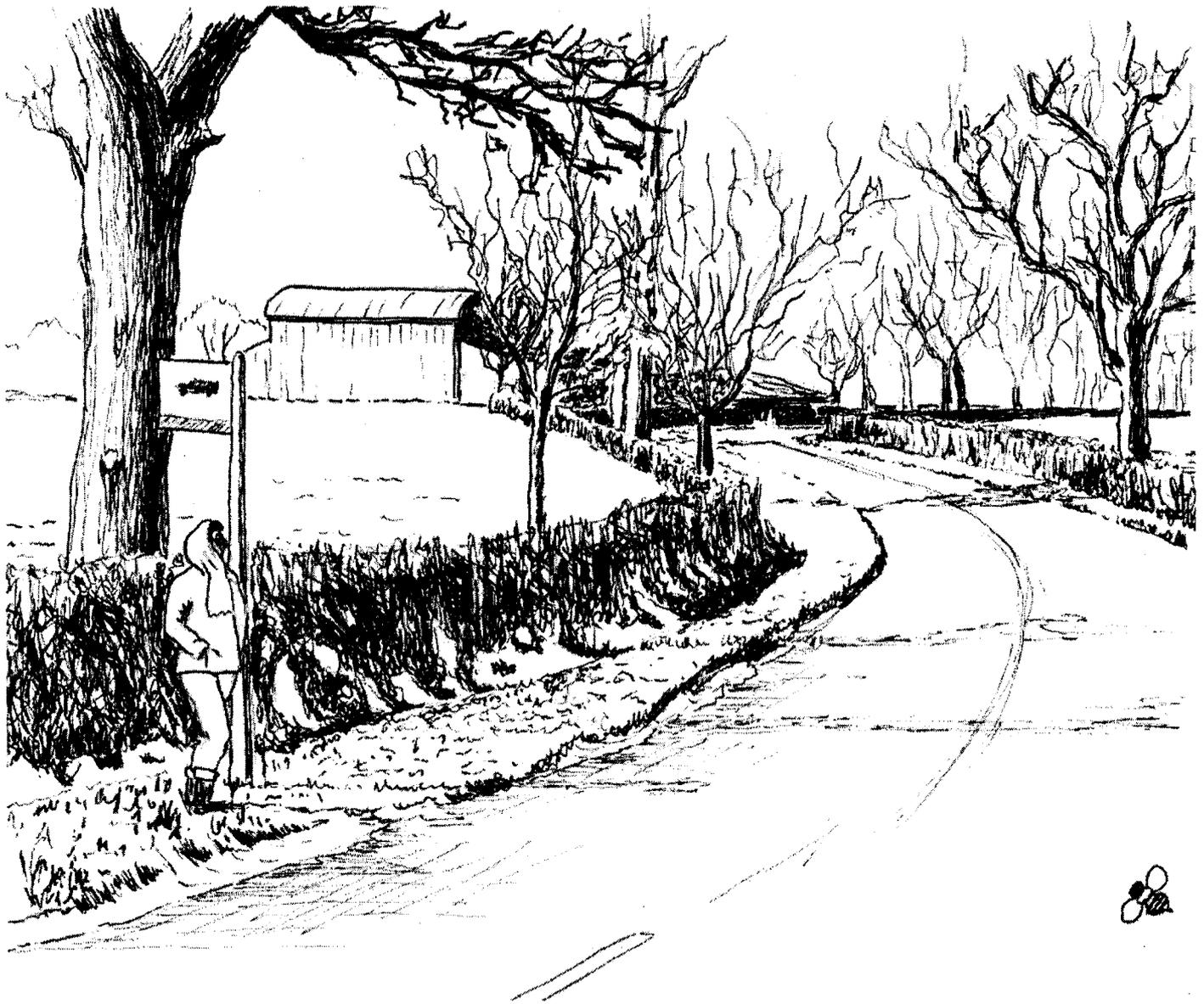


# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 221 ~ March 2003



***ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2003***

***WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL***

***DETAILS ON PAGE 2***

Email : [editor@aston-abbotts-chronicle.co.uk](mailto:editor@aston-abbotts-chronicle.co.uk)

# Editorial

## Annual Parish Meeting 2003

The 2003 Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Church Room on Wednesday 2nd April starting at 8 pm. This relatively informal meeting is nothing to do with the Parish Council—it provides an opportunity for villagers to have their say on subjects of interest to the village.

If you have a major item you would like added to the agenda then please contact Kate Curry on 681137 as soon as possible. Smaller points can be raised during the Any Other Business section.

Kate has asked me to reprint the minutes of last year's meeting so that they can be speedily approved. You will find them on page 21.

The agenda for this year's meeting is below. Hope to see you there.

*Phil*

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2002

The annual parish meeting will take place on Wednesday 2nd April at 8 pm in the Church Room

### Draft Agenda

1. Apologies
2. To approve minutes of meeting held on 24th April 2002
3. Matters arising
4. Police matters / Neighbourhood Watch
5. County Council and District Council Reports
6. Church Room
7. The Chronicle
8. Fete 2002
9. Fete 2003
10. Recreation Ground Account
11. Litterblitz
12. A.O.B.

**THIS IS A PUBLIC MEETING—EVERYBODY IS  
WELCOME TO ATTEND**

*In This Issue*

*In your March Chronicle ~*

- *Vehicle Crime*
- *The 630 Club Burns Supper*
- *A Jag Owner Writes*
- *Bus Service Changes*
- *One In A Million*
- *Radio On Demand*

*and much, much more.....*

# THE CHRONICLE

## Issue 221

## March 2003

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~o~

A note to all would be advertisers -

More than 201 households receive The Chronicle 11 times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines)...

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~o~

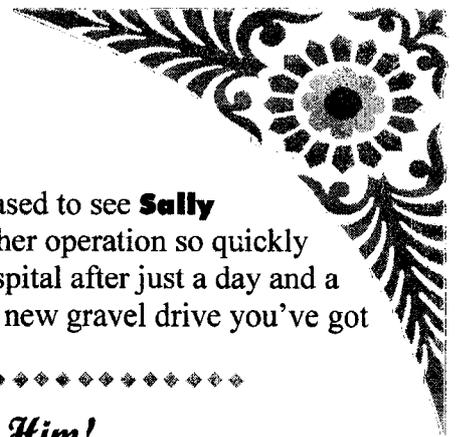
Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2003

Please pass items to Phil Spooner at The Birches in Wingrave Road or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible.

Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbots, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

# The Peoples Page



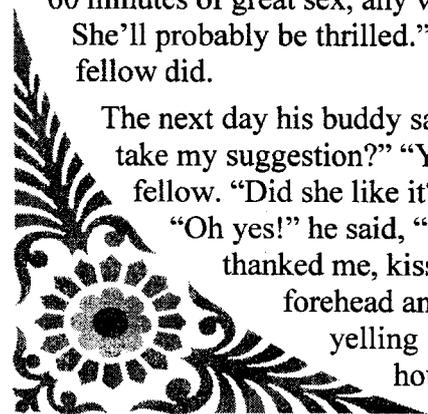
## Happy Birthday

Sam Worrall	12th March
Isobel Hall	3rd
Claire Biddle	8th
Andy Bystra	8th
Paul Williams	9th
Andrew Dutton	10th
Ross Macgregor	13th
Lydia Smith	15th
Ann Goodman	15th
Abby Louise Bowden	16th
Tracey Fletcher	17th
Francesca Osborne	19th
Charlotte Ellis	26th
Bob Bean	30th
George Brandon	31st

### Birthday Sex

Did you hear about the chap that was talking to his friend and he said, "I don't know what to get my wife for her birthday. She has everything, and besides, she can afford to buy anything she wants, so I'm stumped." His buddy said, "I have an idea. Why don't you make up a certificate saying she can have 60 minutes of great sex, any way she wants it. She'll probably be thrilled." So that's what the fellow did.

The next day his buddy said, "Well? Did you take my suggestion?" "Yes, I did," said the fellow. "Did she like it?" his buddy asked. "Oh yes!" he said, "She jumped up, thanked me, kissed me on the forehead and ran out the door, yelling 'I'll be back in an hour!!'"



