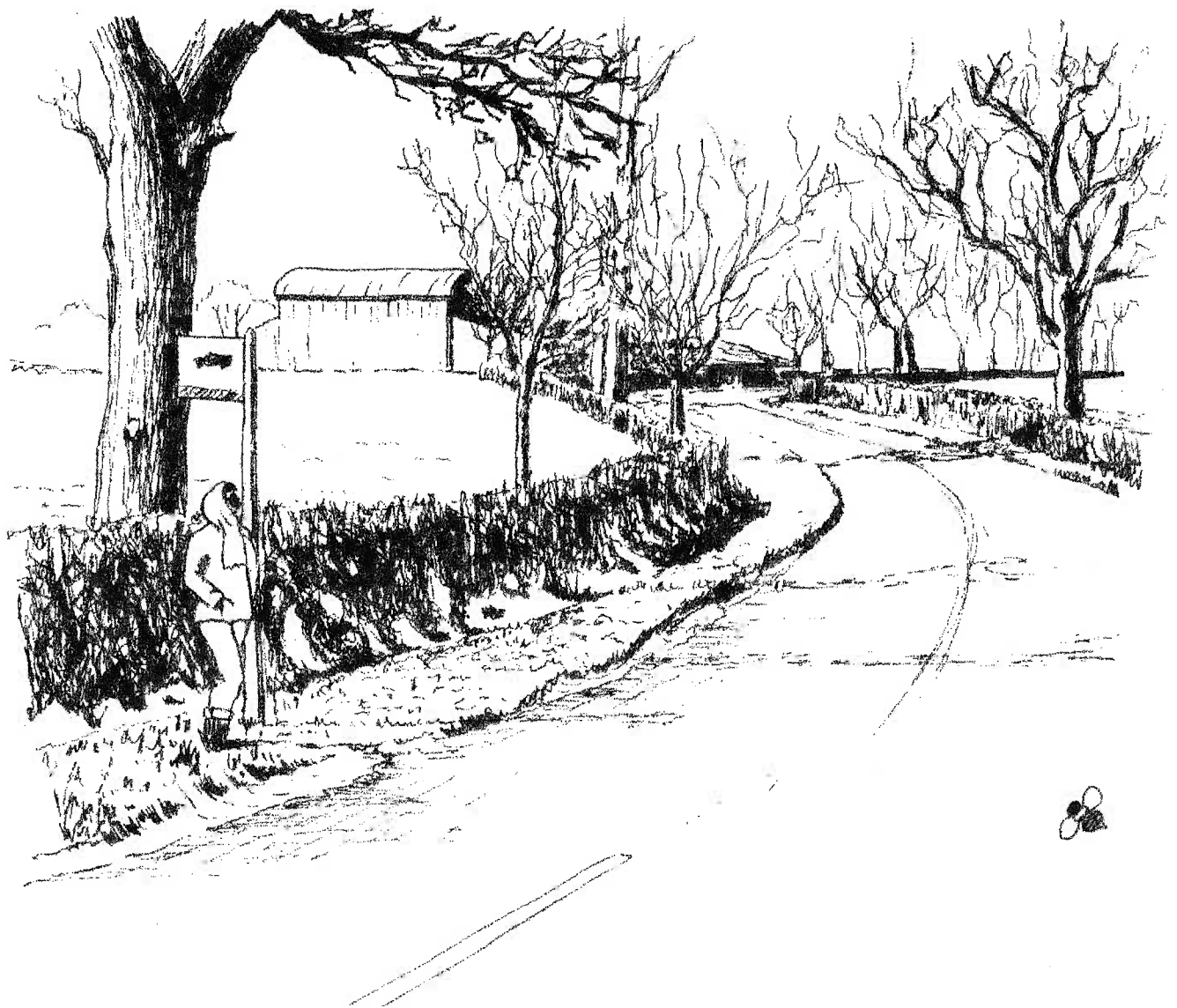
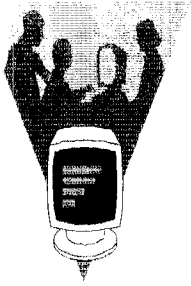


THE CHRONICLE

ISSUE 189 – APRIL 2000
ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE



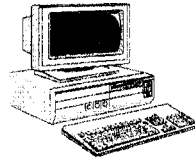
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Editorial

Monday 27th March

**DON'T FORGET - YOU CAN E-MAIL
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The main event this month was the village meeting - a bit of a poor turn out really with only 16 or so people making it to the Church Room. Still, those present managed to stir up some interesting debate.

The proposed improvements to the Church Room certainly seem to have fired the imagination of many in the village and there is a growing group of volunteers ready to ensure that our village hall makes the grade.

THE CHRONICLE will of course keep you updated with progress, especially once a fund-raising target has been set. For the time being, it is safe to say that we will need to raise significant sums of money over and above any grants that we may receive. *Significant* sums.

So it is great to see that funds are already flowing into the kitty from the Millennium Party, the AAH and many individual donations. The first fund raising events will be held during April and at the Parish meeting it was agreed that the majority of this year's fete proceeds would go the cause.

Please be generous and support any fund raising (or better still, instigate your own!) as the year progresses. After all, we can all have a lot of fun whilst ensuring that there remains a meeting place for everybody in the village. The first event will be the disco on April 29th - details inside - but hurry as tickets are bound to sell quickly.

Anyway, enough of my ranting - enjoy **THE CHRONICLE**!

Andi Swain

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- Snippets from the Village Meeting
- The Village Interview
- Problems for the Aston Abbotts Helipad
- Wingrave School Appeal
- Disco Fever hits Aston Abbotts
- FETE 2000
- The 'Rear' Quiz
- Blitz Bits
- Scouts' Plea
- AAPC
- The Pensioners' Plight
- The Rector's Message
- Jottings From the Chalk Face
- Crossword
- What's on in the village this month
- All of our regular sections and more !

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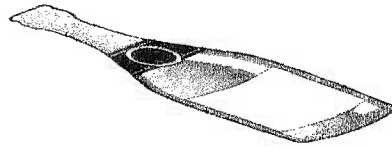
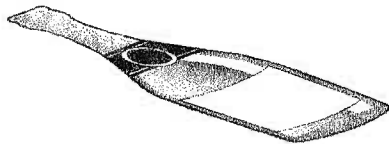
Copy date for the May issue is Sunday April 23rd - please pass items to Andi Swain at 2 Nash's Farm or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible. Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbotts.

RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE



Aston Abbotts wishes a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
to everybody celebrating in April, especially

Chris Farrands	1st	Sam King	20th
Ian Hinds	4th	Alison Lewis	20th
Caroline Lane	5th	Thomas Stefanczyk	22nd
Philip Wheaton	6th	Enid Ludlam	23rd
Karen Brandon	7th	Janet Biddle	25th
Laura Whyte	11th	Kate Curry	27th
Anthony Palmer	13th	Diana Picking	28th
Robert Clarke	18th	Chris Espley	30th



GET WELL SOON

We would like to send our best regards to Dolly Hinds, who is at present in Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Dolly has been there for some weeks now but we are pleased to say she has recovered well from her operation and hopes to be home in the next week or so

TAXI TOKENS Some people are having trouble when using taxis and paying by token. Here is a list of taxi companies participating in the scheme:

Fosters	488443	Humming Bird	426699
Falcon	487649	Star Taxis	422225
Vale Cars	336030	Wing Cars	688739

Tokens cost £4.00 for £30.00 worth of fares. Make sure when booking that you tell them you are paying by token.

