

The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



April 94

No. 125

Editorial



MONEY !

The eve of the new tax year is perhaps not a great time to be talking about fundraising. Over the last year many people have contributed huge amounts of time, energy and money to the churches in the village, the Recreation Ground, the Chronicle, the School Association and other local activities. And this is in addition to the increasing claims on our consciences and purses made by national and international charities. However, it is clear that if the fabric of the village is to be maintained and improved there will need to be more fundraising over the next year. For this, the Festival weekend 23/4 July is crucial - it is the single largest fundraising event of the year.

However, the Festival is about more than money. It is the one event that can bring together everyone in the village, in what can be a really enjoyable and fun day. We want as many people as possible to be involved in the weekend. Please mark the dates in your diary, and contact Fete Committee members if you have ideas or offers of help for the Fete on the Saturday. Committee members are Janet Biddle (681102), Chris Fox (682024), Hilary and Michael Hasler (681877), Gordon Smith (681373) and David Watts (681376); extra members would be welcome. There will be more information in the next Chronicle.

MORE MONEY!

Thanks again to all - particularly the audience! - who helped to make the Chronicle Cabaret evening such a success. We don't have the final figures yet, but think c. £275-300 has been raised.

Caroline & Gordon

Please let us have material for the May issue by Friday 22nd April: 2 Church Row, Aston Abbots, tel. 681373.

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What's on: April

Thursday 7th: Bingo
Church Room, 7.30pm

Sunday 10th: Rambling Club
meet Lillies Farm, Weedon
2pm

Monday 11th Revised BUS
TIMETABLE, see p. 11

Wednesdays 13th, 27th:
Toddlers
Church Room, 1.30-3pm

Thursdays 14th, 28th: Whist
Drive, Church Room, 7.30pm

Thursday 14th: Ladies Club
Mrs Kathleen Turner,
"The Wedding" talk
2.45pm, Church Room

Saturday 16th: The DB's,
Wingrave School See p. 13

Tuesday 19th: Floral Class
Church Room, 7pm

Friday 22nd: Parish Council
8pm, Church Room

Sunday 24th: Rambling Club
meet Calverton 2pm

Thursday 28th: Ladies Club
Miss Joan Archer, "Hidden
Bucks", talk and slides.
2.45pm, Church Room

Sunday 1st May: coach outing
to Hatfield House/Gardens.
Depart The Green 1pm. Book
with Colin, 681343

QUIZ NIGHT
Saturday 23rd April
In aid of St James's Church

Gather a team of 6 or 8 and
join the fun. Tickets £3.50
(inc. supper) from Colin
(681343) or Doris (681243).

REGULARS

Tuesdays: Bin Day
NB No collection on Tuesday
5th April: Wed. 6th instead

Tuesdays: Trawler wet 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

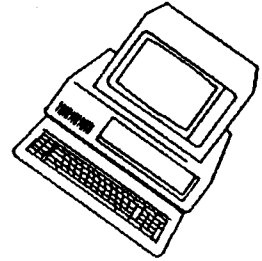
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Church news

During March we held our annual Vestry and Parochial Church Council meeting, when both John Ford and Len Scutchings were re-elected as our churchwardens.

The Vicar thanked all members of the PCC for all the work they had put in to keep the church going during the year, especially the fund raising events.

Our fund raisers in March were the table top sale and sponsored walk which hopefully will have raised over £150 when all the money has come in. Our April fund raiser is a QUIZ night, so why not gather a team and join in the fun? The price (£3.50) includes a ploughman's/buffet supper.

We shall look forward to seeing you at our Easter Morning Service.

Winners in the March 100 Club draw were: 1st, Mr P. Legg; 2nd, Mr C. Collins; 3rd, Mrs Dixon.

