

# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE

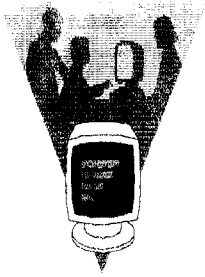
ISSUE 190 - MAY 2000



Clare and Peter Shorrock at Oak Farm House receiving their Millennium Oak - a gift from grateful villagers for the use of Clare and Peter's house and garden for the Millennium Party

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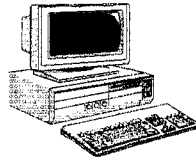
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## Editorial

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April

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### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Everybody in the village should by now be aware of the planned transfer of the Church Room to the Parish as leaseholders. This coincides with the need to spend considerable sums of money to bring the room up to the standards demanded in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, failure to do so probably leading to the closure of the building.

Fine. We need a place in Aston Abbots where we can hold our various meetings and regular social events. As we have done for many years.

And with responsibility for the upkeep of the room and its essential improvements moving away from the Church it seems appropriate that the name of the room should change to reflect its new status.

Fine.

So this will be a room, or perhaps more appropriately a hall, for villagers. In the village. With the majority of funding for its improvements contributed (hopefully) by villagers. A hall where the village kids can play, where the village Bingo and whist sessions can continue to thrive, where we can enjoy the village disco, village cabaret and village quiz.

So the name will change to the VILLAGE HALL.

Wrong.

The newly convened committee has decided to change the name to the "Parish Hall" as the Parish Council is now responsible for the room.

What do YOU think? It will be your hall, after all. Am I alone in believing that we should have a *Village* Hall in Aston Abbots like most villages up and down the country?

**PLEASE LET THE CHRONICLE KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.**

1. E-mail - [astonmag@aol.com](mailto:astonmag@aol.com).
2. Phone the editor on 01296 682651.
3. Write to 2 Nash's Farm.
4. Tell one of the newly formed committee what you think the name should be.

### BE AFRAID, BE VERY AFRAID ...NEXT MONTH IN THE CHRONICLE

Heard about the application for the new flight path to Luton Airport and plans to increase passenger numbers from 5 million to 30 million? Next month we reveal the route and the possible affects and we will hear from PAIN - a protest group formed locally to fight the plans.

Good news about the Wing bypass, eh? We will get a shiny new roundabout at the Wingrave x-roads and a new road stretching across the Eastern edge of the village, maybe with plenty of juicy in-fill room for the Developers. And even better, Rowsham and Bierton will probably be getting their own bypass as well. That's progress.

Or is it? In next month's **CHRONICLE** we will focus on the 'progress' issues threatening our village. Please write in with your views on the plans for the skies above us, the local roads and on the flood of "development" talk in the village.

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

*Andi Swain*

### IN THIS ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- Parish Hall Committee report
- The Village Interview
- Carriage Driving Uncovered
- Splish Splash I didn't want a bath
- FETE 2000
- The Lady in Leathers
- Do you come here often? Talk from the Alpaca Ranch
- And Loads, Loads more

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A note to all would be advertisers - more than 198 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 June issue is Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> - please pass items to Andi Swain at 2 Nash's Farm or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible. Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbots, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

# RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE



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

Mervyn King	2nd	Benjamin King	22nd
Hannah Brandon	18th	Milani Drysdale	23rd
Jeff Bannister	17th	Neil Chesher	26th
Tom Manning	22nd		

## Welcome Home

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Coleman home after being in hospital for a second hip operation. Her recovery is going well and we hope to see her out and about soon

## Get Well Soon

Our best wishes go to Don Bellingham who has had a short stay in hospital. We hope you are now feeling much better, particularly since Andy will soon be phoning you for the Sunday morning 'bikers' breakfast'.



## ROGER BIDDLE

It is with great sadness that The Chronicle records the sudden death of Roger Biddle following a relatively short though serious illness. Roger lived in Aston Abbotts for many years and was often seen with Janet his wife selling plants to raise money for the village.

For several years he served the village by being a member of the Parish Council. He was a familiar figure to those living at the Wingrave end of Aston Abbotts as he had delivered The Chronicle to that part of the village, almost since it's inception. He will be missed by us all and our deepest sympathies go to Janet, his children Claire and Stuart and all their family.

Roger's funeral took place at St James on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of April where the church was filled with his family and friends, including many from the village.

## STAN HOLMES

It is with regret that we note the death of Stan Holmes. Stan and Win lived in Church Row for many years before moving to Norfolk, recently returning to live in Winslow where Win intends to remain. Stan's funeral was on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April and our deepest sympathies go to Win and all her family.

## GET WELL SOON, PETER

We would like to extend our best wishes to Peter Waite who has had a long spell in hospital. He was initially in Stoke Mandeville but at the present time is at the Royal London Hospital. Peter has undergone two operations but is still not very well. His family are hoping that he will soon be able to be moved back to Stoke Mandeville which will ease the visiting. In the mean time, we all hope Peter will begin to feel better and will be out of hospital soon.

## DOLLY HINDS

We are all very sorry to hear that 'Dolly' has had what we all hope is a 'temporary' setback to her return from a spell in hospital. Our best wishes go to her for a good recovery and speedy return to Aston Abbotts.

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

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53 The Green 681310

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6 The Green 681454

**LINDA SUTTON**  
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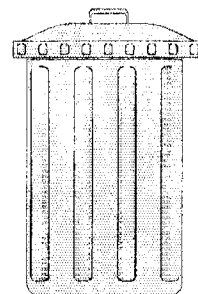
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# IN THE VILLAGE 1.

## THE PARISH HALL

*Notes on first meeting of the Aston Abbots Parish Hall Fund organising committee.*

You may remember seeing in February's **CHRONICLE** an article on the new plans for the Church Room and a request for volunteers to join a project committee. Well, there were some volunteers so the committee was duly convened and now comprises (in alphabetical order):

Liz Barlow, Roger Bellingham, Dickie Dicken, Liz Hall, Caroline Lane, Tom Manning, Nigel Palmer and Peter Shorrocks.

We had our first meeting on Monday 17th April to start the ball rolling. Tom Manning is chairing the committee, Nigel Palmer is the Treasurer and Grants Co-ordinator, and Liz Hall is the Secretary. Peter Shorrocks has taken over the legal work and Roger Bellingham will continue to deal with planning matters.

As the Parish Council will be taking on the lease of the Church Room, the organising committee will be a sub-committee of the Parish Council.

You may have spotted, in the title of this article, that we've called ourselves the Parish Hall organising committee. After some discussion, we felt that it would be more appropriate to change the

name of the building to the Parish Hall to mark the handing over of responsibility for it from the Church to the Parish Council.

The priorities for the committee are to complete the legal agreements to lease the Church Room and transfer the land from the Old Vicarage, and to obtain building regulations approval. Enough funds have already been pledged to cover the cost of most, if not all, of this.

The next stage will be to put the building work out to tender provided, of course, we have raised enough money to pay for it! Total estimate is £25,000 to £35,000 although we wouldn't necessarily expect to have raised all of it before we start.

The first step will be the foundations, which need to be a special "raft" type because of the nearby yew tree. The estimated cost for these alone is £9,000 and if we haven't raised enough money to start these within the next 5 years we will need to re-apply for planning permission!

This is the point at which we appeal to you, our fellow villagers. We have to raise a lot of money and we need IDEAS for fund raising. Although Nigel is looking at outside sources of funding, the most we could expect to get from them would be 50% of the money we need. So we have a lot of work ahead of us and any ideas are very gratefully received (as indeed are offers of help)!

