

THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 230 ~ January 2004



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Editorial

The Church Room—Plan B?

Last month's editorial, which touched upon the Church Room restoration project's loss of momentum, appears to have struck a chord with some people and has prompted two articles this month. The first of these, from Peter Shorrocks, explains the reasons for the current delay and what is (hopefully) happening about it. The second, from Neil Chesher, takes a more radical line and suggests an alternative to restoring the current Church Room.

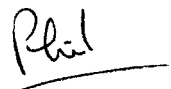
One thing is for sure: we need a communal meeting place within the village. The pub is great, but unsuitable for many of the activities for which the Church Room is used. Without delving into the pros and cons of the two approaches detailed in the articles on page 7, I have to say that I'm glad that Neil has given public voice to an idea which several people have spoken about over the last year. Whether or not Neil's idea is good or bad, it's about time that it was given wider discussion.

The Church Room is scheduled to close in October of this year. This is because the deadline for making it comply with new regulations regarding its facilities will have expired. Whether or not the District Council will force its closure promptly or allow a small amount of further breathing space is unknown but, in theory at least, it must close in October if its facilities are not upgraded. We cannot just keep on using it, as there will be issues with insurance and other legal problems.

Given that we are now only a few months away from losing our meeting place, it's about time that we had a 'Plan B'. Margaret Thatcher used to say that you should not have a 'Plan B' or a 'fall-back' plan, because there would always be the temptation to abandon your original path should it be proving difficult. However, if the restoration project fails we will be left without this essential communal facility, so we need a viable alternative.

So please read the two articles and if you have any views, can offer any suggestions, can think of any alternative ideas, or can help in any way then please contact the respective authors. Alternatively, if you just wish to express a point of view then a letter to The Chronicle will be welcome. I will withhold your name and address if requested (so long as I know who you are).

With that it just remains for me to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2004.



www.aachronicle.co.uk

Email the Chronicle at
editor@aachronicle.co.uk

In This Issue

In your Chronicle ~

- Barmy Telecom
 - Quiz Controversy
 - Gnomes At Home
 - The Church Room
 - A New Village Hall?
 - Chinese Water Deer
- and much, much more.....

THE CHRONICLE

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~o~

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~o~

Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 23rd January 2004

Please pass items to Phil Spooner at The Birches in Wingrave Road 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 Abbotts, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

Alison's Gossip Column



Nicholas Oldfield	2 nd Jan.
Andi Swain	5 th
Jane Plested	7 th
Sarah Plested	7 th
James Clarke	10 th
Tony Hinds	13 th
Judy Hardcastle	12 th
Mia Swain	16 th
Zoe Hinds	25 th
David Lewis	28 th
Carol Spooner	28 th
Anita Parker	28 th
Richard Plested	29 th

Teri and Gary at The Royal Oak would like to say Thank You to **Graham and Mandy** for the buffets at Christmas and New Years Eve.

Also Thank You to **all of the locals**—new and old—for your support in 2003 and our Best Wishes for 2004.



Send us your
VALENTINE MESSAGES
by 23rd January for inclusion
in next month's Chronicle

100 Club

**Winner of the December 100 Club
Draw was Bob Pouting**

There's a rumour going around that **Anne Brancker** is now so good at belly dancing that she is going to teach it in the Algarve!! Ask her about the video.



Did you all get to go around the **Bull & Butcher** Show Flat? Very small for £210,000 I thought. It amused me that no mention of the building having been a Public House is made in the brochure, only that it was a bakery!



Adrian Bystra's tests at Wycombe Hospital were a complete success and all clear. Congratulations Adie.



Down at "**Stalag - Whyte**" {a term coined by a local tradesman!} There have been stressful renovations going on – not helped by "Fuhrer" – sorry "Whytie" – "wanting to lend a hand" Especially when he uses Gloss to touch – up "Emulsion"!!



There's a lot of Flu going around, so commiseration's to all those affected. There's **Becky, Dave, John** and lots more...



Now who was it that was so affected by the.. err.. excitement at the New Years Party that she **stuffed Party Poppers down her bra** and then forgot about them until she got home? Her husband is going to hug her a lot more carefully in 2004, I can tell you!



We're sorry we missed **Kevin and Jane Copping's** birthdays lat month. Belated Happy Birthday greetings to you both



Good Luck to **Tom Manning and June** who are moving into The Bungalow at West Park Farm in early January. Although their postal adress is Beds, this is just the other side of Oxley Farm.



Andi Swain and the Big 4-0

Wishing you a very happy 40th birthday, with lots of love from Becky and Mia.

