

ASTON ABBOTTS

CHRONICLE

Issue 368 – December 2016



From the Editor

Ay up me fellow Chronic readers

Again this month I have to ask the wonderful Mr Spooner to collate the Chronicle as my condition and hospital stay is somewhat longer lasting than I first thought. Thanks again for the continuing cards and messages. They really do lift my spirit. I'm so lucky to live in such a wonderful village with so many wonderful people. Teri Moulton I must add; you are very special. Thank you.

I hope to be back to cover the Christmas Quiz at the Royal Oak on Sunday 11th December and must thank Big Bob Prouting for his excellent stand in for the November session. Congratulations to Mos Nutters and the Rat Club who were joint winners.

I sincerely hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Pete

In Your Christmas Chronicle:

- Christmas Quiz 19
- Broadband Latest 23
- Village Hall News 17
- Christmas Church Services 40/41
- Church Matters & Dates 21/37
- Iffy Wifi 29

Plus all of your usual features and much more....

Your Letters

Dear Pete and Phil

Thanks very much to both of you for keeping the Chronicle going and sorry to hear that Pete is still out of action.

I am just writing to say that I agree with Peter Knight (November) and others before him: it's time to clean up - and drop the Astonians from a great height (or move them brick by brick to the US). Thank you!

Caroline Lane

Caroline and Peter

Is the Astonians all that bad or just something to moan about?

Thank you for your emails.

I have been writing these stories for years under different names, i.e. Piddington Chronicles. Apart from yourselves I have received nothing but positive feedback regarding them. Yes I would agree the stories are sometimes cheeky and so state from the beginning, 'May contain strong language'.

I must apologise for repeating one edition in the October Chronicle. This was due to a failure to keep accurate records. The Christmas edition is also a repeat due to only having a few editions on my lap top in hospital. However I must add that you do continue to read the Astonians. Why, if you find them objectionable? Really, is the Astonians all that bad or just something to moan about?

They are a spicy addition to the village mag' and to cease including them due to two comments would be unfair to so many others who enjoy them. However I will take account of your comments and further tone down the language as far as I can so not to lose the humour.

astonpete

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Dear Editor

Through no fault of my own I recently became unemployed. Not having a computer at home I was travelling into Aylesbury or Leighton Buzzard each day to use the internet at the unemployment offices or libraries, but it cost a fortune in parking petrol etc. So I bought myself a laptop. I must agree with Martin Clarke the broadband service in our village is awful. As part of my agreement to find work have to spend at least 35 hours a week looking for work, one day the internet connection was so bad and dropped out so many times I ended up driving to Aylesbury and using the internet in the library to look for work.

Surely there is something that can be done to improve the service in our village.

It seems that people living in rural areas are being left behind in so many things, they are cutting back on bus services what buses we do get are not reliable, it's about time the government gave more thought to the rural communities.

Thank you

Lyn

As we find ourselves in our new home in Baschurch, Shropshire, having spent 35 very happy years in the village, we would like to send our seasonal greetings particularly to those of the 6.30 and the Thursday Coffee Morning Club.

A very happy Christmas and New Year

Mollie and Fred Poulter

Nigel and Sally Palmer would like to wish all their friends in Aston Abbots a very happy Christmas. We will not be sending cards this year but will be making a donation to charity.

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Allotment Diary

Since nothing much has happened on the allotment since my last article (apart from my digging up some of my maincrop potatoes – which did very well, in case you were thinking of asking); and because I have not visited any more exotic places; I thought I would share with you a document which I have just discovered when having a clear-out recently – even though this has absolutely nothing to do with allotments or gardening in any way.

In 1969, some months after America had just landed the first man on the moon, I was walking along Oxford Street in London (I worked in London then), when I was handed a pamphlet by a woman who was handing them out to any pedestrians she could persuade to take a copy. Instead of simply throwing it away, I read it, and having done so, retained it, since it was the most totally bonkers piece of writing I had ever read – and remains in the number one position to this day!

The pamphlet is reproduced below.



(A statement made by the Divine Christos to Gladys I. Spearman-Cook, in answer to the believed moon found by the American astronauts).