LIZ HALL

## FETE 2000

**DON'T FORGET THAT THIS YEARS FETE IS ON**

**SATURDAY 29th JULY**

So if you'd like to HELP, come along to the next meeting at 1, Nash's Farm on Thursday 18th May at 8pm, ring Gordon Smith (681373) OR contact any of the committee: Liz Barlow, Barbara Bellingham, Ann Dicken, Dickie Dicken, Jackie Farrans, Shirley Ford, Ivan Greenaway, Colin Higgs, or Clare Shorrocks

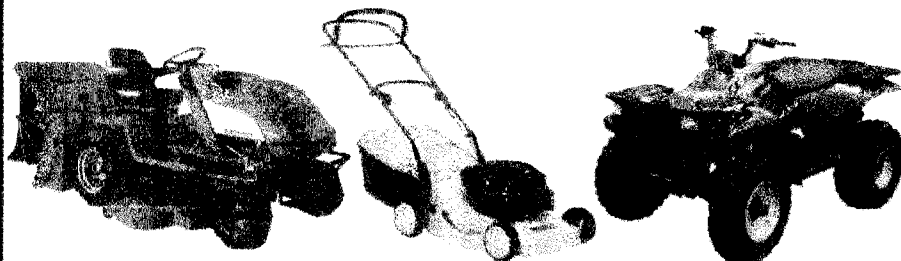
In the meantime, please pot up any spare plants, bake a cake and put it in the freezer, sort out books, Bric a Brac, bottles and gifts.

Please VOLUNTEER to HELP, even if you can only spare an hour, it will make a difference.

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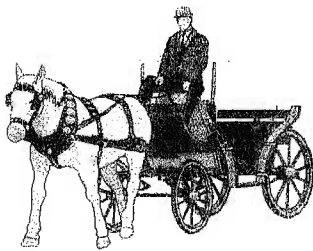
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# IN THE VILLAGE 2.

Jeff and Mandy are a familiar sight around the village, driving their horse and carriage, but few of us understand the finer points of carriage driving. Jeff takes up the story....

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF COMPETITION CARRIAGE DRIVING

I have been asked to describe briefly what Mandy and I do when we say we 'carriage drive'. Well in brief we put a horse to the carriage and drive, sometimes up to the pub. Sometimes we drive around the roads as some of you have already seen and others have shared. Sometimes we school with long reins in the field and ride for pleasure. The ultimate aim of all this is to ensure the horse is fit enough, schooled enough and prepared overall for the two and three day events

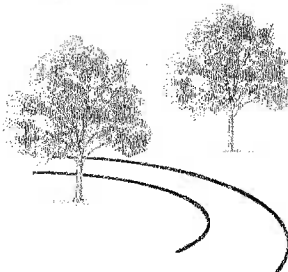


in which we compete during the summer, between March and September. This year is a bit different because in October the World Championships will take place in Gladstone, New England, U. S.A. We are on the long list for selection having made the British Team in 1998 for the last World Championships in Austria.

The event always consists of three disciplines but the order differs between two and three day events. The disciplines are driven dressage, marathon and cones. On two day events the first day has dressage and cones in one day and marathon on day two. In three day events, dressage is day one, marathon is day two and cones day three. It is based on the three day ridden events such as Badminton but obviously no show jumping with the carriage as that presents certain Health and Safety risks.

Dressage is similar with predetermined shapes and paces being Judged by up to three judges with penalty points being incurred according to the standard of driving displayed. Marathon is a cross country course of about 2½ hours duration divided into up to five sections. There are two time and distance trot sections, one slow pace over longer distance the other much faster but of shorter duration, two measured distance walk sections and an obstacle section. Penalties are incurred for breaches of min. and max. of the allowed times per section and also for the length of time spent in each obstacle.

Obstacles are what.... Well an obstacle can be natural or man made. Natural is such things as rivers and trees. Man made is post and rail fences, concrete barrels, JCB'S forming an arch etc. Each obstacle has a series of gates within it marked in alphabetical order, generally A to E but can be longer. Each gate can only be driven through in one correct direction, designated by a red marker on the right and white on the left. Gates must be driven in the alphabetical



order so you cannot drive A then C then B, it must be A then B then C. There are up to 8 of these obstacles.

This is the section most spectators watch because this tends to be the

most thrilling with carriages turning over, inaccurate driving resulting in hook ups on posts etc.

The final discipline is a cones course of up to 20 consecutively numbered pairs of cones. Each cone has a tennis-type ball on it. Dislodging the balls incurs penalties. The clearance between carriage axles and cones is only 20cm. The course is a series of circles, chicanes and shapes designed to ensure that after the previous day's marathon, the horse is still supple and obedient. The course has a time limit.

The winner has incurred the lowest penalties over the three days.

## INTERESTED IN WATCHING A CARRIAGE DRIVING COMPETITION?

Local two day events are at Windsor Park. Three day events involve a bit more travelling but if people are away in the location on holiday or whatever, pop in as follows -

### NATIONAL EVENTS (THREE DAYS)

May 11 - 14	Royal Windsor
May 26 - 28	Hopetoun House, Edinburgh
June 2 - 4	Farleigh House, Basingstoke
June 23 - 25	Newnham Park, Plympton, Devon
June 30-July 2	Sandringham House, Norfolk (Country Show all weekend as well)
July 15 - 16	Normanhurst, Catsfield, Kent
July 21 - 23	Henbury Hall, Cheshire
August 4 - 6	Lowther Castle, Cumbria
August 11 - 13	Alnwick Castle, Northumberland
Sept. 1 - 3	Windsor Park, Windsor

### LOCAL CLUB EVENTS AT WINDSOR (TWO DAYS)

May 20/21          June 10/11          August 19/20

If any one wants to know more, please speak to either Mandy or myself. If anyone wants to sponsor the British team efforts, definitely call us. Last time, but for an unforeseeable accident by a British member within the final minute of the close of the event, the British team would have come home with a silver medal.

**Jeffrey Bannister**

### TRAINING FOR LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS

Farmers markets are already up and running in Tring, Leighton Buzzard, and Bicester and are currently being planned for Aylesbury, Buckingham, Wycombe, Thame and Chesham. If you are interested in selling your produce through a farmers market but are not sure what is involved, Warren Farm Centre in Horton-Cum-Studley in Oxfordshire (Bucks/Oxon border) is running free one day training courses in May open to local producers interested in selling their produce through local markets. For information on the courses contact Sam Viner on 01865 351794.



## Gourmet Cooking



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# IN THE VILLAGE 3 - KIDS ACTIVITIES

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

### Enjoying activities together!

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 26 Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders travelled to the High Wycombe Gang Show 2000. The show lasted 2½ hours and kept us all enthralled and entertained throughout with 20 different sketches full of comedy, songs and dance. We were all very impressed by the high quality of the performances, much more so as all those taking part were Scouters or Guiders. We strongly recommend a trip to the Gang Show 2001 for all those who have an opportunity to go.

The following day, the Beavers and Cubs took part in the annual District St George's Day parade at RAF Halton. This is a very important event in the Scouting calendar as we all join together to celebrate the success of the movement.

### A supreme achievement!

What inspires the runners in the London Marathon not only through the 26 miles and 385 yards on the day itself, but throughout the intensive training programme for months leading up to the big day? Furthermore what inspires a busy working mum of four to take up the challenge? Julia Ellis took up the challenge this year and ran to raise money for 1<sup>st</sup> Wingrave Scout Group, Multiple Sclerosis and Cancer Research. We are all very proud of Julia and her achievement and very grateful for her continued support.

**Beavers** The Beavers continue to thrive and have spent the past few weeks preparing for Mother's Day and the forthcoming District Sports Day. We enjoyed taking part in the Jardines Ten Pin Bowling Tournament and were delighted that one of our teams came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Well done to Ben Harding, Alec Howe and Harman Virdee.

**CUBS** April has been an exciting month for the Cubs. Akela and Hathi were away for three meetings, celebrating their Silver wedding anniversary in Malta. Our congratulations to them on such a special occasion.

They organised an interesting agenda before they went. We had a trip to Aylesbury Fire Station, where the Cubs had a great time investigating all the lockers on the engines and climbing in the cabs. Aylesbury Two was called out on a "Shout", all the Cubs in that engine had to do a quick evacuation to allow the Fire Fighters to go off to work. The boys had the chance to ask endless questions, watch the Fireman come down the pole and have a go with the hose!

