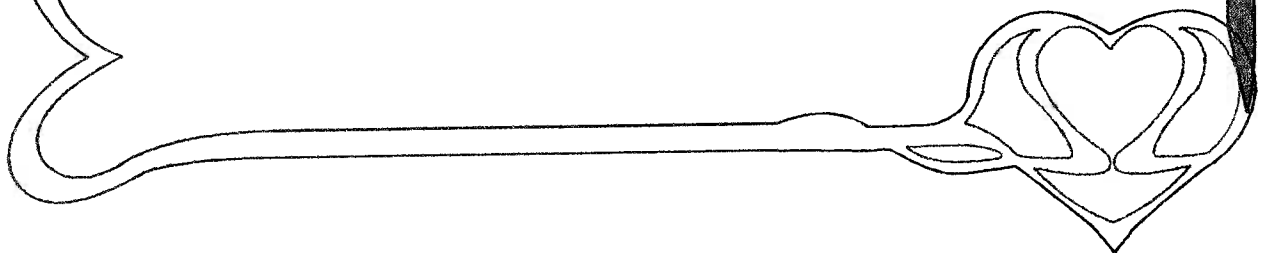
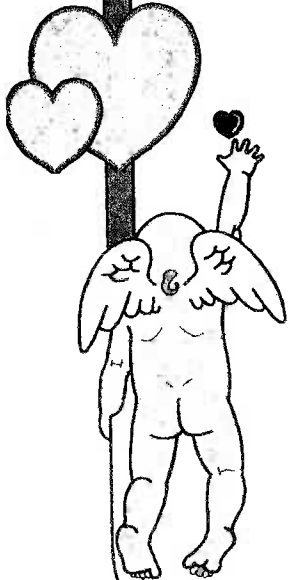
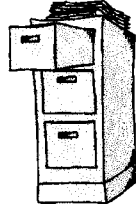


The Chronicle

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine

Issue No. 156 February 1997





Like most people, I've always felt that following the fun, 'warmth' and entertainment of the Christmas period, January seems such an endless and uncharitable month. I suppose this feeling emanates from the onset of the seasonal cold weather with little prospect of a respite for at least two months. Well, this January certainly lived up to this reputation with almost un-broken cold and unpleasant weather. Despite this, I have to say it seems to have gone by in the proverbial 'twinkling of an eye'. Perhaps our homespun village entertainment contributed considerably.

Firstly, having got over the New year's hangover and enjoyed a week of having the house to ourselves again, it was time for The Chronicle 'drinks morning'. It was nice that this was followed a week later by the Great Horwood Silver Band who provided some welcome entertainment on a cold Sunday afternoon (the 12th). Then of course there was the 'late, late Christmas Show' who's preparation kept many of us occupied throughout much of the month and of course which provided such good entertainment during the last Friday and Saturday.

Non of this of course improved the weather. However, even this had it's positive side in that it seems to have inspired pupils at Wingrave School to write poems on the theme of winter. Mr McClellan kindly sent me three of these which I feel were all worthy of being included in The Chronicle. The one which I feel sums up this months weather best is included here.

Winter by Laura Blake

It is a bleak and callous morning
Snow lays crispy and sparkles like crystals
As I step outside the light snow
Crunches beneath my feet
As I slowly move through
The thick creamy icing sugar snow
I notice a bright shiny layer of ice
The wild raging wind is like a polar bear
Shivering down my spine
The chilly bitter wind howls round my ears
Making me feel that I'm enclosed by wolves
The wind leaves me and screams around deserted street
And whistles through leafless trees
I turn to walk down lonely empty streets
My only warmth and comfort is the hovering UFO lights
I feel the biting, bitter weather
Making me feel like I'm living in the arctic
Over in the distance the foamy, bubbly snowy hilltops
Look like cake covered in a sparkly snowy sugar
I notice shiny glistening icicles
Like twisted bony fingers of Ice witches
The Freezing mist swallows me like a white darkness
The mist overtakes the air in the fight for space
The frustration of not knowing what is lurking beyond
The never-ending mist freezes me in my tracks
I turn back towards my house
The world seems quiet as a secret.

And finally, thanks for those of you who sent commiseration's for the loss of Boss.

Andy Bystra



Printed by the Squirrel Press at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all households in Aston Abbotts

Please note that copy date for the February issue will be Fri. the 21st of February 1997 All items for publication will need to reach me (Andy Bystra. 31 The Green, (Tel 681 690 or 688 125) by this date please.