### Operation

We were very pleased to see **Sally Palmer** got over her operation so quickly and was out of hospital after just a day and a half. That's a nice new gravel drive you've got too, Sally.



### That'll Teach Him!

So who is Aston Abbott's **Tailgate Charlie**? Who was it that "accidentally" parked in the doctor's car park at a hospital, only to find himself trapped by a barrier at the exit? What did he do? Our mystery person waited until a doctor appeared and got in his car then, as the doctor exited through the barrier, rushed up right onto his back bumper to follow him out.

You don't know who it is? Just look for the blue van with the scratches on the roof where the barrier crashed down!



### Sudden Illness

We were sorry to hear of **Juan Gutierrez's** sudden illness whilst on holiday, but very pleased to hear that he has now nearly recovered. Juan takes up the story himself ...

"It was obviously tempting providence to say in my little letter that I was fit and well !!!!!. On the 4th February we went to Amiens to visit Brigitte's family when I had a total sight failure in my right eye. We had intended a 5 day stay that turned out to be nearly three weeks—most of it spent in hospital. I am pleased to say that my sight has returned 96% and that all is well. I had a thorough MOT that showed everything was OK and they have no idea why I had this infection in the optic nerve that caused the symptoms. I was very well looked after and my French has improved somewhat. I hope that there will be no more unforeseen hiccups in the future." ~ Juan



British Summertime begins on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Clocks go forward one hour Saturday night.

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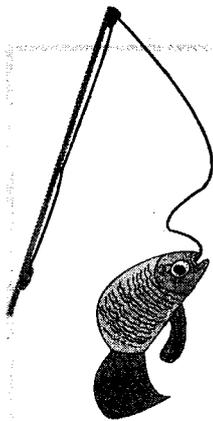
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# In The Village

## Vehicle Crime

**A** Landrover was stolen from The Green during February. Thieves made off with the vehicle in the early hours of the morning.

That makes at least three car thefts and break-ins in recent months. In one case the damage done to a car as the thieves tried to break in was so severe that the insurance company initially thought it might be a write-off.

It's not just in Aston Abbotts either. There have been several car break-ins and burglaries in Wingrave recently.

It is difficult to guard against a really serious thief, but most of these crimes are carried out by casual criminals who may be deterred by simple precautions. Make sure your vehicles are as secure as you can. If possible, fit an alarm or immobiliser. If your car radio has a removable front panel, then take it off when you park your car. *Never* leave anything interesting looking on view in the car. Never leave a window open when you leave your house and always make doubly sure it's secure.

If you see anything that looks suspicious – maybe some youths hanging around or a car cruising the village at night – then don't hesitate to call the police—and do try to get the registration numbers of any vehicles involved.

~ Phil Spooner

## Quiz

**O**ne hundred pounds was raised for St James church at an enjoyable Quiz evening in the Church room in February. Two dozen people attended the event, which was organised by quizmaster Colin Higgs aided by Shirley Ford. Cheese and wine was served in the mid-time interval to mollify those of us whose little grey cells were crumbling embarrassingly.

Your editor managed to maintain an impressive unblemished record of being in the team that came last and Bob Wilmott captained the winning team. The winners each received a bottle of wine and the bottom team received Mars bars. You see, if you can't win then coming bottom still gets you a prize! It's a cunning plan - honest!

Well done to Colin for organising yet another fun evening and raising much needed funds for the Church.

~ Phil Spooner

## PANCAKE COFFEE MORNING

**Tuesday 4th March**  
Church Room, 10.30—12  
noon



**CURRY NIGHT**  
Every Thursday  
At The Bull and Butcher

## ASTON ABBOTTS FETE FETE DAY – SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2003

**FETE MEETING – TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH**

**8.00 PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM**

It is once again time to start organising this year's village fete. Barbara Bellingham has stepped down as Fete Co-Ordinator after organising a number of very successful fete days. I have agreed to take over as Fete Co-Ordinator, but I am very reliant on all of the normal volunteers doing their usual jobs if at all possible PLEASE.

The village fete raises funds for various village interests and getting involved in the running of the fete is a good way of becoming involved in the village. **ANY NEW VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE MADE EXTREMELY WELCOME!!**

If you are able to help in any way, either on the day of the fete or with the organisation, please either come along to the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March, or phone me on 681182.

JACKIE FARRANDS

## Friends Of St James Church

**L**ast month Clare Shorrocks wrote about the formation of a Friends Of St James support group. Since then a number of discussions have taken place behind the scenes and an inaugural meeting of the group is planned for just after we go to press, so we hope to bring you a full report next month.

~ Phil Spooner

## Bus Services

### X15 Aylesbury to Milton Keynes

Additional journeys have been introduced on Saturday: 9.45, 10.45 and 13.45 from Aylesbury; 11.15, 12.15 and 15.15 from Milton Keynes.

### Service 65 Connections

Mon-Fri: 9.08 Aston Abbotts to Leighton Buzzard, change to X15 (09.45). Return 12.45 from Milton Keynes to Leighton Buzzard, Change to 65 (13.40).

Saturday: 9.08, 11.08 Aston Abbotts to Leighton Buzzard, change to X15 (09.45, 11.45). Return 12.45, 15.45 from Milton Keynes to Leighton Buzzard, Change to 65 (13.40, 16.40).

### Bus Surveys

Please use your 65 bus. Surveys on usage are being carried out. 11.08 to Leighton Buzzard and 14.01 to Aylesbury. We need more usage on this route.

~ Colin Higgs

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## Letters To The Editor

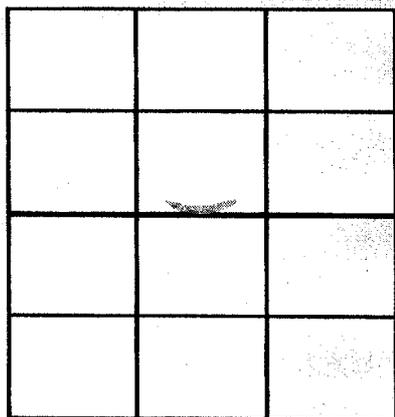
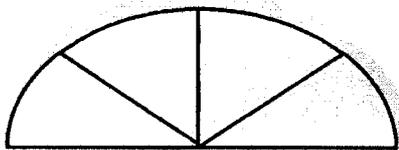
Dear Sir,

The other day I was cruising along in my Jaguar as usual coming onto one of my motorways, which was very busy with inferior cars. First off, I couldn't believe that the volume of traffic DIDN'T slow down for me AT ALL as I came off the slip road! I had to squeeze into a barely big enough gap between two cars in order to get onto my motorway! (The driver of the car behind me did realise his mistake though and honked an apology to me with a long blast of his horn.) Unbelievably, I had to do the same again before I could get to the Jag lane. (Why do underlings use this lane? Surely everyone knows it is for Jag drivers only?)

Anyway, once I was in the Jag lane and posing along at 110 mph enjoying the adulation that the inferior car drivers were giving me, I noticed an inferior car ahead of me which was not only in the Jag lane of my motorway, but was driving at a ridiculous 70 mph! Naturally, I got to within a foot or so of his rear bumper and flashed my headlights to remind him he shouldn't be in the Jag lane of my motorway and to get out of my way. Of course, once he realised it was a Jag behind him, he did just that, but I could hardly believe it when he pulled straight back out behind me! He also tried to keep up with me and when he realised I would out-run him, he put on some blue lights in his front grill and urged me to get onto the hard shoulder so that he could congratulate me on my excellent car.

Needless to say, I was eager to oblige and when we had stopped, the man gave me a piece of paper confirming what I already knew - that my car goes fast! Apparently he wants everyone to know what a superior car I have, so I had to take my driver's licence to a Police Station to be sent away to have some points put on! (They're not free points either - they're £20 each and I was only allowed 3.) But the man at the Police Station said that because I drive a Jag, it won't be much longer before I earn the full 12 points, and then I won't even NEED a driving licence, so they will take it off me! See, now THAT's the sort of respect you get when you buy and drive a Jag!