The following meeting was organised by 5 of the Scouts, along the lines of a Scout meeting with the boys in Patrols (rather than sixes). Its aim was to give the Cubs a taste of Scout life and they had the chance to hear first-hand about scouting. Many thanks to Ben Wyatt, Richard Crook, Jonty Curry, Matt Hall and Chris Ellis for their time, effort and enthusiasm. A job well done boys!

The last meeting was run by Merak, our Group Scout Leader. He taught the boys a number of Knots, which they then practised in relay races. He also organised a number of games for the Cubs. Special thanks go from me (Baloo) to all the Leaders and Helpers who gave me so much help and support while Akela and

Hathi were away.

**SCOUTS** Scouts too have had a full agenda. One week was devoted to Map work, giving the boys much needed practice in their mapping skills. They drew a map of the village. Another week they had to find their way around the village using map references only, collecting "letters" as they went. These they then had to rearrange to make the name of a knot. The last evening before the end of term was a games evening, where they played a selection of different games.

JULIA ELLIS

## 1<sup>st</sup> WINGRAVE BROWNIES

The charity chosen by the Brownies this year was the Free Spirit Trust which provides holidays for teenagers who have had to cope with serious illness. The Christmas carol singing raised £127.07. Following a very interesting question and answer session with Becky from the Trust, the Brownies held a sponsored silence. Once again people were very generous and £232.25 was raised. The Brownies have been delighted to contribute a total of £359.32 to the Free Spirit Trust, our thanks to everyone who made this possible.

As well as many individual badges all Brownies have worked on and passed their fire safety badge. The school was checked for fire extinguishers and the village checked for fire hydrants. They learnt about what makes a fire burn, how to put out a small fire, what to do if a fire breaks out and first aid for burns. The highlight of the badge work was a visit to Aylesbury Fire station. Whilst we were being shown the very advanced equipment on the vehicles there was a call out alarm. The Brownies all hurried out of the way and within a minute the fire engines were out and we were left looking at a row of shoes! It was very impressive to see their speed of response, it will be a visit to remember.

JANE MUIR *BROWN OWL*

## WANTED

### ANOTHER GUIDER FOR WINGRAVE GUIDES

#### You do not have to be a parent

Wingrave Guides are looking for an adult who would be interested in becoming a Guider to join the team of Jane and Jose. If you are new to Guiding there is a well developed training scheme to become a warranted Guider most of which is carried out within the unit. Working with girls aged between 10 and 14 is both rewarding and on occasions challenging! If you are interested and would like further information please ring Jane Muir on 01296 681513.

### ASTON ABBOTTS YOUTH CLUB ??????????

Lol Hinds has suggested that, with support from others in the village, the Youth Club could be re-started (see 'Village Interview'). Interested? Let Lol know direct or via **THE CHRONICLE** at 2 Nash's Farm or e-mail us at [astonmag@aol.com](mailto:astonmag@aol.com). Or let a Parish Councillor know.....Ed.

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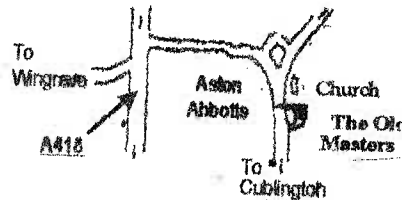
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# IN THE VILLAGE 4.



## OOOOH, YOU RED DEVIL.....

Congratulations to Bridget on the purchase of her very shiny red motorcycle, thereby becoming the other member of the Aston Abbotts Chapter of 'Hells Angels'. May you enjoy many happy and safe miles on it. The lads in the 630 club can't wait to see you zooming around in a full set of leathers but request that you have your name written in large letters on your helmet so that we can recognise you at speed!!



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR...

17 April 2000  
To The Editor  
The Chronicle

Burston Cottage  
Cublington Road  
Aston Abbotts

Dear Sir,

We read with some alarm in last month's Chronicle that Luton Airport may be considering placing a beacon in the sewage works at Cold Comfort Farm. Concerned about the potential environmental impact of this, we have contacted the authorities at Luton Airport directly.

It was only after many phone calls that we were able to find anyone who was prepared to give us any information. Eventually we spoke to the *Senior Planning Orientation Officer, Flightpaths* who informed us that the plan for the beacon was unlikely to go ahead due to objections from several mobile phone companies.

The aforementioned officer did, however, let slip that the airport authorities are thinking about adding photo-luminescent dye to the sewage. This will give a green glow to the sludge at night-time, thus improving aircraft safety. As he pointed out, this will give the residents of Aston Abbotts a colourful backdrop to their summertime evening activities in the garden. Perhaps this is something the editor should look into.

Yours sincerely,

**Jill & Mike Wenble**

Er....I guess so, Ed.

## WINGRAVE WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 22-26 MAY 2000

Walking to school is healthier than using the car, and helps to protect our environment. Last year, all the staff and pupils walked at least part of the way to school during Walk to School Week - we hope that everyone will do the same this year!



Walk to school

## Where was Vic Scott?

It's not often that things get intellectual at The Bull & Butcher. I mean, conversation usually hinges around the weather, the clarity and price of beer and whether or not Frank should have lit the fire. So, it came as a great surprise to hear that we were to be treated to an ornithological evening on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April.

Considering the unusual nature of the event the bar was surprisingly full and since 'the organising committee' had bagged the front seats, us late comers had to put up with leaning against the bar. However, the guest speaker who had travelled all the way from Scunthorpe soon had us all enthralled. He certainly knew his subject and despite his somewhat eccentric clothing kept his audience amused with a series of anecdotal stories and remembrances (mostly) about bird behaviour. This was illustrated by the few birds he bought along and although they could barely have been selected to show what their full plumage should look like, they served well to demonstrate the diversity of the species. Certainly the naughty tricks they had been taught appealed to most (well, every one but Frank).

Many thanks to Martin and Tony for organising such an interesting evening and to Frank and Louise for allowing it to be held at the 'Bull'. We all look forward to the next one but please, not so much cream in the snacks since some of us are on fat reduced diets!!



## NHS DIRECT ROLLED OUT

**CALL 0845 46 47**

NHS Direct is a 24-hour, nurse led telephone help line based in Milton Keynes. The Thames Valley and Northamptonshire branch now includes Aylesbury Vale and South Bucks. The following phone codes can now get through to the help line.

* 01296	* 01494	* 01844
* 01280	* 01234	* 01628
* 01908	* 01753	

Calls are taken initially by a call handler, who enters the caller's details such as name, address, date of birth and so on. 20% of the calls are dealt with at this point with queries such as "where is the nearest chemist open at this time of night?" being asked. Other calls are transferred to one of our nurses who can then give the most relevant advice. For many it is the 24-hour access to nursing advice which has been so important - knowing that there is someone to talk to at the end of a phone at any time, night or day.

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# IN THE VILLAGE 5.

## THE VILLAGE INTERVIEW

*This month Phil Spooner speaks to Lol Hinds.*

Lol Hinds has lived in Aston Abbots all of his life. The youngest but one of six children, he now has three children of his own – aged 15, 13 and nearly 5. Born in the village (in Ross Road) Lol went to the village school in the 60s. “Yeah, we all did. It was brilliant, it was a nice school.”

He enjoyed his village childhood. “I had a brilliant childhood here. We didn't have nothing, but there was always something to do. We made our own amusement. Going round the farms and things. Hiding from the farmers and getting told off for being round there.”

So do children today enjoy the same things? “No I don't think they do. I think they are [more isolated]. Because of the technology, computers and other games and things, they don't seem to go out so much. It's a shame really because I was always really sporty and I just loved to go out... I couldn't stand to be in. We used to play hide and seek all around the farms, climb up in the dryers, jump down in the corn... and the haystacks”

He remembers an incident on Home Farm. “This little kid got up to the top of this tractor and started it up and we all egged him on to put it into gear. The tractor shot up the flipping alley to the field. Luckily the dad came running out and got on it before it actually hit the gate at the top.”