ST JAMES'S CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

1st April 10.00am	FAMILY SERVICE	Churchwardens
	Good Friday	
3rd April 11.15am	EASTER COMMUNION	Churchwardens
	Easter Day (p.577) Col 3.1-11; John 20.1-10	
10th April 11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Colin Higgs
	Easter 1 (p.605) 1 Cor 15.53-end; Jn 6.32-40	
17th April 11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Gillian Wyer
	Easter 2 (p.611) 1 Pet 5.1-11; John 10.7-16	
24th April 11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Alison Ford
	Easter 3 (p.616) Col 3.1-11; John 11.17-27	
1st May 11.15am	FAMILY SERVICE	Gordon Kemp
	Easter 4 (p.620) 2 Cor 4.13-5.5; Jn 14.1-11	

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

17th April 6pm Rev Ireland

AN ENGLISH KNIGHT? SAINT GEORGE (& THE DRAGON)

We know very little for sure about St George - but he probably lived in the Middle East in the 3rd century, a soldier killed by the Romans in Palestine for his Christian faith. The famous story about the dragon grew many years later: how a dragon terrorizing a whole country was killed by St George as it was about to devour the king's daughter, and 15,000 people were baptized into the Christian faith as a result of George's intervention. The saint was most popular during the mediaeval age of chivalry. He became the patron saint not only of England, but also of Venice, Genoa, Portugal and Catalonia. His feast day is 23rd April. See colouring page for an illustration.

(info from the Oxford Children's Encyclopedia)

RECTOR' REPORT

The last month has seen the usual spate of Annual Meetings. There are two schools of thought about these.

One school says that they are a necessary evil. We have to have them, and if there are only a very few people present that could be a good thing. But when this happens, we always feel cheated. We expect more people to come and show an interest in what is going on - and, hopefully, agree to offer their help for the coming year.

The other viewpoint is that these meetings are so important that lots of people will want to come and have their say.

Interestingly the Church does not seem to give a minimum number for attendance at the Annual Church Meeting. But then the Church Annual Meeting is usually three meetings rolled into one.

The first part, which is open to all those who are resident in the parish is the Annual Vestry. This is a very ancient meeting, going back to the time when the Church was the focus of local government. This meeting elects the two Churchwardens for the coming year.

The second meeting is for those who are on the Church Electoral Roll. It reviews the life of the Parish Church over the last twelve months, including its finances (which these days seem to be very important). It also elects the Parochial Church Council for the coming year and appoints the sidesmen and the auditor.

The third part of the meeting is a meeting of the newly elected P.C.C. to elect their Secretary and Treasurer, to deal with any urgent business and to fix the date of their next meeting.

It all sounds deadly dull (and I have to confess - it sometimes is). Too often we get bogged down with our domestic problems. Too often we lose sight of our purpose which is the effective sharing of the Good News of Jesus with the people among whom we live.

Traditionally the Annual Meetings in the Church of England have been associated with Easter, when we celebrate the new life of the Risen Christ. Whether or not our particular parish has had a good or a bad year, we always need to see it in relation to the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

No matter how many or how few people come, the Annual Meeting is always Good News

PEOPLE ...

7

BIRTHDAYS

Chris Farrands.....1st April
Caroline Lane.....5th April
Karen Brandon.....7th April
Laura Whyte.....11th April
Robert Clarke.....18th April
Sam King.....20th April
Alison Lewis.....20th April
Kate Currey.....27th April
Diana Picking.....28th April

THANK YOU

Irene Clark wishes to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards, and flowers during her recent stay in hospital.

GOOD LUCK

Ben King, Jason White and Daniel Smith, who all start school this term (it has been suggested we should say good luck to Miss Carter instead...)

A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW

***The term barrel as a unit of measure can mean 32 gallons of herrings, 200lbs of meat, 2cwt of butter, 5,826 cubic inches of cranberries or 36 gallons of beer.

***It would be impossible to have a nice cup of tea at the top of Mount Everest. At 29,000ft, water boils at 72 C.

***If the earth's evolution was measured as one calendar year of 365 days, humans first appeared at about 18.17 hours on 31st December.

***Behind the moat at the Abbey is a rockery which won 2nd prize at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1937. Mrs Morton bought it and had it transferred to the Abbey. Some of the stones in it weigh two and a half tons.

