

# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE

ISSUE 183 - OCTOBER 1999

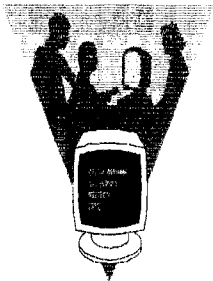
Just another day at the Alpaca luxury ranch.....



“70 degrees in the shade and I bet the Vet’s  
*still* got cold hands when he gets here!”

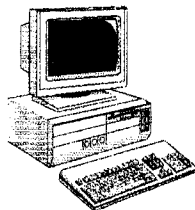
THE CHRONICLE  
online  
e mail us at  
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See inside for details of our  
Alpaca caption competition



# Editorial

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September



[astonmag@aol.com](mailto:astonmag@aol.com)

The power of the pen! Following last month's editorial and several articles in **THE CHRONICLE** (oh, okay, *and* pressure from the Parish Council and a number of other local bodies) we at last have some progress towards improving the notoriously dangerous A418.

The Council (AVDC or Bucks CC??) has painted white lines along the edges of the road, removed the central broken white line and replaced it with a central reservation of diagonal white lines and (perhaps) the no-overtaking stretches of road have been lengthened.

Alas, I fear that this effort will not be sufficient to reduce the number of accidents as many of the more reckless drivers will ignore this somewhat unclear law and cross the diagonal lines to overtake. I would be interested to hear why the Council has decided not to place double white lines along the entire stretch of road from Wing to the Wingrave cross-roads (as requested by our Parish Council and other local organisations) - surely the vast majority of drivers would respect this far clearer ban on overtaking?

At least the Government appears to be taking matters in hand, with a reduction in the speed limit on rural roads from 60mph to 50mph strongly rumoured for inclusion in The Queens Speech in November. Mr Prescott has also suggested that the number of speed cameras will be tripled - let's hope that some of those find their way to the A418 (and the A413 for that matter).

Now to more sociable matters, as we enter the final few months of the Millennium we've lots of "last ofs" coming up. The last Bonfire Party of the Millennium (on The Rec, at least) should be the best yet - make sure you take a LARGE firework with you on the night; the last Harvest festival and auction of the Millennium; the last Halloween night and so on..... details of events can be found inside this issue of **THE CHRONICLE**. With so much going on over the next few months I am expecting plenty of articles from readers describing the final events of the Millennium, so get writing!

We also have the Aston Abbots history book to look forward to. Currently in its final stages of preparation by AAH (Aston Abbots

History), it's not too late to make a contribution (especially a financial one to help meet production costs) or offer help - see Claire's AAH report for more details.

Finally, thanks to everybody for getting your articles etc. to me earlier than usual in September - we're back to a somewhat more relaxed schedule this month!

Anyway, enough of my ranting - enjoy **THE CHRONICLE**!

*Audi Swain*

## IN THIS BUMPER ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- Danger in the skies
- Wacky races
- A A H
- CHRONICLE caption compo
- Harvest Auction
- Bonfire Night details
- Hysteric bike ride
- Aston Abbots Race Night
- Millennium Party update
- Lady Dodd's Almshouses
- Red Lion, Studham
- Crossword
- What's on in the village this month
- All of our regular sections and more !

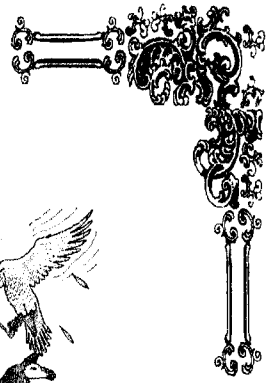
### PRODUCTION TEAM CONTACTS

e-mail:	<a href="mailto:astonmag@aol.com">astonmag@aol.com</a>
Editorial / General	Andi Swain 2 Nash's Farm - 01296 682651
Distribution	Andy Bystra 31 The Green - 01296 681690
Advertising	Ivan Greenaway 1 Nash's Farm - 01296 682605

A note to all would be advertisers - more than 196 households receive **THE CHRONICLE** 11 times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines) **can you afford not to be in?**

Copy date for the November issue is October 24<sup>th</sup> - please pass items to Andi Swain at 2 Nash's Farm or to a member of the Production Team. Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbots.

# RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE



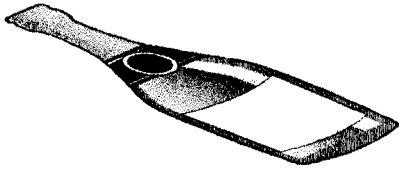
Aston Abbotts wishes a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to everybody celebrating in **October**, especially



George 'Freddie' Lowdon	1st October		
Denise Robinson	2nd	Christine Scott	24th
Juliette Gutierrez	3rd	Jackie Farrands	24th
Stuart Biddle	5th	Rita Robinson	26th
Devon King	8th	Val Espley	27th
Edward Pickering	11th	Hayley Wilkinson	31st
Juan Gutierrez	14th		

**NEW "BABY" CONGRATULATIONS**

Congrats to Liz and Ivan - proud parents (Grandparents? Aunt & Uncle? Ranch hands?) on the birth of baby alpaca Zebedee. As many of you will already know, Gloriana Alpaca has at last given birth to a bouncing boy, currently luxuriating at the Alpaca Ranch. Paddock-mate Alexia should follow suit in the not-too-distant future. All concerned are doing well.



## GET WELL SOON

It's always nice to get news of people who unfortunately have had to spend time in hospital but who are now home and making a good recovery.

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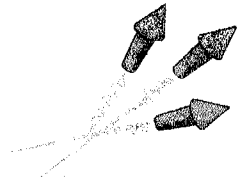
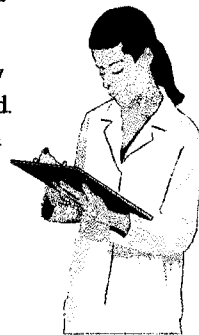
Firstly, Mrs Higgs (Colin's mum) who spent three weeks in Stoke Mandeville hospital, is now making very good progress and we wish her full good health soon.

The second lady to welcome home from hospital is Mrs Ellis who suffered a household accident to her leg. We hope her injury heals soon.

Finally, our good wishes go to Fred Poulter who had a fall whilst on holiday and hurt his back and leg. Unfortunately Fred had to spend some time in bed. However, we are pleased to report that he is now up and about and although suffering some discomfort hopes to still give a demonstration of the Tango with his wife Molly at the Millennium party. We are all looking forward to this, Fred so please get well soon.