Were they tearaways as kids? “Yes we was - we was terrible. But we weren't destructive or anything. We knew where to draw the line. When the school closed we used to go in there and play five-a-side football when it was raining. This lad kicked the ball and hit this lampshade. It made so much noise we just all scarpered. About an hour later the police turned up at my door! “Another time we set the Town Tree (an old tree on the Green) on fire. We put some Air Bomb Repeaters inside the hollow. It caught on fire and the fire brigade came out and we scarpered. The police came out. Luckily she [Mrs Fox] told the police she'd seem some bikers come through the village. She wasn't covering up for us, she just didn't know it was us that did it... but it was myself and Alan did that.”

But he finds it disappointing that his own children don't enjoy village living in the same way. “They're always bored. I can't say I was bored when I was little. They've got everything but it's not good enough for them. You say why don't you go for a walk around the fields... but they're not interested. It's a shame. They just want to go shopping, or go to the pictures. They want to keep going to places like Milton Keynes where obviously there's a bit more excitement.

“We were going to try and start the youth club up again. I've had a chat with a few people and they said it would be a good idea, but whether anybody is going to be forthcoming to run it with me... perhaps on a Wednesday night?”

A recent letter from Lol to the Bucks Herald shows he has strong feelings about local housing. “Well, yeah I do. A lot of the

families have to move away because there is nothing in the village with the house prices the way they are. We tried to do something in the village about 10 years ago. We tried to get twenty low-cost homes put up on the Cublington Road. You know, out of the village because we thought there wouldn't be any reason for people to moan about it being an eyesore in the village.

“We were led up the garden path a bit. We kept on going back to them and they kept on moving the goal posts. When it did go to the planning meeting they just turned it down flat. All the houses built now are out of most people's brackets. We've had quite a lot of plots of land go up for sale in his village in the past ten years but nothing ever gets built for youngsters.”

So what is the future for local children when they grow up, will they leave the village? “Well they will have to, unless they live with their parents for the foreseeable future or win the lottery.”

What about developments like Nashs Farm? “At first I was a bit apprehensive about it, but I think it's nice. It's sort of blended in quite nicely. I've got no opposition against in fill, but so long as it doesn't spread further.”

Will the village continue to lose its amenities? “Yes I think we probably will. I don't think the restaurant gets used much by local people. Shop I don't know – probably will [go]. The pubs, I don't know, I don't think they are used as much as they used to be. Tragic if we lost, well one pub, but if we lost both - catastrophic really for the village.”

Lol often supports village fund-raising activities. “I'm doing this 60/70s disco to raise money for the renovations of the Church Room.” Helped by his son Ian he has, for a number of years, mowed the children's play area in the Recreation ground. He also organises the annual fireworks display.

Enthusiastic about all sports, he also enjoys shooting. “Clay-pigeon shooting, yeah. I don't shoot game... I can't kill anymore. I just go clay shooting down the local gun club. I think it's only me down there that don't shoot game – it's something I just can't do. It just upset me one day when I shot a rabbit and it didn't die straightaway. It was in agony for a while before I could find it. I stopped after that, it just upset me so much.”

Lol is positive about the future. “I think the future of the village is quite good really. It's thriving at the moment. We're so lucky with the two pubs, we've got the shop and we've had this influx of people who are actually willing to join in the community. When they see how good the village can be and the people that actually live here, if you do get involved I think it's quite rewarding.

“I love the village. I don't think I'd want to move anywhere else. You've just got to think yourself lucky that we're able to live here really... *privileged to live here.*”

**Interview by Phil Spooner**

*I bet one or two “mysteries of the past” have now been solved! But there are many sobering messages in what Lol says -will any other parents in the village take up Lol's challenge? Ed.*

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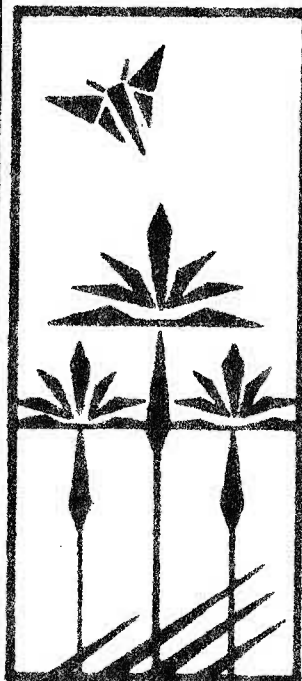
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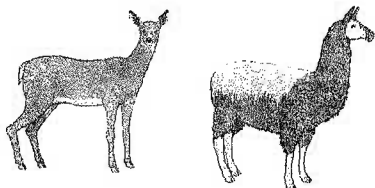
# IN THE VILLAGE 6.

## GREAT MYSTERIES SOLVED.....

### WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY ARE???

Well, I've not seen many things that walk around on only two legs like that; but they don't fly, so they can't be birds. They do make strange noises; sometimes quite harsh, not like our melodic communication. And they don't have much fibre, no wonder we keep seeing them in all sorts of gaudy items - nothing like the 22 natural colours that we have.

Gloriana thinks that they are called Humans or people; still I guess its just the same for them, they don't seem to know what we are. Two of the creatures got out of a metal box and came over to look at us, they thought that we might be Deer, and then they decided that we were Llamas!! I was so insulted I could have SPAT, but of course I'm too well mannered. They obviously can't tell how superior our fibre is, second only in strength to silk, very soft and luxurious, and very sought after by top designers.



Is it a Deer? Or maybe a Llama?

They don't seem to notice that I'm different from the others, being from Peru, whereas the rest are from Chile. Gloriana, Alexia and I are all expecting crias this year (I think you call them babies); we only have one at a time, and we are expecting for more than 11 months!!

I really like it at Church Farm, as there is lots of grass, and the kind fellow who lives in the house has cut us a nice short area for our dung heap - its probably a bit big for a dung heap, as its large enough to land a helicopter on; still, it's a kind thing to do.

I've lots more cud to chew, and the two legged person who looks after us has just been round to see if we are OK, and to bring us some special food that contains vitamins and minerals, which I like; it's a change from grass.

Well, I must get on with eating, but I might write again - you humans do seem to do lots of things to make us giggle. Bye,

**Octavia**

**The Peruvian Alpaca**

*If you have any questions about Alpacas - Liz and Ivan on 682605, are happy to talk about Alpacas for hours.....*

### The Joys or Dangers of living in Aston Abbotts

*Jackie Coates has e-mailed THE CHRONICLE about a nuisance that must affect many of us in the village ....*

I am enjoying some time off from work with the intentions of getting to grips with the garden. However the weather has set in - rain and even snow. Whilst I am more than used to getting dressed up to walk the dogs in inclement weather conditions, I am heartily sick of getting soaked by what are no more than ignorant, selfish, self centred individuals who drive through the village as though the end of the world is nigh. Regrettably I have to say the majority of them are women, obviously they have dropped the children off at school and are intent on getting to Tesco's or wherever in the shortest time possible - I think they have obviously been watching too much Formula 1. All roads leading into the village clearly state 30 mph - perhaps eye sight tests should be given at the roadside!! Now I am getting cynical - can you blame me? I can only apologise to locals if you have heard a few expletives from me, but it really does make me very angry. If I can make a conscious effort to pull the dogs into the side of the road, why can't the driver slow down and try and avoid the puddles, of which there are many in the village. It is almost getting to the point where you need danger money to walk along the road now.

If you feel strongly about this, perhaps comments to the Editor (sorry Editor to lumber you again).

To the motorists - have a thought for the pedestrians in Aston Abbotts, try to be courteous and considerate to others.

From a very soggy, ill tempered lady, giving vent to her feelings on the computer, having just returned from what should have been a lovely relaxing time walking my dogs.

**Jackie Coates**

'Leafy Oaks'

Part of the problem would seem to be the inability of the village drainage system to cope with even the lightest of showers. The number of potholes and subsided tarmac only makes the problem worse. Still, it seems that AVDC and / or BCC is awash with money at the moment, what with grand plans for interconnecting by-passes (Wing, Rowsham, Bierton, Soulbury, Stoke Hammond, Frank's Chicken Sheds...) and villages dreaming up traffic calming schemes based on the "Suburban Housing Estate" model. Perhaps they could find a few quid to repair the roads that took such a battering from articulated lorries whilst the council dithered over repairing Wing bridge. I would be interested to hear what AAPC thinks about the issue... Ed.