~ Name and address supplied



## The Girls Happy Hour

Response to the girls night out was encouraging with an average attendance of 10.5 per week. There were no new faces yet, but they will always be welcome. People arrived between seven and eight pm and stayed for one to two hours.

So far we have made no decisions as to the direction we are going in or even what to call ourselves (The Knitting Circle, The Seven o'clock Club and The Get Your Own Dinner Club have all been suggested)! At the moment we are just enjoying an informal get together on Tuesday evenings at The Royal Oak. Thanks to Terri for accomodating us and we will try to make less noise next week!

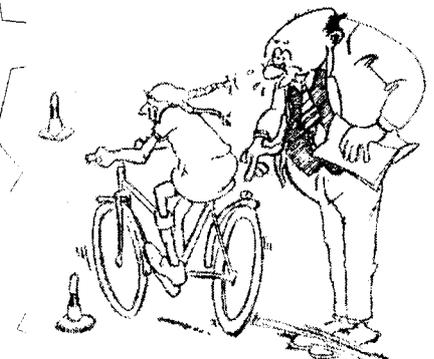
~ Carol Spooner

*All girls are welcome—so do come along to the Royal Oak on a Tuesday at the times listed above if you'd like to join in.*

## CYCLING AWARENESS 2003

A 10 WEEK COURSE

FOR CHILDREN AGED 10 AND OVER



Once again, I will be running a cycling awareness course on Sunday mornings in Wingrave, starting after Easter. Full details will be included in the school newsletter, or alternatively please contact me on 681513 if you want to know more about the course.

Andrew Muir

## Dirty Windows

Last month we ran an advertisement for a window cleaning & general maintenance service.

The response was not high enough to consider starting the service. If you are in need of this service please call Dave on 682126 to register your interest.

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## The 630 Club Burns Supper

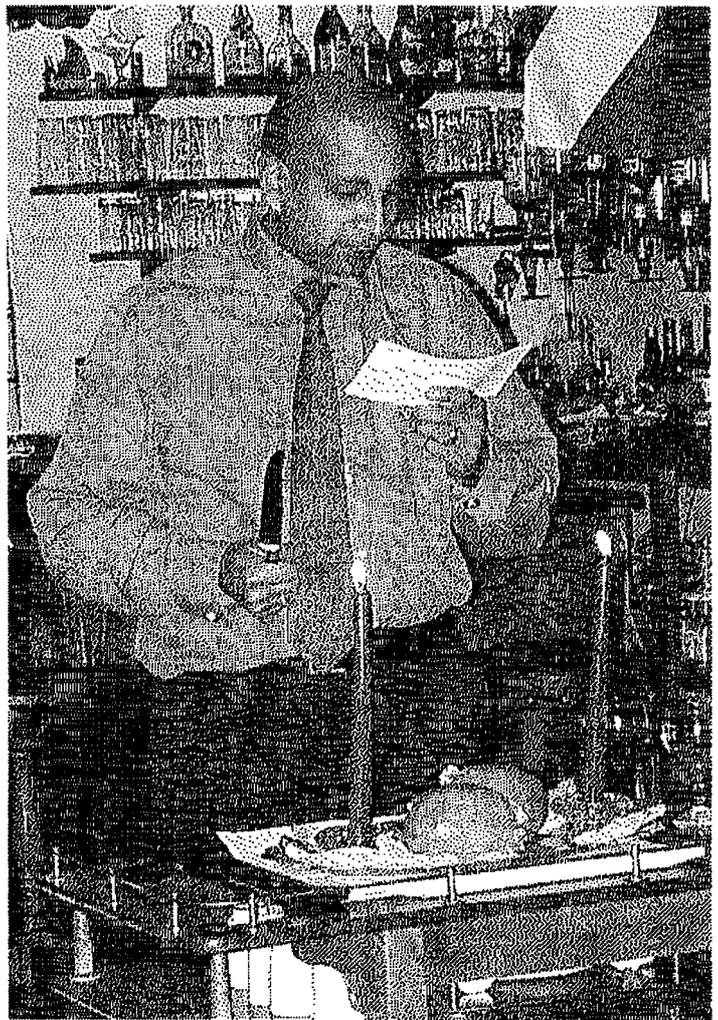
With a fair percentage of Scottish blood coursing through his veins, and in a moment of patriotic fervour, John Whyte decided he would like to be the 'master mind' behind this year's celebration of that rascal Burn's birthday. Unfortunately however, last minute 'official business' required John to be away on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. and (as he keeps trying to impress on Deirdre) it was with great reluctance he found himself on that particular weekend, in the West Indies, conducting a series of meetings around the poolside of his hotel.

Meanwhile however, back in a damp and chilly Aston Abbots, some forty or so 'revellers' appreciated the warm welcome they received at the Old Masters. A chat with friends, a drink or two and it was time for the traditional haggis to be served. In the absence of our only 'Scot' to deliver the eulogy to the haggis, Avi Gupta, fresh from his stage success at the Cabaret, sportingly 'stood in', presenting it in his own inimitable and very humorous way.

There was a choice of starters, and for those who wanted haggis, 630 members had provided the whiskey to accompany it. An excellent traditional roast beef, supplied and carved by Tony Hinds followed, and the meal was 'rounded off' with an extensive selection of 'puds' and coffee. For those of us who could still move after all that wonderful food, Dave Lewis had brought along his 'gramophone' and provided a little light music for us to dance to.

All in all, a jolly good evening so many thanks to John for organising it, Juan, Brigitte and their staff for putting up with us and preparing a great meal, and Dave for providing the 'disco'.

It would appear that this was to be the last big organised 'event' to be held at The Old Masters. A pity really since, as this and the New Year's party proved, it's a great venue for such occasions.



*Honorary Scotsman Avi 'Angus' McGupta proves seven years of medical training were not wasted as he prepares to stab the haggis with surgical precision*

## Ray Coates Memorial Service

Ray was undoubtedly a popular character, and widely known around the Aylesbury area. Since many of his friends and family were unable to attend his funeral in Portugal it was perhaps inevitable therefore that a memorial service should be arranged. This was held at midday on Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. at Walton Street Church Aylesbury.

Fourteen attended from Aston Abbots, which seemed quite impressive until the Service was about to start when it was clear that the large church was almost full. The Service commenced with a letter from Ray's wife Jackie being read which 'painted' a vivid picture of Ray; particularly his extremely generous nature. Hymns and prayers were somewhat eclipsed by an eulogy given by Ray's cousin detailing their boyhood adventures together and emphasising Ray's independent and generous nature even in those days.

The large turnout showed how much Ray's life had touched so many people.



Your lost friends are not dead, but gone before,  
Advanced a stage or two upon that road  
Which you must travel in the steps they trod.

~ Aristophanes

## Two Parish Councillors Sought

The Aston Abbots Parish council are seeking two new members. If you would like to know more about what is involved or you would like to indicate your interest, please contact our Parish Clerk Kate Curry on 681137.

## The Carpenters Arms

Congratulations to Ian Young and Paula Bratton Young at the Carpenters Arms in Stewkley for winning the coveted title of the Aylesbury Vale village Pub Of The Year.

The Carpenters Arms may be familiar to villagers as sponsors of last year's Astonbury festival and I know quite a few Astonians who have enjoyed a visit there since we featured favourable reviews in these pages last May.

## Lost

A small boy was lost, so he went up to a policeman and said, "I've lost my dad!"

The copper said, "What's he like?"

The little boy replied, "Beer and women!"

*The Carpenter's Arms,  
Stewkley.*

*"We drank here, socialized here, and  
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# I Was One In A Million

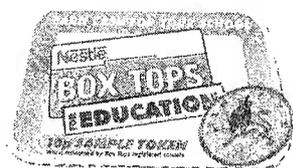
(or was it 750,000?)

My sister Rachel, who lives in Shropshire, came to down on Friday night so that we could get a really early start on Saturday morning and it was a good thing we did as the journey up to London was dreadful. When we got to Amersham we got off the train because there were "problems on the line". We then got the last 2 seats on a coach taking passengers to High Wycombe station where we were crammed, Tokyo commuter style, onto an already full train to Marylebone. Several underground lines were closed along with a number of other stations and we couldn't help feeling a little suspicious that the Government might have pulled some of the fuses out to try to deter people getting to the march!