I have been doing the peoples' page for 5 years now and would like to think someone else could take over from next August. It is just a case of hoping people will let you know any news or hearing of

anything, say down the pub! This isn't too time consuming, so I'm sure that there's someone out there who would like to continue this page.

RITA

Let RITA know about your news, birthdays, or forthcoming event...phone Rita on 681690

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GEORGE FOX
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TONY HINDS
6 The Green - tel. 681454

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681160

KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)
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GWEN KEMPSTER
53 The Green 681310

MARGARET KENT
6 The Green 681454

LINDA SUTTON
Sadlers Farm 681413

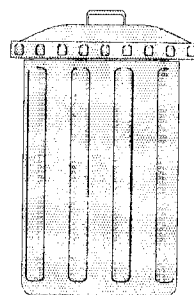
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Shocking increase in cost of bus passes

Many people will have read in the Link, delivered through their doors, that the OAP concessionary bus passes are now available at various offices, ie Aylesbury, Buckingham, Winslow and in many villages, and presumably at the same price as previous years (£10), because nowhere does it state there is an increase.

Imagine the shock of hundreds of people across the

Vale, when they go to collect their pass not at £10 but £25, a massive increase.

I am chairman of the Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group (AVTUG) and at last Tuesday's meeting had received no consultation on the increase, so perhaps we could receive an explanation.

Many OAPs will be unable to afford such a large increase (their pension increase will be 75p) so therefore will

not use the buses which are a lifeline to many living in outlying villages such as Ivinghoe Aston, Ashendon, Wotton etc which means patronage of rural services will drop and the withdrawal of a vital service, seriously affecting rural life, which may also have a knock-on effect on Bucks County Council's Public Transport Strategy to actually improve rural transport, to encourage more people out of

cars and onto buses.

It could also mean job losses (those officers maybe that voted for the increase (so let's hope they feel some guilt in inflicting such an increase on so many people and, in some cases, depriving them of their only weekly link to meet family, friends, or shop outside their own communities.

C HIGGS
Wingrave Road
Aston Abbotts

Colin Higgs' letter, above, appeared in the Bucks Herald on the 15th March. I guess there really is no more to add to Colin's, and doubtless the majority of villagers', concerns. The Herald carried details of Bucks CC's reasons for such a huge increase - **THE CHRONICLE** won't. **Ed.**

Postscript: We can now report that the committee responsible for the decision to increase the charge has decided to limit the rise to £2, giving a new cost of £12 which seems a much more appropriate rate, even though it still represents a 20% uplift.
Ed.

AND SOME GOOD NEWS ... FROM AYLESBURY SHOPMOBILITY

With the imminent introduction of the Traffic management bollard system in Aylesbury Town centre only those people who receive the higher rate of disability living allowance will be able to park in the High Street and all the other areas where bollards are being introduced. These actions only reinforce traffic orders, which have been in operation for a long time but are systematically abused. Orange badge holders will still be able to park in any of our car parks free of charge.

Aylesbury Shopmobility has 13 scooters, 10 wheelchairs and 3 electric wheelchairs which can be used **FREE** of charge by those people who find it difficult getting out and for shopping and leisure purposes. You do not need to be a registered orange badge holder to use our facilities. You may have broken your leg/ankle, had an operation, or have any number of illnesses. You will be able to park in one of our dedicated parking spaces collect a vehicle from a member of staff and take advantage of all the new facilities Aylesbury has to offer. If you wish to arrive by public transport if we are given prior notice we can arrange for someone to meet you at a chosen time.

If you would like to regain your independence but you have never used an electric vehicle before please inform us. They are very easy to use and a member of staff will be happy to give you all the guidance and training needed.

Perhaps you would like to go on Holiday or for a weekend away. If so we also operate a short-term wheelchair or scooter hire scheme for a very low cost.

The scheme has been very successful since its introduction in November 1997. We are fast approaching our 5000th user and will be celebrating this achievement with a prize for this person from Beattie's department store. Who knows, this could be you. If you would like more information please ring (01296) 336725 or call in and see us in the Civic Centre Car Park, Exchange St Aylesbury, where you will be given a very warm welcome.

TO CONTACT AYLESBURY SHOPMOBILITY

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e-mail: shopmobility@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

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IN THE VILLAGE 2.

Fed up with today's so called music? Then despair no more! We have the perfect antidote.

THE 60s/70s DISCO EXTRAVAGANZA

A musical evening for those of you who appreciate the great songs from yesteryear. Who can forget The Beatles, The Stones, Diana Ross, Slade or T Rex - to name but a few.

Well, we'll be playing them all on the 29th of April so get your glad rags on and make it a night to remember.

It's going to be an evening of **NOSTALGIA**, taking you back to days gone by when life was so much simpler and everyday seemed to last an eternity.

Songs to remind you of schooldays, holidays or perhaps just happy days spent in the summer sunshine.

The fun will start in The Church Room around 8pm and there will be a bar to take care of your thirst! So come along and let your hair down - it's gonna be a great night.

TICKETS COST JUST £5.00 AND CAN BE BOUGHT FROM ANDY BYSTRA (TEL 681690 OR 688125) AND LOL HINDS (TEL 688479).

And remember, this is a fund raising evening with all proceeds going to the Church Room improvements.

SO HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR MUSIC???

Here are a few teasers to get you in the mood...

1. Who had a No. 1 hit in 1973 with Tie a Yellow Ribbon?
2. Who was the lead singer with the Animals?
3. What were the names of the two brothers who made up part of the group called the Kinks?
4. Can you name the four members of the Monkeys?
5. What was Engelbert Humperdink's real name?
6. Which record was the first to be played on Radio 1?
7. What was the name of Chris Farlowe's backing band?
8. Who had a huge hit with the Streak?
9. Which Donna Summer record was banned from radio for being too raunchy?
10. Who sang Chanson D' Amour?

For the answers to these questions see next month's **CHRONICLE** or alternatively, the first person to give me (Lol) all ten correct answers at the disco will win a substantial prize. (Sorry Dave [Lewis] you're banned - then again, there's a couple of questions there that might make even you bang the wall a few times...).

So get your musical thinking caps on.....LOL

FETE 2000 !

Preparations are already well underway for this year's Fete, which will be on



SATURDAY 29th JULY

Our fete has built up a reputation over the years of being one of the best in the county. It is a traditional fete that takes place on the Green and in 'The Grove' (the field behind the Abbey), and as usual this year there will be a great range of stalls, attractions and entertainments, together with teas and ice creams. Each month in **THE CHRONICLE** there will be a report on the progress of preparations - what has been booked and so on.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please consider giving some of your time to support the fete this year. This is the village's main fund-raising event of the year, and the more people who can help, the more fun it is for everyone involved. This year over half of the proceedings will go towards the costs of extending and improving the Church Room. **You will not be lumbered with doing more than you want to do - but we do need people to help with preparation and on the day itself.**

Things you can do to help:

- Help with the collection around the village of gifts, bottles, etc. This involves giving one to two hours of your time, one evening in the week before the fete either walking from house to house collecting, or helping sort out those things that have been donated.
- Help set up stalls, games, decorations etc. on the morning of the fete.
- Run a stall or game, or just give half an hour of your time to give a break to those running the stalls.
- Help with the teas in the Church Room.
- Help take everything down and clear up after the fete - again just half an hour of your time will make a lot of difference.

