

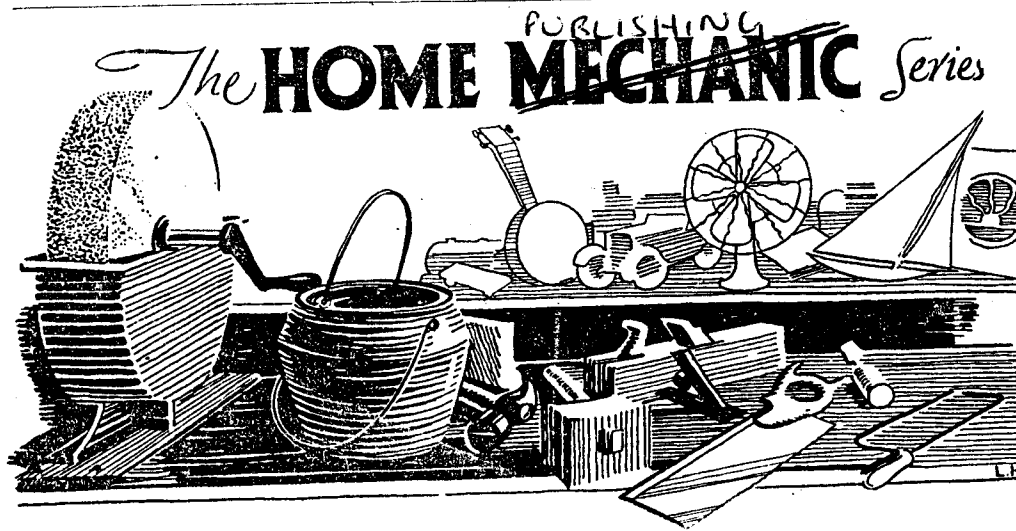
# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



From a German calendar, February,  
Augsburg, Johann Blauberer,  
about 1485

February 94 No. 120



The Annual Parish Meeting is coming up again, on Monday 7th March at 7.30pm in the Church Room. For anyone who is unfamiliar with this, it is a chance for the village to get together to discuss matters of importance (independent of the Parish Council). Its main business has usually been the village fete - electing the committee and deciding who will get the proceeds. The fete is the village's main fundraiser and its success means a lot to us all. Volunteers will be needed for the committee, so if you can help in any way please come along and find out more. The Annual Parish Meeting also hears reports from the Church Room, the Recreation Ground and the Chronicle. Residents are welcome to put items on the agenda; if you wish to do so please tell Gordon Smith, the clerk to the meeting - 2 Church Row, 681373.

Please note that this year the Annual Parish Meeting will not be followed by a parish council meeting so you need not fear you will be stuck until past closing time!

Caroline

Gordon

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Please let us have material for the March issue by Friday 18th February. Bring, send or telephone to 2 Church Row (681373).

Published by Caroline Lane and Gordon Smith  
Printed by the SQUIRREL PRESS at Waddesdon School  
Distributed free to all households in the parish of Aston Abbotts



## What's On: February

### BOOK THESE DATES

Friday 4th March, Aston  
Abbotts School Reunion, meet  
Old Masters 7.30 for 8pm.

Friday 11th March, Family  
Disco (Wingrave School  
Association). Look out for  
details.

Wednesday 17th March, Ladies  
Club Spring Lunch

Sunday 20th March, annual  
sponsored walk (5 miles) in  
aid of St James's Church

### REGULARS

Tuesdays: Bin Day

Tuesdays: The Trawler mobile  
fish shop, The Green, 1.40-  
2pm

Tuesdays: mobile library  
Wingrave Road, 9.30-9.45am  
The Green, 9.50-10.20am

Tuesdays: mobile butchers,  
about 3-4pm, will deliver to  
door, ring 0296 75220

Wednesdays: fish & chip van  
outside Bull & Butcher,  
about 8pm; rings bell first,  
can be up to 30 mins later