## BOTTOMS QUIZ ANSWERS

Did you have a go at last month's rather unusual "Bottoms" quiz? If you struggled to come up with the answers, we can now put you out of your misery.

Answer number 1 was "Barney", seen pulling Jeff and Mandy's carriage. This proved quite a difficult one! Answer number 2 was "Andy Bystra" - surprisingly, everybody got this one straight away - I guess that Andy's derriere is well known in the village.....Ed.

---

**S.M. ARMAN.**



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# 'WHAT'S ON' IN MAY 2000

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup>** Coach trip to Wakefield Farm Stoke Bruerne.  
 Dep. bull & Butcher 12.50 pm Fare £5.50

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** British Legion Bingo in The Church Room 7.30pm

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & Sun 7<sup>th</sup>** Wingrave Exhibition at St Peter/Paul Church centre  
 10-6.00 daily

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>** Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>** Rambling Club members meet Barton Le Clay 2.00pm

**IONA SERVICE St James Church 6.00 pm.**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>** Annual Parish Council Meeting in The Church Room  
 7.30pm

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** Rambling Club members meet Woburn Sands (Apsley  
 Heath picnic site) 11.00 am.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>** Brill Gardens open 2 – 5.00pm.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> BANK HOLIDAY**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

## ASTON ABBOTTS GARDENS OPEN – JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>

The following village gardens will be  
 open 2 – 6.00 pm

10 Wingrave Rd.  
 2 The Acorns  
 Oak Farm  
 11 The Green  
 The Old House  
 The Abbey

Teas will be available in the Church Room  
 and the church will be open.

### NOTICES

Week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> May – collection will  
 be on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** and not on the  
 Thursday.

Additional litter bins have been installed in  
 Wingrave Rd – Please use them.

**Dog fouling** is still occurring on some  
 footpaths; you could be fined £500.00 for  
 allowing you dog to foul the footpath/verges.  
**PLEASE PICK IT UP** or use the poop bins

Remember that May is the time when the first  
 round of judging takes place for **THE BEST  
 KEPT VILLAGE.**

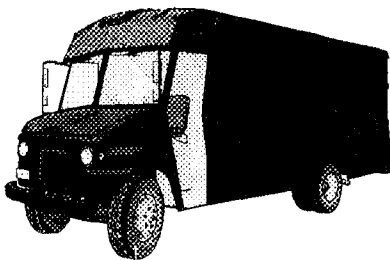
Help you village to win – Trim hedges, tidy  
 gardens, and **PICK UP LITTER.**

### CHURCH FLOWERS FOR MAY

6/7 <sup>th</sup> Mr C Higgs	13/14 <sup>th</sup> My I Belgrove
20/21 <sup>st</sup> Donated	27/28 <sup>th</sup> Donated

### SIDESMEN FOR MAY

7 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Hartnett	14 <sup>th</sup>	Mr G Kemp
21 <sup>st</sup>	Mr C Higgs	28 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Hartnett



## THE MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The Mobile Library visits the village on alternate Tuesdays. The dates are always shown  
 in the Chronicle 'What's On' section but here are a reminder of the times:

- The Green, Aston Abbotts 10.25am - 10.55am
- Wingrave Road, Aston Abbotts 11.00am - 11.15am
- Oxley Farm 12.55pm - 1.10pm

For further information or enquiries, contact Buckingham Library on 01280 813229

**Please use the service or we will lose the facility!**

# Photographs

by Paul Ridgley

A photograph captures a moment in time and can communicate directly with our imagination and emotions to bring back a myriad of memories.

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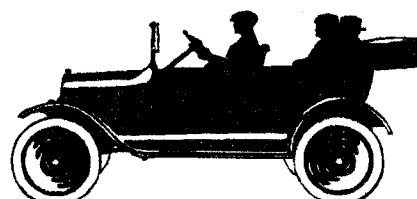
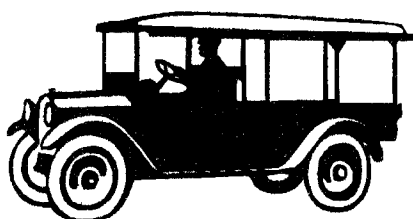
MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF VINTAGE VEHICLES OF ALL SORTS

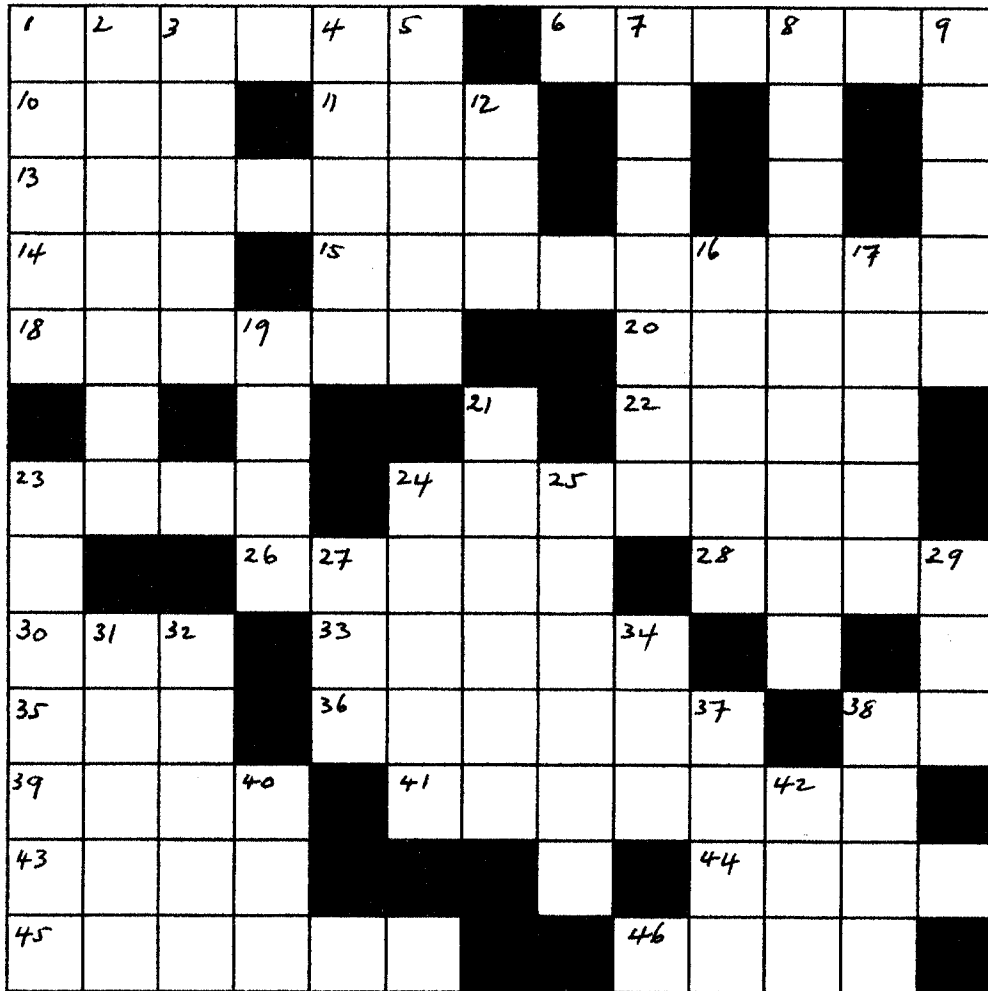
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Answers to April.  
ACROSS:

- 1 Set. 4 Squarely. 11 Cairo. 13 Upper. 14 Tango  
15 Ear. 16 Hue. 17 Dr.  
18 Seem. 20 Sap. 22 Maps  
25 Drama. 26 Alone. 27 May. 29 Stop. 31 Stair.  
34 At. 35 No. 36 To. 37 Limped. 39 Aye. 40 Orals  
42 Ado. 43 Due. 44 Cartier. 47 Exam. 48 Amnesty. 49 Mere. 50 SAS  
DOWN: 1 SA. 2 Either.  
3 Trauma. 5 Quota. 6 Up. 7 Aped. 8 Rearmost. 9 Err  
10 Years. 11 Cars. 12 One  
19. Editor. 20 Sam. 21 Pay  
23 Ant. 24 Peony. 28 Alpaca. 30 Poetry. 31 Store. 32 Illume. 33 Rise.  
34 Adorns. 38 Edam. 39 Amiss. 41 Adam 45 Tea  
46 ET

ACROSS

- 1&5. Local town (6&6)  
10. Anger (3)  
11. Cherry --- eg (3)  
13. Searching (7)  
14. Deer (3)  
15. Relating to Stone Age (9)  
18. Skin eruptions (6)  
20. Sound apparatus (abbr 5)  
22. Upon my --- (4)  
23. Lazy (4)  
24. Contrary, hostile (7)  
26. Principle, tenet (5)

28. Webs, meshes (4)  
30. Aged (3)  
33. Colouring (5)  
35. Sheltered side (3)  
36. Exhausting (6)  
38. Printer's measure (2)  
39. SPAM (anag 4)  
41. Irritated (7)  
43. Removed (4)  
44. Minerals (4)  
45. Whole (6)  
46. Bird (4)  
DOWN.

1. Mean person (5)  
2. Country (7)  
3. Vegetables (5)  
4. Expresses opinion (5)  
5. Shoe size (5)  
7. Outshine (7)  
8. Mental institutions (slang 9)  
9. Cut (5)  
12. Self (3)  
16. Prickle (5)  
17. Creek (5)  
19. Take notice of (4)

21. Respect (6)  
23. Separate (7)  
24. Once more (5)  
25. Pride (6)  
27. Choose (3)  
29. Heavenly body (3)  
31. Fruit (5)  
32. Base (5)  
34. Explosive (3)  
37. Shine (4)  
38. Paradise (4)  
40. Travel on snow (3)  
42. Epoch (3)

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# IN THE VILLAGE 7.

## ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> April 2000

- **Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved - no matters arising.

- **Planning**

00/00055/ATP The Old Vicarage, Aston Abbots.

Works to two Yew trees. Consent granted.

00/00364/APP Badger's Oak Farm, Cublington Road, Aston

Abbots. Siting of 3 mobile homes for residential use (retrospective).

- **Highways**

**Road repairs** - correspondence has been received from the Highways Department outlining plans for repairing roads around the village.

**Cublington** - traffic calming proposals. Concern was expressed that traffic calming in Cublington may result in increased traffic flow through Aston Abbots.

**Street light maintenance** - Resolved to accept the quotation from Raneway to maintain our streetlights for the coming year.

- **Recreation Ground**

**Grass cutting** - we will check with Banner Homes whether it is their responsibility or AVDC's to cut the new strip of grass on the Rec.

**Goals and nets** have been requested for the recreation ground. Quotes will be sought.

**Tug-of-War rope** for village - Quotes will also be sought for the rope.

- **Proposed New Litter Bin**

Resolved to instruct AVDC to install a new litter bin in the village, opposite the Royal Oak.

- **Size of Parish Council**

Discussion took place on whether to request more Parish Councillors for Aston Abbots. Some councillors feel that the population of the village is not adequately represented by the current five councillors, and that seven would be a more realistic number. Resolved to enquire whether it would be possible to increase the number of councillors and discuss the subject at a future meeting.

- **Reports**

**A litterblitz** has been organised for April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am.

**Village Housing** - concern was expressed that new developments are being allowed in the village, but do not include any low cost 'starter' homes.

**Where there** are streetlights there should be a 30mph limit, according to BCC. Discussion took place over whether the 30mph limit could be extended to the bend on Moat Lane.

**The Chronicle** has asked for a donation towards print costs.

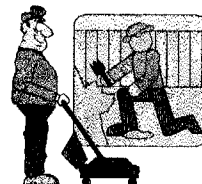
**Music In Quiet Places** - AVDC would like to hold a concert in the Church.

- **Date of Next Meeting** 17<sup>th</sup> May 2000 (Annual Meeting) at 8.00pm in the Church Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## BUCKS BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2000

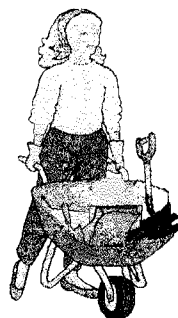
Aston Abbots has been entered again this year.

Although specific features in the village have to be identified on a map (Church, Recreation Ground, Church Room etc), the village will be judged as a whole and not just on those features.



Preliminary judging will take place between 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June, followed by a final inspection in early July with the winners announced at the end of July.

**SO THE REST IS UP TO YOU!**



Keep those hedges trimmed, lawns cut and front gardens neat and tidy and we might be able to sport a "Best Kept Village" sign for the new Millennium.

### LOCAL POST OFFICE - USE IT OR LOSE IT

Rural post offices offer a vital lifeline to smaller communities. For example, whilst 60% of parishes have a post office, these days only a few now have a bank. Post Offices offer a wide range of services such as easy free bill payment, pre-order foreign currency at just 1% commission and travel insurance, combined with the more traditional business of benefits payment, postal orders and stamps. This variety of services on offer means that 95% of the UK population visits a post office at least once a year.

But if you don't use the Post Office, you may well lose it. A leaflet has been produced by BCA and should be available soon in the Post Offices in Wingrave and Wing.

### VILLAGE SKIP

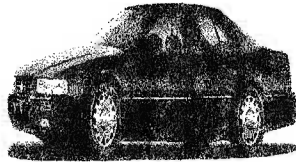
The good ol' village skip will be back for a brief visit from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. You can fill it with all of your unwanted domestic rubbish - NO TRADE WASTE please.

It will be located at The Bull & Butcher.

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Ask for details of our shopping trips.

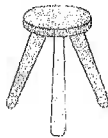


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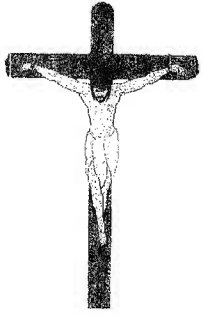
For more information telephone:

**JILL WENBLE RGN,RM,RHV**

Dip. Stress Management Tr.

**STRESS MANAGEMENT TRAINER**

**01296 681877**



## RECTOR'S REPORT - MAY 2000

**Have you noticed how many things these days come with a Questionnaire?**

I have to admit that I have an aversion to Evaluation Sheets. At the end of nearly every Course I attend I am presented with a list of questions that, to me seem totally

mindless. What am I really being asked when the questions are phrased – “The theme was challenging”, “The examples were helpful”, “The material covered a broad span”, “The ideas were useful”?

If the theme was not challenging, why would anyone have bothered to arrange the Course?

Perhaps the Evaluation Sheet is designed to collect an immediate reaction. Yes, I've had a really fantastic time thinking about whatever this Course was about, I even quite enjoyed some of the silly games, so before I become a rational human being again I will put down my immediate thoughts.

Those thoughts are always inevitably on the generous side. How would anyone dare to say that the Course was tedious and boring and that they had not been really helped by it? It is neither polite nor politically sensible to make such a declaration.

But if, instead of making an instant response, you decide on a period of reflection, the Evaluation Sheet becomes much harder to tackle. Away from the hype and the group dynamics, and looked at in the cool light of day, the Course rarely seems quite as valuable as it did at the time. Time has moved on, the mood has changed, things are no longer the same.

Having been through the Course, the end result is frequently one of “mental indigestion”. The material needs time to permeate into the deeper recesses of the mind, and only then is it possible to give a balanced and unbiased assessment of how effective the Course has been.

The rationale behind almost all Courses is to enable people to look at things from a different perspective – to take a more focused approach – to change the way we view things. If we can do that rapidly, that is fine, but sometimes we need to develop in a slower and more relaxed way. It often depends on the kind of people that we are.