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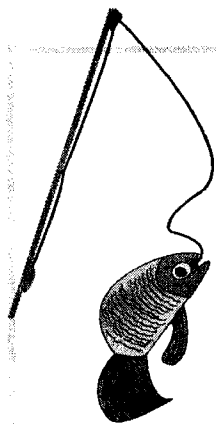
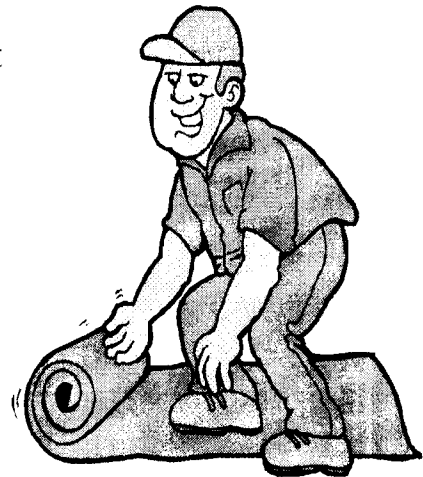
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In The Village

BT = Barmy Telecom

Those of you have walked through the village since mid December could not fail to have noticed that a new telegraph pole has sprouted out of the pavement opposite the Bull. In fact, if you were not paying attention, you probably will have walked into it because it's in such a stupid position.

It seems that BT must have taken leave of their senses to have planted a Telegraph pole obstructing the pavement in such a manner and the hapless telephone man was no doubt getting fed up with fending questions from annoyed residents. However, that did not stop him from completing the installation. If you wish to object to the positioning of this pole you may do so, in writing, before the end of February by sending a letter to the following address:

BT, A.A.P.O., P.P.G.01
BT Workstyle Building, 160 London Road,
Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1BT

~ Phil Spooner

Standing Room Only

The Reverend Bob Wilmot's opening warning that this year's carol service would be a bit of an odd mixture may have briefly alarmed one or two churchgoers, who feared repetition of last year's alternative carol tunes, but they need not have worried as he was referring only to the combination of Carol Service and Christingle. Bob told us that carols are intended to be enjoyed, that they are a celebration of the birth of Jesus, and that during the Christingle part of the service the children would be presented with homemade 'gifts', with an orange representing the world, a candle the spirit of Christ, and sweets the gifts for God.

With that the 2003 Aston Abbots Carol service got underway. The Church was packed, with people standing at the back. Carols were sung to the traditional tunes, with the exception of Away In A Manger, and accompanied by the Rowsham band with Bob himself on trombone. Readings were by Colin Higgs, Andy Bystra, Peter Knight (a Kipling poem) and Anita Parker reading from TS Eliot. Just before the end Ann Cooper, wife of district councillor Peter Cooper, sang solo accompanied by just a single drumbeat.

It was a very enjoyable Carol Service and it was nice to see so many people in the Church.

~ Phil Spooner

Friends of St. James

Our Christmas Bazaar raised a phenomenal £280.80 which means we are within spitting distance of paying off the bill for the rewiring which was done this year. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all those who donated yet more goods for us to sell and to all those who came and bought on the day. We are truly grateful for all the support we have had for the events we have organised this year and feel that raising £1600 in ten months only goes to show what very special people live in Aston Abbots.

~ Clare Shorrocks

Quiz Controversy

There was "uproar" in the Church Room at this year's Parochial Church Council quiz, hosted by quizmaster Colin Higgs. Colin had asked the name of the pilot who had led the Dambusters raid over Germany during the Second World War. Colin said the answer should be Douglas Bader, but many loudly disagreed with one or two people suggesting that it was Leonard Cheshire. In fact it was Wing Commander Guy Gibson who led the attack and he was awarded the Victoria Cross for the raid.

Of course, this good-natured banter and fun only added to the enjoyment of the quiz. This year there were several teams of four to six, made up of members from different groups: the 630 Club, the Ladies Club, Gnomes, Parochial Church Council, Bell-ringers, and family groups.

Rather embarrassingly, most teams performed poorly in the Buckinghamshire section - yet all did surprisingly well in the section on the London Underground. The winning team were the Bell-ringers captained by the Reverend Bob Wilmot and raffle winners included Sally Clarke, Peter Knight, Bob Wilmot, Mrs Morris, Mrs Price, and Mrs Watts.

A light supper of cheese and wine was served, although some contestants had brought along their own bottle with which to fortify themselves—and a few even made it down to the Oak afterwards.

A most enjoyable evening, much better attended than last year, which raised £150 for Church funds. Well done Colin.