Thursdays: butcher as above

Fridays: free bus to Tesco  
(Aylesbury), depart The  
Green 10.06am, arrives Tesco  
11.01am (new superstore,  
Tring Road); 11.11am (Tesco  
Bicester Road). Return  
journey departs Bicester  
Road 12.45pm. Back to Aston  
Abbotts about 1.40pm

### FOR SALE

Good compost, £1 per barrow  
load (collected), Saturday  
5th Feb, from churchyard,  
10-12 noon

Wednesdays 2nd, 16th:  
Toddlers  
Church Room, 1.30-3pm

Thursdays 3rd, 17th: Whist  
Drive, Church Room, 7.30pm

Saturday 5th: Jumble Sale,  
Church Room, 10-12,  
admission 10p. Hundreds of  
bargains. In aid of St  
James's Church

Tuesday 8th: Bucks County  
Council Road Safety meeting,  
any queries to Colin or  
Caroline

Thursday 10th: Ladies Club.  
Talk and slides on Victorian  
furniture by Mr Turner.  
2.45pm, Church Room

Thursday 10th: Bingo, Church  
Room, 7.30pm (for RNLI)

Tuesday 15th: Floral Class -  
basics of flower arranging,  
Church Room, 7pm, all  
welcome

Monday 14th: Rambling Club  
members AGM, 13 Moorlands,  
Wing, 8pm

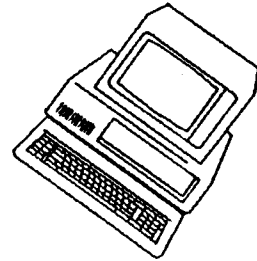
Saturday 19th: Wingrave  
Cabaret (School Association)  
see p. 11

Thursday 24th: Ladies Club.  
Talk and demonstration on  
the ambulance service.  
2.45pm, Church Room

Sunday 27th: Rambling Club  
meet Old Linslade 2pm

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# People

edited by Bridget Brandon

## BIRTHDAYS

Michael Coleman....4th Feb  
Ivy Brandon.....5th Feb  
Pablo Gutierrez....7th Feb  
Vika Drysdale.....7th Feb  
Barry White.....9th Feb  
Haidee Mogfor.....13th Feb  
Richard Clark.....13th Feb  
Paul Hewitt.....14th Feb  
Tracey Lovell.....23rd Feb  
Linda Wheaton.....25th Feb  
Daniel White.....25th Feb

THANK YOU to everyone who took part in and donated to the carol singing on 23rd December. It was a horrible evening and so only a small number of houses were called on, but thanks to their kind generosity £32.60 was raised for the Playcentre at the Lodge, Aylesbury, for the children of homeless families. I had hoped to go along too, but was smitten with the 'flu, so thanks again. Jane Plested

BELATED congratulations to Lyn and Tom Manning on the birth of their daughter Rosie on 12th December. The wee lass weighed in at 7lb 5oz.

## STOP PRESS... BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

To acknowledge one of our major local advertisers, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to David Lewis of Flackwell Electronics, on 28th Jan. Can he really be ONLY 40? (it's a secret, folks)  
HOBBIES: Flying, Muff Diving, Gatecrashing Parties and Pubs... THE BIG 40.... is it his call-out charge? his inside leg measurement? how far he can run without collapsing?...No, it's his AGE!!

---

HE'S WAY IN FRONT OF YOU  
Aston Abbotts Toddlers, young and over 40, took over a whole row at Aladdin in Leighton Buzzard last month. Members of the Christmas Show cast were spotted feverishly scribbling down memorable lines such as HELLO KIDS/HELLO WISHY. The Aston Abbotts Under-5s Heckling Team was led by Daniel Smith, the Hadcroft twins being strangely silent (THAT'S NOT A CAMEL, IT'S A DONKEY). A good outing.