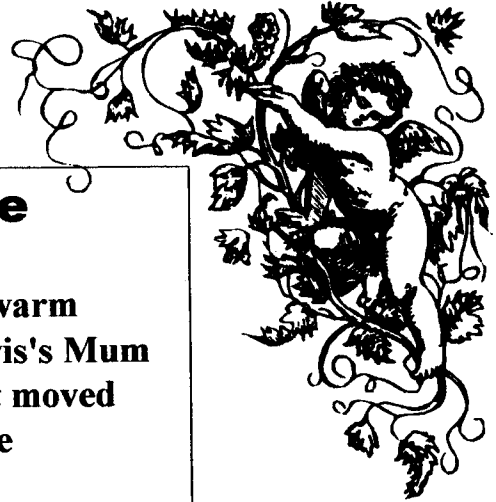
RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE

A very happy birthday to all those celebrating their birthday during February, especially;-

Michael Coleman 4th Feb.
Ivy Brandon 5th
Pablo Gutierrez 7th
Vika Drysdale 7th
Barry White 9th
Haidee Mogford 13th
Richard Clarke 13th
Paul Hewitt 14th
Tracey Lovell 23rd
Linda Wheaton 25th
Daniel White 25th
Anita Parker (some time in Feb??).

Welcome

We extend a very warm welcome to Alison Lewis's Mum and Dad who have just moved into the 'Old Telephone Exchange.



THANKS

Anna Lee and Kate Featherstone would like to thank everyone who supported their 'Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale' for Leprosy.

They raised just over £82.00

- WINTER SPORTS -

The ice upon our pond's so thin
That poor Mamma has fallen in!
We cannot reach her from the shore
Until the surface freezes more.
Ah me, my heart grows weary waiting -
Besides, I want to have some skating.

Congratulations

To Dave and Allison Lewis on their substantial Lottery win. (see back page for further detail!!)

Best Wishes

We extend our very best wishes to Shona, Stephen and Ross who just can't bear to leave Aston Abbots and so have moved all the way across the road to Nash's Farm.



Drama!



at **Leighton Buzzard Theatre**

Saturday 1st March, 8pm
Traffic of the Stage present
SONS & LOVERS

Based on D.H.Lawrence's classic turn of the century novel, this play depicts the early years of Paul Morel - a sensitive coalminer's son and his dramatic relationship to three women. A cast of ten explore the theme of unrequited love in this superbly staged drama.

Friday 7th March, 8pm
Proteus Theatre present
THE FALSE HAIRPIECE

A wedding and a funeral prompt the reunion of a family. Even the prodigal son returns to the fold and all is forgiven -or so it seems! As hidden family tensions surface everything is turned upside down! Feel shivers of farcical recognition as you glimpse your own family foibles in this hilarious comedy not for the faint hearted!

Tickets from £5.50. Group discounts available for six or more

24hr Information Line

For up-to-date information on events call **(01525) 381414**

BOOK NOW!

Call (01525) 378310

**Leighton Buzzard Theatre,
Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard**



THE LATE LATE CHRISTMAS SHOW

or
'STARTREK VILLAGER'

The (Late Late) CHRISTMAS SHOW this year, (6 weeks late to be precise) introduced some new and talented faces into the Aston Abbotts Thespian Group. From the audience side of the curtain we were treated to some stunning special effects courtesy of Dave Lewis although even his video of life at the pub couldn't make 'Black Frank' look attractive. The lighting provided by Dave and musical input by Jack Rennie, our Musical Director, made a considerable contribution to the professionalism of the Show.

The main sketch was cleverly written by John Brancker and was hilarious. It was backed as usual with scenery by Andy Bystra with other helpers this year. You can tell Andy's a retired engineer from the mechanical detail in the scenery. However he seems to be losing his touch since the screw heads don't even go in the same direction any more.

Neil as James T Berk, over-acting as always and yet somehow managing to combine comparing, acting, playing the keyboard and continuity all together. How does he do it? Splendid effort.

Lt. Oohyouha, was played by Margaret Kent in a very revealing outfit. Juliet and Linda clearly had got dressed in the dark otherwise what explanation could there be for foundation garments 'on the outside'.

The serene Anne Brancker played Queen Ming and as always was word perfect; albeit slightly over the top with the hair style. She was supported by Linda, Juliet and an emerging young star Christina Tomlin. This year, totally out of character with his previous appearances, was 'Lunch Box' Whyte. Instead of playing his usual 'heavy and nasty', he was Chief Engineer Snotty. Superb performance but a pity about the Scots accent! Gordon gave a convincing performance as P.C. Groogs but appeared to be selling vacuum cleaners on the side!

Halisi Drysdale and Anthony ensured that there was some culture included by displaying the depth of musical talent we have in the village amongst our younger folk. 'The Gambolinis' were a

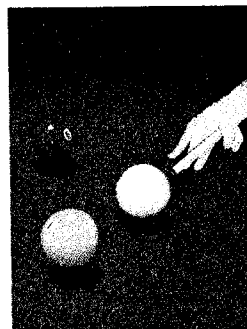
last minute introduction but what big strong boys!

Finally one must mention the help given by Anita Parker in painting the scenery for act two, Sarah for helping out with some of the costumes and Rita our 'front of house lady' who also prompted and pulled curtains etc. Tony and Ray on the Bar would like to offer their personal thanks to Jack for his sterling efforts in contributing to the net profit of the Show, and also Black Frank for just being Black Frank.