However, three and a half hours after leaving Aston Abbots we emerged from the Strand station to join the crowds assembling there. The first thing that caught our attention was an immensely tall, black robed figure with a white skull's head and skeleton hands. Printed on the back of its gown in white paint was a list of about a dozen dates and the names of the countries, such as Vietnam, which have been the object of America's military intervention since World War II. It set the tone of the day in some ways as we found the many of the individual banners and posters carried by protesters were very clever - not all of them were repeatable here but still clever. One that was highly original was "It's not often I wish I was German." We started to follow the general movement along the Strand and then cut through to the Embankment which was the starting point for our part of the march. We stopped to eat our sandwiches and have a mouthful of water - no more as we weren't sure when we would next find a "Ladies"! We were staggered by the sight of Waterloo bridge - it was packed solid with stationary people, as were the approach roads on the far side of the river. The Embankment was full to capacity too and we felt somehow privileged to be part of it.

We joined the march, although march really isn't the right word - shuffle would be more accurate. All the way to Hyde Park it was a case of a few steps forward, then stand still for up to five minutes. Occasionally, there was a chance to walk normally for perhaps fifty yards which was a blessed relief as leg and back muscles were beginning to protest about standing still for so long.

All afternoon there were sudden bursts of noise which swept through the crowd like an auditory Mexican wave, coming up



Please keep collecting schools promotions vouchers: Tesco's Computers for Schools, Nestle's Box Tops for Education, Persil's Get Creative, Leighton Buzzard Observer Target Stamps etc and one which has recently commenced, Walkers' Free Books for Schools. You can either pass them on to someone who attends Wingrave school, use the collection boxes at Wingrave School, or in the Wingrave shop, or give them to Sondra Dickason at No 1 Abbey Cottages, Moat Lane, Aston Abbots. Thank you for your continued support.

the road from behind, crashing upon us and sweeping on in front. The noise was composed of shouting, cheering and whistles and hooters being blown. One of these hit us as we waited alongside the Houses of Parliament and completely drowned out Big Ben chiming a quarter to two. Poor Rachel was in agony as she has a perforated eardrum and even with paper tissue pushed into her ear the pain was appalling.

We were accompanied by groups of fantastically skilled drummers which somehow helped to keep the momentum up in spite of possibly sounding somewhat warlike. There were also some street entertainers including a really moving group of white robed, masked figures moving very slowly and in some way producing a feeling of immense sadness.

We didn't reach Hyde Park until 4.30 - four hours to walk three and a half miles! But what with studying the posters and our fellow marchers we found the time passed reasonably well. There was the most incredible mixture of people - middle aged Middle Englanders like us shoulder to shoulder with hippies and punks, City suits and veiled Muslim women, ages six months to late seventies. And there was never a hint of impatience or bad temper. We arrived at Hyde Park in time to hear the end of Ken Livingstone's speech and the whole of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's - both of which were difficult to hear due to a poor sound system and a helicopter hovering overhead. Then we made for home. Thankfully, apart from Oxford Circus Tube station being closed for a while due to an emergency, the journey was uneventful as all "the problems on the line" had miraculously been sorted. Funny that! Well, it was certainly a day to remember. Our first and possibly last protest march, tired but really glad we did it, supper, hot bath to ease aching muscles, watch it on the news and collapse into bed.

~ Clare Shorrocks

## CHILTERN HILLS VINTAGE VEHICLE RALLY 2003

- SUNDAY, 18th MAY -

AT WESTON ROAD, ASTON CLINTON

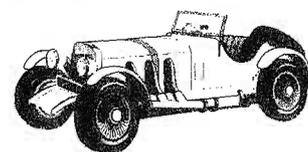
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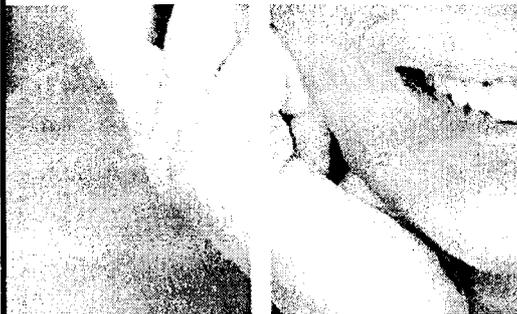
# Country



# Style



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## Insurance Claim Quotes

These are some true extracts from insurance claim forms. They are from the collection made by Norwich Union for their annual Christmas magazine.

"I started to slow down but the traffic was more stationary than I thought."

"I pulled into a lay-by with smoke coming from under the bonnet. I realised the car was on fire so took my dog and smothered it with a blanket."

Q: Could either driver have done anything to avoid the accident? A: Travelled by bus?

A Norwich Union customer collided with a cow. The questions and answers on the claim form were: Q: What warning was given by you? A: Horn. Q: What warning was given by the other party? A: Moo

"I started to turn and it was at this point I noticed a camel and an elephant tethered at the verge. This distraction caused me to lose concentration and hit a bollard."

"On approach to the traffic lights the car in front suddenly broke."

"I was going at about 70 or 80 mph when my girlfriend on the pillion reached over and grabbed my testicles so I lost control."

"I didn't think the speed limit applied after midnight"

"I knew the dog was possessive about the car but I would not have asked her to drive it if I had thought there was any risk."

Q: Do you engage in motorcycling, hunting or any other pastimes of a hazardous nature? A: I Watch the Lottery Show and listen to Terry Wogan.

"First car stopped suddenly, second car hit first car and a haggis ran into the rear of second car."

"Windscreen broken. Cause unknown. Probably Voodoo."

"The car in front hit the pedestrian but he got up so I hit him again"

"I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident."

"I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."

"Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have."

"The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention."

"I thought my window was down, but I found out it wasn't when I put my head through it"

"I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way".

"A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face".

"A pedestrian hit me and went under my car".

"The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

"In an attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole."

"I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection a hedge sprang up obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car."

"I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident."

"To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front I struck the pedestrian."

"My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle."

"An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished."

"I am sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him."

"The pedestrian had no idea which way to run, so I ran over him."

"I saw a slow-moving, sad faced old gentleman, as he bounced off the roof of my car"

"The indirect cause of the accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth"

"I was thrown from the car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows."

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An Army major, was conducting a field exercise, but as an urgent message was coming through for him the communications went dead. Immediately, he jumped into a jeep and ordered a sergeant to speed to the command station.

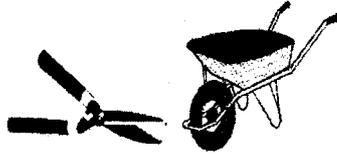
When the major and the sergeant ran in, the group cheered their arrival. The commanding officer then stepped forward and shook my father's hand.

"Don't congratulate me, sir," the major said modestly as he pointed to his driver. "It was all the sergeant's doing."

The commanding officer nodded and turned to the sergeant. "Congratulations," he said. "The major's wife just had a baby girl."

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## Radio On Demand or... Never Miss a Radio Program Again

Know people who time their journey home from work to coincide with The Archers on Radio 4. Should something happen to disturb this peculiar and particularly sad behavioural pattern their world collapses. I myself enjoy radio comedy and plays, but I'm never near the radio at the right time so I rarely listen. Unlike TV, we have no VCR to time-shift programmes. If the phone rings during the Afternoon Play then... tough luck!

However, the BBC has been quietly fostering a radio revolution behind the scenes. Although it's not particularly widely publicised, we can now get BBC radio on demand.

It's not just Radio 4 either; concerts, pop shows, jazz programmes, and Terry Wogan are all available on demand (Terry Wogan ?? On demand ?????).

Unfortunately you cannot access this service using a standard radio – you need a computer.

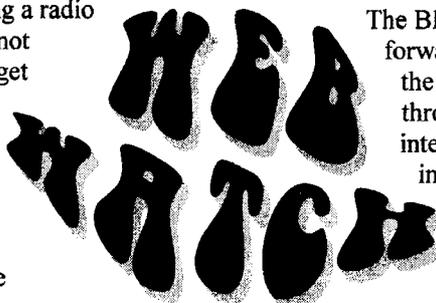
### Isn't that a bit daft?