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## A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW

Why "all the rest have 31..."  
Thirty days hath September, April, June and November, runs the children's mnemonic, all the rest have 31, except February, which has 28. The reason months have different numbers is that when the Romans under Julius Caesar invented the Julian calendar they decided to give months with special religious significance 31 days and the ones of lesser importance 30 days. Thus January, named after the god Janus, March after Mars, and July, in honour of Caesar himself, are among the months with 31 days. Caesar's successor, Augustus, named August after himself and, naturally, gave it 31 days. The Julian months of September (7th month) and October (8th) became the 9th and 10th months when in 1582 Pope Gregory changed the New Year from the Julian date of March 25 to January 1.

"WISE OLD GOAT"

## RECTOR'S REPORT

6

We are about to start on another Course in preparation for Confirmation. The first session will take place in Cublington Church on Thursday 3rd February at 7.30pm.

It seems only fair to let people know a bit about what is entailed in this Course. There will be about twenty sessions - each lasting about an hour and a quarter to an hour and a half, during which we shall be exploring the basics of the Christian Faith. In a way this is our response to going Back to Basics - which seems to be all the rage at the moment. Officially the syllabus for Confirmation requires knowledge of the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments - the basics of the Christian Faith, and, some would say that the Ten Commandments were fundamental to a civilised society.

Being Confirmed is a serious business - and it will be expected that candidates will attend at least eighty per cent of the sessions. The days have gone when just turning up at the classes is all that is required, and this time we are experimenting with a fairly new idea. We are asking each candidate to have a named 'sponsor'. They will meet with their sponsor at least once a month to discuss what they have been learning.

Clearly the role of a sponsor is an important one, and they will be expected to encourage the candidates by their example as well as by their interest and support. They will, of course, be welcome to 'sit-in' on the classes. This will enable them to identify with the candidates and also to make a valuable contribution to the group discussion.

It is hardly fair expecting young people to make promises that they are not likely to keep - and we have to admit that the fall-out rate after Confirmation tends to be very high. These people need as much help and encouragement as possible if the Church as we know it is to survive into the next century.

Bob Willmott



# Church News

January saw the start of a new year, and at our parochial church council meeting new ideas for fund raising in order to keep St James's Church going. We held a very successful TAIZE evening service on 16th January, by candlelight, with a good cross section of the congregation taking part in various sections of the service, quite a change from usual services, but not to everyone's liking.

Our Saturday morning coffee and bring and buy sale held on 22nd raised £65 towards Church funds, so thank you to those who supported it. Just to remind you, our Jumble Sale is being held on Saturday 5th February, 10-12 in the Church Room. Don't miss it - there will be hundreds of bargains.

Colin Higgs

## St James's Church Services in February

6th February	11.15am	Family Service	Methodist
Sexagesima	(p.492)	2 Cor 12.1-10; Mk 7.24-end	
13th February	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Gillian Wyer
Quinquagesima	(p.497)	Coll.18-23; John 8.2-11	
20th February	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Alison Ford
Lent 1	(p.506)	Heb. 4.12-end; Lk 4.1-13	
27th February	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Michael Hasler
Lent 2	(p.511)	1 Jn 3.1-10; Matt 12.22-32	

## Methodist Church Services in February

6th February	11.15am	FAMILY SERVICE	Rev Willmott
13th February	6.00pm	Rev Ireland	

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### WHIST DRIVE - CUBLINGTON CHURCH FUNDS

Saturday 19th March, Cublington Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm

Following the success of last year's Whist Drive, we are holding another as above. There will (hopefully) be a licensed bar, a raffle and prizes for the winners. Included in the price of £2 per person will be a buffet supper. Any profits will go to Cublington Church funds. We can only accommodate 40 people (i.e. 10 tables) so book your place now from:

Biddy Lagus, Rockwell, Reads Lane, Cublington (681806)  
Diane Eadie, 5 Silver Street (681511)  
Jane Alexander, Rectory Cottage (688738)  
Andrew Pike, 17 Ridings Way (681609)

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### THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION

Rita Robinson would like to thank those who contributed to the recent house-to-house collection which raised £37.37.