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at The Church Room, Aston Abbotts on Monday 7 March 1994,
7.30 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES, AND LET GORDON SMITH
KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY INACCURACIES

PRESENT Chairman of the Parish Council (Caroline Lane),
Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting (Gordon Smith), 11 members
of the Parish and PC Griggs. Apologies received from Jean
Barnett, The Rev. Bob Willmott, Brenda Jennings and Bryan
Round.

MINUTE 1 The minutes of the previous meeting were read,
accepted by the Meeting, and signed by the Chairman.

MINUTE 2 Matters arising

A418 Caroline Lane reported that the Government had withdrawn
previously proposed plans for the A418, and that a Government
announcement on the subject was expected in late March; that
the Government Inspector had given his view that in relation
to the Wing bypass only the Northern or 'Rothschild' route was
worthy of further investigation; that the Parish Council would
keep chasing for further information.

MINUTE 3 Neighbourhood Watch

On behalf of Jean Barnett, Caroline Lane announced that the NW
scheme was revitalized, and that there had been a good
response to the request for local coordinators. At present,
coordinators were as follows: Jean Barnett, Janet Biddle, John
Brancker, Roy Malin, Les Smith, Chris Fox, Rosemary Franklin,
Chris Brandon. Two further coordinators were required, and
residents in the relevant areas would have their arms twisted.

Richard
Plessted.

MINUTE 4 Police

PC Griggs reported that he was in imminent danger of becoming
a father. He further reported on recent crime in the area.
There had been a small outbreak of crime in the village,
principally affecting cars. Villagers concerns about this had
been discussed with members of the Parish Council. Four cars
had been tampered with, two had been stolen, and cars from
outside the village had been dumped locally. One arrest had
been made following the theft of a car in the village. Most
incidents had taken place between 3 and 4 a.m.. He said that
there had been isolated examples of poaching or 'lamping', but
that these had been nearer to Wing than Aston Abbotts. Of the
16 villages that he covered Aston Abbotts and Cublington were
still the quietest. He acknowledged concern about speeding
through the village, and said that some cars had been stopped:
no charges had yet been brought. He hoped that the imminent
move of the police station to Wing would enable him to be more
visible in Aston Abbotts.

He urged that villagers should always ask for identification
of anyone presenting themselves as antique dealers, and should
always check the bona fides of such callers by ringing their
offices. He also urged that all criminal incidents should be
reported to the police to enable a full picture of crime in

the area to be constructed.

MINUTE 5 Village Festival 1993

Gordon Smith reported that total net proceeds had been £930.58, and this had been distributed as agreed at the 1993 APM - i.e. St James's Church 30%, Church Room 20%, Methodist Church 20%, Recreation Ground 15%, Chronicle 10%, Toddlers 5%.

MINUTE 6 Village Festival 1994

The dates for the the 1994 Festival would be Saturday 23 July (Fete) and Sunday 24 July (Church Patronal Festival).

The following had agreed to serve on the Fete Committee: Janet Biddle, Chris Fox, Gordon Smith, David Watts. Although a number of others had offered their services for the day itself, further Committee members were urgently required. [At the time of preparing these minutes Hilary and Michael Hasler have also volunteered for the Committee, which has held its first meeting. More volunteers would be very welcome.]

It was agreed that the distribution of proceeds would be as for 1993.

MINUTE 6 Church Room Management Committee

Colin Higgs reported that one coin meter had been replaced, but that at the time of the Meeting the new meter was out of order. He further said that a Committee meeting would be called when estimates for renewal of guttering and external decor were to hand.

In response to requests from villagers estimates had been sought for improving toilet facilities. Because any new building would have to meet stringent hygiene and safety standards the estimates had proved to be very high - in the region of £15,000-£22,000 - and that therefore plans had not been taken forward. The Chairman urged that these discussions be publicized to enable wider discussion.

For the record, membership of the Committee continued to be Ruth Bellingham, Barbara Bellingham, Chris Brandon, Margaret Chesher, Colin Higgs, John Ford, John Whyte, Doris Scutchings and the Rev Willmott.