WHEN the gods, as atoms, descended through their NORM, or Pineal Gland, it was as the basic of their Anthropomorphic Egg. That which gradually calcified in the Period called TIME, losing of its divine

Auric quality, to eventually take on of two walking legs. A being who was turned inwards towards self, completely devoid of all form. Yet the creature that gradually took form, in the ancient status of China. They devoid of all mind, led and controlled by the Empresses ; that of the Matriarchate Age. Yet although devoid of all form, it was as a silence that was the fulness of intensity. The frozen depth that had to have the warmth of thinking to set it into motion, that it could gradually open up and take on of the creation of being. Yet again, all was there, even at the stage of amoeba. This being the silence of the Fatherhood, as through the mighty gap, referred to as the Ice Age, or the Ginnunga Gap, when all came forth out of the density of Silence. For non-recognition is no form, recognition is form expressed and stated. Thus the belief of any soul becomes a form of creation, as unto the moon in the heavens, created by the scientists, blind to the fact that all is there from the status of the past, but of no form ; that of the lunar state having been involved in. What is to come forth is the creation now being polarised by the belief of Merope, who affords unto it of the glory of the Solar Fire Age now emerging out of the magnitude of the Central Sun. The Atomic Age of elevated life, the heavenly creation of unification, born out of Relativity.

This is like the theory originated by Papalism, who put into the minds of the mindless that there was a god crucified upon a Cross, who died to save their sins. This became so established, as to become a moral point of finance in those called upon to create the belief. When in reality, the Bible has never been established in fact, and is awaiting the creating of the thinking intelligencia of the Atomic Age, for its active and LIFE GIVING unfoldment. Although all these creations become living creations on the Earth Plane, they cannot in Outer World Space, for that is the HOME of Divinity. The scientists being giants born into incarnation, as the outcome of Atlantis, with no divinity at all.

Glady J. Shearman - Book.

Published by : The School of Universal Philosophy and Healing. Registered offices : 52, Earls Court Road, London, W.8. Tel. 01-937 0377. Printed by Denny Bros., Bury St. Edmunds.

Typed on the back was a shorter, but equally inspired piece of lunacy which read:

"America never sent a rocket up; she sent one DOWN, polarising THE CENTRAL SUN".

Peter Shorrock



Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?
Because their days are numbered!



What's green, covered in tinsel and goes ribbet ribbet??
Mistle-toad!

Residents Urged To Be Vigilant

Burglary series Aylesbury Vale

Thames Valley Police is reminding residents to be vigilant following a series of burglaries in Aylesbury and the surrounding area.

Between the 26th and the 31st October there were eleven burglary-related incidents. On the 26th October, an incident occurred in Church Street, Quainton. The following day (27/10) there was a burglary in High Street, Edlesborough. On the 31st October, there were a further nine incidents. Two of these took place in High Street North, Stewkley. There were three burglaries in Aylesbury including properties in Henry Road, Meadowcroft and Weedon Road.

Other addresses affected on the 31st October include Wellcroft in Ivinghoe, Rosebery Road in Aston Clinton, Chequers Lane in Pitstone and Church Street in Wing.

Investigating officer PS Jim Forrest of Aylesbury Local CID said: "I am encouraging anyone who has any information about these incidents, or has seen anyone acting suspiciously around the Aylesbury area to get in touch by calling the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number 101.

If you do not want to speak directly to the police you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or go to www.crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.



To reduce the risk of further burglaries, Thames Valley Police encourages the following:

- Leave lights on within the house or have lights on dusk to dawn timers in order to make it look as though the house is occupied. As the dark winter months approach, burglars are targeting houses in darkness as it is clear nobody is inside
 - Ensure all doors and windows are locked
 - Lock and bolt any side gates
 - Keep garden tools such as shovels and forks locked away in garages and sheds
 - Do not leave jewellery, computer accessories and car keys in view of the windows
 - Record serial numbers/model numbers of all electrical items
 - Store jewellery in a safe place which is well hidden
 - Report any suspicious vehicles, callers or door knockers to the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number 101
-



What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck??
A Christmas Quacker!



What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations??
Tinsilitis!



Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?
Because they were two deer!



Why don't you ever see Father Christmas in hospital?
Because he has private elf care!

 **Royal Oak Quiz Night** 

Sunday 11th December

7.30pm. Just £2



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Orchard Report

17th November, 2016

Recently I have been reflecting on the future of Agriculture – where on earth is it going and what changes will there be in the next twenty years ahead. As a boy I saw cows being milked by hand and even at the age of 24 had to regularly (once a day) hand milk a Hereford cow myself.

