 395000 for additional information.

Registration closes at midnight on 13 February 2017.

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Where and when did Clodhoppers, Potatoes, Onions, lettuces and Leeks come from? Peter Shorrock explains

Not a lot is happening on the allotments at the moment: certainly not on mine! One result is that I have time to read books, including one I have just finished, called “The Land of England” by Dorothy Hartley, which describes the way in which people in the English countryside lived in past centuries, and in particular before farming became mechanised. It is sometimes a bit dry, but usually fascinating.

One word that grabbed my attention early on was the word “clodhopper”. I have not heard it recently, but when I was a boy it was commonly used, to refer to someone who was clumsy: indeed one usually heard the phrase “clumsy clodhopper”. I used it myself, without giving any thought as to what a “clodhopper” was. Well this book has enlightened me. A clodhopper was the person who followed the plough in order to break up the large clods of earth which were thrown up by the plough-share. Obviously, walking over large clods of earth was a difficult thing to do, and the person doing this would inevitably be

staggering from side to side, trying to keep his balance – not because he was clumsy, but because the surface was so uneven. Perhaps unfairly, the word became applied to anyone who was naturally clumsy.

I also discovered that before the potato was introduced to this country, the main crop that was grown, which served the purpose that potatoes do now, was the parsnip. Sir Francis Drake, who brought the potato to England, described the potato as a “*sweete root that far exceedeth our English parsnip*”. The word “nip” or nep” was the old English word for a root – and of course also survives in “turnip”. The other crops which were grown at that time were peas and beans, cabbages and onions.

The word “cabbage” is derived from an old French word “caboche” meaning “head” – while “brassica”, the technical word for the cabbage family, comes from Celtic. During 1420, a year when the harvest failed, a writer wrote that “*the poor people ate no bread, only cabbages and turnips and such dishes, with no bread or salt*”.

Onions were also part of the mediaeval diet; indeed onions were so important that people paid rent with them, and even gave them as gifts! Doctors apparently prescribed onions to facilitate bowel movements and erections; and to relieve head-aches, coughs and hair loss!

Leeks were widely grown – but mainly in Wales, rather than England. They did not become popular here until the last century. They were originally eaten like spring onions or chives. The reason for their popularity in Wales is that they were introduced there by the Phoenicians, whose ships traded with Wales to carry away Welsh tin. It is said that in 640AD, when the Welsh were fighting the English, their king, Cadwallader, got his soldiers to wear leeks to distinguish them from their English opponents – presumably because at that time armies did not have uniforms, and there was otherwise nothing to distinguish the rabble who were fighting for Wales from the rabble who were fighting for England.

A plant called lettuce was grown in the Middle Ages, which is supposedly the ancestor of our modern lettuce. However, rather than eating it as a salad vegetable, the white juice from the mediaeval lettuce was dried into brown cakes and used as a form of opium! It seems it is highly narcotic. A mediaeval book refers to this being used to send patients to sleep before surgery.

Another fact that surprised me: the plant “broom” gets its name from its use. It was used for centuries for sweeping hearths and bread ovens. A birch “besom” was used for sweeping the yard, but for internal use, broom was used, tied into bundles and trimmed by a hatchet to provide a flat, firm surface.

Let us hope that February does not live up to its nickname of “Fill-dyke”, and that we can start work on our gardens and allotments in March – and give me some real allotment news to write about.

An Equality Message from our Reverend Philip

Dear friends,

Recently there have been a few prominent individuals speaking about feminism and feminist icons. As a man it's always a dangerous area to venture into! But we believe that Jesus was/is about 'people liberation' not about one gender over the other. We also have to acknowledge that women are still very much in second place in much of the world today and those situations need addressing by all those who have the power to do something.

We also need to remind ourselves that strong women have always been around. Despite the popular portrayals of Mary, the mother of Jesus, she was far from a doormat or of no significance: why else would God have chosen her? February commemorates two

other strong women: firstly 6th.marks the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne in 1952.

[10th. is](#) the feast day of Scholastica, twin sister of St.Benedict. She was herself Abbess of Plombaruola in Italy in 6th.century.She was a considerable scholar and religious leader and certainly not the only one in an otherwise pretty unenlightened era.

Whatever our young women today choose as careers they deserve to be taken seriously and

equally. The book Genesis tells us that God created us in His own image: male and female. Equal but not identical, complementary but different. Let us rejoice in our shared humanity.