MINUTE 7 Recreation Ground

It was reported that new swings had been installed, and that new hedging had been put in place and much clearance work done. Those who had contributed were thanked. Infuriatingly, immediately following the latest clearance work more garden refuse had been dumped at the Rec. A successful fundraising walk had been held in the autumn. Estimates for new safety surfacing were being sought. The Chairman explained that the Recreation Ground Committee was a Subcommittee of the Parish Council, consisting of 3 councillors - Vic Scott, Roger Biddle and John Ford - plus, representing the village, Bridget Brandon, Chris Brandon, John Whyte, Lawrence Hinds and Margaret Kent. More volunteers to help with the work of maintaining and improving the Recreation Ground would be very welcome.

MINUTE 8 The Chronicle

John Whyte (Treasurer) had submitted outline accounts to be presented in his absence. For the first time in some years 'The Chronicle' was running slightly low on funds as a private 'sponsorship' had run its course. The balance stood at £189.37, compared with £447.88 a year previously. However, the forthcoming Cabaret evening, advertising revenue, and the contribution from the Fete should enable the Chronicle to continue for a further 12 months.

MINUTE 9 AOB

A question was raised about the maintenance of the seat on the Green. The Chairman said that this had been attended to the previous weekend and that the seat would be looked after.

A question was raised about loose kerbs around the Green. The Chairman said that some work had been done by Bucks C.C., but that she would check if further work needed to be done. The meeting closed at 8.13 p.m.

NEW BUS TIMETABLE from Monday 11th April

	<u>Mondays-Fridays</u>			<u>Service 65</u>			
AYLESBURY	7.15	9.00	11.00	1.00	3.45	4.00	5.45
ASTON ABBOTTS	7.38	9.23	11.23	1.23	4.05	4.23	6.08
L/BUZZARD	8.00	9.44	11.44	1.44	-	4.44	6.29
M/KEYNES	8.50	10.23	12.23	2.23	-	-	-
M/KEYNES	-	-	-	10.30	12.30	1.30	5.00
L/BUZZARD	7.25	-	9.11	11.11	1.11	2.11a 2.45d	5.45
ASTON ABBOTTS	7.44	8.05	9.32	11.32	1.32	3.06	6.10
AYLESBURY	8.09	8.19	9.55	11.55	1.55	3.30	6.32

Note new buses from Leighton at 11.11 and 1.11
The 12.11 has been dropped

Saturdays Services 5 and 65

AYLES.	7.15	8.00	9.00	11.00	12.00	1.00	3.15	4.15	5.45
ASTON	7.36	8.23	9.23	11.23	12.23	1.23	3.39	4.39	6.08
L.BUZ	7.58	8.44	9.44	11.44	12.44	1.44	4.00	5.00	6.31
MK	-	9.23	10.23	12.23	-	2.23	-	-	-
There is also a 9.25pm from Aylesbury to Wingrave Crossroads and on to Milton Keynes									
MK	-	-	-	10.30	12.30	-	2.30	-	5.00
L.BUZ	7.25	9.11	10.35	11.11	1.11	1.35	3.11	4.11	5.40
ASTON	7.44	9.32	10.55	11.32	1.32	1.55	3.32	4.32	6.00
AYLES.	8.05	9.55	11.20	11.55	1.55	2.20	3.55	4.55	6.23
There is also a 10.45pm from MK to Wingrave Crossroads									

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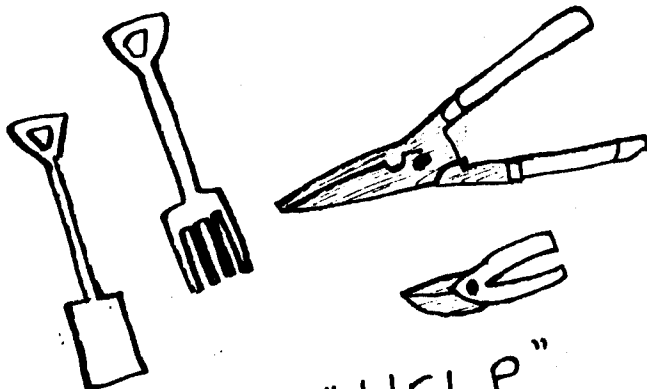
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**ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB
THE NOT SO YOUNG TEA AND OUTING**