This autumn Alex and I have watched a robotic milker at work. The cows, of their own accord, walked into a milking stall where automation took over. The cows' teats were washed, the milking units were put on and the cow was fed. When the milk flow stopped, off came the milkers or teat cups, the udder was disinfected and the doors opened for the cow to walk out – all with no one in attendance. We have all heard of satellite navigation on combine harvesters, but this weekend I think I heard the ultimate. We met up with an old farmer friend from Kent who as usual had been helping out the big farmers on Romney Marsh with harvest. Henry was grain carting - he drove a huge tractor and trailer



along the roads to the harvest. Once in the field Henry sat back, took his hands off the steering wheel and his feet off the pedals. The man in the combine then took over by remote control so that the tractor drew alongside the combine and 10 tons of grain was unloaded from the moving, working combine into the trailer all automatically. Henry just sat in the seat and watched it all happen. Whatever next! I really can't imagine.

I realise that I am a dinosaur, someone who still likes to do work by my own hand, using what's left of my own muscle power and my own skills and thereby gaining satisfaction from a completed task – terribly old fashioned, I know, but I wonder what satisfaction is to be had where machines do all the

work. Then follows on, where will we be in 20 years time and where will we derive our satisfaction in life? Surely one of the mistakes we have made is in making so many people travel so far to work. How can a man drive half way round the M25 each day to and from work and call his life satisfying I will never know.

I recently visited the village where I grew up and went school – my father being Headmaster. We lived right next to the school. My father was part of the village day in, day out, socialising with parents and seeing the 200 children at weekends as well as in school

hours. Today the Headmistress lives basically in London and travels 1 or 2 hours each morning to work depending on the traffic. The school has built on a hall and classrooms, has the same number of teachers but only 40 pupils. No doubt a very good school, but at what cost.

I think myself lucky that I grew up in the 1950s-60s, that I never had to travel to work and that my life was spent outdoors with plenty of exercise. So much to be thankful for, as the great old hymn says *“Change and decay all around I see”*.

Peter



What kind of motorbike does Santa ride??
A Holly Davidson!



What did Santa say to the smoker?
Please don't smoke, it's bad for my elf!



How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
One that's deep pan, crisp and even!



What did Father Christmas do when he went speed dating?
He pulled a cracker!



Aston Abbotts Village Hall news – December 2016

Progress on the works

R K Construction remain on site and continue to make good progress. The south wall is now fully supported by new foundations and the brickwork at that end has been repointed. Inside, the hall and kitchen floors have been fully excavated and are ready for reconstruction with concrete, complete with insulation and a damp-proof membrane. The foundations for the new toilet extension have been dug out and are now poured with concrete. By the time you read this, the new walls should have reached roof level. Work is expected to take 12-14 weeks. Please let Tracy know if you want to make a provisional booking for February onwards.

Funding

We still have a funding shortfall, so any donations are very welcome. Look out for any special notices on the Postie. If you can help, please contact our Treasurer Nigel Palmer at The Vines, Cublington Road, or email us at **astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com**

Make-a-donation

We have also set up an internet page which you may use to make a donation to the Village Hall funds, using a credit or debit card. The difference between this and other similar sites, such as Just Giving, is that we will receive 100% of any donation you make in this way. We are also able to reclaim Gift Aid from HMRC on such gifts if appropriate. Donors also receive the opportunity to claim rewards, such as discounts, from local firms. Our page may be found at **www.make-a-donation.org/charity/aston-abbotts-village-hall-trust**

Grand Xmas Raffle

To further help our fundraising efforts, we plan to hold a grand Xmas raffle. Draw tickets will be delivered to each household in the village shortly. Please make every effort to sell these to friends and family. One of us will call around to collect them before the draw takes place on 20 December.

Future events

Once the refurbishment of the hall is completed we plan to hold a grand opening event, probably at the end of February. Please look out for details of this in next month's Chronicle.

And finally

We would like to wish all villagers a very happy Christmas and thank you all for your support during 2016.

Caroline Lane – Aston Abbotts Village Hall trustees

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



How did Mary & Joseph know Jesus was 7lb when he was born?
They had a weigh in a manger!



What did the stamp say to the Christmas card?
Stick with me and we'll go places!



What carol is heard in the desert??
O camel ye faithful!



Who is Santa's favorite singer?
Elf-is Presley!