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From time to time, Aston Abbotts witnesses an outbreak of its very own peculiar brand of vandalism. One of our neighbours goes out to his or her car first thing in the morning and finds that tyres have been attacked with a knife. It has been a number of years since the last episode but sadly, in January, three tyres were slashed.

There seems to be no rhyme or reason to these bizarre incidents. They do cause distress. The idea of a malicious nutter wandering round at night is disturbing - and tyres aren't cheap. A number of people strongly believe they know who is responsible, but whether they are right or wrong, proving anything will not be easy, for obvious reasons. Please keep your eyes peeled and of course report anything suspicious to the police.



ASTON ABBOTTS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

Many residents of Aston Abbotts feel that a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme would benefit them and that the scheme set up some years ago should be revived.

It would enable us to try to prevent crime (and membership often leads to lower insurance premiums), and it would help us to look after each other if someone knew, for example, who to contact in an emergency.

We already have some volunteer coordinators. One of these will call, before 13th February, to collect this form from you if you wish to join the scheme and to answer any questions you may have. The coordinators are: Jean Barnett, Janet Biddle, Roy Malin, Chris Brandon, Chris Fox, Rosemary Franklin, Richard Plested and Les Smith. If you would like to be a coordinator for part of The Green, or for Longmoor, or if you have any queries about the scheme, please ring Mrs Jean Barnett (688285).

*[Handwritten signature]*

I am interested in joining the Aston Abbotts Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

The Government is proposing to reorganise Local Government in Great Britain during the next two years. The preferred choice is the abolition of counties and county councils and their replacement by "unitary authorities" based approximately on the existing District Councils (e.g. Aylesbury Vale).

Detailed reviewing of Buckinghamshire has just started and the proposals are likely to have a profound effect on local services. It should be stated that they have both support and opposition from the main political parties. But a system of government that has existed, in one form or another, for over 1000 years seems threatened.

Current estimates (as quoted in the Telegraph, Times and Guardian) suggest that the Council Tax could increase by as much as £35-£100 per year to pay for these new councils and their implementation. The new system could jeopardise bus subsidies (a bus from, say, Aylesbury to Milton Keynes, would have to be subsidised by two or more authorities); present arrangements whereby you can borrow a book from Aylesbury Library and return it to Milton Keynes might no longer be possible. Administrative staff would increase considerably, to look after four or five authorities instead of one, but the expertise of more specialist staff might be lost.

Advantages of the new system are a more local form of government, as opposed to what is said to be the remoteness of the county council.

If you feel strongly - one way or the other - about these changes and want to learn how they might affect you and your pocket, you are urged to attend one of the local meetings which will be attended by the Commissioners who are responsible for the review of Buckinghamshire:

- 3 February at Wing Village Hall (7 pm)
- 9 February at Winslow Public Hall (7 pm)
- 10 February at Hazell's Hall, Aylesbury (7 pm)
- 16 February at Civic Offices, Milton Keynes (7 pm)
- 23 February at Buckingham Community Centre (7 pm)

Please also let the MP (George Walden, House of Commons, London SW1) know your views. As yet, these far-reaching proposals have received little publicity. Hopefully this will change and a reasonable, impartial debate can take place locally and on television, radio and the newspapers, to ensure we do get the best possible form of local government for what is now Buckinghamshire and for the country as a whole.

Andrew Pike

# Wingrave CE Combined School School Association

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Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire  
HP22 4QG

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Rehearsals are already well underway for the School Association

## CABARET EVENING

*Saturday 19th February*

Join us for a 2 course candlelit meal,  
complimentary glass of wine and a pre-arranged full programme of  
entertainment

BAR

RAFFLE

Tickets £6.00 per person available from:  
Committee Members, John 681685 or Helen 681645

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WINGRAVE TWINNING ASSOCIATION extends a warm welcome to anybody in Wingrave and nearby villages who would like to join in, receive a French family in May, or go to stay in La Bouxière in October. We can also find exchange partners for young people wanting to do an exchange in France or Germany this summer. The dates of all our twinning activities are given below. For further details please contact Jean Keighley on 681235.