## FIREWORKS PARTY

Aston Abbotts bonfire night party Friday November 5th at 7.00pm on The Rec - Bring a **LARGE** firework with you - see **page 6** for more details



Let RITA know about your news, birthdays, or forthcoming event...phone Rita on 681690

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	Inside	£ 10
Front page 1/8 <sup>th</sup> size per month		£ 5
OTHER SIZES	Inside	£ 10

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Aston Abbotts, Aylesbury  
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GEORGE FOX  
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TONY HINDS  
6 The Green - tel. 681454

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682115

**KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)**  
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**MARGARET KENT**  
6 The Green 681454

**LINDA SUTTON**  
Sadlers Farm 681413

**JOHN SANSOME**  
Longmore Farm 681010

District Councillor

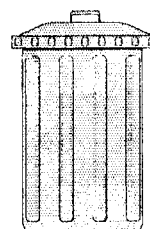
**PETER COOPER**  
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County Councillor

**BRENDA JENNINGS**  
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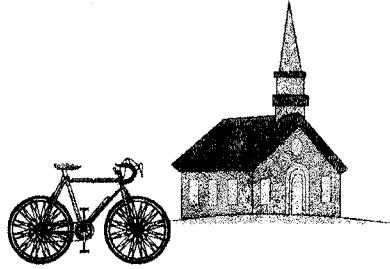
The Macintyre Centre can also take textiles  
(clothes, rags, blankets, sheets etc)  
Open 8.30am - 6.30pm Monday to Saturday

# IN THE VILLAGE 1.

## “HYSTERIC” BIKE RIDE

"Are you going to do the sponsored bike ride this year?" said Gordon K. casually a few weeks ago. "Well, all right." We were trampling our way through their garden to get our bikes as usual, so that's what we had to say, isn't it? Later discovered that we had serious competition: two days before the ride, on the bus, Colin reeled off a long list of churches he was going to visit and sponsorship promised. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September and Daniel and I set off (after football, of course) to see how far we could get. Could we beat our all-time record of four churches (counting Aston Abbots twice, that is)??

First stop Cublington, and there was Colin's name on the list. On to Whitchurch, and there he was again. Lost him at Oving, I think, from there we swept down a splendid hill to North Marston, then on to Granborough, back along the main road a little way and then to Hoggeston, Dunton (where Colin reappeared), and back via Cublington again. It was a lovely afternoon and almost everywhere we stopped we found the churches open with refreshments laid on. With all these distractions we averaged about 5mph! But we had ten churches on our list at the end (counting them all once!), astonishing our sponsors and ourselves. Money raised is split between the Historic Churches Trust and St James' here in Aston Abbots. **Caroline.**



## Sad loss

We are sorry to report the recent death of Rene Webster, who although did not live in Aston Abbots, was a long time member of the Ladies Club. Rene lived in Cublington and was a very active and stalwart member of the village. She was a busy lady, always ready to help in whatever was being organised. One of the many things she did was to deliver The Cublington Crier which was no small task for a lady in her eighties. We take this opportunity to convey our sympathy to all who knew and loved her. Her funeral took place in Cublington church on the 23rd September.

## Groveling humble apologies from the Editor ...

Firstly, I must apologise to Peter Cooper, our new District Councilor for omitting his details from the "Parish Council" section of last month's issue - and also to Bryan Round for leaving his details in! All is rectified this month (and thanks to everyone from near and far who pointed out my fau pas).

Secondly, apologies to Paul Ridgley for missing his e-mail message (see opposite) and to the WebMaster for not reading **THE CHRONICLE** e-mails in a timely manner (see opposite also)! All is rectified this month. **Ed.**

**DAZZLE THE VILLAGE WITH YOUR WIT  
WIN "MUCKING OUT" DUTIES** (Of your favourite drink)

## ALPACA CAPTION COMPETITION

Many of you will be aware that Aston Abbots is now home to two Alpacas - long necked, llama-like animals with a curious nature and delightful way of expressing their disapproval!

Ivan felt compelled to capture their moment of relaxation beneath the parasols whilst they waited in the hot September sun for the Vet. The photo appears on the front page of this **CHRONICLE** along with Ivan's caption - we want to see if you can do any better!

**So what do you think the Alpacas are saying to each other, to Ivan, or to the vet?**

Send your [printable] entries to The Editor at 2 Nash's Farm or e-mail **THE CHRONICLE** at [astonmag.aol.com](mailto:astonmag.aol.com). The editorial team will judge the entries and print the winner in next month's issue - provided you leave your name as well!! The usual glass of the "tipple of your choice" to the winner.

*I don't know - first John Brancker, now Alpacas - what on earth will appear on the front page next? Ed.*

## TRACKING DOWN LOCAL PRODUCE

*You may recall an article from a few months ago when Paul Ridgley spoke of the benefits of supporting local producers of fresh meat, vegetables and other produce. Since then we have*

*made mention of a few places locally where you can buy such items - Paul now updates the list with a new (to some of us!) discovery...*

In an article written back in April I mentioned that it must be possible to buy locally produced meat and produce from farm shops as an alternative to what's on offer in the supermarkets.

I have since found out - and this will not be news to many of you I don't suppose - that Parrott Brothers at Beechmore Farm, Bushmead Road, just outside Whitchurch (Cublington to Whitchurch Road) have such a shop. They sell a variety of other fresh stuffs as well as their own meat and vegetables. Check specific times with them but they are open weekdays until 5pm and Saturday mornings. Their telephone number is 641207. **Paul.**

*Any suggestions can be published in **THE CHRONICLE**. Ed.*

## MILLENNIUM CHEQUES

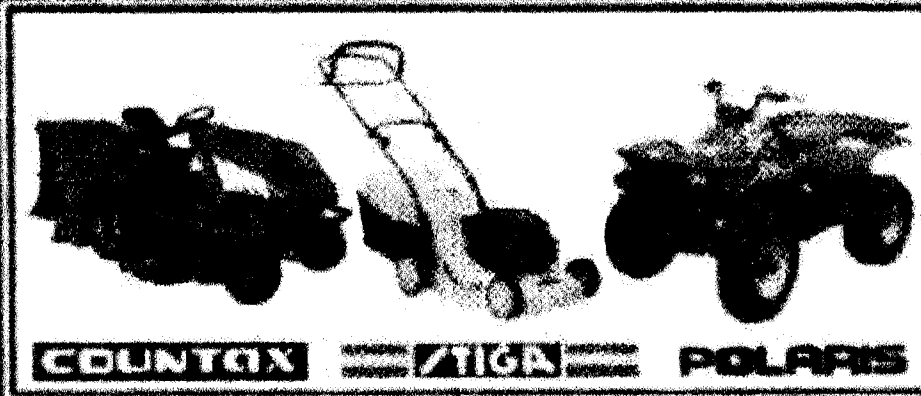
**Just a friendly reminder (before we send 'the boys' around) that if you or your guests haven't yet made the final payment for your Millennium party tickets then please do so soonest. There is to be a millennium party meeting in November after which I will be sending tickets and latest info. to all who are fully paid up.**

**Andy Bystra (Treasurer)**

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# IN THE VILLAGE 2.

## DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN

Have you noticed anything different in the skies above the village this summer? Something unusual that you can't quite pin down, but definitely *something*? Perhaps like a latticework of white smoke stretching to all corners of the horizon? And a low, sometimes near constant rumble from above?