God Bless.Revd.Philip.

What's happening in Wingrave and Rowsham

WINGRAVE AND ROWSHAM
DIARY Please send notice of all
your events for inclusion in the
diary to: John Hawkes, 4
Tattlers Hill, Wingrave. 681022
jbhawkes@ormail.co.uk

FEBRUARY 2017 Wed 1 1930
WI: South Wales from Severn
Bridge to Pembrokeshire
Methodist Church Thu 2
Photographic Interest Club
meeting MacIntyre School Fri 3
1800 Wingrave Village Family
Evening Community Centre Sat
4 1630 Six Nations rugby
Community Centre Sun 5 1400
Swingrave tea dance
Community Centre Mon 6 0930
Weekday Walking Group The
Green Tue 7 1930 Wingrave Art
Club Community Centre Sat 11
0845 Men's Breakfast: Like
France, should we create a
secular society in order to live
more peaceably together?
Methodist Church Sat 11 1930

Wingrave Singers: Dung Beatles
concert Community Centre Sat
11 Valentine's Night Rose &
Crown Sun 12 0930 Local
ramble Nup End Lane Mon 13-
17 School half term holiday Thu
16 1800 Copy date for
Communiqué Fri 17 1930 WCA
Village bingo Community
Centre Sat 18-19 Wingrave
Singers in Derby Cathedral Tue
21 1930 Wingrave Art Club
Community Centre Wed 22
1200 Wingrave Pub Lunch Club
Rose & Crown Fri 24 2000
Twinning Association AGM
Community Centre Sun 26 1430
Six Nations rugby Community
Centre

Parish Clerk, indicating which
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**Royal Oak
Quiz Night
Sunday 12th**

**February
7.30pm**



*Get a team together or join one and come to the
Royal Oak for a fun packed evening. Just £2 entry
with proceeds to village charities.*

*Cash Prize & the Quiz guy's lucky dip for dinner
for 2*

Food Available

Aston Abbotts Quiz

How well do you know where you live?

Q1. What year did the land of Aston Abbotts started being sold to sitting tenants in Aston Abbotts?

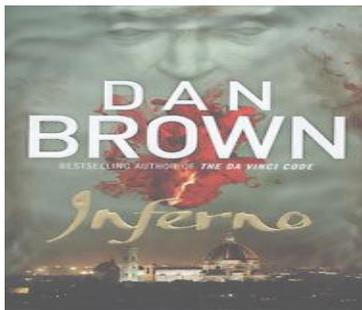
Q2. To the nearest 10 how many feet is Aston Abbotts above sea level?

Q3. What/who was Lines Hill named after?

Q4. What year was the central part of the village designated a conservation area?

Answers on page 24

January Book Club



David Gray's choice was the bestselling 'Inferno' by Dan Brown. Based on the fact that the world's population is increasing exponentially the book describes how a brilliant scientist devises a solution to the problem and the desperate attempts by the World Health Organisation, assisted by

Harvard professor Robert Langdon (who features in other Dan Brown novels), to prevent the implementation of his mad scheme. A fast moving thriller with many twists and turns along the way. Readers were either entranced by the meticulous descriptions of the features of magical Italian cities Florence and Venice that provide the backdrop to the plot, or felt the author was just showing off and such self-indulgence detracted from the story. I have deliberately avoided telling you how it all ends but it is probably not what you expected.

Aston Abbotts Quiz

Answers

Q1. 1919

Q2. 468 above sea level

Q3. The road that leads west out of the village winds down the steep Lines Hill

(named after a farmer who farmed there some 200 years ago)

Q4 In the 1990s the central part of the village was designated a conservation area



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dean4832@aol.com



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BEER TO SEVEN YEAR OLDS



A handful of 7 year old children were asked 'What they thought of beer'. Some interesting responses ensued.

'I think beer must be good. My dad says the more beer he drinks the prettier my mum gets.'

--Tim, 7 years old

'Beer makes my dad sleepy and we get to watch what we want on television when he is asleep, so beer is nice.'

--Mellanie, 7 years old

'My Mum and Dad both like beer. My Mum gets funny when she drinks it and takes her top off at parties, but Dad doesn't think this is very funny.'

--Grady, 7 years old

'My Mum and Dad talk funny when they drink beer and the more they drink the more they give kisses to each other, which is a good thing.'