Christmas Quiz

1. Which word, often associated with Christmas, stems from the Greek word for circle dance?
2. Which English leader prohibited the singing of Christmas songs?
3. The following are words from which Christmas songs?
 - a. she didn't see me creep down the stairs to have a peep
 - b. she'd been drinking too much egg nog
 - c. once bitten and twice shy I keep my distance
 - d. in the lane the snow is glistenin'
 - e. the choir of children sing their song they practiced all year long
4. Many people claim that the first unofficial football international between Germany and a Scotland England side was played on a Christmas Day. The pitch or playing field was found between what?
5. The Christmas film 'Miracle on 34th Street' has been remade many times. Who won a best supporting actor Oscar for the role of Kris Kringle in the original 1947 film and which two time Oscar winner played Kris in the 1994 remake?
6. 'Who' catches the Grinch red handed stealing Christmas presents?
7. In which country does an ugly old witch named Bafana deliver presents on the 6th of December?
 - a. Australia b. Austria c. Italy d. Mexico
8. In which country is St. Nick called Sinterklaas?
9. "Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephan". In which country was Wenceslas king?
10. Apparently, while poking at the fire, the London sweet shop owner Tom Smith got the inspiration to make what?

~ answers on page 32



ASTON ABBOTTS

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Church Matters

The diary of St. James's



The Remembrance Service on 13th November took place in bright sunshine in contrast to the dark days of war that were commemorated. Colin Higgs read out the names of the villagers who fell in the Great War and the Second World War. For the first time this year we had none of the three nonagenarian veterans of the Second World War but as Peter Binns reminded us wars are ever present in this world of ours. It was good to see that families were represented by two and even three generations. The plate collection of £109.60 will be sent to the Poppy Appeal as usual.

The last All Ages Service of the year on 18th December will start with a Festive Tea at 4.30pm in the Church and continue with a combined Christingle and Carol Service. Preparations will take place at the workshop on Saturday 17th in Church between 10 and 12.

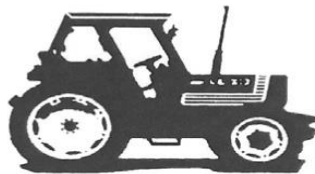
We will go round the village singing carols on Monday 19th December. If you wish to join us please assemble on the Village Green at 7pm, proceeds to the Church Housing Trust. We need a few more male voices this year to boost the volume!

Finally please join us on Christmas morning when Roger Hale will get out of doing any of the preparations for his family's lunch by hosting our service at 10.30am.



The Novice

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Broadband Latest

UPDATE ON THE PROBLEM OF POOR BROADBAND SERVICE IN THE VILLAGE

Thanks to all those who responded to my original email. I received 25 replies (20% of those registered for the village Post Box). Of these 5 were happy with their broadband performance (one of whom had a dedicated line for their computer) and 20 were, like me, very unhappy. Particular thanks to Phil Spooner who updated me on the feedback we get from District Councillor Peter Cooper who reports to the Parish Council on BT progress. Phil also made some useful suggestions as to how I could improve my broadband performance with my current BT facilities.



This has been a voyage of discovery. When I started my investigations the broadband performance in my house averaged around 4Mbps (download) with a wide range (from 1 to 7Mbps). I was paying for a BT Standard Broadband package that claimed to deliver 8.5 to 9.5Mbps. BT declined to provide the latest version of their hub so I reluctantly bought a new one. There was no noticeable improvement. The only way I could get anything close to the claimed performance was to place the computer next to the hub. So I bought an Ethernet cable which allows the BT hub to be connected direct to the computer wherever it is in the house and finally I was getting a consistent 8.5Mbps. I bought a cable for each of our two computers (a laptop and a desktop) and for the sake of domestic harmony I have now installed the cables (under floorboards, through ceilings and walls) so that they are less obtrusive. So now the location of the computer and distance from the hub are irrelevant (one of the cables is 15m long). My wife's Tablet still does not have a reliable internet connection in the house but is at least easily portable to a usable 'hot spot'.

A recent Watchdog TV programme looked into the same problem which is experienced by many broadband customers and suggested that interference from phones and TVs might be causing some of the lost performance

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our lovely customers*

December at the



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Thursday 1st - Festive menu available

Saturday 3rd - Breakfasts served from 9.30-11am,

International Rugby England vs Australia at 2.30pm then

Live Music with Roberto and Rhys who kick off our festive season!!