Family Weekends: Wingrave: Thursday 12 May to Sunday 15 May.  
La Bouxière: Saturday 22 October to Tuesday 25 October.

Junior Football: Wingrave: Easter, Friday 1 April to Monday 4 April

Wingrave Singers: La Bouxière, Saturday 30 April to Monday 2 May

Wingrave Football Club (adults): La Bouxière, Friday 26 August to Monday 29 August

Quiz Evening: Thursday 15 September, Wingrave Community Centre

# The ROYAL OAK

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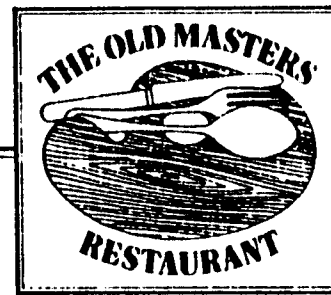
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Dinner: 7.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.

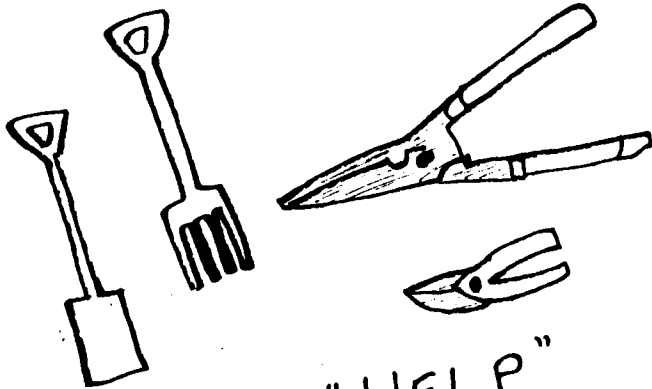
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Unofficial notes from the PC meeting on 17th December 1993.

Matters arising

Street lights - having consulted nearby households, it was decided to put up a new, white light outside no 87 The Green (i.e. over the road from the shop) with a back-shield to prevent light shining into the bedroom.

An up-to-date quote of £668 had been received for moving the existing white light on The Green further into Grove corner. Local residents were divided on whether they wanted it moved; the council concluded that moving it the maximum of 11m would not be enough to light the Grove corner sufficiently, and the cost was very high, so it was decided to apply for permission to lop some of the branches from the tree by the light instead.

It was decided to go ahead with repair of the bus shelter roof.

Planning applications

Bridge Farm (Aston Abbotts parish, but reached via Rowsham) - the parish council made no comment on application for site for 2 agricultural workers' dwellings.

House on land adjacent to Windmill Hill Barns, Weedon Road - the parish council objected to this because it was outside the village building limits and could set a precedent. The proposed external cladding was out of character.

Moat Farm, farmhouse: PC had no comment.

Lower Burston Farm - conversion of barn to dwelling, PC requested that tree planting should be native species.

Accounts Eastern Electricity £19.70; E. Sharp (street light repair) £44.27; BCC, mowing of Rec £403.92.

Precept Retained at £3000 for 1994/5; Clerk's salary to increase to £350 per year.

Local Government Review AVDC had asked the PC's views on Parish Partnership - especially the parish council's willingness to take on more local government tasks. It was felt in general that we are too small a body to take on any contracts or agency agreements, particularly functions at present carried out by trained local government staff.

Recreation Ground A letter of thanks was to be sent to Peter Knight for his help in ripping out the old hedge in readiness for replanting. The Rec. subcommittee had decided to move the fence to extend the children's play area because the swings, slide and climbing frame are too close to each other to meet current safety standards; and to investigate grants for safety surfaces.