Given that the Show this year was after Christmas, are we still able to look forward to the Chronicle Cabaret Evening and next years Christmas show being on time?. I don't know, because we should not under-estimate the huge amount of effort and time given by all the members of the Aston Abbotts Players. They make a magnificent contribution to the entertainment and traditions of the village; giving up huge amounts of time, to say nothing of nervous energy, to ensure these evenings are a success.

A big THANK YOU to you all, and if I have missed anybody out, I apologise.

Ray



TONY'S SPORTS COLUMN

Since I last wrote in the Chronicle, the Bull & Butcher Pool Team was knocked out of the Cup 4:3 by the County Arms of Stone. It was a very close run battle, the match going to the very last frame. The Royal Oak suffering the same fate in their Cup Match.

The next League match was against the White Horse "A" Team, Whitchurch, getting a good draw result away from home. The next week against the White Horse "B" Team after going 3:1 down, came storming back to win the last 4 frames to clinch a 5:3 victory. But our luck didn't hold as we lost 5:3 against the Swan Grendon Underwood in our next game.

Tony



The Trevor Howard Country Band

will be appearing at

WINGRAVE COMMUNITY CENTRE

on the evening of

Saturday the 19th of April 1997

**Tickets which include a buffet supper are £5.00 each
and are available from George and Christine Fox on
01296 682024**

Proceeds in aid of St James Church Aston Abbotts

WHAT'S ON IN FEB. 97

Tuesday 4th Bucks Road Safety Meeting County Hall Aylesbury 7.30pm

Thursday 6th Bingo Whist drive Church room 7.30p

Monday 10th Rambling Club AGM. 13 Moorlands Wing. 7.3pm.

Tuesday 11th Shrove Tuesday; pancake day. Floral class (Note change of date) Church room 7.00pm.

Thursday. 13th Whist Drive Church Room 7.30pm.

Sunday 16th Rambling Club Member's meet at Great Brickhill Village Hall 2.00pm.

Thursday 20th Bingo Whist drive Church room 7.30pm.

Wednesday 26th Parish Council Meeting Church Room 8pm

Thursday. 27th Whist Drive Church Room 7.30pm.

IMPORTANT Church room

Please note when making a booking the key **must** be picked up and returned **promptly** to Doris



Thank you

Members of the 630 Club are reminded that they should ensure they arrive on time and in the prescribed dress code.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The following timetable is effective until April only when schedules for mobile libraries are to be reviewed.

ROUTE 2B - CALLING ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

*Aston Abbotts Wingrave Rd	9.30 - 9.45
*Aston Abbotts The Green	9.50 - 10.20
*Wingrave Abbots Way	10.30 - 11.00
*Wingrave The Bell	11.05 - 11.25
*Wingrave The Green	11.30 - 11.55
Wingrave School	12.00 - 12.20
Watermead Pavilion	12.30 - 12.40
Watermead Lakeside	12.45 - 1.05
Quarrendon Holland Rd.	2.15 - 2.30
Elmhurst Byranston Av.	2.35 - 2.45
Hawkslade. Barley Cres..	3.00 - 3.30
Hawkslade Tyne Rd	3.35 - 4.00
Thistle Court (Plym Rd.)	4.05 - 4.25