The Aston Abbots and Cublington Ladies Club have decided to make changes to the Not So Young Tea and Outing. It has been decided to have a coach trip to Waterperry Gardens near Thame on the afternoon of 23rd June where besides gardens there is a church to visit, shops and cafeteria. THIS COACH TRIP IS FREE TO CLUB MEMBERS AND ANY OLD AGE PENSIONERS FROM ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON.

The cafeteria provides teas, members and OAPs to pay for their own, or bring a picnic tea. The reason for this change is because members and committee who are in the main largely OAPs themselves find it increasingly tiring to prepare. The club felt this idea to be a possible alternative.

Should any OAP be interested please contact Shirley Ford on 681865.





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THE CHRONICLE

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Chris Brandon, 12 Bricstock, 681425

Margaret Chesher, 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 Chesher, 20, The Green, 681201

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

Dinner & Cabaret

At last March 12th arrived. Cabaret night in the Church Room. Only three years waiting for a ticket! Had my hair done and put on my new frock. (Actually a Guernsey sweater might have been better - brrrr.) Soon warmed up however with buckets of wine and lager. Fish/chicken and chips arrived from Linslade - excellent. Mushy peas went down a treat! As for the Sherry Trifle - words fail me!

On to the Entertainment - Musical Genial Host Gordon Smith. "The Group" kicked off - Chris and Bridget Brandon, John and Anne Brancker and John Whyte singing "You Win". The same crew appeared later - minus John W. - as Shabba, a wonderfully funny take-off of Abba.

The Moat Lane Hoppers, alias Jackie and Haidee, told us about the trials and tribulations of being a toad in Moat Lane at this dangerous time of the year. Who mentioned SEX - no not me! John Whyte's rendition of "Love Changes Everything" from "Aspects of Love" had us gasping in the aisles, or was it just me! More excellent solo singing from Vinny and from Lyn Manning, accompanied by the ever versatile Neil Chesher.

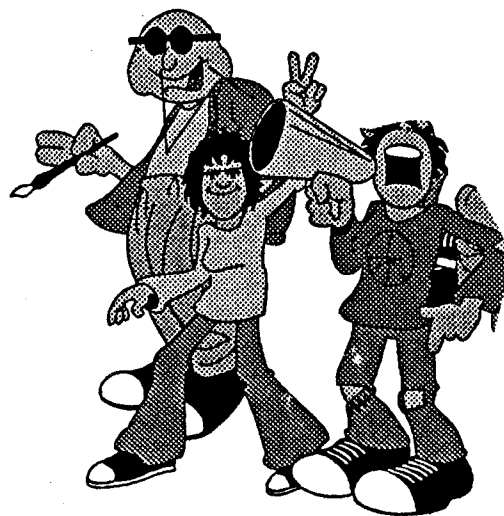
We then had the Big Pork Pie, c/o Noel Edmonds House Party. Interrogator: John Whyte. Totally unsuspecting victim: Chris Brandon. How could you have done that to Norman's lawnmower, Chris?

And when you see Lyn Manning walking her dog, look more closely - some farmers are very adaptable!

Lots of comedy, lots of musical entertainment, talent in abundance. A Good Night had by All. Do you think I could reserve a ticket for 1995 Mr Brandon?