NEXT PC MEETING FRIDAY 11 MARCH, 8pm, Church Room

\*\*\*ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY 7 MARCH, 7.30pm, Church Room\*\*\*



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Please send copy and cheque (made payable to 'The Chronicle') to John Whyte, 14 Bricstock, Aston Abbotts, Aylesbury, Bucks  
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Margaret Cheshier, 20 The Green, 681201

John Ford, 2 Ross Road, 681865

Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road, 681358

John Whyte, 14 Bricstock, 681685

George Fox, 1 Church Row, 682024

### YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Roger Biddle, 1 Firs Cottage, Wingrave Road, 681102

John Ford, 2 Ross Road, 681865

Caroline Lane (Chairman), 2 Church Row, 681373

Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road, 681358

Victor Scott, 11 The Green, 681488

Clerk:  
Margaret Cheshier, 20, The Green, 681201

District Councillor:  
Bryan Round, 11 Nup End, Wingrave, 681621

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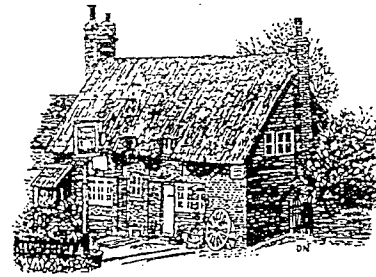
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## GLOUCESTERSHIRE PIE

1 lb. lean lamb, cooked  
and sliced  
1 lb. onions, thinly sliced  
1 lb. cooking apples,  
thinly sliced  
2 oz. butter  
Pinch of rosemary  
and nutmeg  
½ pint rich gravy  
½-¾ lb. potatoes, diced  
½-¾ lb. swede, diced  
Salt and pepper

Set oven to 375°F or Mark 5. Put onions and apples in a pan and cover with water. Boil for 5 minutes. Drain well. Meanwhile, boil swede for 10 minutes, then add potato and cook until both are soft. Drain well and mash together until smooth. Grease an ovenproof dish with the butter. Place layers of meat, onion and apple in the dish, seasoning and sprinkling each layer with herbs as you fill up the dish. Pour in the gravy and top with the mashed potato and swede mixture. Dot top with butter and bake uncovered for ¾-1 hour. Serve with a green vegetable. Serves 4.

Thanks to Colin for this recipe



## THE FIVE ELMS

For those of you still to experience our special brand of beer, humour and lack of all things (see the last newsletter) we forge ahead into February with the following to entice you in (Sorry no Curry night this month)

### Valentines Dinner

Monday 14th.

Prepared by our Sunday Chef

### Tuscan Italian Night

Thursday 24th.

Guest Chef night -- a second billing for our Sunday Chef.

Is there no stopping him?

£6-50/head

Sunday Lunches

Still on Sundays!

Pub cooked, pub made by ..... Yes!... our Sunday Chef!

We have our function room available for private meetings, dinner, birthday parties and any other flowery occasions etc.

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Next Curry night Early March

We almost forgot! Food served every lunchtime and now every evening.