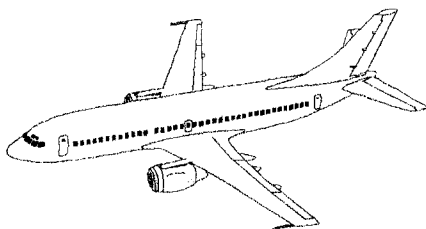
The skies above Aston Abbots have suddenly got a lot busier with planes seemingly circling around The Vale throughout the day and (occasionally) the night.

Have the Air Traffic Controllers decided to give the Thames Valley a break from Heathrow Traffic? Or did the Government give the go ahead for "Cublington" Airport without telling anyone? And have all of the planes travelled from the Costas? The answer to all of these, as Lorraine Chase would say, is "Nah! Luton Airport." (That will test a few memories. Ed.)

Our "local" airport is booming. The fastest growing airport in Britain, Luton's passenger numbers were up by a third in the first half of this year and with the opening of a new £40m terminal due in November, the average number of flights is expected to soar from 20 to 30 every hour. That is a plane overhead every two minutes.

The residents of Tring, Aston Clinton and nearby villages have written to the Bucks Herald in the past airing their concerns over both noise pollution and, more worrying, safety in the skies above The Vale. Now, according to the Sunday Times (15.8.99) new figures reveal that the number of "near misses" is increasing.

In The Sunday Times article Luton is accused of air safety lapses at its in-house air traffic control centre where parts of the system are more than 25 years old (all of the other "London" airports use National Air Traffic Services - NATS). It tells of an incident 5 miles south-west of Luton on July 30<sup>th</sup> - not yet officially reported but "leaked" to the paper - when two planes came within a third of a nautical mile of each other (around 2,000 feet) with just a 400 feet height difference. *The minimum distance between two planes approaching an airport is normally 3 miles or 1,000 feet.*



A Boeing 737 was involved in the July 30<sup>th</sup> near miss 5 miles from Luton

Luton's popularity and success as London's "third" airport is set to rise even further when a new railway station opens at the airport this autumn, increasing the demand for more flights from scheduled airlines like easyJet and the charter business.

Of course, Luton airport has its plus points. I'm sure

many in the village (myself included) have made the most of this conveniently located airport, either for a holiday or business flight. Although a little cramped, the fact that Luton is just half-an-hour's drive away overshadows any complaints we might have about creature comforts at the check-in and in the lounge!

But when a Boeing 737 and a commuter plane come within 2,000 ft of each other as one takes off and the other lands (imagine the 737 at The Bull & Butcher and the smaller plane coming towards it by the Wingrave cross-roads) there is real cause for concern.

How many more near misses like the one on July 30<sup>th</sup> will it take to persuade Luton Airport to bring its systems up to date, either through investment or by using NATS? Will market forces and runway space be the only factors determining the number of flights allowed or will safety override Corporate issues? And could increased demand mean night flights at Luton?

Whilst we are only on the flight path at present (as annoying as that is!) as plane numbers grow so does the real danger of catastrophe over Aston Abbots or a village or town nearby.

ANDI SWAIN

*If you have any thoughts or comments on this or other issues, please drop a note to The Editor at 2 Nash's Farm, or e-mail [astonmag@aol.com](mailto:astonmag@aol.com). Ed.*



## BONFIRE PARTY



### THE 1999 ASTON ABBOTTS FIREWORKS PARTY

The traditional village bonfire party will again take place at The Recreation Ground, Bricstock on the night of Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> from 7.00pm.

The party is organised by villagers for villagers and is dependent on the donations of villagers attending on the night. There is **no entrance fee** - all we ask is that you bring with you one **LARGE** firework (or more if you like!) to help the evening go with a bang. Please do not bring small fireworks as they are "lost" in such a large open space.

If you would prefer to let our resident fireworks "expert" Lol Hinds select your firework for you, you can take your *cash donation* to Lol at 69 The Green. Please **DO NOT** take any fireworks to Lol's house.

The bonfire will be built on the western edge of The Rec - you can leave firewood etc. there from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October onwards - **please do not leave anything before this date.**

**ENJOY THE PARTY! Ed.**



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# IN THE VILLAGE 3.

## A A H - ASTON ABBOTTS HISTORY

Members of the Aston Abbots History group have spent the summer most productively burrowing in archives, scribbling the results of their research, collecting objects and old photos of the village and photographing the village and its inhabitants in 1999. We are thankful that Gordon Smith has joined us as his knowledge of and expertise in the world of publishing is quite invaluable, not to mention comforting to a group of amateurs, especially since the time for research and writing is over and we now have to face the daunting task of collating, editing, printing etc. - Gordon, you are extremely welcome!

Many of you will have seen our stall at the Fete which we hope gave some idea of what we are up to. Paul Ridgley's stunning photos will be on sale for £5 each so if you want a copy of the one he's taken of your house and family or one of the general views of the village, or even one of the aerial shots do contact him.

We are most grateful to those who have been generous enough to make donations towards the cost of this venture. We have applied for a Millennium grant but there is no guarantee that our application will be successful, and since we won't know the result of the application until sometime in October these contributions are helping to keep us afloat in the mean time. If anyone else feels that we are doing something so worthwhile that they would like to contribute - please don't hesitate to get in touch! All contributors will be acknowledged in the book. We will also be looking for sponsors to advertise in the programme for the exhibition. This will reach a wider public than Aston Abbots since press and radio publicity for the event should draw people from a wide area.

Finally, don't forget our greetings cards showing a view of the shop and Old Cottage drawn by Andy Bystra, left blank inside for your own message for any occasion (contact Sally Palmer).

CLAIRE SHORRICK

*Cut Flowers*



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## Girl Meets Labrador in Cambridge

Sarah Smith was seen in broad daylight on a school day (Wednesday 15th September) at Downing College, Cambridge, patting a large black dog by the name of Lucy. Upon investigation she admitted to having won a prize in the Cambridge Young Writers' competition this year and to having gone with her teacher and her Mother to receive said prize from the Secretary of State for Education.

She also came clean about a tour of the city in an open-topped bus in the rain, a treasure hunt, a tour of the printing works at Cambridge University Press, having her photograph taken with a man dressed up in a leopard outfit, and getting on Anglia Television. However, we thought that Lucy was the real star, as she was very gracious to all 25 prize winners and laughed at all David Blunkett's jokes!

Sarah's story is called "The Great Ear Piercing",  
a true tale not for the squeamish...

## Whoops! Apologies from Paul Ridgley...

*(Erratum for 'Aston Abbots  
- The Reality Unfolds'  
dated 22nd April 1999)*

The paragraph which states "Michael and Alfred Morton, the longest living born and bred Aston Abbots men who are 84 and 87 years old respectively told us of their life in the village with fascinating stories spanning two hundred years" should of course refer to Michael and Alfred **PARKER**.

I apologise to Michael and Alfred for my error and promise not to write another article while my brain is mush!