ALISON LEWIS

The cabaret has ended
 And the stage has had its day.
 The props are packed away again
 Chesher's organ put away.
 The compere's stopped his singing
 And the pop group's stopped their prance,
 John & Bridget Brandon have cut the romantic dance.
 The frogs have ended croaking,
 And the quiz of Brandon's done;
 The dog has stopped his antics;
 The Italian's game is won.
 It's only left for Ivor
 - That man of many parts -
 To pen the final comment
 And reach right into your hearts.
 Yes Ivor Cheek was there my friends
 To see the village show;
 He ate a shovel-ful of chips
 Sat in the second row.
 When John Whyte tried to catch him,
 Crying "Sit down Ivor Cheek!"
 I think the man in question
 Had gone outside for a!
 No you'll never spot old Ivor,
 For he's always in disguise.
 He looks a touch bucolic with his weary bleary eyes.
 Yes Ivor Cheek was there, my friends,
 And what he hopes will last
 Is true appreciation for the efforts of the cast.



IVOR CHEEK

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Isabelle Mora 0525 270684

Unofficial notes from the meeting held on 4th March.

Matters arising

Street lights: the new light by the shop is throwing too much light back onto residential property and the installation company is to be asked to recommend a solution.

Local government reorganization: the parish council felt that the present system of Bucks County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council worked well and would therefore recommend to the Local Gvt Commission that both be retained, but that Milton Keynes should become a separate authority.

PC Griggs and Sergeant Owens had come to see councillors in response to the parish council's concern about low policing levels in the village. There is little they can do without more resources and therefore welcomed the council's letter of concern to our MP. (See annual parish meeting notes for further details.)

The Lines Hill Gate had been replaced and a letter of thanks was to be sent to Mr & Mrs Von Simson.

Planning applications

The poplar tree at Windmill Hill barns, lopped recently: there had been some doubt about whether the tree was part of the conservation area; the owner of the tree explained to the parish council that it had been lopped because it was dangerous.

Land at Oxley's Farm: the parish council had had a special meeting and supported the landowners' appeal against an enforcement notice.

Bridge Farm (near Rowsham): agricultural worker's dwelling refused by AVDC

Maplewood, The Green: garage extension allowed on appeal

Accounts £336 for new lights; £23.99 repair of light; electricity £39.40; Clerk's salary/expenses £376.65; £133.60 repair of bus shelter roof; Bucks Association of Local Councils £37.31; Parochial Church Council £50 (annual grant); Church Room rental, £25 (annual).

AOB It was decided to enter the Bucks Best Kept Village competition at a cost of £5. The seat on the Green had been rubbed down and oiled. Residents of Ross Road had requested an extra street light and a quote would be sought. BCC would be asked to repair the footway near the Hole in the Road (i.e. junction of Ross Road/Green) and replace the drain.

** Cllr Scott and Dean Wiggett had spent much time working to clear the Rec of debris in preparation for the mowing season and were dismayed to find that garden clippings had been dumped there again. PLEASE DON'T - the idea is that the mower will be able to extend the grassed area and it can't if there are branches in the way.

It was noted that some of the local footpaths were spoiled by litter. The parish council felt that it was probably people outside the village, not local residents, but agreed that a notice should be put in the Chronicle all the same.

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY 22 APRIL, 8pm, CHURCH ROOM

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For further details contact either,

Sheila Featherstone, 0296 681292 or

Rita Jones, 0296 681850



THE FIVE ELMS

Due to the demand of cashing cheques, planning permission has been sought and approved for the installation of a cash point machine outside The Five Elms. This will be in operation as from April 1st.

Alternatively come and see our new glasswasher and get your socks washed while you wait.

.....
Easter Sunday Lunch

Sunday 3rd April

Our new Antipodean Chef prepares a special turkey lunch. Please book in advance.

.....
Ladies Night

Wednesday 6th April

Leave the chaps at home, come and have a natter, nibble and raffle.

.....
Teutonic Night

Friday 15th April

Guest Chef Night with a slightly Germanic flavour. On with your leather shorts, come and join Helga, Hildegard and Heidi for a bit of thigh slapping and dreadful music.

.....
78's Night

Thursday 28th April

Roll back the years, even further this time.
If you've still got them, clear off the cobwebs and crank up the turntable.