Sunday 4th Lunch – booking advised

Monday 5th - The Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm

Saturday 10th - Breakfasts served from 9.30-11am

Sunday 11th Lunch – booking advised

Monday 12th - The Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm

Tuesday 13th - Live Folk Music

Wednesday 14th - The Unicorn

Sloe Gin Competition from 7.30pm. £1 per entry

Thursday 15th - Steak Night -

2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

Friday 16th - Live Music with The Spokes

Sunday 18th Lunch – booking advised

Monday 19th - The Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm

Thursday 22nd - Steak Night -

2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

Sunday 25th Open for drinks 12-3pm

Christmas Lunch – FULLY BOOKED

Monday 26th Open for drinks 12-5pm Food 12-3pm

Saturday 31st New Year's Eve Special Dinner Menu (bookings only)

Plus Live Music with John Sutton and his band



Unicorn opening times during Christmas/New Year

	Bar	Food orders
Fri 23rd December	Usual Hours	Usual Hours
Sat 24th December	Usual Hours	Usual Hours
Sun 25th December	Midday-3pm	Bookings only
Mon 26th December	Midday-5pm	Midday-3pm
Tues 27th December	Usual Hours	Usual Hours
Weds 28th December	Usual Hours	Usual Hours
Thurs 29th December	Usual Hours	Usual Hours
Sat 31st December	Midday-1am	Usual Hours
		Dinner, bookings only
Sun 1st January	Midday-5pm	Midday-4pm
Bookings advised		
Mon 2nd January	Usual Hours	Usual Hours

Don't miss out. Book your festive celebration!



01296 681261 *Booking always advisable*

Visit web site for full event details www.theunicornpub.co.uk

The Unicorn, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 0LQ



A magical time, a magical place

between hub and computer. They drew attention to the fact that in order to claim a particular performance a supplier only has to show that 10% of customers receive the claimed level. In other circumstances BT could be sued under the trades' description laws!

The TV presenter suggested that the rules need to be changed so that in order to charge for provision of facilities the supplier should have to ensure that say 90% of customers get the claimed level of performance. Then the supplier will only have to deal with complaints from 10% of customers rather than the present 90%!! BT claims that 80% of customers get the level of performance (not according to my data on Aston Abbotts).

So I have a temporary solution applicable to my household but we don't download films or play computer games, so 8.5Mbps is adequate.

On their website BT state that for my postcode:

'Your cabinet is enabled for Superfast fibre however you're not able to order fibre just yet. This might be because the length of the line is too long to get Superfast speeds. We're actively looking at other options. If you'd like us to let you know if fibre becomes available, register your details.'

BT undertakes to let you know by email when their BT Infinity product (which needs a superfast link) will be available for your household. I have been registered for well over a year and have heard nothing.

What this means is that BT have no plans to introduce a superfast (fibre) connection to the village and we are stuck with copper wire standard broadband for the foreseeable future. The estimate for when superfast will be brought to the village has been moving steadily backwards and is currently 2018 but even this date is 'subject to change'.

I will monitor the information provided to the Parish Council by Peter Cooper and ensure BT are aware of our feelings on the subject. Keep me up to date with your experience/feelings on the subject.

David Gray (ukdavidgray@gmail.com)

The Friends of Whitchurch Surgery

Reg Charity No:1064109/0

“Coffee Morning and Grand Christmas Prize Draw”

at

Whitchurch Surgery

Saturday 10th December

10.30am -12pm

Draw takes place at 11.30am

Lots of lovely prizes

Tickets available from the surgery reception

Please contact reception if you would like to kindly donate a prize

AVON – would you like to see an Avon brochure, either on a regular basis or just for Christmas? Avon don't just sell cosmetics – there is a range of jewellery, scarves, pyjamas, gifts, home, kitchenware and more. Free gift for all customers ordering in November.

Please contact **Jackie – 07968 672707** or email jackie@jackiesreps.com

Sloe Gin Competition at the Royal Oak ASTON ABBOTTS Friday 23rd December from 8pm



**All welcome. Bring your homemade Sloe
Gin along for the competition.
Food available as usual**

invitation

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Iffy Wi-Fi

The majority of people living in the main part of the village should be able to get at least 6 to 8 megabits of broadband speed. Unfortunately those living in the Northern and Western reaches of the village are at a geographic disadvantage.

6 to 8 Mb/s (megabits per second) is fast enough to allow you to watch high-definition movies or BBC iPlayer without pausing or interruption.