--Toby, 7 years old

'My Dad gets funny on beer. He

is funny. He also wets his pants sometimes, so he shouldn't have too much.

--Sarah, 7 years old

'My Dad loves beer. The more he drinks, the better he dances. One time he danced right into the pool.'

--Lilly, 7 years old

'I don't like beer very much. Every time Dad drinks it, he burns the sausages on the barbecue and they taste disgusting.'

--Ethan, 7 years old

'I give Dad's beer to the dog and he goes to sleep.'

--Shirley, 7 years old

'My Mum drinks beer and she says silly things and picks on my father. Whenever she drinks beer she tells him to go bury his bone down the street again, but that doesn't make any sense.'

--Jack, 7 years

February at the



UNIC RN
CUBLINGTON

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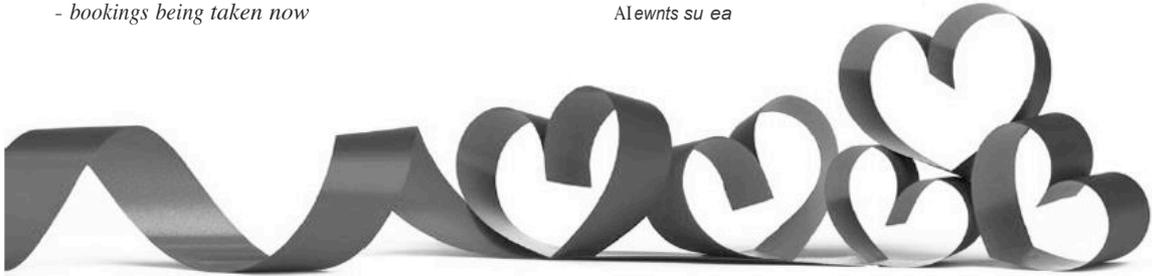
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3 course dinner with cocktails and petit fours £80 per couple

What's On

- Thursday 2nd - Steak Night -
2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40*
- Friday 3rd Coffee & Cake from 10.30am*
- Saturday 4th Breakfasts from 9.30am – 11.00am*
- Sunday 5th Lunch – booking advised*
- Monday 6th - The Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm*
- Thursday 9th - Steak Night -
2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40*
- Friday 10th Coffee & Cake from 10.30am*
- Saturday 11th Breakfasts from 9.30am – 11.00am*
- Sunday 12th Lunch – booking advised*
- Tuesday 14th- Valentine's Dinner with Uve Music
- bookings being taken now*
- Thursday 16th- Steak Night -
2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40*
- Friday 17th Coffee & Cake from 10.30am*
- Saturday 18th Breakfasts from 9.30am – 11.00am*
- Sunday 19th Lunch – booking advised*
- Monday 20th - The Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm*
- Thursday 23rd - Steak Night -
2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40*
- Friday 24th Coffee & Cake from 10.30am*
- Friday 24th Is Fish Friday*
- Saturday 25th Breakfasts from 9.30am – 11.00am*
- Sunday 26th Lunch – booking advised*



*Don't forget. You can use your Boomerang Bonus envelope during February!**

Excludes Valentines Night See website for full terms & conditions

01296 681261 r/J alumf#

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





**Services at
Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts
February 2017**

5th Feb.	6.00pm	Evensong	Revd. Philip Derbyshire
12th Feb.	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Peter Binns
19th Feb.	9.30am	Breakfast in Church followed	
		by All Ages Service	
26th Feb.	11.00am	Team Communion at Wing	Revd. Philip Derbyshire

We look forward to seeing you

February Church Duties

Feb 4th	Colin/Caroline - Cleaning	Francesca - Flowers
Feb 11th	Gordon/ Ann - Cleaning	Francesca - Flowers
Feb 18th	Alex/Anita - Cleaning	Anita - Flowers
Feb 25th	Colin/Gay - Cleaning	Anita - Flowers



FEBRUARY BREAKFAST CHURCH SERVICE

Our next Breakfast Service will be held on Sunday 19th February starting, as usual, with Breakfast in Church at 9.30am followed by a short informal service for all ages.

Church Matters

The Church was full for the Christingle and Carol service held on the afternoon of Sunday 18th December. The Festive Tea prior to formalities ensured that there were no rumbling tummies to interrupt



These services have maintained an average attendance of over 30 and in December at the Christingle & Carol Service, a record number (61) which included 45 adults and 16 young were present.