.....
Sunday Lunches

Only on 3rd and 17th April

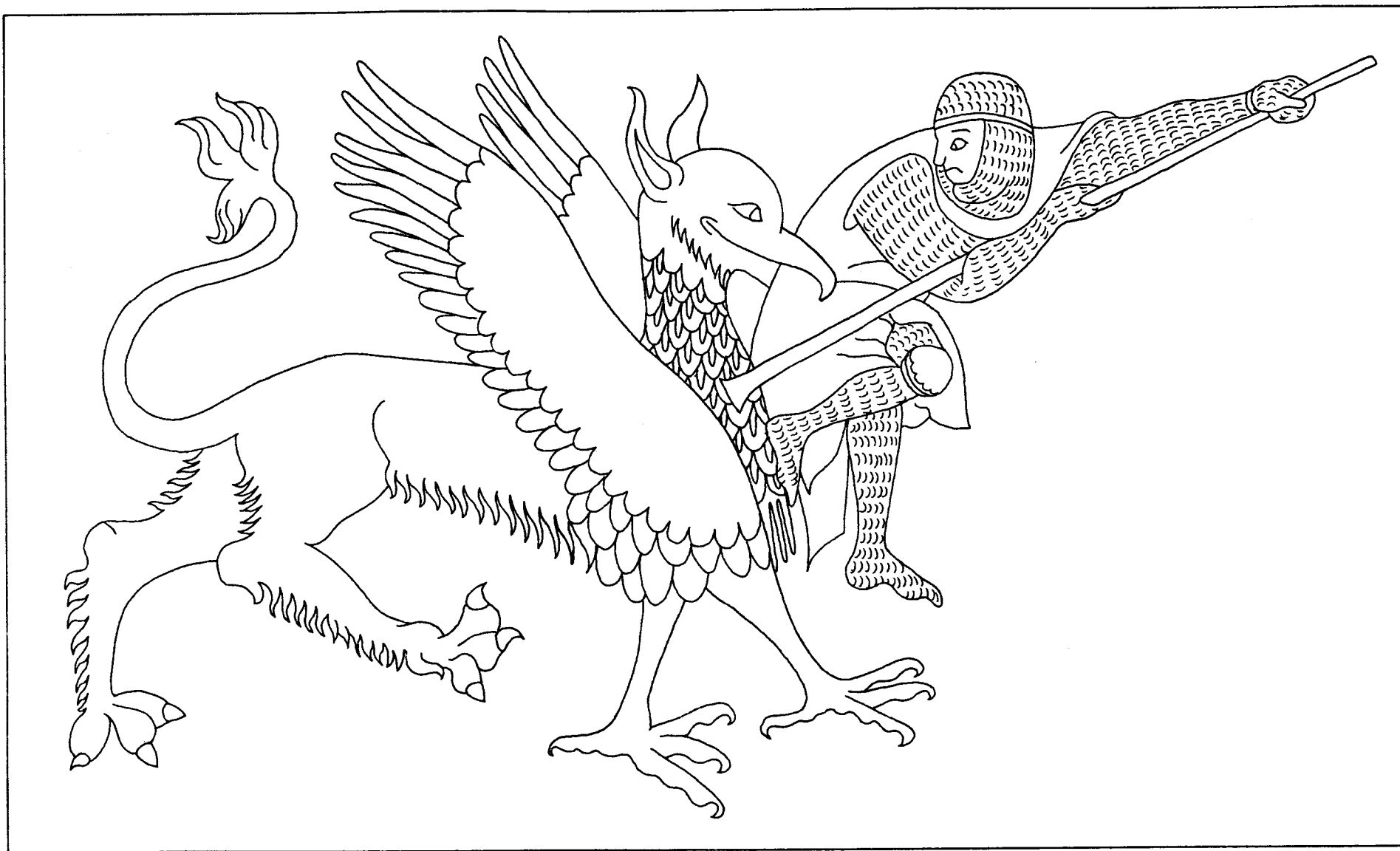
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THE BACK PAGE

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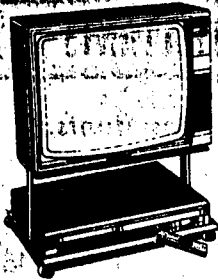
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