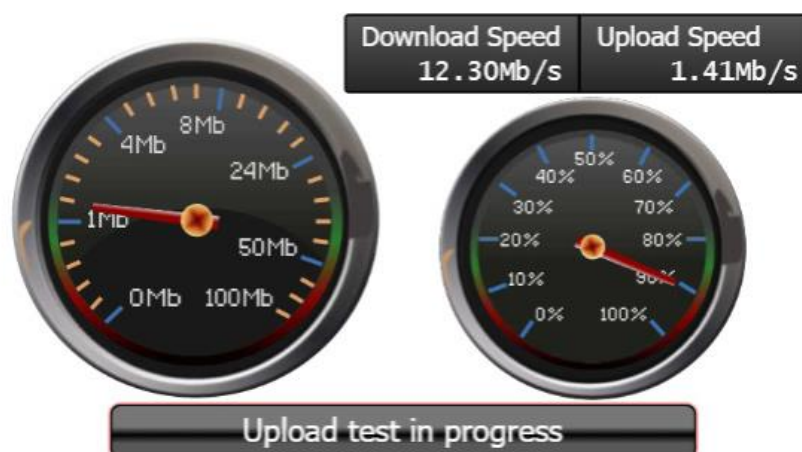
David Gray's experience described on page 23 is not unusual. BT are getting the broadband to his house, but the distribution within the house was causing poor connections and poor speeds.

Quite often the culprit here is reliance upon a Wi-Fi wireless connection, as in David's case.

Wi-Fi is a weak radio signal which is used to provide wireless connection between your Tablet, laptop, or phone and your broadband router which connects to the telephone line. Because it is a weak signal it is easily blocked.

The first thing to do is to check what speed broadband is actually arriving at your router. This is done using a broadband speed checker. Open up your browser - Internet Explorer, Chrome or Firefox - and go to www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk. Run the speed test.

Here is a picture of the broadband speed test running on my PC:



Living on the south side of the village I get a decent speed. My supplier is BT Broadband and my PC is connected to my router with a short Ethernet cable. The difference between the download and upload speed is normal.

If you are getting less than 6 megabits then it's worth investigating further.

If your computer is connected to the router with an Ethernet cable, then note the speed and contact your broadband supplier to ask if that is all you should get.

If you are using a Wi-Fi connection to your computer or tablet then move the device very close to your broadband router. Now run the speed test again to see if it has improved. If that does not improve it try



connecting your device using an Ethernet cable (not usually possible with phones or tablets). Try the test again. If you now manage to achieve speeds of 6-8 megabits then it is the Wi-Fi which is at fault.

Wi-Fi signals are easily blocked by walls. If it's not possible for you to run a cable to your computer from your router, as David has done, then two possible options are available to you; one is the use of a Wi-Fi booster (for phones and tablets) and the other is using network powerline adaptors which transfer the network signal over your household mains wiring (for PCs and laptops). Try searching Amazon for 'Wi-Fi Booster' or 'Network Powerline Adapter'. I've not tried a Wi-Fi booster myself, but I have used the network powerline adaptors with great success.

Of course this still won't provide the performance that we all anticipate and need from a superfast fibre connection, but standard broadband *should* be reliable and reasonably fast. However, if you are relying upon an iffy Wi-Fi signal then when that long-promised fibre connection finally arrives it may not actually bring you the speed increase which you are anticipating.

Phil Spooner

The Astonians

All characters are fictional and hold no association to anyone. Some strong language.

An Evening of Aston Abbotts Drama. ©Astonpete.

Kirsty and I were off to see the Astonian Players debut play, 'Seven Virgins for seven Brothers', starring Mincy Bumgardner; the tart from Aston Avenue.

We were dressed and ready to go. We turned on a 'night light', turned the answering machine on, covered our pet budgie and put the cat in the backyard. We phoned the local Taxi company, 'Aston Abbotts Hopefuls' and requested a taxi. To our disbelief the taxi arrived within 30 seconds and we opened the front door to leave the house. As we walked out the door the cat we put out in the garden scooted back into the house. We didn't want the cat shut in the house as she always tries to get at the budgie. Kirsty walked out to the taxi while I went back inside to get the cat. The cat ran upstairs with me in hot pursuit. Waiting in the cab Kirsty didn't want the driver to know that the house would be empty for the night. So she explained to the driver that I would be out soon, "He's just going upstairs to say Goodbye to my mother."