If you haven't yet been to one of these services we would love to welcome you on 19th February.

NB Advance notice: the March Breakfast Service will be held on Mothering Sunday – 26th March.

Caroline Abel Smith
Churchwarden

the acting performances during the service. The Plate collection together with the candle boxes raised an amazing £240 for the Children's Society. Thanks to all who supported the event.

According to the 2011 census, 59.4% of the population of England is Christian, 24.7% non-religious,

5% is Muslim, 3.7% of the population belongs to other religions and 7.2% did not give an answer.

In spite of this, and the fact that Christianity is the state religion of England, many schools operate a strictly secular policy on many aspects of education. Sadly this has resulted in such traditional activities as the staging of Nativity plays at Christmas, being removed from the curriculum.

The PCC were therefore delighted to agree to allow the young families of the village to put on their own re-enactment of Jesus's birth in the

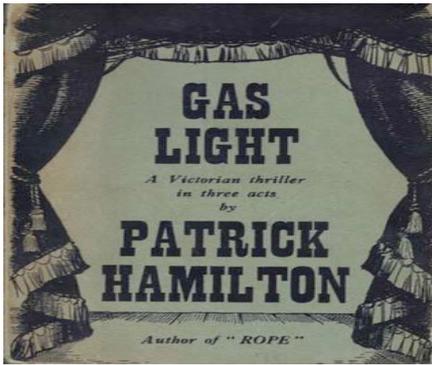
Church on 23rd December. The colourful, musical and action packed event was enjoyed by friends and family of all ages.

The Church was, as usual, beautifully decorated for Christmas with festive scenes displayed on every surface. Thanks to the anonymous donor who provided the tree this year and to all those who gave their time and expertise to make it such a happy period of the year.

Thanks to all those who paid their Allotment rent last month and to those who have not got around to it, please return your renewal form with the appropriate fee to Colin Higgs or Church Farm House.

The Novice

Theatregoers - Gaslight by Patrick Hamilton. A Review performed at the Waterside Theatre Aylesbury



Gaslight is a period piece set in 1880 in London. It is a typical Victorian melodrama, where innocence is menaced by evil. Nobody could be more innocent than the unfortunate Mrs Bella Manningham (magnificently played by Kara Tointon), or be faced with such evil as lurks among the flickering gas lamps in her stuffy Victorian house.

Bella is a typical Victorian wife – reliant on her husband financially, appearing helpless and emotional. Her husband (Jack) is a bit strange, alternating between a seemingly loving husband and a tyrant wanting to send his wife to the ‘mad house’. When a stranger comes to call on Bella, it becomes

evident that Jack is not all he seems, but in fact a murderer to whom she is not even legally married. As in all good melodramas, the stranger turns out to be a police detective, and Jack to indeed be a murderer. The feeling of menace in the house is emphasised by the periodic unexplained dimming of the gaslights in Bella’s living room.

We really enjoyed our evening. This play was so evocative of the Victorian era, superbly acted, and the cast held the capacity audience in the palm of its hand – we hardly dared to breathe, let alone cough or move! It was so refreshingly different from the noise and energy of some of the musical shows which are so prevalent nowadays, and we would recommend this play wholeheartedly.

As usual, our thanks to Judy Hardcastle for raffling the press tickets to these shows – much appreciated Judy.

Kate & Peter Curry.

Hi villagers

I was wondering whether there are any green fingered folk who would be interested in using my polytunnel and raised beds to grow veg this year, and teaching me a few tricks along the way!?

With our commitments on the farm and the new cattery I really don't have the time (or expertise) to grow veggies in the way that I hoped when we installed the polytunnel 3 years ago. We have plenty of manure and ash, if needed, and the polytunnel has an overhead water irrigation system in place. I would be so grateful to learn from someone who knows what they're doing and if we could share 50/50 in whatever we produce (with any excess or imperfect veggies going to the pigs!) that would be a perfect solution.