The trouble is that we want to see results – and we feel very frustrated when those results differ from what we think they should be. We want to experience instant growth. But we know that nature doesn't function in that way. Growth is often slow and laborious, and there are times when not very much seems to be happening – no matter how much effort we expend.

We are given a lifetime in which to grow and mature – so we need not be in too much of a hurry to fill in the Evaluation Sheet on it.

**BOB WILLMOTT**

## JOTTINGS FROM THE CHALK FACE

I read in the newspaper recently of a senior infant school teacher who had taken her own life after OFSTED Inspectors criticised standards at the school she had served for 21 years. Her abandoned car was found by a riverside, her body found in the water. She was fifty-seven years old. A note was left saying that she couldn't cope with the pace of change and all the paperwork and that the OFSTED Inspection was the final straw. A dreadful tragedy. So why did it happen?

When a school is inspected it is the quality of education seen to be provided that inspectors must comment on. No individual teacher is named but if specific aspects of work are criticised that could only be taught by a particular teacher then it is pretty obvious to all and sundry who is in the firing line.

Nobody likes being criticised but I do not think that it was the criticism alone that caused this lady to take her life. I suspect that it was a combination of a sense of failure, a dreadful feeling of guilt over having let down her colleagues and the school at which she worked and the embarrassment caused by public humiliation.

Some would say that she should have shrugged her shoulders and shaken it all off. Perhaps, but not easily done if you are a caring person with a sensitive nature, common traits in a great many teachers

I have taught for over thirty years and during that time I have come across some poor or ineffectual teachers and I wholeheartedly agree that they should be removed from the profession. There was a time when a Head teacher, having identified a weak teacher, could enlist support from an advisory teacher who would work alongside their weaker colleagues and pass on their expertise. If this worked all was well, but if the weak teacher did not respond positively then they would be eased out of the profession. The above process was carried out as confidentially as possible and was constructive in its approach. Better by far I feel than the impersonal and destructive line adopted by OFSTED.

**Baird McClellan**

## CHARITY COMMISSION SURGERIES

Buckinghamshire Community Action will be hosting another in its successful series of Charity Commission Surgeries on Wednesday 7 June 2000 at the Fitzwilliams Centre, Beaconsfield. Once again, the day will be split into two parts - the morning session titled 'A Well Run Charity' will take the form of a presentation by Charity Commission officers which is hoped will be of particular interest to charity trustees, representatives and anyone thinking of getting involved in local charity affairs. Topics for discussion will include the appointment of trustees, their legal and financial responsibilities, financial controls and amending governing documents.

During the afternoon appointments can be made to discuss specific issues with Charity Commission officers on a one-to-one basis. If you are interested in attending either one or both of these sessions please contact Mary Arnaud at Buckinghamshire Community Action telephone: 01296 421036



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# ST. JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

## CHURCH SERVICES

7th	10.00	Aston Abbots	Three Parish Communion
10th (Wed)	10.00	Aston Abbots	Franciscan Service
14th	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	18.00	Aston Abbots	Iona Style Service
17th (Wed)	10.00	Rowsham	Franciscan Service
21st	08.45	Cublington	Three Parish Communion
24th (Wed)	10.00	Wingrave	Franciscan Service
28th	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	08.45	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
31st (Wed)	10.00	Wingrave	Franciscan Service
4th June	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Worship
	18.00	Cublington	Evensong

## SUNDAY READINGS

7th May	Easter 3	1 John 3.1-7; Luke 24.36-48
14th	Easter 4	1 John 3.16-24; John 10.11-18
21st	Easter 5	1 John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8
28th	Easter 6	1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17
4th June	Easter 7	1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19

## FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism	26th March	George, Briony, & Kim Morris
	16th April	Alexander Willmott

## ST JAMES CHURCH ASTON ABBOTTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rev Bob Willmott	681623
Gordon Kemp	681763
Shirley Ford	681865
Ann Goodman	681763
Andrew Ford	681865

### **KATHY STAFF - "NORA BATTY" FROM THE BBC'S "LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE" IS TO OPEN PENTECOST 2000**

The biggest Millennium event in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes will be held at the Bucks County Show Ground, Weedon Park, near Aylesbury, on Sunday 11 June. It will be opened by Kathy Staff, who plays Nora Batty in the BBC's "Last of the Summer Wine" and who is a well-known and very active Christian. The weekend of events is being supported by 90% of the Christian churches in the area and most of them are rescheduling their Sunday services so that they can bring their friends to worship together on this the first Pentecost Sunday of the new Millennium.

The official opening is at 12.00 noon and will be followed by a banner-carrying parachute descent by "Jump for Joy" who are based in Marlow. As a prelude to the Sunday, VENERATION X will bring together some 3,000 15-25 year olds on the Saturday evening with three Christian bands and speakers and there will be many young people staying in tents overnight, so as to take part on Sunday morning.

The event has been planned for over three years and aims to enable members of all the Churches to celebrate their Christian faith together. It will also provide an opportunity for members of the general public to explore some of the key issues of our day, including those relating to the environment and to debt relief through Jubilee 2000. The Christian faith which has nourished and inspired the people of Buckinghamshire for over 1,000 years is still very much alive today, evidence of which will clearly be experienced at Pentecost 2000.

Throughout the day there will be a variety of events in the main arena, and in eighteen tents which will include Christian Resources, Conservation, Art, Music and Drama, Charities, Local Heritage (and a subsequent Trail around the county's churches) as well as showing the work of the 29 local Churches Together groups. There will be two large tents for a variety of known speakers. Professional caterers will provide refreshments throughout the weekend. There will also be a tent and activities relating to Jubilee 2000 and all the profits from the weekend will go to this co-ordinating organisation working for remission of world debt.

Children will have an important part in the day with two tents, and also an international dress parade with each council district representing a particular continent. The main act of worship will be at 3.15pm to be led by a thousand strong choir with speakers and worship leaders from the Roman Catholic, Baptist, United Reformed, Methodist and Anglican Churches. They include Monsignor Kieran Conry, Media Officer for the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Fiona Castle (widow of Roy Castle) from Gerrards Cross, and Taylor of the Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham.

An attraction later in the day for many people will be Pentecost Praise led by Graham Kendrick who is one of the most popular modern day hymn writers. It is hoped that the weekend will attract many thousands of local people, as well as those from the Churches.

**For more information contact  
Shirley Ford (Phone 681865)**

# STOP PRESS.....

## VILLAGE SKIP

At The Bull & Butcher from Monday May 8th to Thursday May 11th!

That's the Village Skip - for all your unwanted domestic waste!

## LITTERBLITZ

Despite torrential rain 12 stalwart souls turned up to help with the litterblitz last Saturday morning. Suitably armed with orange bin bags, litterpickers, stout gloves, strong stomachs and sub-aqua gear, they collected eighteen (Yes EIGHTEEN) bags of litter in and around Aston Abbots.

Those of you who noticed the mountainous pile of orange sacks outside the Church Room take note - this was collected from YOUR village!

A big THANK YOU to all the public spirited residents of A.A. (plus one resident of Cublington!!) who braved the weather to help. This amounted to 3% of the total population.....

## PROMISES

Wingrave School Association Promise Auction is on Saturday 13th May at 6pm. The licensed bar opens at 5pm. The cost of admission is £5, including food. Tickets are available from Elske Gardener on 681830. If you would like to make a promise to be auctioned, please contact Debbie Blackwood on 688274 or Perry Watkins on 681114.

## AUCTION

## BINGO EVENING

The Royal British Legion Prize Bingo Evening in aid of branch funds is on Saturday 6th May at The Church Room, Aston Abbots, beginning at 7.30pm. Our British Legion Bingo sessions are renowned for a friendly evening out with Line and House prizes, a raffle, and of course refreshments. Everyone is made welcome.

## SITUATIONS VACANT!

We have been inundated with requests for help this month:

**Juan at The Old Masters** has a couple of positions to fill

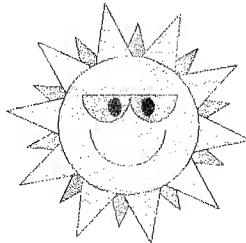
- An evening kitchen assistant to include washing up and some food preparation.
- A casual Waiter / Waitress aged 17+ for Saturday May 20th and May 27th.