**Paul.**

## Aylesbury Shopmobility

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Shopmobility is a scheme to allow anyone with a mobility problem, whether temporary or permanent, to get out and about in Aylesbury town centre. We loan manual and powered wheelchairs, scooters and walking aids *FREE* to help people get access to all the town centre has to offer - from shops and banks to tourist and leisure attractions.

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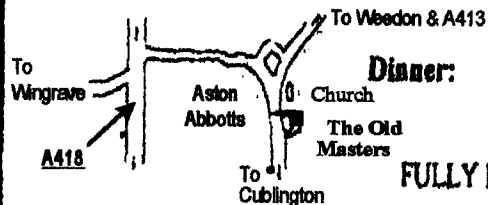
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# WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER 1999

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b> 8.00pm	Rambling Club members planning meeting 13 Moorlands, Wing
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b> 2.00pm	Cubs Bring & Buy sale in The Church Room
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b> 11.15am 2.00pm 7.00pm	Harvest Festival Service St. James Church Rambling Club members meet at Leighton Library Harvest Auction, Royal Oak
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm	<b>BINGO</b> in The Church Room
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b> 2.00pm	Village footpath walk, The Green
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm	Bucks Road Safety Meeting, County Hall
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b> 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup></b> 7.00pm	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm Floral Class in The Church Room
<b>Wed'sday 27<sup>th</sup></b> 8.00pm	Aston Abbots Parish Council meeting, Church Room
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b> 7.30pm 30 <sup>th</sup> /31 <sup>st</sup>	Race Night, Church Room  <b>British Summertime ends - clocks go back one hour</b>
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b> 3.00pm	Drayton Parslow Choir Concert, St James Church Tickets £3.00 include tea from Shirley or Anne <b>Halloween</b>



**MILTON KEYNES THEATRE**  
**OPENS OCTOBER 12TH**

Come individually or as a group. Your local Publicity Assistant can send you a programme, help arrange tours round the theatre and offer workshops for young people.

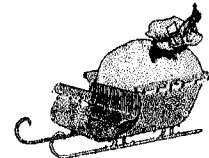
If you are thinking of booking for a group of 10 or more, you can get first night tickets for most shows for only £10 for the best seats in the house!

For further information or help please contact Leslie Geddes on 01296 72060.

## BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Xmas Shopping Trip to Derby (Book with Colin - 681343)

Full details in next month's **CHRONICLE**



### CHURCH FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER

W/E 2/3	Mr C Higgs	W/E 23/24	Mrs Davies
W/E 9/10	Harvest	W/E 30/31	Mrs Ford
W/E 16/17	Harvest		

### SIDESMEN FOR OCTOBER

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mr J Hartnett	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mr J Hartnett
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mr G Kemp	31 <sup>st</sup>	Mr G Kemp
17 <sup>th</sup>	Mr C Higgs	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Mr C Higgs

### **CUBS BRING & BUY SALE**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October from 2.00 - 3.30pm**  
**in The Church Room, Aston Abbots**  
in aid of the new Scout Hut, Wingrave

Bring and buy good quality toys, books, ornaments etc. (no clothes please). Cake / Home produce stall! Please come along on the day but if you can't make it, please leave things with Daniel Smith at 2 Church Row, Aston Abbots (telephone 681373).

\* *Bring & Buy* \* *Cake Stall* \* *Refreshments*

**Entrance 20p Adults / 10p Children**

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# IN THE VILLAGE 4.

## LADY DODD'S ALMSHOUSES, ELLESBOROUGH

An article by **THE CHRONICLE'S** historical writer, Colin Higgs

Lady Dodd's Almshouses were built in 1746 on land south of the Church and abut onto an old road known as Coach Road, leading to Chequers Court.

In her will, Lady Isabella Dodd left £2500 to trustees to be invested into properties, the income from which was to be spent on a site to erect an almshouse(s) with apartments for old men and old women, lame or blind or of the poorest inhabitants of Ellesborough.

Provisions were made for weekly allowances and for the inmates to be supplied with fitted gowns every two years.



ELLESBOROUGH  
The Almshouses

### The report of The Charity

Commissions dated 1833 stated the building be divided into four dwellings each with a door (two of which open onto a large hall in the centre and two into the back kitchen); to each of these dwellings there is a wood room attached.

In the back kitchens is an old *board of rules* defining the conduct of the tenants, breach of which could mean loss of allowance or in dire cases, expulsion.

In 1833 inmates received 3/6 per week each and 2/6 extra at Christmas, and a coat for men and a gown and petticoat for women every 2 years.

The dwellings were thoroughly restored in 1955 and modernised largely as a result of a successful appeal for funds conducted by the rector of Ellesborough, the Reverend C N White, who wrote over 500 letters in copperplate style - each letter took 15 minutes to write.

There are still 4 occupants today and happily no tenant in living memory has ever been expelled!

Colin

## LADY DODD'S ALMSHOUSES, EDDLESBOROUGH

### Rules of the Almshouses

**RULE 1** (Marriage entailed expulsion).

**RULE 2** That all men and women shall dispose themselves to do such work as they could do, and not live idle if able and in health, that by some labour they might get something to keep themselves when sick

**RULE 3** That none should lodge with them in their chambers, or lye with them upon any pretence whatsoever, but everyone to help the other by turns when sick or otherwise, being under one roof, as in charity they ought to do, and in case anyone else helps them, they are not to lodge there. But that none of them should lye out of the almshouse nor Wander, nor Beg, Alms upon any pretence whatsoever, upon pain of expulsion.

**RULE 4** (This governs the payment of weekly allowances after attendance at church service. Absence except for illness entailed forfeiture of half the allowance).

**RULE 5** If anyone dies before the year expires, their gown to go to the next that comes in.

**RULE 6** If anyone of them curse or swear, or scold or make a brawling, or quarrel, for ye first offence shall forfeit half a week's allowance, for the second shall forfeit ye whole week's allowance, to go towards the repairs of the house, and for the third shall be expelled.

**RULE 7** If any man or woman sit in an alehouse for above half an hour or frequent Ginn shops, upon the Oath of one credible witness, shall forfeit one whole week's allowance for the first offence, second expulsion.

**RULE 8** They shall forfeit one shilling each time they miss receiving the sacrament when administered in Ellesborough church.

**RULE 9** All the inhabitants to eat together in the hall, when well, and each to club or labour to get fuel to burn in the Hall in Common for them all.

**RULE 10** The Inhabitants never to be seen without their gown.

*I'm not so sure about Rule 7. Ed.*

## ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH ROOM

When the large, old 50p coins were withdrawn from circulation just over a year ago, electricity meters in the Church Room were changed to take £1 coins. This cost about £125, which is quite a large sum in terms of our Annual Income and Expenditure. But it was an expense for which we could see no realistic alternative.