If anyone has any time to spare and would be interested in helping out whilst benefiting from growing in a polytunnel please drop me an email jo.dell@abbottsviewalpacas.co.uk

Jo www.abbottsviewalpacas.co.uk
www.abbottsviewalpacas-cl.co.uk

07989 063595

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Kate Curry (Chair)
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane

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

Richard Clarke Maplewood,
The Green –
681007

Julie Hardcastle
Marloes, Lines Hill – 688070

Peter Shorrocks
Oak Farm House – 681260

Phil' Spooner
The Birches
681544

Bob Carvey
12 The Green
681053

Colin Higgs Vice Chair
6 Wingrave Road
681343

District Councillor Peter Cooper
Brewhouse Lane,
Rowsham
681250



Aston Abbotts

Village Hall news – February 2017

The works

Hope you agree it's looking better all the time! The floor is drying, and the builders are working on the access ramp. We are busy now with getting the best deals we can for the interior fittings. The flooring will go down in February, and we'll be looking for some good weather for the exterior decoration.

Reopening

We won't be open in February, as I optimistically thought when doing the January Chronicle update; we are now thinking regular bookings from April. Please let Tracy know if you want to make a provisional booking for March. We hope to hold an "open afternoon" for villagers in the second half of

March, and a formal ceremony later, on Saturday 20 May, when we will invite our funders.

Raffle

The raffle just before Christmas made us just over £1,000, so a very big thank you to anyone who bought tickets at an expensive time of year. We should now be able to complete the work without borrowing, which is fantastic. Val Smith won the hamper, John Abel Smith dinner for two at the Royal Oak, and Paul Williams the whisky. Full list of winners from Nigel on request.

Furniture

We are very grateful to Chris Looker, who has offered us 60 chairs unwanted by one of his London business clients. Since the furniture fund is still a bit low, this will give us a breathing space so we will buy new tables first.

Vale Lottery

I'm delighted to say that **four** of our supporters have now won cash prizes! Please buy your tickets from our page if you fancy a flutter. The hall gets 50% of the value of

tickets.that you buy so here's that link again:

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

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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Dates for the diary at the Royal Oak



February			
Sunday 12th	7.30pm	Quiz Night	Royal Oak
Tuesday 14th	7.pm	Valentines Night	Royal Oak for a romantic set menu. Book only
Thursday 23rd	7.30pm	Classic Film Night	Royal Oak. Food available

Just for the smile

Husband and wife had a tiff. Wife called up her Mum and said, "He fought with me again, I am coming to live with you."
Mum said, "No darling, he must pay for his mistake. I am coming to live with you."

*Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

*New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

*Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

*Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

More from the papers and magazines:

*Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

*War Dims Hope for Peace

Payment diversion alert

Fraudsters are emailing members of the public who are expecting to make a payment for property repairs. The fraudsters will purport to be a tradesman who has recently completed work at the property and use a similar email address to that of the genuine tradesman. They will ask for funds to be transferred via bank transfer. Once payment is made the victims of the scam soon realise they have been deceived when the genuine tradesman requests payment for their services.

Protect yourself

- ³⁵₁₇ Always check the email address is exactly the same as previous correspondence with the genuine contact.
- ³⁵₁₇ For any request of payment via email verify the validity of the request with a phone call to the person who carried out the work.
- ³⁵₁₇ Check the email for spelling and grammar as these signs can indicate that the email is not genuine.
- ³⁵₁₇ Payments via bank transfer offer no financial protection; consider using alternative methods such as a credit card or PayPal which offer protection and an avenue for recompense.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by telephone 0300 123 2040.

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http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by telephone 0300 123 2040.



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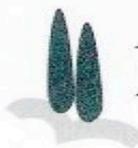
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www.buckland-landscapes.co.uk

Home Farm, 61 The Green, Aston Abbotts, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 4LY



Did this involve an Aston Abbott?



<http://tyrannus.deviantart.com/art/Friar-Tuck-203057122>

A young monk arrives at the monastery.

He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church by hand.

He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript.

So, the new monk goes to the head abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up!

In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The head monk, says, 'We have been copying from the copies for centuries but you make a good point my son.'

He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts are held as archives in a locked vault that hasn't been opened for hundreds of years.

Hours go by and nobody sees the old abbot.

So, the young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him.

He sees him banging his head against the wall and wailing.

"We missed the R !

We missed the R !

We missed the R !"

His forehead is all bruised and he is crying uncontrollably.

The young monk asks the old abbot,

'What's wrong, father?'

With a choking voice, the old abbot replies,

'The word was...

CELEBRATE

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Aston Abbotts Telephone List

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 John Hardcastle 688070 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 Pete Lucas 681387.
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 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 Kelly
Targell 681127

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.

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Oak Tuesday 14th February
from 7pm*



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