Dates for 1997

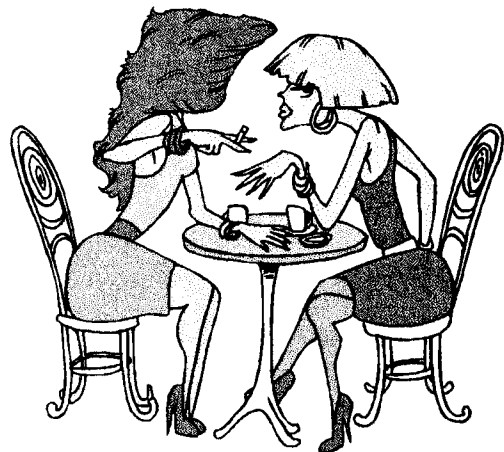
Jan. 7th & 21st

Feb. 4th & 18th

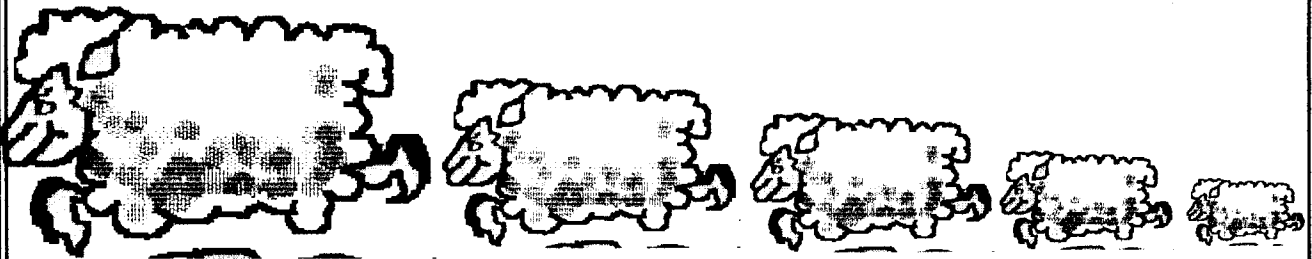
March 4th & 18th

** These are weekly stops*

LADIES CLUB NOTES



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ANSWERS TO JANUARY

Across: 1 Dunstable. 9 Tone
 10 Ostend. 12 Andrews. 13 Ada.
 14 Deed. 15 Aden. 16 Herd. 17 Asset.
 20 Horse. 21 Set. 22 Troy. 24 Tear. 26
 It. 27. Ski. 29 Ennead. 31 Aero. 32 Dade.
 33 In. 34 Asparagus.
 DOWN: 1 Done. 2 Understands. 3 Nerd.
 4 Towed. 5 Ass. 6 BT. 7 Leader. 8 Enders
 9 Tadcaster. 11 Dandelion. 15 Ahoy. 18
 Seen. 19 TT. 20 Hot. 23 Rider. 25 Reap.
 27 SE. 28 Kris. 30 Ada

ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1&2 Down. Bucks Town (7&9) | 1. To gratify (6) |
| 7. First Australian (abbrev 3) | 2. See 1 across |
| 9. A cord (9) | 3. To bury (5) |
| 10. Clamorous (5) | 4. Approached (6) |
| 12. Founded (11) | 5. To make bigger (7) |
| 14. Celtic prefix for rivermouth (4) | 6. Earth (4) |
| 15. Everything (3) | 7. Tree (3) |
| 16. Painful (4) | 8. Cricket run (3) |
| 17. Produce designs on metal
plates (4) | 11. Land surrounded by sea (4) |
| 19. Royal letters (2) | 13. Order hens (anag 9) |
| 20. Prods (4) | 18. Herts town (5) |
| 23. Exclamation (2) | 21. Inner part of country (6) |
| 25. More necessary (7) | 22. Discrimination of basis of
of gender (6) |
| 27. To subdue (5) | 24. A slave (5) |
| 29. Religious woman (3) | 26. The E.E.C. (2) |
| 30. Shining (8) | 28. Boy's name (abbr. 3) |
| 31. Demonstrated (5) | 31. 225 degrees on compass (2) |
| 32. Girls (7) | |



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Butcher**

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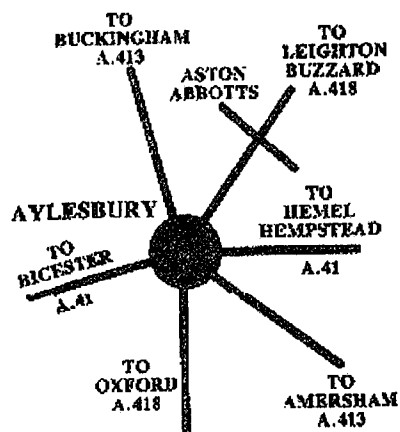
***BAR FOOD LUNCHTIMES**

***EVENING MEALS**

***FUNCTION ROOMS**

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For Bookings,

Telephone: **01296 681520**

Guest Beers

'Stewkley men'!!

That very well known 'ancient gentleman' of the village and myself found ourselves in one of those frequent and irritatingly long queues that occur from time to time to get into Bernards shop. If my memory serves me right it was the day that Bernard was giving double Green Shield stamps on that wonderful imported smoked salmon he's so well known for. Anyway, we started talking about the 'good old days' and in particular, when he worked on the farm with Percy Rickard.

In, in those days, hay was made into ricks as a convenient means of storage. Because these ricks were often quite tall, they had a tendency to be blown over in high winds and to prevent this, large baulks of timber were used to prop them up. Percy told our then much younger 'ancient gent', that such timbers were always known as 'Stewkley men' because from a distance they looked men with nothing better to do than lean against ricks. No doubt this rather derogatory term developed from inter-village rivalry.

Since the 'ancient gent' has a tendency for 'spinning yarns', and at the time I was rather miffed to find that having spent considerable time in the queue that Bernard had sold out of the much coveted smoked salmon, I thought little more about 'Stewkley men'. However, on relaying the story in the pub a few days later to Tom Manning, he confirmed that the phrase is still in use since the sloping timbers used to support corner fencing posts are still called 'Stewkley men'.

Ed.

Bucks CVS notices

Would you like to run a Beetle Drive to raise funds for The Aylesbury Hospice? Posters and score sheets can be provided. If you are interested contact the Friends of Florence Nightingale on 01296 or me
(Ed)

Cathy Irving took up post of Community Liason Officer at Bucks CVS on 2nd Jan. 1997 and can be contacted on 01296 21036.