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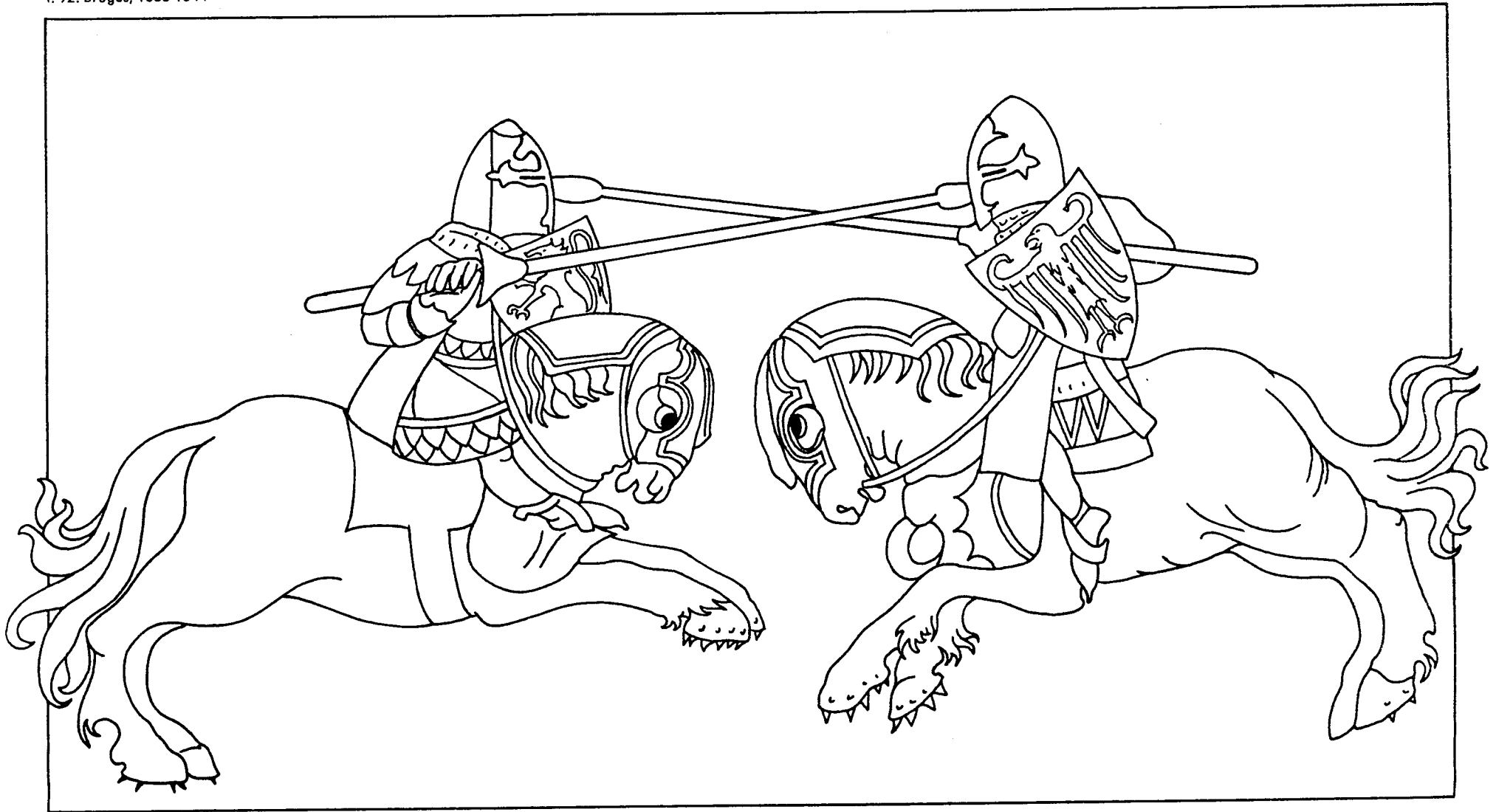
Tel: 0296 436226 (24 hours)

### ASTON ABBOTTS TODDLERS

We are experimenting with a new time: 1.30-3pm on alternate Wednesdays (to make it easier for parents with older children at school). If you are looking after children under five do come and join us - £1 gets you 90 minutes of companionship, colouring, Playdough, rice or sand, music, kicking your legs in the air on the baby mat or (popular final activity) running around shouting while someone else is trying to sweep the floor. And a cup of tea. See What's On for dates.



From the Romance of Alexander,  
Oxford, Bodleian Library MS. 264,  
f. 92. Bruges, 1338-1344



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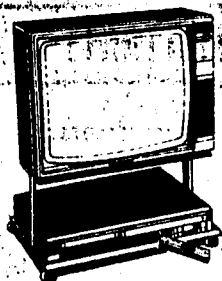
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