If you are interested in either position please phone Juan on 01296 681432.

And **Andrew Dutton at 3 The Acorns** - Tel. 01296 681875 - is looking for an "angel of mercy" to help with cleaning and ironing for 4 hours per week (times to suit but suggest Tuesday and Friday) at the rate of £5.00 per hour.

## SUNNY BOURNEMOUTH....

The British Legion day trip this year is going to Bournemouth on Saturday 17th June. There are still a few seats left for this popular annual outing. For more details or to book a place please contact our trip organiser Doris Scutchins on 681243. Please note that a non-returnable deposit must be paid when booking. Do hope you can join us....



**KEEP YOUR GARDEN AND THE VILLAGE TIDY - JUDGING BEGINS SOON IN THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

**There will be a service of Iona-style worship at St James Church, Aston Abbots on Sunday 14th May at 6.00pm.**

# STOP PRESS.....

## 60's & 70's QUIZ ANSWERS

Hot off the press and straight from the 60's and 70's disco (very hot), here are the answers to the questions set last month by DJ Lol.

1. Dawn
2. Eric Burden
3. Ray Davies and Dave Davies
4. Davy Jones, Mickey Dolenz, Peter Tork, Mike Nesmith
5. Arnold Dorsey
6. Flowers In The Rain by The Move
7. The Thunderbirds
8. Ray Stevens
9. Love To Love You Baby
10. Manhattan Transfer

The answers were taken from the Guinness Book of British Hit Singles, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Look out in next month's Chronicle for a full report on the Disco itself and details of how much money was raised towards the Parish Hall improvements. Ed.

## LOCAL WINDMILLS

**CHRONICLE** historian Colin Higgs has unearthed some surprising details on the number of windmills in our local area.

### • Pitstone, near Ivinghoe

This post mill is believed to be the oldest windmill in the British Isles, dating back to at least 1627. The mill Trust was given to the National Trust in 1937. Restoration was started in 1963 and the work can be regarded as one of the forerunners of voluntary restoration work in the country.

**OPEN** June to August on Sundays and Bank holidays in May & August 2.30 – 6.00.

**LOCATION** Just South of Ivinghoe village by the B488 road to Tring.

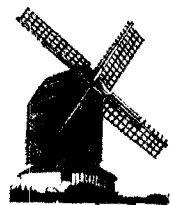
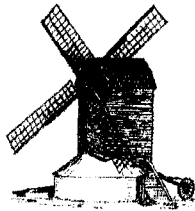
### • Brill

Brill windmill is a fine example of a post mill, dating from the 1680s. It is not in working condition but much of the machinery is intact and can be viewed from two floors within the mill. The mill stands amidst the abandoned clay diggings of Brill Common commanding a superb view of the Vale of Oxford and the Cotswolds beyond. The mill is owned by Bucks County

Council and opened by volunteers of The Brill Society.

**OPEN** Sundays April to Sept 2 – 5.00pm.

**LOCATION:** The mill is NW edge of the village. Brill lies North of the Thames to Bicester road 6 miles NW of Thames.



The Mill at Ford End, Ivinghoe



## RECOGNISE THIS MAN???



Yep, it's **THE CHRONICLE'S** very own star interviewer, Mr Phil Spooner, or at least a very close likeness! Many thanks to Mr Bystra, **CHRONICLE** artist, for the drawing. Ed.

### • Quanton

This 6 storey brick built tower mill was built in the 1830s at 65 feet it is the tallest windmill in Bucks. Early in the mill's life it was fitted with a steam engine to enable the mill to work regardless of the wind. The windmill was only in use for around 50 years. In 1974 the owner who is a

descendant of James Anstiss the builder of the mill, formed the Quanton Windmill Society to restore the mill

**OPEN:** Sundays throughout the year 10 – 12.45 am.

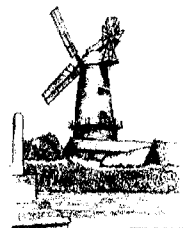
**LOCATION:** Quanton is 6 miles North West of Aylesbury and lies in between the A41 and A413

### • Ford End Ivinghoe

Built in the early 1700s this little mill has been restored by Pitstone Local History Society recreating the atmosphere of a farm corn mill of the late 1800s. It is the only working water mill to survive in Buckinghamshire.

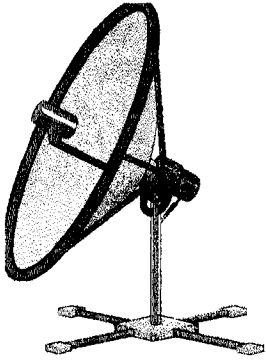
**OPEN** in 2000 on Bank holiday Mondays 29<sup>th</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2.30 – 5.30. Also open 2.30-5.30 on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May (National Mills Day), with milling demonstration.

Phone 01296 668083 to arrange school or other parties or 01582 600391 for further information.

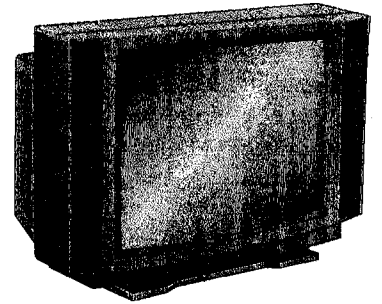


# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

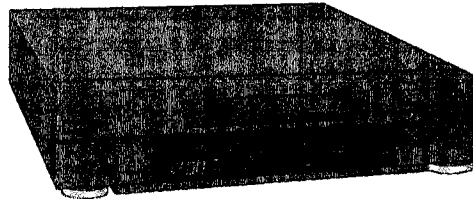


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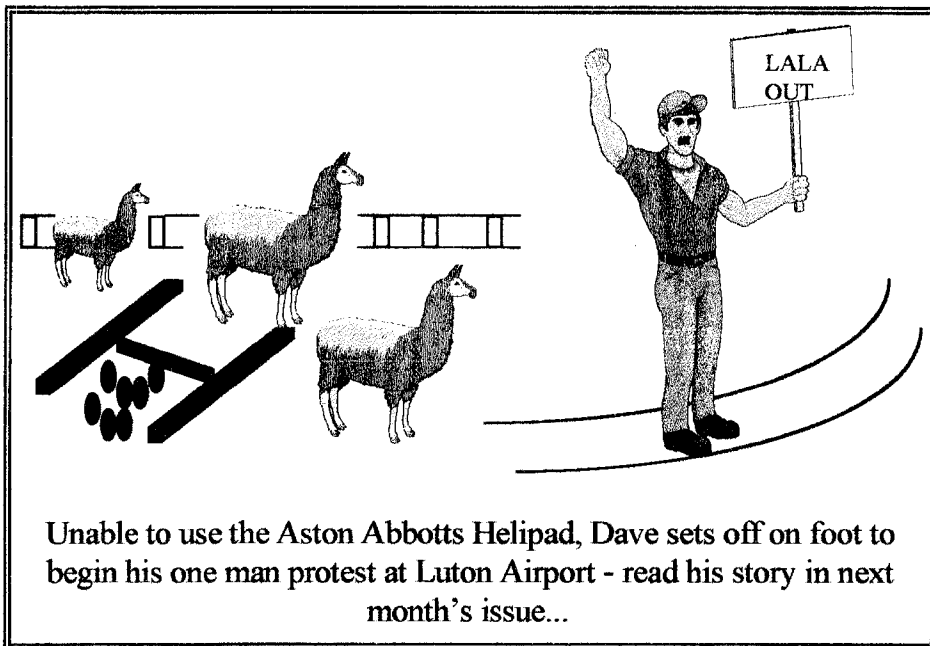
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ON 01296 682126**



Unable to use the Aston Abbotts Helipad, Dave sets off on foot to begin his one man protest at Luton Airport - read his story in next month's issue...

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**BACK PAGE THE CHRONICLE**