Well, it may seem an odd thing to do, using a computer to listen to the radio, but it's not as strange as it may seem. The internet is a truly global network that overcomes the limitations of distance imposed by traditional radio transmission. Over the past few years many radio stations worldwide have made their programs available via the 'net and now the BBC have simply taken it a stage further.

As well as 'broadcasting' their live radio programmes over the internet, the BBC have been making programs available for up to seven days after their transmission. So, for example, you can

always access the last Radio 1 Chart Show, Gardeners Question Time, News Quiz, John Peel show, and so on.

You can access these archive programs via the BBC website [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) - just look for the "Launch radio player" in the radio section on the home page. You can also find a full index to Radio 4 programmes at [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/progs/listenagain.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/progs/listenagain.shtml) and other stations also have indexes available via their own websites.



The BBC player usually offers the ability to skip forward or backwards – useful if you just missed the end of a program. The quality of sound through your computer using a standard dial-up internet connection is better than AM radio (and in stereo), but not as good as FM, so it's a little better suited to speech rather than music. Lucky users of a broadband internet connection will get full FM quality.

So what do people actually listen to via the BBC's Radio On Demand? Well, I'm listening to the News Quiz (the Radio 4 program that spawned TV's Have I Got News For You) whilst typing this early on a Sunday morning. The most popular Radio 4 Listen Again programmes in mid-Feb were:

1. Archers
2. Just a Minute
3. Today
4. Home Truths
5. Book at Bedtime
6. Book of the Week
7. Woman's Hour
8. The Material World
9. From Our Own Correspondent
10. Gardeners Question Time

So next time you miss the Archers—you know what to do!

~ Phil Spooner

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### NEW BBC STATIONS

Aside from radio on demand you can use the internet to listen to the new BBC radio stations which are not available via your radio.

**1xtra** broadcasts hip-hop, garage, drum and bass and dance music. Can also be received via Sky digital channel 919, Freeview channel 97 and DAB digital radio

**Radio 5 Sports Extra** broadcasts sport, sport and more sport. Uninterrupted ball-by-ball commentaries on Cricket, football and rugby all feature. Some programs unavailable online for copyright reasons. Can also be received via Sky digital 907, Freeview 76 and DAB.

**BBC 6 Music** programs cover a wide range of contemporary and classic pop and rock. Programmes often draw from the BBC's huge archive of rock/pop concerts and live studio performances. BBC 6 Music also can be received via Sky digital 911, Freeview 77 and DAB.

**BBC7** offers programming from 40+ years of BBC drama and comedy production. It is to Radio 4 what UK Gold is to BBC1/2. BBC7 also can be received via Sky digital 922, Freeview 78 and DAB.

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# An American Travellers Guide to France

*My thanks to Dickie Dicken for sending me this American Traveller's Guide, which he has obtained from an American friend.*

The following advice for American travellers going to France was compiled from information provided by the US State Department, the CIA, the US Chamber of Commerce, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and some very expensive spy satellites that the French don't know about. It is intended as a guide for American travellers only.

## General Overview

France is a medium-sized foreign country situated in the continent of Europe. It is an important member of the world community, though not nearly as important as it thinks. It is bounded by Germany, Spain, Switzerland and some smaller nations of no particular importance and with not very good shopping. France is a very old country with many treasures, such as the Louvre and Euro Disney. Among its contributions to western civilization are champagne, Camembert cheese and the guillotine. Although France likes to think of itself as a modern nation, air conditioning is little used and it is next to impossible for Americans to get decent Mexican food. One continuing exasperation for American visitors is that local people insist on speaking in French, though many will speak English if shouted at.

## The People

France has a population of 56 million people. 52 million of these drink and smoke (the other 4 million are small children). All French people drive like lunatics, are dangerously oversexed, and have no concept of standing patiently in a queue. The French people are in general gloomy, temperamental, proud, arrogant, aloof and undisciplined; those are their good points. Most French citizens are Roman Catholic, though you would hardly guess it from their behavior. Many people are Communists. Men sometimes have girls' names like Marie or Michel, and they kiss each other when they meet. American travellers are advised to travel in groups and wear baseball caps and colorful trousers for easier recognition.

## Safety

In general, France is a safe destination, although travellers must be aware that from time to time it is invaded by Germany. Traditionally, the French surrender immediately and, apart from a temporary shortage of Scotch whisky and increased difficulty in getting baseball scores and stock market prices, life for the American visitor generally goes much as before. A tunnel connecting France to

Britain beneath the English channel has been opened in recent years to make it easier for the French government to flee to London during future German invasions.

## History

France historical figures are King Louis, the Huguenots, Joan of Arc, Jacques Cousteau and Charles de Gaulle, who was President for many years and is now an airport. The French were never very imaginative and all their kings were called Louis. The French enjoyed their Revolution which set up their republic. It was so successful that they did it again, and again and again.

## Government

The French form of government is democratic but noisy. Elections are held more or less continuously and always result in a draw. The French love administration, so for government purposes the country is divided into regions, departments, districts, municipalities, towns, communes, villages, cafes, and telephone kiosks. Each of these has its own government and elections. Parliament consists of two chambers, the Upper and Lower, though confusingly they are both on the ground floor, and whose members are either Gaullists or Communists, neither of whom should be trusted by the traveller. Parliament's principal occupation is testing atomic bombs in the south Pacific and acting indignant and surprised when other countries complain, and then complaining when the Arabs do the same in Paris. According to the most current American state department intelligence, the President is now someone named Jacques. Further information is not available at this time.

## Culture

The French pride themselves on their culture, though it is not easy to see why. All their music sounds the same and they have never made a movie that you would want to watch for anything but the nude scenes.

## Cuisine

Let's face it, no matter how much garlic you put on it, a snail is just a slug with a shell on its back. Croissants on the other hand, are excellent, although it is impossible for most Americans to pronounce this word. In general, travellers are advised to stick to cheeseburgers.

## Economy

France has a large and diversified economy, second only to Germany's in Europe, which is surprising because the French hardly work at all. If they are not spending four hours dawdling over lunch, they are on strike and blocking the roads with their trucks and tractors. France's principal exports, in order of importance to the economy, are wine, nuclear weapons, perfume, guided missiles, champagne, guns, grenade launchers, land mines, tanks, attack aircraft, miscellaneous armaments and cheese.

## Public Holidays

France has more holidays than any other nation in the world. Among its 361 national holidays are: 197 Saints' days, 37 National Liberation Days, 16 Declaration of Republic Days, 54 Return of Charles de Gaulle in triumph as if he won the war single-handed Days, 18 Napoleon sent into Exile Days, 17 Napoleon Called Back from Exile Days, and 2 "France is Great and the Rest of the World is Crap" Days.

## Conclusion

France enjoys a rich history, a picturesque and varied landscape, and a temperate climate. In short, it would be a very nice country if it was not inhabited by French people.

*~ Submitted by Dickie Dicken*

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# Minutes Of Last Year's Annual Parish Meeting—2002

Our Parish Clerk Kate Curry has asked us to reproduce the minutes of the 2002 Annual Parish Meeting to save having to read through them all at the beginning of this year's meeting. If you have any points to raise from these minutes then you will be able to do so when they are approved on April 2nd.

The annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 24th April in the Church Room at 8pm.

## Present

Chairman of the Parish Council (John Sansome), Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting (Kate Curry), Peter Cooper (District Councillor), and 16 parishioners.

## Apologies

Apologies were received from PC Buckle and County Councillor Brenda Jennings.

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of previous meeting were read, approved by the Meeting, and signed by the Chairman.

## Matters Arising

Matters arising.

- 1) Tom Manning advised the meeting that the new Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator appointed by the Police is Helen Thomas.
- 2) The signpost on The Green is still not finished, but Mr. Sansome assured everyone that it soon would be.

## Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Police and Neighbourhood Watch. No one was present to report to the meeting.