SWANBOURNE HOUSE SCHOOL DOMESTIC ASSISTANT

required at Swanbourne House School for;-
cleaning, dining room and pantry duties.

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Thurs. 3 - 7.30pm

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Duties are in time only. An hourly rate of £3.50 is offered for weekdays to 6.00pm and £3.85 after 6.00pm and at weekends. Three weeks full holiday and half pay retainer will be paid for all other holidays.

*If you are interested contact Mrs B. Hope
(Housekeeper) on 01296 720264.*

Having difficulty deciding what
sweet or pudding to prepare for that
special party?

Havent got time to prepare them?

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Puds for Parties

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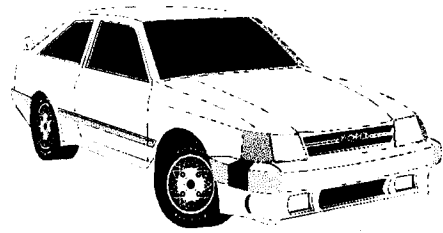
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PARISH COUNCIL

*Unofficial notes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 15 January 1997*

D/Cllr Round attended the meeting.

1) State of Roads

a) **Roads around the Green** and near the shop were deteriorating and water was lying on the road when it rained.

b) It was agreed to write to the Highways department reminding them of the Parish Council request for a pavement from the **30 mph sign** to the New Zealand Cottages on the Wingrave Road, and the problem of the verges from the Old Masters Restaurant to Cold Comfort Farm.

2) Planning Matters

a) Decisions - A/96/2194/AGN rear of **2 Abbey Cottages**, Moat Lane - Agricultural Building APPROVAL

b) **Nash's Farm** - AVDC had received a planning application from banner Homes for 5 dwellings on the front of the Nash's Farm site. Cllr Lane stated that a special planning meeting would be called to consider this application.

3) Comments For Bucks Budget Briefing 2

The Parish Council agreed to forward the following comments:

a) They did not feel able to comment on cuts in services except that they were concerned about any reduction at all.

b) They suggested that BCC looked at a Council Tax rise in line with other Counties and used reserves where required. A 13.6% rise in Council Tax was unacceptable.

c) What would be the effects of the use of reserves on future services?

4) Memorial Tree/Bench In Village

BCC had indicated that a bench on Lines Hill would not be the best site, however a reply was awaited in writing. Mr and Mrs Sharpe had written to say that an Oak Tree in the corner of their field would be acceptable.

5) Conservation Area

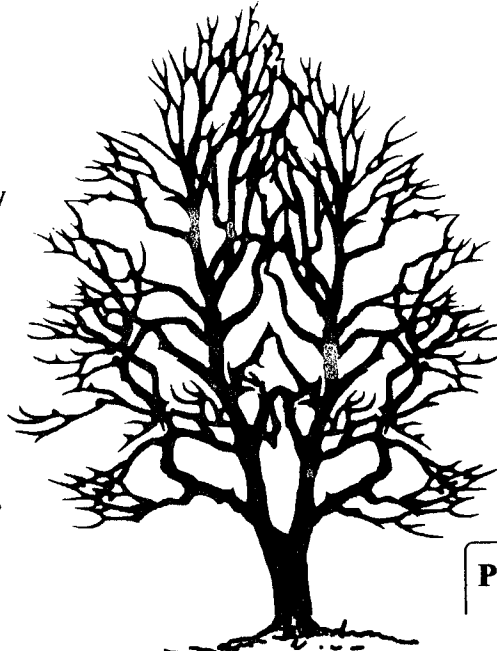
It was noted that the residents of Windmill Hill Barns requested that their property not be included in the Conservation Area. It was agreed to find out when AVDC expected to review the Conservation Area.

6) Set Precept

After discussion of the proposed budget, and possible expenditure for next year, it was agreed to set the precept at £ 3,750.00 for the year April 1997 - March 1998.

7) Reports

Garden rubbish had been dumped behind the bus shelter on The Green.



Sue Taylor

Paul Esders

Gourmet Seafood's

Quality seafood from around the world delivered to your door.

The following is a small selection from our extensive product range:-

Fish

Whole Salmon £2.99 per lb
Salmon steaks
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Shellfish

Lobster tails
Gambas King Prawns
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Garlic King Prawns
Breaded Wholetail Scampi
Peeled Scampi tails
Chilean Scallops
Giant Greenlip Mussels.



Meats.

Scottish Sirloin Steaks
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Prices on request or to order, just ring;-
Paul Esders on 01296 21642

15% discount given on production of this advert

HARDWICK PLAYGROUP

Playleader required for friendly village playgroup.

D.P.P. trained or equivalent required.

If you are interested, please phone 641221

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR GARDEN?