PLEASE don't wait to be asked! Volunteer to help by calling Gordon Smith (681373) or getting in touch with any of the other people on the fete committee who you know: Liz Barlow, Barbara Bellingham, Ann Dicken, Shirley Ford, Ivan Greenaway, Colin Higgs, or Clare Shorrocks.

PLEASE also start setting aside books, toys, gifts, bric-a-brac, bottles that you feel able to donate, and potting up plants for the plant stall.

YOUR HELP WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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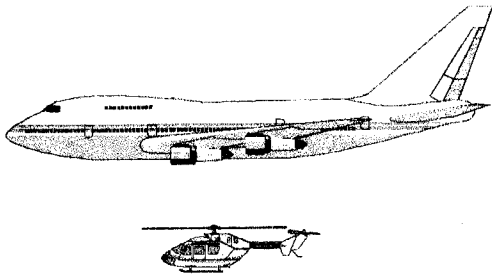
IN THE VILLAGE 3.

News From Aston Abbotts Helipad

Heavy Air Traffic Restrictions Imposed

Helicopter movements at the Aston Abbotts Helipad may have to be revised. A letter received from Luton Airport Air Traffic Centre dictates that as radio contact with Luton cannot be established on the ground, departing helicopters must remain below 500 feet above ground level until radio contact is made and air traffic clearance obtained.

It transpires that with the proposed new departure and arrival routes for Luton's westerly runway there could be a conflict. Upon pressing the point further I was told that failure to conform would mean the withdrawal of our Helipad licence.



Further inquiries have revealed that the sewage treatment plant just inside Cold Comfort farm is to be the location for the radio holding beacon for the approach to this runway.

This means that during busy periods heavy jets will be following a holding pattern around this beacon, slowly descending to the base level before being called off the stack for clearance to land. This base level could be as low as 2500 feet.

I have voiced my disapproval of these restrictions and the location of the beacon. Aston Abbotts Helipad has been in operation for just over a year with very easy departure & arrival procedures, these new restrictions will make operations much more difficult with probably greater noise levels because of the extra hovering required on departures.

This latest blow to the Helipad follows last year's EU decision to scrap Duty Free allowances, forcing the abandonment of our plans to make chartered off-shore flights to L'Isle de Chiens (somewhere to the south) for Duty Free shopping.

Watch this space for future developments.

Dave Lewis.

It saddens me terribly to see a great business man's ambitions so crudely thwarted by LALA and the Eurocrats. Ed.

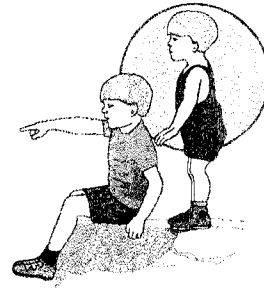
(LALA is the Luton Airport Landing Authority).

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR PARENTS ABOUT THE REC. PLAYGROUND AREA

The Rec Playground is extremely popular with village youngsters and is maintained in good working order by the Parish Council.

What you might not be aware of is who looks after the grass cutting in summer. It is not part of the contract for the Rec as a whole. Nor is it mown by the (now disbanded) Rec Committee or the Parish Council. It is in fact undertaken solely by volunteers.

Actually, *volunteers* should read *volunteer*. Yep, just one villager toils away every other weekend to keep the area spick and span for our youngsters.



This year, LOL HINDS (the volunteer) would like some help and support.

All of the equipment including petrol for the mower is provided by the Parish Council - all it needs is some willing people to step forward and help. Perhaps some other parents might like to offer their support - especially as there is a vested interest!

If you think you could spare some time, even if on an ad hoc basis, LOL would love to hear from you. Please contact him direct on 01296 688479 to arrange dates / times and so on.

Ed.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN THE VILLAGE....?

Who is moving in and who is moving on....who has passed an important exam..or test... who has been unwell. You know when a baby has been born in the village ...or when we've lost a friend.

If **YOU** do, then perhaps you would like to join **THE CHRONICLE** Team. After more than 5 years in charge of the social page, Rita has decided that it's time to hang up the phone, stop knocking on the doors of new villagers, and make chatting a purely social exercise!

If you would like to take over the Peoples' Page, please contact Rita or call me on 01296 682651. **Ed.**

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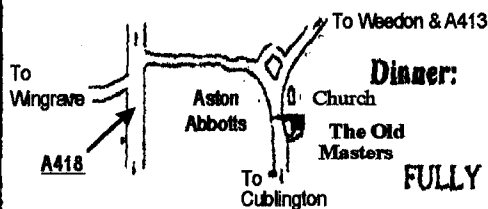


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A 'POSTERIOR' PICTURE QUIZ

An idyllic canter in the countryside
around Aston Abbotts

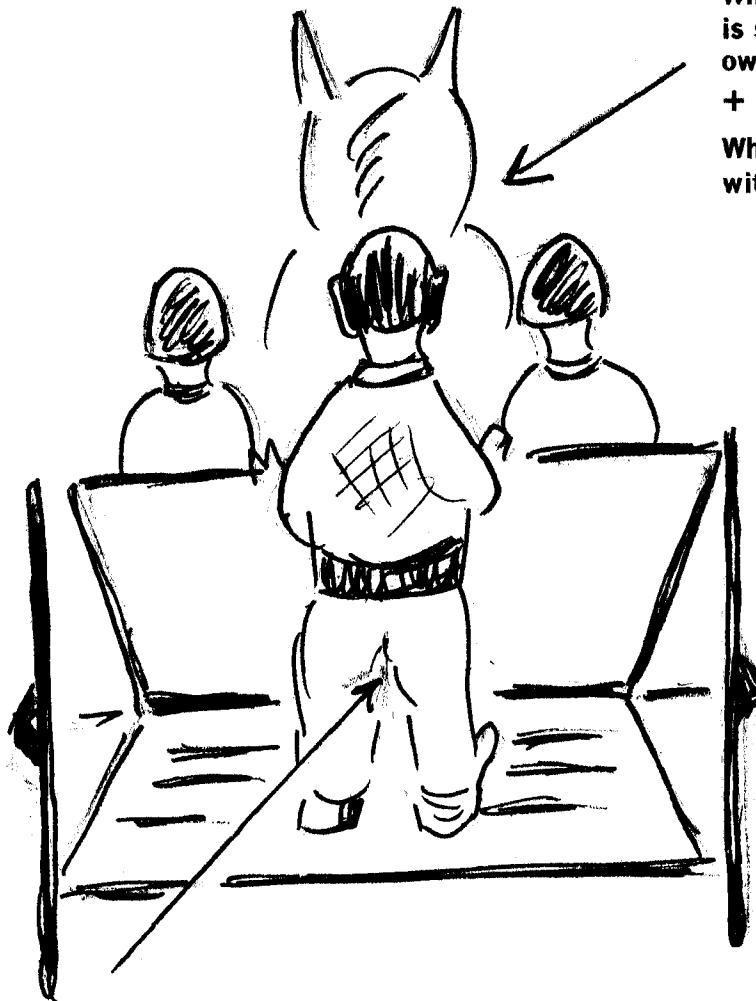
Whose rear is this?

CLUES??

Where the harvest
is stored, or
owls roost

+

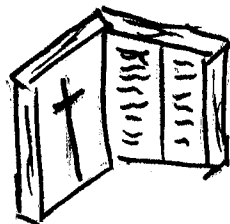
What you see out of,
without the last 'E'



Whose rear is this?

CLUES??