## District Council

District Councillor Peter Cooper talked about the proposed Rowsham by-pass, which is part of a plan to improve the road link between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. He explained that this is an initiative by Bucks County Council (not the Government) and it is expected to be completed in three phases:

- a) Fenny Stratford (completed)
- b) Stoke Hammond (will begin this year)
- c) Wing/ Rowsham by-pass (planned to begin in 2005)

A consultative committee has been formed, with both Peter Cooper and Tom Manning representing our interests. The first phase of the Wing/Rowsham improvements is to be the Rowsham by-pass, but at present details of proposed routes are confidential. Gordon Smith

expressed surprise and dismay that this should be the case, and Peter Cooper explained that it was confidential at present to avoid 'planning blight', but the proposed route would be made public later this year.

The proposed Major Development at Weedon Hill was then discussed, with concern being expressed that if it goes ahead it will result in more traffic using the village as a short cut to Milton Keynes. Peter Cooper said that the new 'link' roads should be built before any major development went ahead, but stressed that we should keep reminding the Council of this.

Peter Cooper reported that the level of policing at Wing should be back up to full strength soon, and that following criticism of the telephone/communications system plans are now afoot to make it easier to contact the Wing police directly.

The new flight path for Luton Airport has reportedly changed, and planes may be flying directly over Aston Abbots at a height of 4500 feet. Peter Cooper will try to get the full facts of the proposal for us, as it was felt it would be difficult to comment at present.

## Church Room

Tom Manning told the meeting that the 'Hall Fund' now stands at £13,456.75. Progress has been slow due to legal problems; in particular the solicitor acting for the Church Trustees is extremely slow. Permission is needed from the Bishop of Oxford and the Charity Commissioners, and there are still problems concerning the title deeds/ownership of the land. AVDC will be asked to carry out a land search. Building regulations have not been applied for, as we are unable to proceed with any building yet. Grants cannot be applied for until we have secured ownership of the land. A Deed of Trust is being set up, and a Village Hall Management Committee (to include one Parish Councillor, one PCC member and annually elected members) will run the hall. Actual building work could start in approximately one year, but that assumes speedy resolutions to the above setbacks.

There was some discussion about the setbacks, and it was again suggested that a new village hall should be built instead of refurbishing this one. Tom told the meeting that the Hall would be closed down at the end of next year if the improvements are not carried out, and that a village referendum last year had given a

strong mandate in favour of the current plans.

## The Chronicle

Phil Spooner, who has now been editor for 16 months, said that he tries to provide something for everyone in each issue of The Chronicle, and that it was always a pleasure to receive contributions for printing. There has been a 30% increase in printing costs over the past year, and £200 was raised at the 200th edition party. There are currently 39 advertisers. Margaret Kent commented that The Chronicle is the envy of the County, and Tom Manning added that it is more of a social diary than a magazine. John Sansome offered a vote of thanks to Phil Spooner for all his hard work, which was carried unanimously.

## The Fete 2001

Gordon Smith reported that the Fete took £3705 last year (£500 more than the previous year's record takings) and the net profit was £3143. It was a most enjoyable day, for which special thanks must go to the organiser, Barbara Bellingham.

## The Fete 2002

Gordon said that Barbara has again kindly agreed to co-ordinate the arrangements for this year's Fete, on 20th July. Volunteers to help on Fete Day are urgently required. After some discussion, it was agreed to distribute the proceeds as follows:

- a) Church 52.5%
- b) Church Room Restoration Fund 35%
- c) Chronicle 12.5%

The Percentage donated to the Church has been increased for this year only following Shirley Ford's disclosure that the Church are currently suffering a severe shortfall. The 2.5% usually donated to the Toddlers Group will be given to The Chronicle this year as the Toddlers Group is not active.

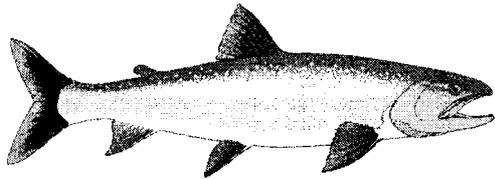
## Jubilee Grant

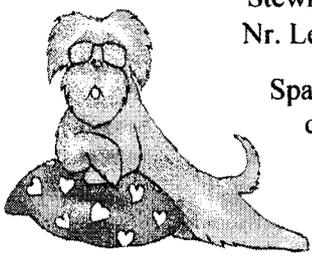
The Parish is entitled to apply for a Jubilee Grant of £200, to be matched by the Parish Council and spent on a project to benefit the community. Tom Manning suggested placing a picnic table on the Recreation Ground, and Clare Shorrock said it would be nice to provide an amenity for local teenagers. It was agreed to ask for suggestions through an advertisement in The Chronicle.

(Continued on page 23)


  
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## Rectors Report

I am not sure for how much longer I will be able to manage without a mobile phone. It is really beginning to bother me that I cannot raise the slightest enthusiasm for the wretched thing.

If I am at home, I do not need one, because I already have a telephone. I do not think it is safe to use one whilst driving, and, if I am conducting a Service or in a Meeting, then I really do not want to be disturbed. Another of my excuses is that there are still places where the signal is so poor that calls cannot be either made or received.

If I had a mobile phone, then I should need to use it fairly frequently because, otherwise I should never remember how the darn thing works. And, having to put my glasses on to see the buttons before making a call is one thing, but to have to do the same before answering would probably mean that most callers would have given up before I replied.

I have never been a great fan of the phone. It is so easy for words to be twisted, and for unintentional interpretations to be given over the phone – “Did you really mean what you said?” I much prefer to have the opportunity to give time and consideration to the words I use. The telephone makes it harder for us to think before we speak.

Perhaps I am just a telephone dinosaur who is reluctant to move into the real world where things happen at a much faster pace.

The Church is often accused of being like that – trying to perpetuate a way of doing things that is no longer connected to the reality of life, and refusing to consider new ways of relating to God and each other.

This month takes us into Lent, the season in the Church's calendar of preparation for Good Friday and Easter. It may not be very important to anyone who is not one of the “Churchy-set”, but for those who are, it provides an opportunity to reconsider the priorities of life, and to question whether the way we “do” Church is still appropriate.

I have a feeling that we shall not be able to continue to keep “traditional Church” going for many more years. Traditional Church will be another lost cause – like trying to live without a mobile phone.

~ Bob Wilmott

(Continued from page 21)

### A.O.B.

- 1) The Chairman proposed votes of thanks to Peter Knight for mowing The Green, The ‘Merry Mowers’ for mowing the Churchyard and Colin Higgs for generally keeping the village neat and tidy. These were unanimously carried.
- 2) Tom Manning reported that the planned Litterblitz could not happen yet, as AVDC had been unable to supply ‘litter pickers’. Hopefully they will have some soon.
- 3) Gwen Kempster suggested that the developers of Home Farm should be approached with a view to naming the development after the Chapman family.

The meeting close at 9.38 pm.

~ Kate Curry



The WCA are organising a

## **BARN DANCE**

**Saturday 8th March**

at Wingrave Community Centre

7.30 – 11.30 All ages welcome

£7.50 adults    £5.00 children (14 and under)

Includes ploughman's supper

Bar available

Tickets available from:

Wingrave Shop &  
Muir family(681513)

Ticket numbers limited – buy early

## **Spring Disco**

**Ages 7 – 12**

Wingrave Community Centre

Friday 28th March

7:00 - 9:30 pm

Tickets £2.50—or £3.00 on the door

**There will be a Tombola and refreshments available**

Tickets available from:

Wingrave Shop & Alison Muir  
(681513)

Parents are welcome to stay as the bar is open all evening

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[graham@apconsulting.org.uk](mailto:graham@apconsulting.org.uk))

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# THINKING ABOUT HOLIDAYS NEXT YEAR?