Sadly, the seals on those new meters have recently been broken - but not just the seals, and we have had to find a further £125 to have the meters replaced. It is not yet known how much "free" electricity was used during the time when they were broken, but the Church Room is probably about £300 (£250 for the meters and £50 electricity) poorer than it might have been.

Well, maybe that should be £175, because the first time the meters had to be done anyway. But it is still a large sum of money - and it is **YOUR** money! Because the money that we have been forced to spend replacing the meters is money that could and should have been going towards improving the facilities that we can offer to everyone in the village.

We have tried to keep the hire charges for the Church Room low - and charging separately for the electricity was one way of doing this. Many local halls that include the cost of electricity in their charges are now charging £20 and more per hour. For the time being we are keeping our present arrangement - except that we are asking 'Occasional Hirers' to pay a deposit of £50 which will be refunded when the Church Room has been inspected.

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Just about anything!

Maximum 60 people

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01296 681243

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£2.50 per hour + metered  
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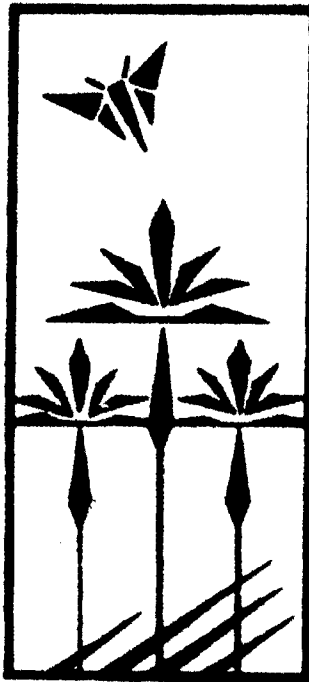
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# IN THE VILLAGE 5.

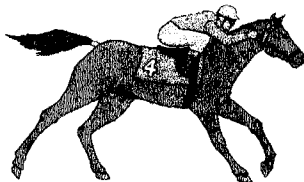
## Wacky Races!!

Many thanks to Tony Hinds for organising a very pleasant (though totally non profit making so far as I was concerned) day out to the 'Huntingdon Races' on the 31st August.

Tony had arranged for a bus driven by Pete Harvey to take 16 of us out for the day, picking up the Aston Abbots contingent at 8.00 in the morning. Having to get up this early on a Bank Holiday caused a certain amount of grumbling in our household. However, it was truly a beautiful morning and so any dissension was short lived.

It was to be a fairly long day, so the first stop was St.Ives, allegedly for breakfast and a walk along the river. Some of us managed to achieve this although quite a few, finding a pub open decided that a 'liquid breakfast' would suffice.

To ensure none of the party would suffer from 'dehydration' during what looked like being a very warm



afternoon at the races, two further stops were made at very attractive riverside pubs, previously 'discovered' by Pat Donovan and Tony during a 'recce' visit. Such was the quality of Tony's detailed and thoughtful planning!

Racing started at 2.15 and we were on the course with just enough time to place a bet for the first race. There weren't many notable winners amongst our party although Vannesa did have the courage of her convictions and backed what appeared to be an 'also ran'. On this occasion however, it won, returning a very healthy return on her £2.00 investment. The course at Huntingdon is very attractive with lots of facilities making it both 'user friendly' and a very pleasant place to be so the afternoon slipped away almost as quickly as the fivers in my wallet.



The racing over, we headed for home via (guess what?) another riverside pub; this time at Great Barford. Since this delightful pub was unable to serve food at that particular time, and everyone was by now quite hungry, the consensus of opinion was that we should head a little nearer home and stop for a

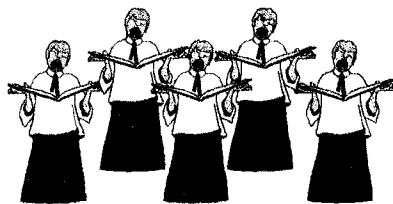
meal in Woburn (a big mistake on a Bank Holiday evening). The Fox and Hounds was our chosen venue where the food, it has to be said, was very good. However, probably due to it being a Bank Holiday, they were short staffed so the entire process got very drawn out indeed. Even the owner was embarrassed by the delays and provided free drinks to those affected.

By the time we eventually arrived home, even Frank had closed for the night!!



## FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS IN ASTON ABBOTTS

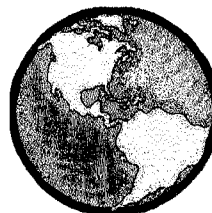
### MUSIC AT ASTON ABBOTTS



Sunday the 31st of October promises to be an exciting afternoon in Aston Abbots for lovers of good music since the Drayton Parslow singers will be presenting a concert at St. James Church commencing at 3.00pm. The cost will be £3.00 per head. For tickets or further information, please contact Shirley Ford on 681865, Anne Goodman on 681763 or Colin Higgs on 681343.

### VIC & CHRISTINE'S SLIDE & QUIZ NIGHT

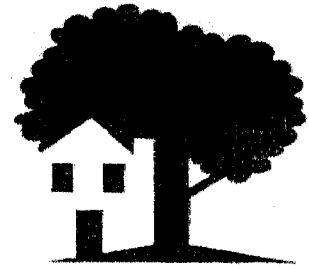
Another, ever popular Slide & Quiz show is to be presented by Vic and Christine Scott in the Church Room on Friday November the 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.30pm. As 'regulars' will confirm, these evenings are great fun and very popular, so if you are intending to come along book early.



For further information, please contact Shirley Ford on 681865, Anne Goodman on 681763 or Colin Higgs on 681343.

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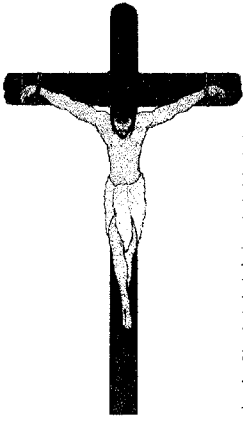
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**01296 688335 (home)**





# IN THE VILLAGE 6.



## RECTOR'S REPORT - OCTOBER 1999

I cannot now quite remember how it came into my head to see what was happening in England last time there was a Millennium.

It turned out to be a memory-triggering idea. It was a warm summer's day, not long after I had started College. Several of us decided that an outing to Whitley Bay was a reasonable thing to do. So we caught the train from Durham to Newcastle. For some reason or other, we decided to visit the town centre and

found ourselves in a second-hand book shop.

When I left for the train to Whitley Bay, I was carrying a copy of Bede's Ecclesiastical History. It says in the front 15/- - but I probably only paid half a crown for it. The date in the front is 1900, and it declares itself to be [Reprinted from Stereotype plates]. This version by J.A. Giles originated in 1847.

I don't remember much about Whitley Bay - except that there was very little of interest there, and that I was carrying a second-hand book. To be truthful, it has not been a very good investment; there have not been many occasions when I have looked at it. Bede only goes up to about 732AD. But the book also contains the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle - a brief history of England from the year 1AD to 1154AD.