~ Phil Spooner

Gnomes At Home

Fourteen gnomes (Girls Night Out, Men Excluded, Sorry) went around to gnome Carol's home for a pre-Christmas drink and nibbles on the Tuesday before Christmas. The original intention had been to have a glass of bubbly and a few nibbles before going over to the Oak as usual, but 14 unleashed gnome jaws operating simultaneously take on an unstoppable momentum and create an impenetrable wall of sound. I don't think anybody actually made it to the pub and your editor was run ragged trying to keep the glasses filled!

During the evening the gnomes had a repeat viewing of Neil Chesher's Calendar Girls slide show, which had first been seen at the cabaret (see the review on page 13). This provoked almost as much hilarity as it had done the first time.

Should anybody wish to have a drink and a chat for an hour on a Tuesday evening then the Gnomes meet at the Royal Oak around 7.30-7.45 for an hour or so and they are always pleased to welcome new people. The group is informal (no membership) and you can just come along occasionally - whenever you like. The invitation is of course open only to girls. That's not being sexist - that's just the way it is. Actually, one 630 Club member did attend Gnomes on one Tuesday evening. We're not too sure why he was there, but that padded bra and wig didn't fool anybody Ivan.

~ Phil Spooner

Q. What do you call a cat that has just eaten a duck?
A. A duck-filled fatty-puss.



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The Village Hall Saga

By our Legal Correspondent

Use the word "saga" deliberately: it is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as "a long story of heroic achievement". If we finally succeed in achieving our aim of getting a lease of the Village Hall, despite the obstacles and procrastination with which we have been faced, it will have been fairly heroic; and one thing that cannot be disputed is that it will certainly have been long! It is also a story in which our efforts seem to be dogged by fate. Readers with long memories may remember that in May the Church Trustees (who currently own the Hall) got so fed up with the time their then solicitors were taking to deal with the lease, that they withdrew their instructions, and instructed a firm of solicitors in Oxford who specialise in Ecclesiastical Law to act for them instead.

At the end of May the lady solicitor in that firm who was to deal with the matter wrote a letter to your correspondent's former firm, Kidd Rapinet, to which a prompt reply was sent. However, that is the only letter they have ever received from her! In August, after numerous 'chasing' letters and phone calls, Kidd Rapinet finally received a further letter, dealing with their questions, but this was from a senior partner in the firm, who explained that he was writing because his colleague was currently on holiday. Further letters were written by Kidd Rapinet to the Oxford solicitors, both to the person who should be dealing with the matter, and to the partner who had written in August, but without eliciting any response, and it was not possible to contact her by telephone. Accordingly, in November your correspondent obtained permission from his former partner to try to contact the person who should have been dealing with the matter direct; and on 7 out of 8 successive working days he telephoned the Oxford solicitors' office. He was never once able to speak to the person concerned: she was always engaged, on the phone, or could not be found, or was away from the office. Needless to say, his phone calls were never returned.

His erstwhile colleague in Kidd Rapinet therefore wrote a fairly snotty letter to the senior partner of the Oxford solicitors who had been involved back in August, and as a result they have now received a letter from a new solicitor in the firm, saying that he had now taken the case over. He raised a number of questions (most of which had been raised and dealt with previously), and these were answered promptly. However the other bad news, apart from the 6 month delay, is that he revealed that his colleague had not, as she should have done (and as we had asked her to do, more than once), contacted the Charity Commission to ask for them to prepare something called an Albemarle Schedule, without which the Church Trustees cannot lease the Hall to us. He is now doing this, and has said he will get instructions from the Church Trustees on the outstanding points as soon as possible. In theory, therefore, we could expect some more rapid progress to be made; but having regard to the previous history of the matter, I am not going to make predictions. My only hope is that the embarrassment and guilt which the Oxford Solicitors should be feeling will encourage the man now dealing with the case to keep on the ball, and make sure that things continue to move as quickly as they should. My former colleague at Kidd Rapinet and I will do what we can to try to ensure that he does.

I am sorry to start the New Year on this rather downbeat note, but let us hope that my next article will have cause to be more optimistic.

~ Peter Shorrock

The New Village Hall

It was very clear when I was preparing the Church room for the recent Christmas Cabaret that the place is falling apart, rotting before our very eyes and is looking more shabby than ever before. The paint is peeling, the floor is breaking up, the wallpaper hanging off, the toilets... 'nuff said? It is not a very attractive place.

The people who look after it do a good job but are constrained by these most difficult circumstances.

It is understood that negotiations to get the lease signed over from the Church have ground to a halt.

We are told unless the current hall is upgraded that it will be forcibly closed in October 2004.

With the loss of the Bull and Butcher to other interests we no longer have a room in the village to 'Party' or to hold events.