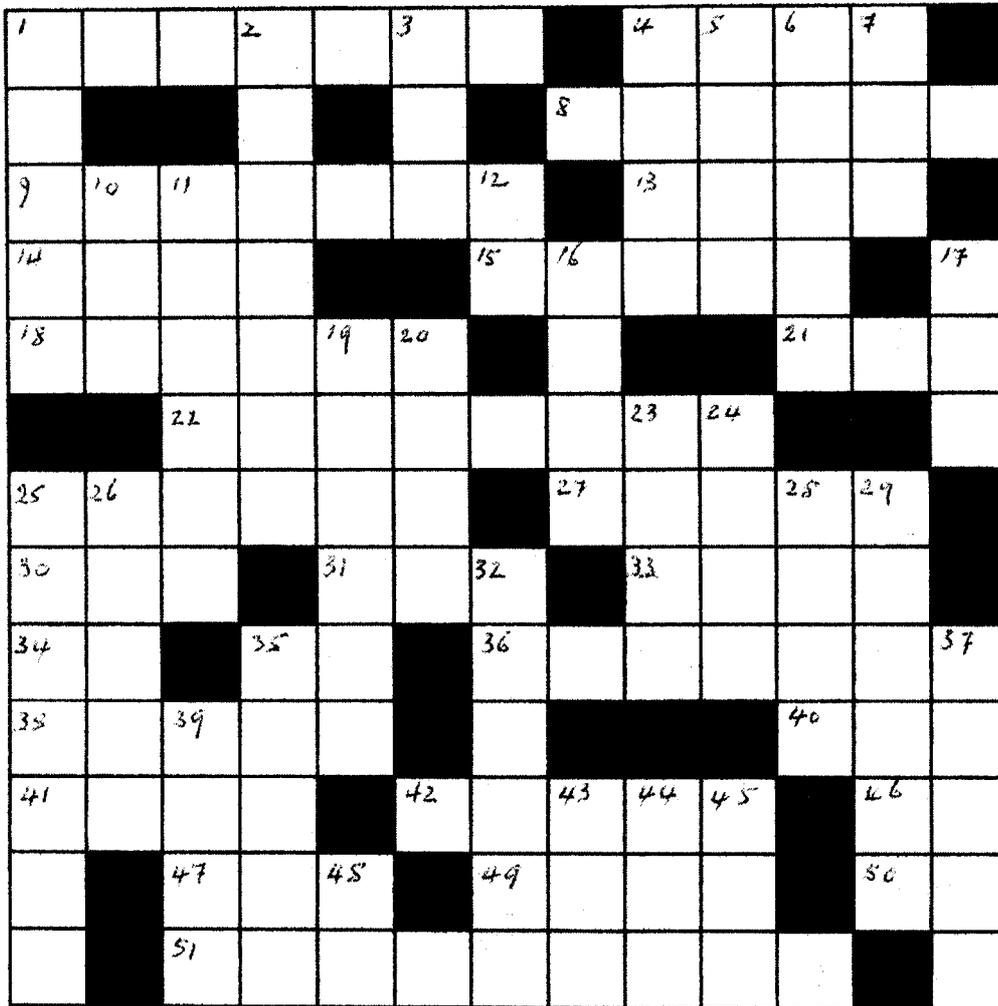
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Lyme Bay and Golden Cap.**

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**01525 383315**

# The Chronicle Crossword

March 2003



**February answers:**

**Across:** 1 Lard. 5 Thame. 9 Oregon. 12 Len 13 Basin. 14 Needless. 15 Effects. 17 ETA. 18 Restore. 20 Eg. 21 An. 22 Raspberry. 26 The. 28 CS. 29 Aero. 30 Eat. 31 Eels. 32 As. 33 Nerd. 35 Acre. 36 Chip. 39 Menu. 40 Umpire. 44 Ass. 46 Message. 47 Let up. 48 Anew.

**Down:** 1. Liberate. 2 Roses. 3 Drift. 4 Dances. 5 Toes. 6 Allegro. 7 Meet. 8 Ensa. 10 Enforce. 11 Net. 16 Erase. 19 Enhance. 20 Eerie. 23 Pastime. 24 Be. 25 Yes. 27 Eternal. 32 Allege. 34 Reuse. 35 Amen. 35 Hump. 38 PPS. 41 ISA. 42 Ran. 43 Sew. 45 ST

**ACROSS:** 1 Bucks Village (7)

- 4. Planet (4)
- 8. LEADER (an 6)
- 9. No date (7)
- 13. Tidy (4)
- 14. A prophet (4)
- 15. Circular (5)
- 18. Football strike (6)
- 21. Perceive (3)
- 22. Restore, repair (7)
- 25. A snack (3&3)
- 27. Vocabulary (5)
- 30. A tree (3)

- 31. Utilize (3)
- 33 Bag (4)
- 34 Military decoration (2)
- 35. For example (2)
- 36. Cat Food (7)
- 38. A group (5)
- 40. Eye infection (3)
- 41. Spoken (4)
- 42. Horses (5)
- 46. Royal Letters (2)
- 47. Bleat (3)
- 49. Greek letter (4)
- 50. Compass point (2)

51. You ascend on these (9)

**DOWN:** 1 Cloth (5)

- 2. Unshaven (7)
- 3. Fish eggs (3)
- 4. Bill of fare (4)
- 5 Town in Yemen (4)
- 6. DEARS (an 5)
- 7. Rested (3)
- 10. Maiden name (3)
- 11. Scarcity (6)
- 16. Egg shaped (4)
- 17. A number (3)
- 19. Plenty (6)
- 20 Animals (4)

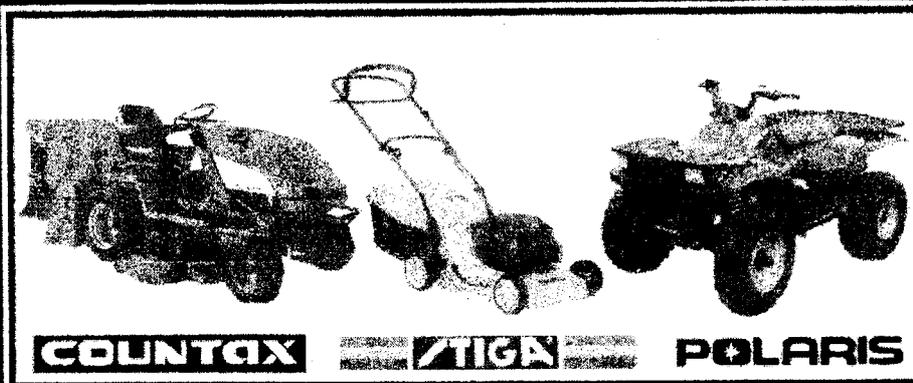
- 23. Try (4)
- 24. Test (4)
- 25. Tasty for a dog (3&3)
- 26. Film award (5)
- 28. Deserts (4)
- 29. Moves on ice(6)
- 32. Iced cake (5)
- 35. Brilliant display (5)
- 37. Wheel covering (5)
- 39 BATS (an 4)
- 43. Quarrel (3)
- 44. Estimated arrival time
- 45. Utter (3)
- 48 Motoring group (2)

Compiled by Don Bellingham

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# St James Church

## Church Services

2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Sunday Club
	15.00	Wingrave	Annual Church Meeting
5 <sup>th</sup>	20.00	Wingrave	Ash Wednesday Service
9 <sup>th</sup>	08.00	Wingrave	Prayer Book Style Communion
	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	09.45	Cublington	Sunday Juniors
	10.00	Wingrave	People's Praise
	10.00	Wingrave	Sunday Club
	10.00	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Wingrave
10.00		Cublington	Family Service with Communion
10.00		Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
10.00		Wingrave	Sunday Club
15.00		Cublington	Annual Church Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup>	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	09.45	Cublington	Sunday Juniors
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Sunday Club
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion * <i>Note time</i>
30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	10.00	Wingrave	Sunday Club
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Worship * <i>Note time</i>
6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion * <i>Note change</i>
	09.45	Cublington	Sunday Juniors
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Sunday Club
	10.00	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion

## Sunday Readings

2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	1 before Lent	2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9
9 <sup>th</sup>	Lent 1	1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.9-15
16 <sup>th</sup>	Lent 2	Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lent 3	1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mothering	Ephesians 2.1-10; John 3.14-21
6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Passion	Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12.20-33

## 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

## Church Sidesmen

1/2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr A Ford
8/9 <sup>th</sup>	Mr C Higgs
15/16 <sup>th</sup>	Mr J Hartnett
22/23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mr G Kemp
29/30 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs S Ford (Churchwarden)