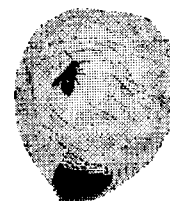


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The Great Horwood Band at St James

Despite the cold, around forty people came to St. James to listen to this Sunday afternoon recital. I don't think the full band turned out but non the less they looked to be rather cramped in the space between the choir stalls. Non-the less, they played a varied and entertaining programme; perhaps with a bias towards the classics. For my part, I would have preferred a few more traditional and rousing brass band pieces, even if only to get the feet tapping to keep the circulation from giving up altogether. It was that sort of day!

Yes! although the heating had been put on some time before the performance it was cold in the church. This wasn't too bad for the audience because they remained wrapped up in their outside coats. However, I sensed that the band members who only wore rather flimsy uniforms were suffering some what, resulting in the occasional loss of concentration.

The performance lasted just over two hours and raised funds for the church. Overall, it was a very pleasant afternoons entertainment and one which I for one hope is repeated.

Ed.



Winter Poem by Lindsay Jones

The Bleak Callous morning and the snow lays thickly on the ground
A crisp arctic biting wind settles in the air
The desolate streets have a feeling of emptiness around them
The mist swallows you like a white darkness that never seems to end
As freezing as a distraught glance
Cars are covered in a white blanket of snow
The wild raging wind as persistent as a pawing cat
In the distance the foamy, bubbly hill tops seem to smile at you in a thoughtful way
A chilly bitter wind blows around my ears
Shiny crystals hang from peoples roofs
The raw cold blooded wind whips at the fallen trees
It howls around the deserted streets
And whistles through the leafless trees
The wind whispers in my ears
As quietly as a secret which lingers in the air
The frustration of not knowing what is lurking beyond the never-ending mist
Shining, glistening icicles like twisted fingers of witches chanting evil spells
Slowly moving through the thick creamy icing sugar snow grasping at my feet
A bright layer of ice catches the eyes of passers by like sky in summer.

Winter by Colin Antosiewicz

One bleak and callous morning
The bitter Arctic biting weather sparkles like diamonds
The desolate streets have a feeling of eeriness around them
A mist swallows you like a white darkness
Freezing much as a mean glance of Jack Frost
Cars covered in a white blanket of snow
Like white monsters in the middle of the street
A wild raging wind brings the snow into your pale face
The mist takes over the sky like white smog
The flaky, fluffy snow covered hilltops
Look like they are covered in a white sheet
A chilly wind howls around my ears
Shiny icicles hang from peoples doors
The raw breathing wind whips the tree branches
I am frozen to the bone
As the wind howls around the deserted streets
And whistles through the leafless trees
The cool breeze bashes vigorously against your face
The wispy white snow crunches as you plod along the street
The whispering wind tells you a secret in your ear so quietly
Bright and white snow covers the roof tops
The frustration of not knowing what is waiting beyond
The never-ending mist of the frost
The snow sparkles like sugar in the pot on the table
Shiny icicles like twisted fingers
Of witches on Halloween

CAN YOU SPEAK FOR SOMEONE IN NEED OF HELP?

Aylesbury Vale Advocates (AVA) is a local charity which has been working throughout Aylesbury Vale for four years

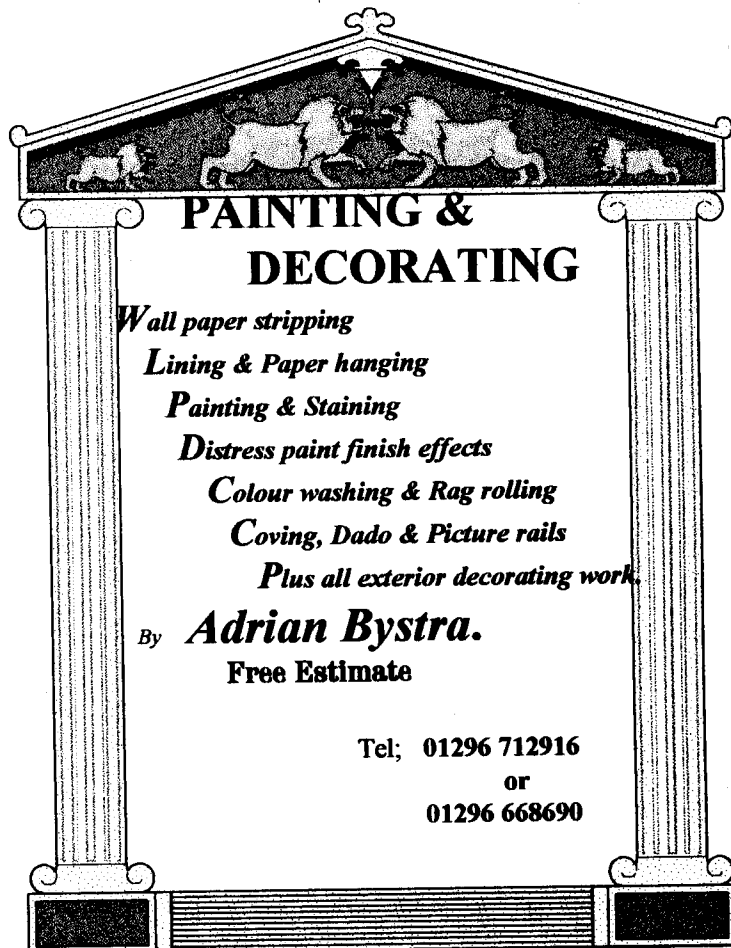
AVA helps people with communication difficulties which prevent them from voicing their own needs. These difficulties may arise from a variety of causes, learning of physical disability, or old age.