Hobbies include:



And a really Nice Hell'sAngel

A little prize to the winner - answers to the Editor

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IN THE VILLAGE 4.

THE VILLAGE INTERVIEW

This month Phil Spooner speaks to Colin Higgs

A fourth generation Astonian, Colin Higgs was born in Grantham and came to Aston Abbots as a baby when his father and mother returned here to seek housing. As a child he lived on Lines Hill by the nearest of the four gates that used to be on the road to Weedon. "All the gates in those days used to be shut, so if we saw a car or horse and cart coming along we'd open the gate and he would give us a penny. Mind you, there was nothing like the traffic there is now - we probably only had thruppence a day." In 1938 the family moved to a newly built house in the Wingrave Road, where Colin and his mother still live today.

Colin attended the village school, as did his three brothers and sisters. "We had 110 children in school. Brilliant school! Brilliant school! Very strict teachers, pity they're not like it today!"

He recalls being a wartime village child. "During the war we had to catch white butterflies... they were doing so much damage to the crops. We also got paid for collecting blackberries and elderberries because they used those for dye for the army uniforms. We used to have good time with the Czechoslovakians and the Polish prisoners. They [the prisoners] used to give us a good Christmas party up Norduck Lane in the Nissen huts." After completing his schooling in Wing, he worked locally and did two years National Service before joining Marley Tiles in Leighton Buzzard, where he remained for 35 years.

Colin is an active churchgoer. "We've always been involved, my grandfather before me, my father. I've just carried on doing it. My grandfather was the Sexton at the Church. He was also the gravedigger. He wound the clock. My father carried it on. I didn't dig the graves but I carried on with the clock and Church duties."

Voicing frustration at current apathy towards the Church - "I just don't know why people just don't come to Church" - he has no doubt that it is still important to the village. "Oh indeed, indeed! If we lost it, it would be terrible. Catastrophic! Like it was when we lost the school... when we lost the vicar and so they sold the vicarage... when we lost the post office. It was a tragedy when we lost the chapel, but it would be an even greater tragedy if we lost the Church."

An eager volunteer, it is unsurprising to find that he used to organise the annual fete. "I did the festival for ten years. We used to have it in the Abbey grounds. Unfortunately the last year we had it there, which I think was about 1972, they got burgled three times. The insurers told the lady at the Abbey they wouldn't insure it because they thought the people that came to the fete had eyed it up. She reluctantly had to refuse us. We then moved into the vicarage, which was very cramped. Then somebody said 'why don't we use the Green' and that is how it started on the Green."

Colin is a keen member of the Rambling Club. "I am a founder member of that. It started in 1973." However, one of their walks was not so enjoyable for him. "We were doing a walk, we actually started it at Cublington, to Whitchurch and then down to Dunton and back to Cublington and we got over

this stile and it was a hot day and the sun was sort of shimmering. We jumped over this and it looked just like tarmac on the end of a farm building - it looked just like tarmac - and it was cow slurry. And I went in it! I could have drowned. It was a pool, there was nothing to say and with the sun shimmering down it just looked like tarmac and I was the first one-over so I just jumped over and jumped in it. They got me out. The smell was unbelievable... terrible... terrible!"

Each week he writes the Aston Abbots village report for the Leighton Buzzard Observer. "I used to do it for the Bucks Herald, but I fell out with them because they never used to report it correctly or they would leave it for about three weeks and put it in when it would be stale news."

What does he like most about Aston Abbots? "Everything! It's a good village, good community. Everybody gets on all right. Most of the newcomers have fitted in well." The biggest challenge is? "To keep it as a rural village. We must grow though to keep it alive, but within reason. We've lost the blacksmith's shop - that's all developed. We've lost Nash's farm... we've lost the apple scrumping Orchard - that's Ross Road now. You've got to have development. You've got to have new people to create new ideas. You've got to grow otherwise the place dies."

"There used to be about four shops at one time, little cottage shops, you know. There were less than half the houses that there are now, but the families were bigger you see. Nobody left the village. You walked to the shops and nobody left the village. Yes, a lot of villages have lost all of their shops - it's awful really. All these out-of-town supermarkets are disastrous really. Lots of villages are losing all of their facilities and the people who move in mostly commute. Sadly, a lot of them don't mix in with anything you've got in the village."

Colin serves on the Bucks County Council Highways (Road Safety) committee, Aylesbury Vale Rural Transport committee, Ramblers, Whist club, Floral Club, Marley Pensioners Link committee, and Good Samaritan bingo committee. He contributes history articles to the Chronicle, cuts the Church grass and he is an enthusiastic Church fundraiser. On top of these he made a field map and conducted interviews for the Aston Abbots History Society, yet he still finds time to make homemade wine from locally gathered wild ingredients.

His involvement in village and local activities led to him winning the award for Aylesbury Vale Parish Volunteer Of The Year in 1998. "Well, I went into the shop one morning, Bernard's wife Valerie was in there and she said 'I've just filled in and posted a form about you'. I said 'Whatever about' and she said 'I hope you'll know some time'. Anyway I never thought anymore about it and about six weeks later I suddenly get a phone call from Aylesbury Vale... We didn't know anything about it at all."

The award may have amazed Colin, but it is unlikely that anybody who has met him and seen his contributions to our village community would have shared his surprise.

Interview by Phil Spooner

Our thanks to Phil for another terrific interview, and to Colin for finding the time in his busy schedule to speak to him. Ed.

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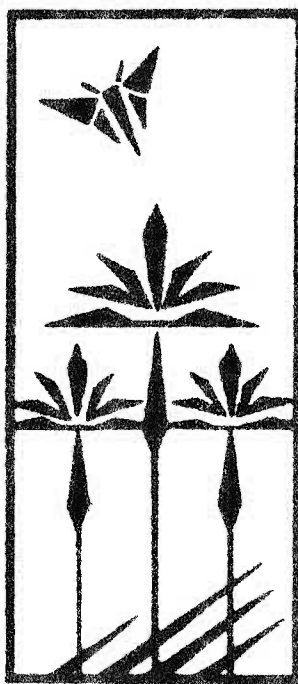
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IN THE VILLAGE 5.

SNIPPETS FROM THE VILLAGE MEETING

For the 300 or so Aston Abbottsonians unable to make it to the village meeting, here are a few sound bites from the evening's proceedings.....

NEW FACE ON THE BEAT

Say a big hello to PC Buckle, our new beat Constable. PC Buckle explained to the Village Meeting that PC Griggs has moved to Wendover and his old patch has been split between the three remaining PCs at Wing.

Although his patrol now covers a very wide area of rural Bucks, PC Buckle hopes to visit Aston Abbotts on a regular basis and will deal with any village issues as and when they arise.

If you need to talk directly to PC Buckle, call Aylesbury police on 01296 396163 or 396000, ask if he is on patrol and if so, ask the operator to contact him for you (at Wing Police Station there is only a rather unreliable answer machine).

NEW SPEED TRAPS

Speeding drivers be warned. Wing Police now have a calibrated speedo in their patrol car and so can carry out on the spot speed checks. Previously, any speed traps or checks needed to be carried out by the traffic patrol from Aylesbury.

CONMEN ALERT

Watch out, watch out there's a conman about - well, quite a few actually.

PC Buckle reported that there has recently been a spate of conmen preying on the elderly. One ruse is to say that they are from the Electricity Board and wish to pay you £100 to help them, apparently by holding a plug. While you are distracted they enter your property and steal cash, pension books and so on.