So, what was happening at the last Millennium? Well the

pages from 995AD - 1007AD were, as sometimes happens in old books, among those that had not been cut. I had to open them up to find out (it seems that I am not the first to have not found great use for the book!). It looks as though the army spent most of their time sailing from battle to battle. In 998 they were in the Isle of Wight, getting their food from Hampshire and Sussex. In 999 they came into the Thames and Medway, and a fierce battle with the Kentish forces took place in Rochester against the Danes. The King decreed that a ship-force and a land-force should attack, "But when the ships were ready, then the miserable crew delayed from day to day.... In the end, these expeditions by sea and land effected nothing, except the people's distress and waste of money".

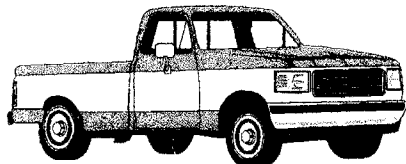
New Millennium. "1000AD the King went into Cumberland and ravaged it well nigh all". His ships were around Chester and ravaged Anglesey. During the summer his hostile fleet went to attack Normandy.

The ship bit was somewhat of a surprise. I looked at the Map in the front of the book and was surprised to see how many rivers were shown on it. It rather looks as though in those days it was more effective to get about by water than by land.

I suppose the historians this time round would speak of easyJet, Virgin Rail, the M25, and the Channel Tunnel. Transport may be a little easier - but life is probably just as fraught as it ever was!

**Bob Willmott**

## CAR BOOT SALES



*Car Boot Sale season is in full swing - here is some useful advice to bear in mind next time you visit one.....*

Car Boot Sales are attractive to buyer and seller alike. For the buyer, they are a means of finding a bargain and for the seller, they are an easy way to make money. However, there can also be many pitfalls. Bear in mind the following advice from the Trading Standards Office and you should be able to avoid most of them.

### ADVICE FOR BUYERS

Examine all the goods carefully. Ask yourself the following question: Is the seller a private person or a trader?

**If you buy from a trader** - You have legal rights under consumer protection legislation.

**If you buy from a private seller** - You do not have the same rights. However, all goods should be safe and not wrongly

described or misrepresented in any way.

*Be suspicious* if a stall has large quantities of similar items for sale and these items are very cheap. If something is ridiculously cheap it may be counterfeit or stolen. Some traders use car boot sales to sell fake or stolen goods, such as music cassettes, videos, designer clothing, perfume, toys, electrical equipment and car stereos.

*If you are suspicious*, ask for a receipt and make note of the registration number, make and colour of the seller's vehicle and if possible a brief description of the person selling. This would be useful if you found yourself with stolen or counterfeit goods.

### ADVICE FOR SELLERS

The law may consider you to be a trader if

- this is your main income
- you bought the goods specifically to sell
- you regularly sell goods at Sales

**If you are a private seller** goods should be correctly described. Goods should be safe. If someone is injured as a result of the sale, you may be sued for compensation in the civil courts.

**For further information contact Aylesbury Trading Standards Office or Citizens Advice Bureau**

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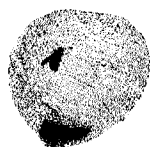
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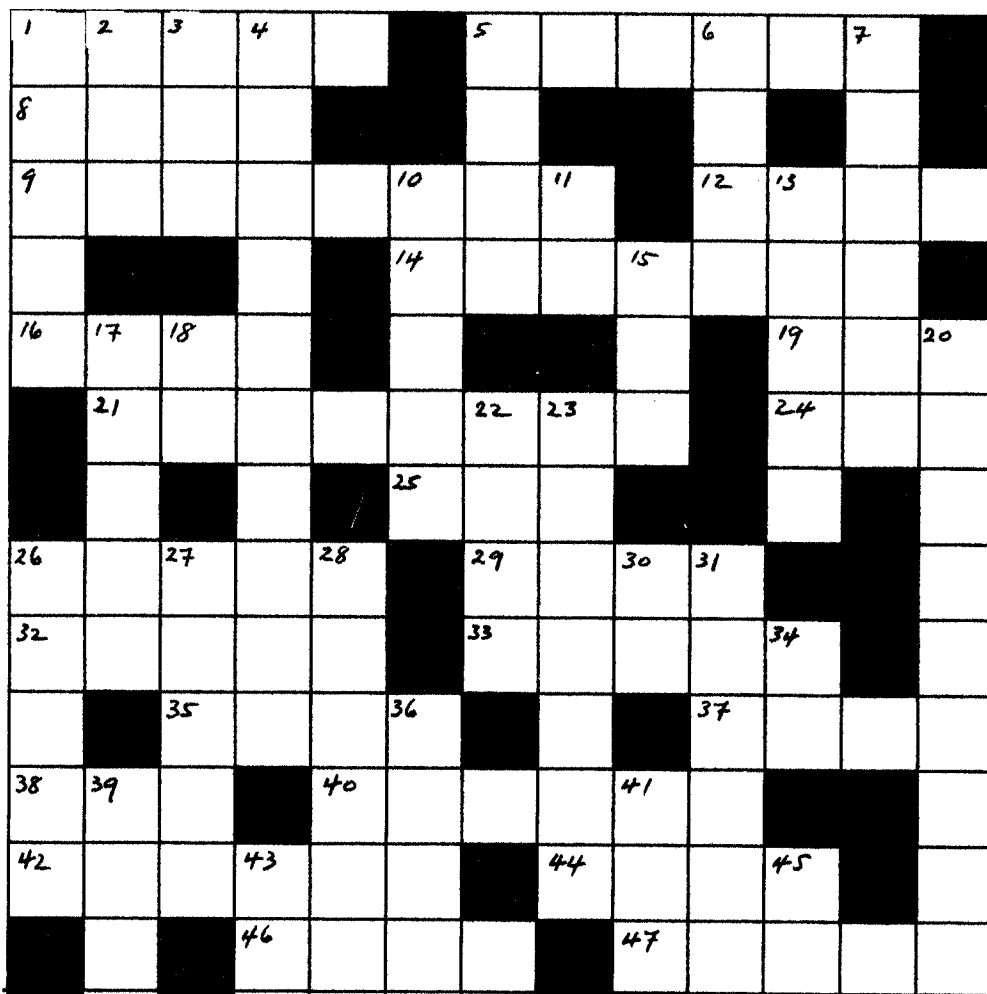
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# THE CHRONICLE CROSSWORD

**OCTOBER**



**Answers to Sept**

- 1 Highly. 4 Nation. 6  
 Dunnocks. 9 Bari. 12 Eat.  
 13 Rewards. 15 Kerosene  
 16 Never. 19 Heed. 20  
 Weedon. 23 Are.. 25 Noon.  
 27 Mir. 28 PPS. 30 CR.  
 31 Eerie. 34 Earn. 37  
 Derange. 40 He. 41 Either.  
 42 Stilt. 43 Array.  
 DOWN: 1 Haddenham. 2  
 Gone. 3 Looter. 4 Noses. 5  
 Noises. 7 Naked. 8 Krone  
 rs. 9 Ban. 10 Are. 11 RD.  
 14 Weed. 17 Eerie. 18  
 Veered. 21 Once. 22 Nora  
 24 Spirit. 26 Nine. 29 Peat  
 32 Reel. 33 Age. 35 Rhea.  
 36 Ass. 38 NHS. 39 Era