A few minutes later I got into the cab. "Sorry I took so long," I said, as we drove away. "That stupid bitch was hiding under the bed. I had to poke her arse with a coat hanger to get her to come out. She tried to take off so I grabbed her by the neck. Then I had to wrap her in a blanket to keep her from scratching me but it worked. I hauled her fat arse downstairs and threw her out into the back garden! She'd better not shit in the vegetable garden again!"

We came home that night with police surrounding the house searching for something!

astonPete



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Christmas Quiz Answers *(see page 19 – questions from paulsquiz.com)*

1. Carol (choranlein)
2. Oliver Cromwell
3. Five Answers: a. I saw mommy
kissin Santa Claus. b. Grandma got run
over by a reindeer. c. Last Christmas.
d. Winter Wonderland. e. Wonderful
Christmas Time
4. Between the trenches in no mans
land, Christmas 1914. (No match
report is available but it seems the
Germans won 3-2.)
5. Edmund Gwenn and Richard
Attenborough
6. Cindy Lou Who
7. Answer c. Italy To naughty children
"Lo dico alla Befana" ("I'll tell the
Befana !)
8. Holland
9. Bohemia (Czech Republic)
10. Christmas crackers

Book Club Review

The Lie by Helen Dunmore

The Lie is set during and after the First World War. It is a story about a young man, Daniel, who returns to Cornwall having survived the atrocities of trench warfare. He finds himself homeless and without family. An old friend of his mother allows him to live in a shack on her small plot of land.

Daniel is haunted by the death of his best friend, Frederick. Of course, he is suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or “shell-shock” as it was known then.

The old lady, Mary Pascoe, falls ill and persuades Daniel to let her die at home and be buried on her own land. When Mary does die, Daniel tells no-one and so the lies begin and inevitably, we see the disintegration of Daniel’s sanity.

Helen Dunmore uses such beautiful language that in spite of the tragic circumstances and traumas, it is a book that is hard to put down.



Alison Lewis

Birthday Boys

Spies tell us that **Percy Humphreys** has his 90th birthday at the end of November. Percy has lived in Aston Abbots all of his life!

We also heard that **John Whyte** reached 70. Apparently John can’t believe he is 70. Neither can we... we thought he was much older...

And last but not least, **Ivan Greenaway** gets his bus pass at the beginning of December. A bus, Ivan, is ‘a large motor vehicle carrying passengers by road, typically one serving the public on a fixed route and for a fare’.

Happy birthday, boys!



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Church Duties - November

	Cleaning	Flowers
3/12	Colin Caroline L.	No flowers in Advent
10/12	Gordon Ann	No flowers in Advent
17/12	Alex Anita	Christmas decorations
24/12	Colin Gay	Christmas decorations
Saturday		
14th Jan	Cleaning rota vacant due to holidays. <i>Any Offers ???</i>	

Christmas Bus Services

Christmas Day 25 th to 27 th	No Service
Wed 28 th to Sat 31 st	Saturday Service

Bin Collections

If your usual day is Thursday 29th then this is revised to Friday 30th

Brown bin collection ceases at the end of November and restarts in February



How did Scrooge win the football game?
The ghost of Christmas passed!

Some Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 10th December

Workshop to decorate the window ledges and the tree for Christmas, in church 10 – 12 noon. Everyone very welcome to come and help. There will be refreshments.

Sunday 18th December

Christingle and Carol Service

Instead of the Breakfast Service, we will be providing a festive tea for everyone at 4.30pm in church, followed by the ever popular Christingle Service with Carols.

This will be our only Carol Service so we very much hope you will be able to join us. The collection on this occasion will be for The Children's Society.

Monday 19th December

Carol Singing round the village. Meet on The Green at 7pm. Do join us. We will be collecting for the Church Housing Trust this year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Caroline Abel Smith

Churchwarden



What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?
Claustrophobia!



What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar??
He got 25 days!



Stewkley Singers

Music and Mince Pies!