There are countless other scams to look out for - the best advice is to not let ANYONE into your house without a prior appointment. Always check that their ID is bona fide and if the caller is unexpected but seems genuine, call their office (Gas Board, BT, EEB etc.) to check their authenticity.

IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT.

PEDLAR OR BURGLAR?

When is a Pedlar not a Pedlar (and what is a Pedlar, in any case?).

During the meeting, PC Buckle was asked to clear up the issue of Pedlars - those men who knock on our doors every few months, flash an ID card and proceed to try to sell household items from their bag.

PC Buckle explained that there are genuine Pedlars. They are given a certificate by their local Police Force which carries a written description of the individual but no photograph. This certificate confirms that they have not been convicted of an offence. Most seem to come from the Nottingham area for some reason.

Legal Pedlars can only sell door-to-door, on the spot - they can not take orders for future delivery. Anyone trying to get you to pay now for delivery of goods at a later date is NOT legitimate.

Similarly, if the Pedlar on your door step has photo ID, he or she is NOT legitimate and is possibly sizing up your house for later burglary.

Remember, you don't have to buy anything from them, no matter how sad their story might be.

NEW FETE COMMITTEE

Gordon Smith reported that a new team has volunteered to organise the fete and that plans are underway and some bookings have already been made.

The meeting thanked Barbara and David for all their efforts in organising the fete over recent years, and also David Watts who has stepped down as Treasurer.

The team will report developments in **THE CHRONICLE** and will need a large number of volunteers to help on the day to ease the pressure on the committee. Distribution of the proceeds from the fete was discussed and agreed, and will be reported later.

THE CHURCH ROOM

Tom Manning reported that progress with the Church Room improvements is gathering pace and moving faster than even he dared hope.

As reported in **THE CHRONICLE**, pledges of financial support from individuals and village funds have already covered the costs of all initial legal work and planning applications and may even pay for a few bricks.

Tom's appeal for help has met with a fantastic response. We now have a grants co-ordinator and clerk, a number of volunteers for decorating and a long list of others willing to give their time. If you would like to volunteer, contact Tom.

Tom, who will chair the improvements' team, will hold a meeting in the near future to get things organised - he will contact people direct.

In the meantime, keep an eye open in **THE CHRONICLE** for further updates.

AAH - ASTON ABBOTTS HISTORY

Claire Shorrock told the meeting that the exhibition had been a terrific success with hundreds of visitors from all over the Vale attending - the visitors' book was full of compliments.

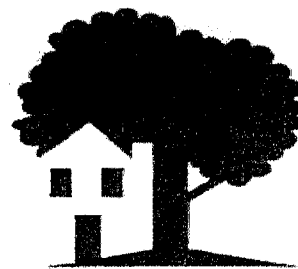
Sales of the book are going very well, with only a hundred or so left (hurry to secure your copy). The team is now finalising the contents of the village archive which will be placed in a chest in The Church for future generations.

The AAH has been so successful that it has been able to contribute £1,000 towards the Church Room improvements.

REC COMMITTEE WRECKED

We recently reported that the Recreation Ground committee has disbanded due to lack of support. All Rec matters will now pass to the Parish Council. A significant sum of money remains in the Rec account for use on future Rec projects.

S.M. ARMAN.



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'WHAT'S ON' IN APRIL 2000

Sun. 2nd Mothering Sunday - Service with posies – St James Church 11.15
Rambling Club meets at Ashridge 2.00pm

Tuesday 4th Aylestury Vale Transport Mtg. – Train/Bus – queries to Colin please.

Wednesday 5th Parish Council Meeting in The Church Room 8.00pm

Thursday 6th Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

Tuesday 11th Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

Thursday 13th Bingo in The Church Room 7.30pm

Saturday 15th Litter 'Blitz' - meet at the green 10.30 am. Sacks & pickers provided just turn up.

Tuesday 18th Floral Class in The Church Room 7.00pm

Thursday 20th Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

Sunday 23rd Rambling Club members meet Calverton 2.00pm (Please note later time)

Monday 24th Easter day Parish communion St James 11.45 am.

Sunday 19th Village Footpath walk, The Green 2.00pm

Tuesday 25th Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

Thursday 27th Bingo in The Church Room 7.30pm

Saturday 29th Jumble sale Church Room 10.30 – 12.00 noon

Monday 1st May-May Bank Holiday. Coach trip to Stoke Bruerne
Depart Bull & butcher 12.50 (Book with Colin)

Mid - May Wingrave School - Promises Auction - see next month's
CHRONICLE for full details

BUS NEWS

Bond tokens are available from the driver and could save you money.

Also Surveys on bus usage will be carried out during April. Make sure you use our Bus Service!!!

TRIPS OUT during the Easter Hols.

High Wycombe:- Hell Fire Caves, Chair Museum & shops

Leighton Buzzard:- Narrow Gauge Railway, Canal trips, Stockgrove Woods (Heath & Reach.

LOCAL GARDENS OPEN.

Sun 16th April Long Crendon Gardens – Teas

Sun 30th April Nether Winchendon – Teas
Manor House Bledlow (Lord & Lady Carrington) – Teas

NOTICE

Refuse Collections

Week commencing 24th April – collection will be on **Friday 28th** and not on the Thursday

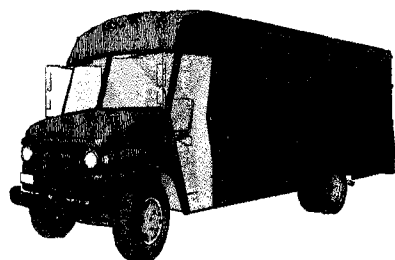
Week commencing 1st May – collection will be on **Friday 5th** and not on the Thursday

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

No flowers during Lent everyone as requested.

SIDESMEN FOR April

2 nd	Mr A Ford	16 th	Mr G Kemp
9 th	Mr Hartnett	23 rd	Mr C Higgs



THE MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The Mobile Library visits the village on alternate Tuesdays. The dates are always shown in **THE CHRONICLE** 'What's On' section but here are a reminder of the times:

- The Green, Aston Abbotts 10.25am - 10.55am
- Wingrave Road, Aston Abbotts 11.00am - 11.15am
- Oxley Farm 12.55pm - 1.10pm