- ACROSS:** 1. Local town (5)      29. MATE (anag 4)      4. With compassion (10)      27. Lends (5)  
 5. Heat (6)      32. Coral reef (5)      5. Unit of power (electric) (4)      28. Toboggan (6)  
 8. Type of frost (4)      33. Four legged animals (5)      6. To cripple (4)      30. Roman copper coin (2)  
 9. Establishes firmly (8)      35. The ---- have it (4)      7. Warmer (6)      31. Spirit, courage (6)  
 12. Greek letter (4)      37. Strong taste or smell (4)      10. Female goat (5)      34. Country (abbrev 2)  
 14. To try (7)      38. To possess (3)      11. Thoroughfare (abbrev. 2)      36. Wrong doings (4)  
 16. First name of female NZ.  
 singer (4)      40. French town (6)      13. Chose (5)      39. DEW (anag 3)  
 19. A number (3)      42. To quit (6)      15. To supplement (3)      41. Hard edible fruit (3)  
 21. Certain, sure (8)      44. Festival (4)      17. A fool (5)      43. -- card (shows who you  
 are 2)  
 24. Before (archaic 3)      46. A counter (4)      18. Concerning (2)      45. Printer's measure (2)  
 25. Sounds like female sheep  
 (3)      47. A doctrine, dogma (5)      20. Remiss (9)        
 26. Turns over & over (5)      **DOWN:** 1. To outwit (5)      22. Same as 12 ac (4)        
 23. Day of the week (7)        
 26. Shaving implement (5)

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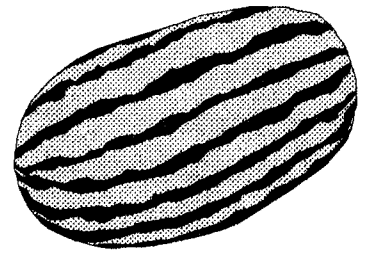
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This year's Aston Abbotts

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

## AUCTION

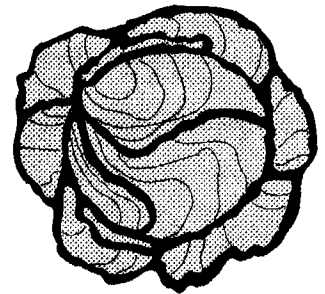


is to be held at

# The Royal Oak

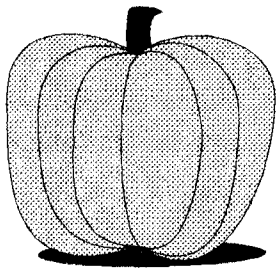
on

## Oct 10th

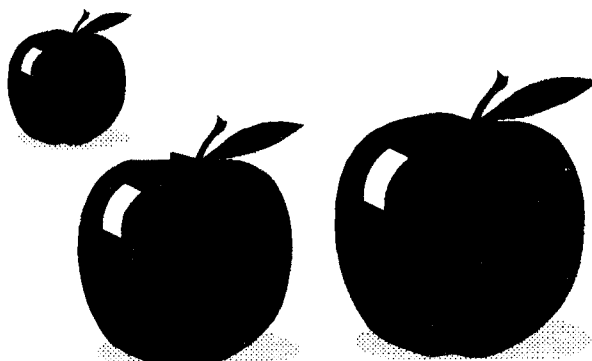
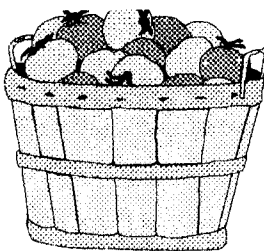


starting at

## 7.00pm



Come along, join in the fun and pick up lots of bargains. All locally grown produce; funds raised to assist church activities.



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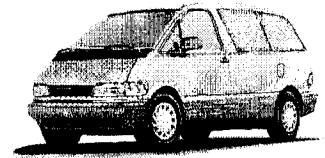
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- Evenings Out



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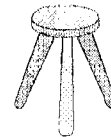
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South Tinkers Hole Farm,  
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# ST. JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

## CHURCH SERVICES

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	10.00	Cublington	Harvest Family Service
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service
	18.00	Cublington	Evensong
<b>10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Aston Abbots	Harvest Communion (Note changed time)
	19.00	Aston Abbots	Harvest at The Royal Oak
<b>13<sup>th</sup> October Wednesday</b>	10.00	Aston Abbots	Franciscan Service
<b>17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Family Service
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
<b>20<sup>th</sup> October Wednesday</b>	10.00	Rowsham	Franciscan Service
<b>24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
<b>27<sup>th</sup> October Wednesday</b>	10.00	Wingrave	Franciscan Service
<b>31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	10.00	Aston Abbots	Three Parish Communion
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service
	18.00	Wingrave	Confirmation

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Baptism

29 <sup>th</sup> August	Rebecca Bracey at Wingrave
12 <sup>th</sup> September	Ben Sanders at Aston Abbots

### Funerals

13 <sup>th</sup> August	Constance Attfield at Amersham
10 <sup>th</sup> September	Daisy Flatt at Cublington

## SUNDAY READINGS

3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Trinity 18	Phillipians 3.4 - 14
		Matthew 21.33 - 46
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Trinity 19	Phillipians 4.1 - 9
		Matthew 22.1 - 14
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Trinity 20	1 Thessalonians 1.1-10
		Matthew 22.15 - 22
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Trinity 21	1 Thessalonians 2.1-8
		Matthew 22.34 - 46
31 <sup>st</sup> October	All Saints	1 John 3.1 - 3
		Matthew 5.1 - 12

### ST JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

Rev Willmott 681623      Gordon Kemp 681763  
Christine Fox 682024

### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shirley Ford 681865      Ann Goodman 681763  
Andrew Ford 681865

## **7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT WINGRAVE CHURCH TO BE TAKEN BY THE BISHOP OF BUCKINGHAM**

### EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY ... WITH A VIEW?

The Bishop of Buckingham is coming to Wingrave Parish Church on November 7<sup>th</sup> to take a Confirmation Service.  
During October there will be discussion / learning / finding out evenings for adults  
who may like to be confirmed or simply to explore the Christian faith.

**Interested ? See Siv Tunncliffe or phone 681374.**



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# IN THE VILLAGE 7.