Annual Christmas Concert

Saturday 10 December 2016 at 7.30pm

Stewkley Village Hall

Tickets £8 adults and £4 children

Tickets: 01525 240671 or 01525 240570

STOCKDALE HOUSEHOLD CLEANING SERVICES

Minimum 2 hours

**07871
587126**

100 Club	David Gray	07935 414495
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
AVDC	Switchboard	585858
Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
	Sondra Dickason	682249
Book Club	Sally Palmer	681152
Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
Buses	L & S	415468
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191
Chronicle Distribution	Marisa Abel Smith	681411
	Zandy Ayres	682419
Chronicle Editorial	Pete Lucas	
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763
Church Room Hire	Tracy Hinds	688479
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 1264056
Bucks County Council	Switchboard	395000
County Councillor	Netta Glover	688357
Dial-A-Ride		330088
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250
Doctor - emergency	(out of hours)	331511
Fete Coordinator	David Gray	681952
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865
Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240
Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
Mobile Library	Buckingham	01280 813229
NHS Direct	24 hr Advice Line	0845 4647
Parish Clerk	Zandy Ayres	682419
Parish Council Leader	Kate Curry	681137
Police Emergencies		999 or 112
Police Non-Emergency		0845 8505505
Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 5165165
Ramblers Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Rector	Rev Philip Derbyshire	01525 240287
Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Royal British Legion	Free phone	0808 802 8080
Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Kelly Targell	681127
Wingrave Post Office	PO Only	682964
Wingrave Post Office	Stores	681696
Wingrave School	Office	681436

Aston Abbotts Telephone List

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

To contact them call

101

This is a non-emergency number.

Alternatively, email them on:

WingNorthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

WINGRAVE POST OFFICE AND STORES

21 Winslow Road, Wingrave

SHOP 681696

POST OFFICE 682964

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

PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW



**Services at
Saint James Church – Aston Abbotts
December 2016**

4th Dec.	6.00pm	Evensong	Revd. Philip Derbyshire
11th Dec.	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Peter Binns
18th Dec.	4.30pm	Festive Tea in Church followed by Christingle & Carol Service	
25th Dec.	10.30am	Family Communion	Revd. Roger Hale

We look forward to seeing you

100 Club Draw November 2016

1st Prize, £50 Percy Humphries

2nd prize, £10 Les Smith



**Services at
Saint James Church – Aston Abbotts
January 2017**

1st Jan.		No Service at Aston Abbotts Communion at Stewkley at 10 or Wing at 11am	
8th Jan.	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Peter Binns
15th Jan.	9,30am	Breakfast in Church followed by All Ages Service	
22nd Jan.	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Roger Hale
29th Jan.	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Roger Hale

We look forward to seeing you

100 Club Draw December 2016

1st Prize, £50 tba

2nd prize, £10 tba

Village Hall Bookings

£6 per hour for residents

(Plus metered electricity)

£20 per hour for non-residents

(Plus metered electricity - a returnable deposit of
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Kate Curry (Chair)

2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane – 681137

Mrs Zandy Ayres (Parish Clerk)

astonabbottsclerk@gmail.com

682419

Richard Clarke

Maplewood, The Green – 681007

Judy Hardcastle

Marloes, Lines Hill – 688070

Peter Shorrock

Oak Farm House – 681260

Phil Spooner

The Birches - 681544

Bob Carvey

12 The Green – 681053

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)

6 Wingrave Rd - 681343

District Councillor

Peter Cooper

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham – 681250

County Councillor

Netta Glover - 688357

Parochial Church Council

Rev. Philip Derbyshire 01525 240287

Caroline Abel Smith

Churchwarden 681001

Elvina Chu 07709607171

Ann Goodman 681763

Anita Parker 681325

Gordon Kemp 681763

Caroline Lane Sec 681373

David Gray 681952

Treasurer & Synod Rep 07935414495

Gay Walker 688632

April Curnow 707833

What's On in December

Thurs 1st	Coffee Shop	St James Church	10 am to 12 noon
	Whist Drive	Royal Oak	7.30 pm
Sun 4th	Rambling Club	Meet Tesco car park Leighton Buzzard	2 pm
<i>also</i>	Evensong	St James Church	6 pm
Mon 5th	Parish Council (note date change)	St James Church	7.30 pm
Sat 10th	Church decoration	St James Church – See page 37	10 am to 12 noon
Sun 11th	Quiz Night	Royal Oak – See page 13	7.30 pm
Thurs 15th	Coffee Shop	St James Church	10 am to 12 noon
<i>also</i>	Whist Drive	Royal Oak	7.30 pm
Sun 18th	Christingle Service	St James Church	See page 37
Mon 19th	Carol singing around the village	Meet on The Green See page 37	7 pm
Tues 20th	Mobile Library	The Green	1030 am
Fri 23rd	Sloe Gin Competition	Royal Oak – See page 27	8 pm
Sun 25th	Christmas Day		
	Parish Communion	St James Church	10.30 am
Sun 1st Jan 2017	New Year's Day		

*Alison & Dave
Wish Everyone
A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