For further information or enquiries, contact Buckingham Library on 01280 813229

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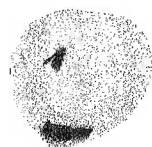
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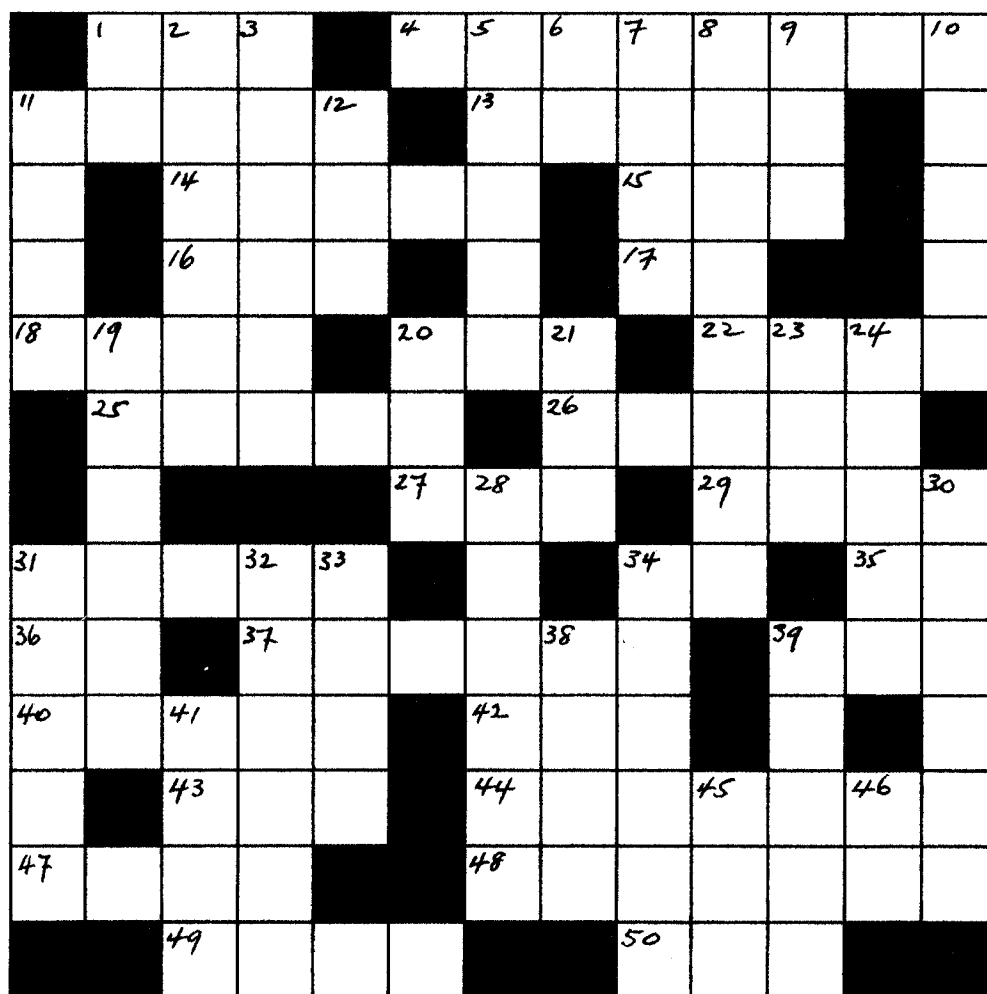
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THE CHRONICLE CROSSWORD

APRIL



Answers - March

ACROSS: 1 & 10. Princes Risborough. 8 Ether. 11 Imagery. 12 Oyez. 14 Deals. 16 Reed. 19 Dial. 22 Yule. 23. Unmanly. 25 Tappet. 27 Eon. 28 Rover. 30 Spun. 31 Opera. 32 Facets. 34 Met. 35 Bait. 38 Tails. 40 Ozone. 42 Megaphone. 44 It. 45 Made. 46 Nodule.

DOWN: 1 Priory. 2 Rim. 3 Isabel. 4 NBG. 5 Co-ed. 6 Erred. 7 Soya. 8 Egos. 9 Thy. 13 Zealous. 15 Lane. 17. Europe. 18 Deter. 19 D.A. 20 Inept. 21 Lynn. 23 Up. 24 M.T. 26 Arabia. 28 Rome. 29 Vetted. 30 Seized. 32 Fish. 33 At. 36 Alps. 37 Fete. 39 Age. 40 Ono. 41 Nil. 42 MA. 43 On.

ACROSS.

1. To harden (3)
4. QUERY SAL (anag. 8)
11. City in Middle East (5)
13. Higher (5)
14. A dance (5)
15. Listening device (3)
16. Shade (3)
17. Small doctor (2)
18. Appear (4)
20. Plant juice (3)
22. Charts (4)
25. A play (5)
26. Lonely (5)

27. A month (3)

29. Cease (4)
31. ASTIR (anag 5)
34. Indicates position (2)
35. Negative (2)
36. Preposition (2)
37. Hobbled (6)
39. Affirmative (3)
- 40 & 47. Tests (5&4)
42. Fuss (3)
43. Owing (3)
44. Famous jewellery firm (7)
48. General pardon (6)
49. Lake (4)
50. Army unit (3)

DOWN: 1. S. Africa (abb 2)

2. One or other (6)
3. Shock (6)
5. Portion (5)
6. Northwards (2)
7. Imitated (4)
8. Last (8)
9. To go wrong (3)
10. Ages (5)
11. Vehicles (4)
12. A number (3)
19. TIE ROD (anag 6)
20. Boy's name (3)
21. Settle (3)
23. Insect (3)

24. A flower (5)

28. Animal (common in Aston Abbots! 6)
30. Verse (6)
31. Quantity put by (5)
32. To light (6)
33. To get up (4)
34. Decorates (6)
38. A cheese (4)
39. Wrong (5)
41. First man (4)
45. A beverage (3)
46. Science/fiction creature (2)

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<u>Nov/April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Week commencing</u> <u>1st July-26th August</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>
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IN THE VILLAGE 6.

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE
CHURCH ROOM ON WEDNESDAY 1st MARCH 2000

- **County Council and District Council matters**

Our District Councillor, Peter Cooper reported that work is to be carried out on the A418 between Wingrave Cross-roads and Bierton, including traffic calming in Rowsham and a possible revision of the speed limit. £12,000 has been earmarked for the road improvements, with a further £20,000 for the traffic calming in Rowsham.

- **Planning**

00100287/APP Badger's Oak Farm, Cublington Road, Aston Abbots. Change of use of agricultural land to use as car storage within compound (retrospective).

00100362/APP Badger's Oak Farm, Cublington Road, Aston Abbots. Siting of temporary building for office use (retrospective).

- **Highways**

Cublington - traffic calming proposals. Resolved to make the following comments: The PC approves the idea of calming measures at the cross roads and the extension of the 30mph limit. However, it was felt that speed cushions and pinch points would impede the flow of traffic on this through road too much.

Road sign on The Green - the Clerk reported that Highways have agreed to investigate the possibility of having the damaged sign repaired but the PC would have to bear the cost. Resolved to proceed.

Condition of road surfaces - concern was expressed at the poor condition of many of our local roads. Resolved to ask Highways to carry out repair work.

- **Adoption of street lights at Nash's Farm**

Resolved to formally adopt the two street lights on the Nash's Farm development.

- **Recreation Ground**

Grass mowing. Several quotes for mowing the recreation ground in 2000 were considered. Resolved to accept the one from Cartwright Landscapes.

- **Correspondence**

BCC - Millennium tree planting project - we will put up posters.

BALC - Best Kept Village Competition - we have agreed to enter again this year.

- **Date of Next Meeting**

5th April 2000 at 8.00pm in the Church Room.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

LITTER BLITZ



ON SATURDAY APRIL 15TH

there will be a Litter Blitz in the village.

Meet at The Church Room at 10.30am

to collect bin bags and instructions.

**Come and do your bit for the community -
the more people who help,
the less work there will be!**

BUCKS BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2000

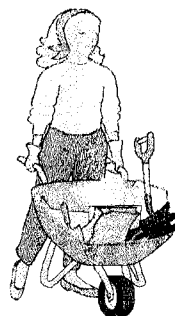
Aston Abbots has been entered again this year.

Although specific features in the village have to be identified on a map (Church, Recreation Ground, Church Room etc), the village will be judged as a whole and not just on those features.



Preliminary judging will take place between 22nd May and 16th June, followed by a final inspection in early July with the winners announced at the end of July.

SO THE REST IS UP TO YOU!