## MILLENNIUM MATTERS THE MILLENNIUM PARTY

With only a few months to go to the **BIG EVENT**, plans and arrangements for our village Millennium party on New Year's Eve are now at an advanced stage. By now, all of you reading this who are going to the party should have paid your full instalments - Mr Bystra has advised me that any people with monies outstanding will shortly receive a visit from "the boys" (failure to pay will unfortunately result in the forfeiting of your deposit and your tickets being sold). **You have been warned!**

So to the arrangements proper and the latest position as reported at the Millennium Party meeting at The Bull & Butcher on September 13<sup>th</sup> -

- **Volunteers are needed** on both the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December to help move items and set-up the event - report to **Oak Farm at 11.00am** each day (please let a member of the committee know of your offer to help).
- The Band and the Booze have been sorted.
- The Promises Auction has been put back to **May 2000**.
- Don't forget the **Race Night** on October 30<sup>th</sup> (see this issue for details).
- Contact Andy Bystra for news of any re-available tickets.
- The next meeting is at The Bull & Butcher on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm.

## THE RED LION AT STUDHAM



Food

ABBOTT  
RATING



The '630 lads & lasses' enjoyed a very pleasant night out at The Red Lion at Studham (near Whipsnade) on Saturday 18th September.

It's an attractive pub overlooking the village green and because of the selection of 'real' ales, good food and very pleasant and welcoming atmosphere, it's popular with regulars and 'visitors' alike.

Phil and Amanda (who cooked at The Bull & Butcher during the Autumn and Christmas of 98) have run it since January 99, assisted by their excellent cook Clayton. It is well worth the journey if you enjoy good but reasonably priced food.



## 1<sup>st</sup> WINGRAVE SCOUT GROUP

We are settling into the new term well. Seven Beavers have moved up to Cubs, along with two new Cubs. This takes us to a total of 25. So we are very pleased to welcome Kaa (aka Andy Hall) who is joining the Cub team. The extra help is invaluable, and we are already benefiting from his experience. Rupert Gardiner is still a very valued helper, his Scouting knowledge is of great benefit to the Cubs.

We have spent the early weeks getting to know our new boys, with a games evening and by preparing them for their investment as Cubs. We have also spent time finalising the last sections of work for many of the older Cubs, in order to progress them through their awards.

A number of older Cubs have joined the Scouts for a weekend camp at Longridge, near Marlow, to take part in a water sports activity programme - more to follow next month. The rest of the year promises a packed programme of events with "The Generation Game" and the District Swimming Gala just two things happening soon.

Julia Ellis

## CHRONICLE DISTRIBUTION

Very many thanks to Freddie and Irene Lowden who have 'stepped into the breach', filling the gap left by John Ream's leaving the village. Freddie and Irene join the ranks of our valiant **CHRONICLE** 'distributors' and will be delivering to houses around the 'inner' part of The Green, Ross Road and houses from the chapel to The 'Bull'.

The full role-call of villagers who help to deliver the 197 copies every month (and without whose help you wouldn't be reading this article) is:-



- \* Margaret Kent
- \* Roger Biddle
- \* Irene & Freddie Lowden
- \* Andy Ford
- \* Ivan Greenaway
- \* Chris Fox
- \* Caroline Lane
- \* Barry White
- \* Andy Bystra
- \* Andi Swain

**THANK YOU!**



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*Festive Menu 1999*

*Curried Parsnip Soup*

*or*

*Tomato and Goat Cheese Salad  
with olive oil, balsamic vinegar and fresh basil*

*or*

*Pasta with Pecan Nuts, Mushrooms and Cream*

*or*

*Old Masters Vol au Vents with a Mixed Game Filling*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Roasted Fresh Turkey with Stuffing, Chippolata, Bacon and Cranberry Sauce*

*or*

*Poached Salmon with a White Wine, Cream, Cucumber and Dill Sauce*

*or*

*Loin of Pork with a Green and Red Peppers, Apple, Cider and Mustard Sauce*

*or*

*Pancake filled with Spinach and Pine Nuts in a béchamel sauce with a hint of  
nutmeg served with a Beetroot Coulis*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*A Selection of Fresh Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Desserts of the Day*

*or*

*Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce*

~ ~ ~ ~

*Coffee and Mince Pie*

~ ~

*£19.95 inc. v.a.t*

~

*NO bookings will be taken unless confirmed in writing or fax.*

*We require an £8.00 per person non-refundable deposit by the 1<sup>st</sup> December.*

*Please may we have your choices 2 weeks prior to booking. Thank you.*

**RACE NIGHT  
REMINDER**

**Saturday 30 OCTOBER 1999  
at The Church Room,  
Aston Abbots  
07:30-11:30**

**Price includes Fish and Chip Supper  
(Please bring your own drinks and glasses)  
Tickets are £7.50 each**

**There are 7 races with eight horses in each - you can buy a horse  
for £2 and earn £10 if it wins**

**Please complete the form below**

**I/We would like to buy ..... tickets at £7.50 each  
I/We would like to buy ..... horses at £2.00 each  
The name(s) chosen for my/our horse(s) is/are:**

.....  
.....

**I/We enclose cheque made payable to AA2000 or  
cash for the total amount due £.....**

**Name..... Telephone No.....  
Address.....**

**Please return this form to:  
Jackie or Ray Coates, 87 The Green, Aston Abbots  
Telephone: 01296 681459**

**RACE NIGHT  
REMINDER**

**Saturday 30 OCTOBER 1999  
at The Church Room,  
Aston Abbots  
07:30-11:30**

**LOCAL BUSINESSES**

**You can advertise in the official race programme  
Half page will cost only £10  
Please complete details below**

**Name:.....**

**Address:.....**

.....

**Telephone No:.....**

**and return to:  
Ray or Jackie Coates,  
87 The Green, Aston Abbots  
Telephone: 01296 681459**

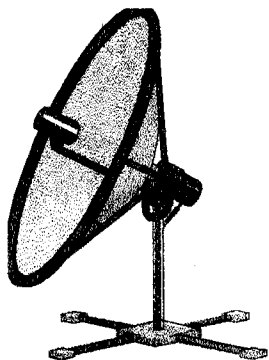
**Together with cheque and advertising details**

**ALL PROFITS GO TO THE VILLAGE FUND**

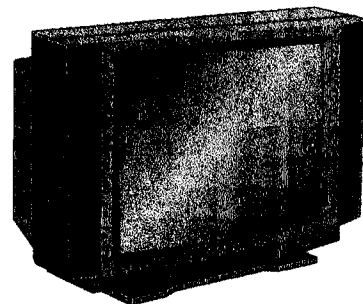
**ASTON ABBOTTS RACE NIGHT**

# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

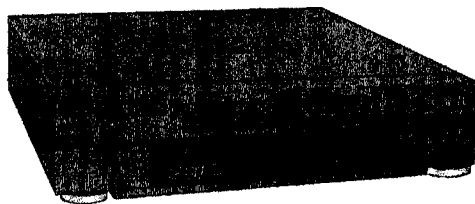


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Dave ponders the task set by Whytie-

But what was it?  
Did he succeed?  
And what fiendish  
revenge did he exact?

Answers next month,  
perhaps.....

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The Aston Abbotts  
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