AVA volunteers get to know their clients well so they can then speak out or write on their behalf when need arises - for example to agencies like the local council, health authority and social security. Help has also been given by volunteers in arranging holidays, obtaining advice about benefits, personal budgeting, making appointments and attending meetings with solicitors, doctors and social workers, finding accommodation and dealing with correspondence.

Volunteers are fully supported by the AVA Co-ordinator, a qualified counsellor, who offers advice and training. Out of pocket expenses are paid.

If you have a caring nature and a couple of hours to spare a week, you can apply to become a volunteer. To find out more about our work, please contact:-

THE CO-ORDINATOR
AYLESBURY VALE ADVOCATES
7, TEMPLE STREET
AYLESBURY
HO 20 2QA
TEL 01296 432313
CHARITY REGISTRATION NO. 802724



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The Bull & Butcher

will be holding a 'St Patrick's Night'

Charity Evening

In aid of 'Macmillan Cancer Research'

on

Saturday the 15th March.

Marquee

Live Irish Music

Food

Dancing

Entry by ticket only. £13.00 per head.

To book; ring The Bull & Butcher on 681520

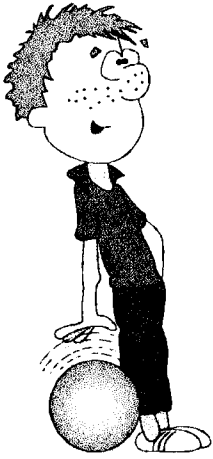


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**WINGRAVE
PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**
(Dec./Jan. 1997)

Welcome to 1997 and a new year at 'Pre-School'!

We are delighted to announce that we are formally registered to receive Nursery Vouchers. Administration of the scheme should prove a challenge for all of us over the coming year.

Following our last Committee Meeting held on 13th. January, we have now formally adopted various policies on matters such as health, hygiene, child protection and equal opportunities etc.

Finally, our Christmas Party included a Nativity play, Father Christmas, party food for the children and Mulled wine and mince pies for the grown-ups. A video is available; either for hire at 50p per week or, if a tape is supplied, donations in excess of £1.00 will secure a personal copy. Please contact Julie Vaughn (01296 681332) if you are interested.

If you have any questions or comments concerning Pre-School please contact either our Play-leader June Hill (01296 682153) or me (01296 681332
Julie Vaughn

**WADDES DON CHURCH
OF ENGLAND SCHOOL**

The Governors wish to remind parents that, as in previous years, applications for admission in September 1997 must be made directly to the school.

The closing date for applications for September 1997 is Monday 10th March.

For further details please contact the school - Telephone 01296 651382

**A FEW USEFUL
TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

A V DC.	(01296) 555555
Bucks County Council.	395000
Electricity Queries.	(01582) 498888
British Gas (Southern).	415555
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Thames Water.	(0645) 200800
Police .	(01296) 396000
Electrician.	(01296) 681755
Tax	i(01296)688739/681013
Samaritans.	(01494) 432000
Doctors Gibby/Dunford.	(01296) 688201
Lilley/Jones	(01296) 688949
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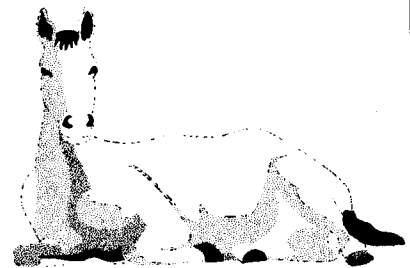
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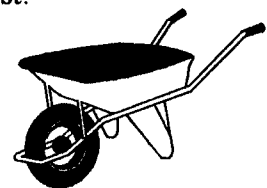
*Or
Rita 681690*



Allotment News

There is a vacant plot to let. If you are interested please contact Michael Hasler 681877

Allotments rents are due at the end of Jan 97. If yours is outstanding, please pay your 'subs' to Colin soonest.





CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY READINGS



2.Feb.97 - Candlemas (p.758)
1 Peter 2, 1-10; Luke 2, 22-35

9.Feb.97 - Quinquagesima (p.496)
Philemon 1-16; Mark 2, 13-17

16.Feb.97 - Lent 1 (p.505)
Hebrews 2, 14-end; Matt. 4, 1-11

23.Feb.97 - Lent 2(p.509)
1 John 4, 1-16; Luke 19, 41-end

2.March.97 Lent 3 - (p.514)
Col. 1, 24-end; Luke 9, 18-27

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

19.Jan.97 James Stacey at Wingrave

Funerals

16.Jan.97 Nona, Lady Essex at Amersham

ASTON ABBOTTS

2 February	11.15	Morning Service
9 February	11.15	Parish Communion
16 February	11.15	Parish Communion
23 February	11.15	Parish Communion
2 March	11.15	Morning Service

CUBLINGTON

2 February	10.00	Family Service
	18.00	Evensong
5 February	10.00	Holy Communion BCP
9 February	8.45	Parish Communion
16 February	8.45	Parish Communion
23 February	8.45	Parish Communion
2 March	8.45	Parish Communion

WINGRAVE

2 February	10.00	Parish Communion
9 February	10.00	Parish Communion
12 February	20.00	Ash Wednesday Service
16 February	10.00	Parish Communion
23 February	10.00	Guide Parade Service
2 March	10.00	Parish Communion

Church flowers for December at Aston Abbotts.

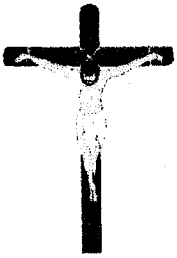
W/E 1/2 - Mrs B Davies

W/E 8/9 - Mr C. Higgs

W/E 15/16 -No Flowers

W/E 22/23 - (LENT).





RECTOR'S REPORT

It has been suggested that we use this Lent to think about the "Five Strands of Mission".

These are:-

- a) Proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
- b) Teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- c) Respond to human need by loving service
- d) Seek to transform unjust structures of society
- e) Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The first two seem fairly obvious. Clearly the Church is all about proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom and it needs to teach, baptise and look after those who are responding to that good news. Responding to human need by loving service seems to me to be urging us to follow the example of the Good Samaritan - and in our particular group of villages I am conscious that we already do that pretty well.

But as with all things, we need to be reminded from time to time. Are we really as good as we think we are? Does our response to human need sometimes slip from "loving" to "grudging" service? Are we doing enough to encourage new believers, or are we too busy with the "regulars"? Does our telling of the good news still have its cutting edge? And so on ...

Strands d) and e) pose other problems, and I have to admit that it took me some time to see what they were about. If strands a), b) and c) are about being too gentle, these last two are about being too harsh.

The unjust structure of society that we are urged to transform are those areas where people are exploited. It can be extended into a full-blooded fight for the rights of ethnic minorities or the sale of arms to third world countries, but it is still as potent when we consider the times when we as individuals "use" people for our own advantage.

Similarly with the last strand. It is possible to wax eloquent about global warming, conservation and other environmental issues, but we do need to take seriously the way we use the finite resources of our planet. Who was it who said "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors but borrow it from our children"? It was the Psalmist who said "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it".

Lent is not a bad time to stop and think about our relationship with God's world and with each other.

Bob Willmott

**ST JAMES' CHURCH,
ASTON ABBOTTS**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Rev, R Willmott	Tel; 681623
Shirley Ford	" 681865
Christine Fox	" 682024
Michael Hasler	" 681877
Hilary Hasler	" "
Ann Godman	" 681763
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the help line
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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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GWEN KEMPSTER

53 The Green, 681310

CAROLINE LANE (Chairman)

2 Church Row, 681373

MARGARET KENT

6 The Green, 681454

TOM MANNING

23 The Green, 688547

SUE TAYLOR (Parish Clerk)

3 The Acorns, 681 875

District Councillor

BRYAN ROUND

11 Nup End, Wingrave, 681621

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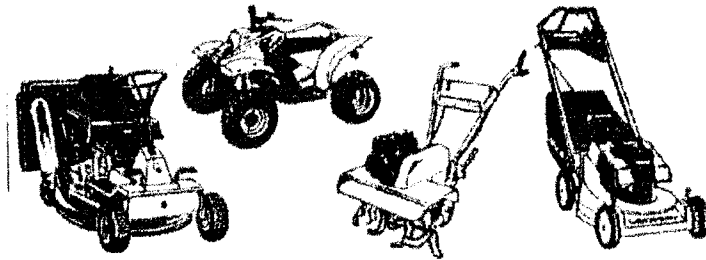
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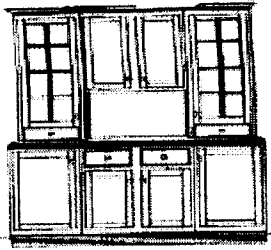


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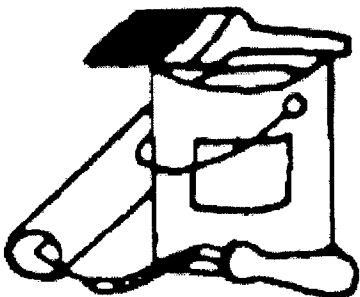
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