## Church Flowers

1/2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr C Higgs
-------------------	------------

*Then no flowers during lent*

**MOTHERING SUNDAY  
SERVICE**

**ST JAMES CHURCH  
SUNDAY 30TH MARCH**

## The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
A418 Committee	Tom Manning	682455	Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229
Astonbury	Andi Swain	682651	NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Line	0845 46 47
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Parish Clerk	Kate Curry	681137
Bingo	Doris Scutchings	681243	Parish Council Leader	Tom Manning	682455
Bull and Butcher	Frank & Louise McManus	681520	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Busses	Arriva	468730 or 423445	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Chronicle Advertising	Ivan Greenaway	682605	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Chronicle Editorial	Phil Spooner	681544	Rector	Reverend Bob Willmott	681623
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Church Room Redevelopment	Tom Manning	682455	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Room Hire	Doris Scutchings	681243	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
Coach Trips	Colin Higgs	681343	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Shop (Osborn's)	Bernard Osborn	681233
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	Toddlers Group	Claire Greswell	682949
County Councillor	Brenda Jennings	01525 270610	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	681011
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Wingrave School	Office	681346
Fete Coordinator	Jackie Farrands	681182	Wingrave Stores	Andy & Helen Hall	681696
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Whist Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000			
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681685			
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343			

*Please let us know of any errors or omissions*

**Andy and Helen Welcome You to**

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Sunday 6am - 1pm

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### POST OFFICE

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# What's On In March

- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Rambling Club Members Meet Mursley Church. 2 pm
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** Pancake Day Coffee Morning. Church Room. 10-30-12 noon.  
Celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes.
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>** Toddlers Group. Church Room. 10-12 noon.  
*also* Whist Drive. Church Room 7.30 pm
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** Coach departs Bull and Butcher for Newquay Week 8.45 am.
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>** Mobile Library. The Green 10.25-11.55. Wingrave Road 11.00-11.15. Oxley Farm 12.55-13.10.  
*also* Public Fete Meeting. 8 pm in The Church Room—see page 5.
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>** Toddlers Group. Church Room. 10-12 noon.
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** Toddlers Group. Church Room. 10-12 noon.  
*also* Whist Drive. Church Room 7.30 pm
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Rambling Club Members meet Five Arrows Waddesdon. 2 pm  
*also* Tabletop Sale. 10-2 pm John Bridles Hall, Hardwick. For more info contact: Rachel Cope on 640920
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** Mobile Library. The Green 10.25-11.55. Wingrave Road 11.00-11.15. Oxley Farm 12.55-13.10.  
*also* Floral Class. Church Room. 7 pm.
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>** Toddlers Group. Church Room. 10-12 noon.  
*also* Bingo. Church Room 7.30 pm
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>** British Summertime Begins at 2 am Sunday morning ! Clocks go *forward* one hour tonight.
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>** Mothering Sunday Service at St James Church. Bring Mum or Grandma to Church and present her with a posy.
- Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> April** Annual Parish Meeting. Church Room at 8 pm. This is a public meeting and everybody is very welcome to attend.

## BOOK THESE DATES

## OPEN GARDENS DAY

Sunday 8th June

## Festival Weekend and Fete

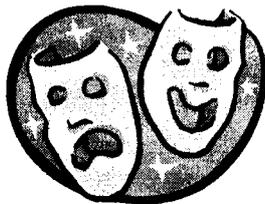
Sat/Sun/ 26th/ 27th July

## ALLOTMENT

There is one vacant allotment plot. If you would like it phone Colin on 681343

## Murder Mystery Dinner

- Murder at the Manor
- Whodunit?
- 29th March at 7.30pm
- In the Community Centre
- Two course meal provided
- Tickets £10 from Village Shop or School
- Get a table together, watch the dénouement and play detectives from your seats!
- *In support of Wingrave School Association*



## Classified

Do you need a **BABYSITTER**? I am experienced in looking after children of all ages and am willing to offer my services.. Contact Nikki on 01296 681413 or 07903 089085.

**TABLE TOP SALE** Spring cleaning ? Why not book a table and sell your unwanted items. Any money raised from entrance donations/refreshments or table bookings will be donated to Hardwick Pre-School. Sunday 23rd March 10-2 pm John Bridles Hall, Hardwick. For more info contact: Rachel Cope on 640920

**MINOLTA 7000 CAMERA KIT.** As new package consists of:- 35 mm Camera fitted with 35-70 lens as standard. 70-210 Zoom lens. Programme Flash Unit. 2 Filters. 2 Lens shades. Operating Manuals. Carry Case. Cost £650 new ....ideal for anyone starting photography classes. Offers over £150.00—Call John on 681349

The Aston Abbotts Toddler Group meet every Thursday morning between 10 and 12 in The Church Room. Contact Claire Greswell on 682949 for more information



# FLAGKWELL ELECTRONICS

CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS Tel: 01296 682126

## ARMY SURROUND CHURCH FARM

Aston Abbots residents awoke to the sound of tanks rattling along the Cublington Road as heavily armed troops surrounded Church Farm in the early hours of one morning in February.

A full scale anti-terrorist alert had been called after villagers as far afield as Cublington had reported sounds of an artillery barrage coming from Church Farm and the seismic monitoring station in Leighton Buzzard had recorded disturbances reaching 4.1 on the Richter scale.

As troops in protective clothing moved swiftly up the Wingrave Road and helicopters hovered overhead an advance reconnaissance group confirmed the nightmare scenario: Dave Lewis was snoring again.

The military set up a command post in the Old Masters, whilst the RSPCA moved rapidly to evacuate a herd of terrified alpacas from a nearby field. Meanwhile an elite specially trained squad wearing soundproof suits mounted a courageous assault to rescue Lewis' long-suffering partner Mrs Alison Lewis.

The army moved quickly to dispel rumours that they were trying to capture Dave Lewis for use in the fight against terrorism. Army spokesman Major Tim Peacocke told The Chronicle, "We have many military options acceptable

to the UN available to us, but using Dave Lewis' snoring as a weapon of mass destruction is not one of them." However a reliable military source confirmed to us that serious consideration had been given to a plan that would have seen Dave Lewis smuggled onto enemy territory, plied with several pints of lager and lime, given three double-Baileys, and then left for nature to take its course.

As the army fought desperately to get the situation under control residents did what they could to protect themselves. Within hours local entrepreneur and well-known wheeler-dealer Bernard Osborn confirmed that he had exhausted the entire national supply of Happy Shopper industrial-strength earplugs.

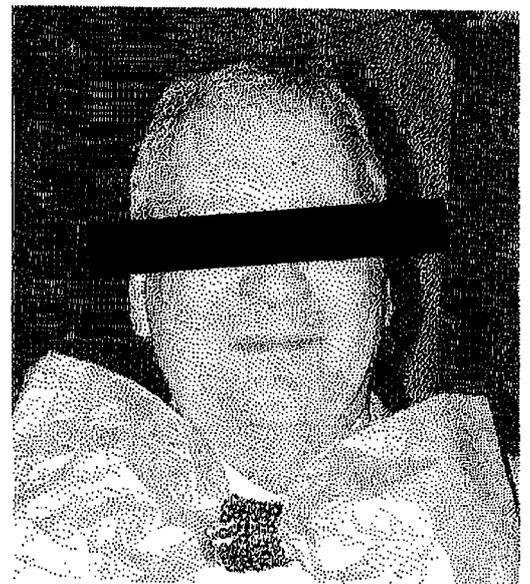
Whilst villagers were left reeling from this latest assault upon their safety and sanity one anonymous local resident who wished only to be known by the code name of T. Jones sprang to Lewis' defence. "It's not unusual," he said.

Aylesbury Vale District Council denied that they were slow to act in response to the problem. A spokesman told us, "We have set-up a Helpline for distressed villagers. The best thing that people can do is to ring 01296 682126 immediately and give the b\*\*\*\*r a piece of your mind".

~ Village Correspondent



*Alison Lewis  
"long-suffering"*



*Anonymous local resident  
"support"*