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trimmed, lawns cut and
front gardens neat and
tidy and we might be able
to sport a "Best Kept
Village" sign for the new
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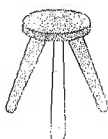


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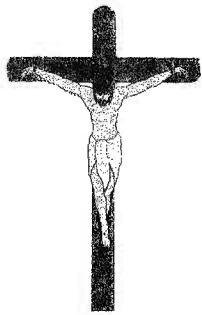
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RECTOR'S REPORT - APRIL 2000

Even though the letter explained what it was, it took me a few minutes to get my bearings when I first looked at the photograph that I had been sent. It was a photograph of a partly demolished Church.

The Church at which I started my Ministry was very clearly at the end of its Ministry. The Nave arches were still standing, and there was a large pile of rubble, but that was about all. Rather a sad photograph, yet one that brought back some happy memories.

It had been a large Victorian Church on a very prominent street corner that could seat about 800 people. A local man had had it built, as a memorial to himself. He was, as they say, "not short of a bob-or-two". For Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, he had added the tower, clock, and organ so that people would remember him more!

It had, largely due to one former Vicar, a very impressive set of Victorian stained-glass windows. These have, I believe, been preserved, and are now in storage.

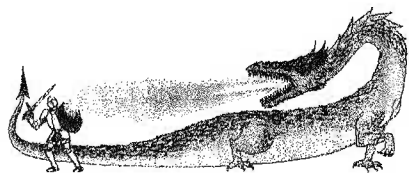
The demolition was necessary because the Church had been built without adequate foundations, and had become structurally unsafe.

I am writing about it because the Church was dedicated to St. George, the English Saint. On March 1st, there were people proudly wearing daffodils for St. David. On March 17th there were celebrations for St. Patrick. The Scots seem to have transferred their allegiance from St. Andrew (30th Nov) to (St.?) Robbie Burns on January 25th.

Of course, celebrating St. George this year will be less easy – because St. George's Day happens to coincide with Easter (April 23rd). But, there seems to me to have been a marked increase in the way that the Welsh, the Irish and the Scots have been encouraged to mark their national days, and a significant

decrease in interest for the English Saint.

Some claim that St. George is a Saint who has no foundations in fact,



although the same could equally be said about many other Saints. We do not know very much about any of them. Yet one of the characteristics that unites them is their Christian faith. Myth and legend may surround their lives, but all of them shared a belief in Jesus Christ Risen from the dead.

It doesn't matter very much whether the story of St. George and the Dragon is true or not – or whether we can relate that story to the constant battle that we are called to wage against the powers of evil and wickedness. The Easter story fits very closely with his – the victory of Good over Evil. I am sure that we should be celebrating St. George more than we do.

Bob Willmott

1st WINGRAVE SCOUT GROUP

BEAVERS Yet another busy month has gone past! We have been planning and practising for the District Quiz, this was held on 18th March, in Stoke Mandeville. The Beavers who took part all enjoyed themselves and did well, all the boys received a "well done" certificate. We have also been practising for the Bowling competition at the end of March. This will have gone to press before we bowl - results next Month. For more information phone Sue Ascott 681878, or Jan Antiosewicz 681430.

CUBS Having Invested our new Cubs, we have spent much of March on Badge Work, to further the boys towards their next awards. This has been mixed in with a whole collection of new games within the hut, some more successful than others! We also went Bowling at Jardines as a practice for the Ten-Pin Bowling Tournament on Sunday 19th March. Every Cub who wanted to was able to bowl, we were very pleased to get one team in 2nd place! They missed 1st place by just one point, how unlucky can you get? Anyway, Congratulations to the team. For the record, all the Cubs enjoyed the afternoon. For more information phone Fran & Jeff Pollard 625454 or Julia Ellis 681118

SCOUTS Much of the last few weeks has been spent brushing up on our skills. The boys have cooked pancakes and Irish Stew over a candle in the Scout hut, a slow but still effective method of cooking! Another evening was spent on First-Aid and Knotting. All important skills for any future camps. Finally an evening was devoted to playing a wide game around the village - Working in Patrols to find the flag of other Patrols (which were hidden). For more information phone Andy Hall 681696.

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

On March 9th we held our Annual Spring Lunch in the Church Room. It was well attended, and as usual the food was delicious, enhanced by a glass of wine. A raffle was held during coffee.

On the 23rd March, our guest speaker was Mrs. B. Taylor of the National Trust. She showed slides of the houses and gardens, through the seasons, showing the layout of the grounds in relation to the houses.

On April 6th we have a talk by Mrs. Vernon on lace making. Anyone interested in Lace making is very welcome.

A PLEA FROM WINGRAVE'S GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Some equipment has gone "missing" from the Scout hut at the end of Chiltern Road. We are not in a position to be able to replace it. So please can it be returned, either to the Scout hut or to Andy Hall at the Village Shop.

NO QUESTIONS ASKED

PLEASE RETURN OUR STUFF!!!!!!

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WINGRAVE SCHOOL APPEAL

As you may have read in the local papers, Wingrave C of E Combined School has to make a difficult decision. If it cannot raise additional funds it will be necessary to make a teacher redundant and increase the class sizes. Parents are being asked to make voluntary contributions and donations from the local community are also being sought. Below is a letter from the Governors.

CAN YOU HELP SAVE YOUR SCHOOL?

Wingrave School is forecasting a loss of £23,000 by March next year despite assuming generous support from the School Association. Neither we nor the LEA (Local Education Authority) can accept this. Yesterday's Budget should help but will not remove the problem.

Without extra money, we will have to merge years 3, 4, and 5 into two classes from September, "saving" a full time teacher. If parents and the community together give the school enough help to clear this loss, then we can keep one teacher per age group.

Why the loss?

- Most of our LEA money is an allocation per child and our numbers are too low until 2002.
- 87% of our annual costs are for staff.

We need to know very soon what support is available in case we have to make a redundancy. Are you prepared to help? *Please* be as generous as you can. Arrangements are now being made for donations to be made through Gift Aid to gain a tax advantage.

So that we can assess your support, please fill in the slip below and send it to the School Office or Wingrave Shop in a sealed envelope marked "School Funding Appeal". All answers will be treated confidentially.

Jane Muir

Chairman of the Governors

22 March 2000

*WINGRAVE C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL, Twelve Leys,
Wingrave, Aylesbury,
HP22 4QG*

CONFIDENTIAL

**WINGRAVE C OF E COMBINED SCHOOL FUNDING
APPEAL**

I pledge that I will pay £..... in the year 2000 to Wingrave C of E Combined School to support its funding appeal.

Signed:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE
OR WINGRAVE SHOP IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED
"SCHOOL FUNDING APPEAL - COMMUNITY" SCHOOL
GOVERNORS**

JOTTINGS FROM THE CHALK FACE

Some years ago I worked throughout the County of Buckinghamshire as an Advisory Teacher. I worked as part of a team of four and our job was to help primary teachers teach 'proper' science, a subject that filled many of them with foreboding. This was in pre National Curriculum days and science up until that time involved little more than a jar of tadpoles on a Nature Table.

I very much enjoyed a job that involved travelling the length and breadth of the county and enabled me to work in over fifty different schools. I also had the privilege of meeting and helping some remarkably gifted teachers, some of whom were working in difficult schools with underprivileged children.

An exceptional teacher needs to have a number of different qualities, one of the most important of which is the ability to be able to inspire children. An exceptional teacher will also be prepared, at times, to take risks.

I remember Paul very clearly. He had long hair, arrived at school just before the bell and had a thoroughly dishevelled look about

him. But his eyes sparkled, he had an infectious grin and the kids loved him!

Paul was doing some work on Archaeology as part of his History topic with 8 year-olds. He wanted his children to experience something of the thrill that an archaeologist would experience when they unearth an important find.

The school sandpit would be a good place to start suggested Paul so he armed each child with a spoon, yoghurt pot and paintbrush and off they set. An unpromising place to excavate you might think but unbeknown to the children and to me Paul had been in action the previous night! He had buried beneath the sand a full size human skeleton that he had borrowed from the local upper school! I can remember the excitement following that first cry of "I've found something" and the enthusiasm generated by this first experience of archaeology will have lasted a lifetime. An inspirational teacher I have no doubt who operated with great effect without constraint. Would he be as content today? I wonder?

Baird McClellan

Photographs

by Paul Ridgley

A photograph captures a moment in time and can communicate directly with our imagination and emotions to bring back a myriad of memories.

When photographing people my objective is to help them feel relaxed and look 'real' - and preferably in familiar surroundings which say something about their personality.

But whatever the subject the photograph should be imaginative, crisp and, of course, special.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

GROUPS

INDIVIDUALS

STUDIES

AT HOME

STUDIO

SPECIAL
LOCATION

BLACK & WHITE

COLOUR

MOUNTED

FRAMED

Call Paul on 01296 682058 to discuss your photographic requirements.

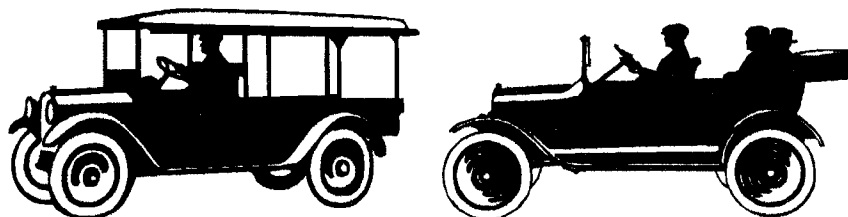
Chiltern Hills Vintage Vehicle Rally

WESTON ROAD
(NEXT TO AYLESBURY RUGBY CLUB)
ASTON CLINTON

SUNDAY, 21st MAY 2000.

10.00 am to 5.00 pm

MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF VINTAGE VEHICLES OF ALL SORTS
AUTOJUMBLE, STALLS, FAIRGROUND
"HAVE-A-GO" CLAY SHOOT
ENTRIES WELCOME ON THE DAY
A GOOD DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY



ST.JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

CHURCH SERVICES

2nd	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service
	18.00	Cublington	Evensong
8th (Tues)	20.00	Wingrave	Lent Course
9th	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
11th (Tues)	20.00	Wingrave	Lent Course
12th (Wed)	10.00	Aston Abbots	Franciscan Service
16th	08.00	Wingrave	Prayer Book Communion
	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Family Service
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
19th (Wed)	10.00	Rowsham	Franciscan Service
20th (Thur)	20.00	Wingrave	Maundy Thursday Eucharist
21st (Fri)	10.00	Cublington	Good Friday Service
	18.00	Wingrave	Wingrave Churches Together Service
23rd	08.45	Cublington	Easter Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Easter Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Easter Communion
26th (Wed)	10.00	Wingrave	Franciscan Service
30th	10.00	Wingrave	Three Parish Communion
7th May	10.00	Aston Abbots	Three Parish Communion

SUNDAY READINGS

2nd Apr	Lent 4	Ephesians 2.1-10 John 3.14-21
9th	Lent 5	Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33
16th	Palm	Philippians 2.5-11 Mark 11.1-11
23rd	EASTER	1 Corinthians 15.1-11 Mark 16.1-8
30th	Easter 2	1 John 1.1-2.2 John 20.19-31
7th May	Easter 3	1 John 3.1-7 Luke 24.36-48

ST JAMES CHURCH ASTON ABBOTTS

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rev Bob Willmott	681623
Gordon Kemp	681763
Shirley Ford	681865
Ann Goodman	681763
Andrew Ford	681865

PARISH VOLUNTEER OF 2000

AVDCs Parish Volunteer of the Year awards scheme is aimed at honouring those people whose unfailing work often goes unrecognised.

Anyone can submit a nomination. A judging panel which includes three District Councillors, a member of the Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils, the previous Year's Volunteer and a representative of the local press will choose the winners after looking at this information.

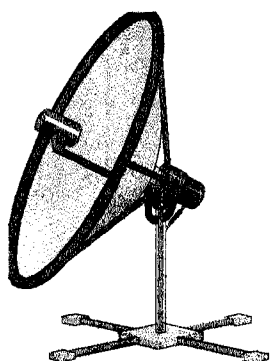
Judges will take into account the type of activities the nominee is involved with in the community and how long they have been

involved with these. The judges will be looking in particular for people who work off their own initiative for their communities. The winner and two runners up will each be presented with an award at a special ceremony later this year. There are no age restrictions on who can be nominated or on who can do the nominating. District Councillors - who are not eligible to be nominated for the awards themselves - will be asked by the judges to comment on nominations from their wards. AVDC staff are also not eligible for nomination.

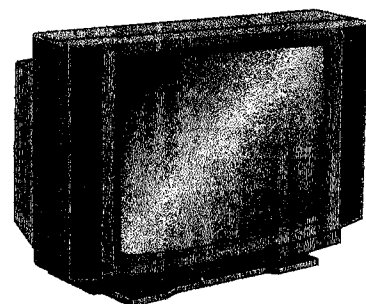
The closing date for applications is 1st May 2000 - for more information and a nomination form, call 01296 585060 or 01296 585055 (minicom).

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

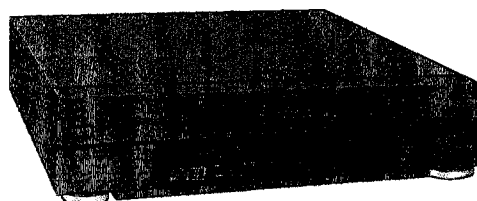


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SATELLITE
SERVICING AND
GENERAL REPAIR**



**RENTALS, NEW
AND USED SALES**

**MOST MAKES
REPAIRED
THE SAME
DAY**

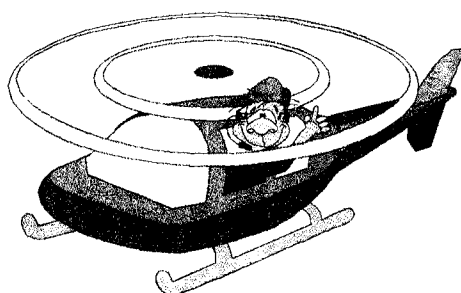
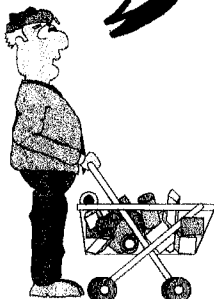


**NO CALL OUT
FEE WITHIN
ASTON
ABBOTTS**

**PHONE DAVE LEWIS
ON 01296 682126**

Oi Lewis - you told me
this would be cheaper
than Bernards. I want my
money back!

Wilks



Bienvenue a
L'Isle de Chiens

The EU thwarts Dave's latest entrepreneurial idea (full story page 8)

**FRIENDLY
SERVICE**

DLT



**The Aston Abbots
Music Maestro**

BACK PAGE THE CHRONICLE