Now is the time to act!

Checking around with quite a few people there appears to be a village consensus to build a new Village hall, fitting for the current century, and the ideal spot is to build it on the recreation ground.

This new hall does not have to be much larger than the current one, just equipped with the basic needs of our modern age but it does need to be built in short period of time (12 months?).

A recent Parish Council meeting agreed that we could set up a small team to look at the whole issue of building the new hall on the Recreation ground, and, when ready, they would accept a proposal for action

In the initial stages there are 6 areas to look at as the Headlines of the plan

- Establishing a Steering team
- Location on the Rec
- Design, Size, layout, capability, Car Parking
- Estimated Cost and Fund Raising
- Impact on others, and the environment
- Planning consents/consultancy
- Time Line

For some time now we have established a fund from the shows that we have done which was targeted at equipping the existing room, once it was in our hands. With a new hall Lottery Grants and County Council funding all become realities. You never know, some of our local 'personages' may be persuaded to dip their hand in their pockets as a gesture to the well being of the village.

Several people have said that they would be willing to be part of the team to look at the feasibility of building on the Rec.

If you have any views on the ambitious project then you can either make them known to me or any other members of the team, or even through the Chronicle.

This probably become a regular feature in the Chronicle so we will update you there with progress and the names of the other team members in the next issue

~ Neil Chesher

Thanks to Peter and Neil for the two articles on this page. If you have any comments or suggestions we will be pleased to print them or send them on to the authors. ~ Ed

S. J. LEE

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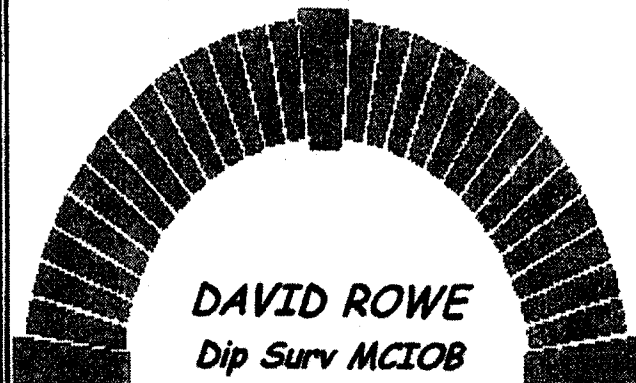
We cover the villages of Aston Abbots, Cheddington, Cublington, Dunton, Long Marston, Mentmore, Oving, Soulbury, Stewkley, Weedon, Whitchurch, Wing, Wingrave (*this is not an exhaustive list*) and other outlying villages of Aylesbury, Leighton Buzzard and Tring.

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Countryside Diary

December 6th

The weather is always fascinating and the early winter pattern for the last few years has been pretty standard. One or two hard frosts about October 10th and then a long mild spell with no frosts up to about the end of November. How long would dahlias and runner beans last if they could survive that mid-October frost?

This mild November has produced some interest for me:- green leaves on alder trees down on the main road and caterpillars still, on 5th December, eating spring cabbage plants - surely a record. Of course, of most interest, the grass is still growing and looking really well in some fields - a real bonus for the sheep.

Although several early sown fields of rape in the area have failed to come up a lot of the winter wheat is now looking really lovely - straight, fresh green rows stretching across the fields.

Bulbs, too, are coming through - some daffodils being an inch high - as are the dark green leaves of autumn crocus; a few delicate anemone leaves have also appeared. There's always something growing in a good garden.

The rain, of course, has done wonders for plant and wildlife in general. Worms have been very active again - the casts are easy to see in the short lawn grass. Ponds again have water in them which means we can graze New Field something we haven't been able to do since the hay was cleared in July - the pond being the only water supply.

A bit of a disaster for the pond life and vegetation this summer, but in my experience, most things in nature can 'bounce back' very quickly.

I only hope we don't now experience a long very cold spell as I'm sure lots of birds and animals still need to build up their reserves for January/February.

One thing is certain - the birds have cleared the holly berries from around 59 The Green a lot earlier this year than in the past - mostly redwings and blackbirds with the occasional thrush. The fieldfares, true to their name, have stayed in the field.

One thing, or things, that do look well - Chinese water deer!

Yes, it sounds unlikely in dry Aston Abbotts but there are Chinese water deer. About the size of a greyhound and a similar colour too - grey. They live, rather like hares, out in the fields and their first reaction to my Land Rover is to lie "doggo" and hope they are not seen - two grey humps in the grass. If we go too near they jump up and run in small circles,

which seems most strange - they rarely run out of the fields they lay in. I read that, unlike most deer, which have only one or possibly two fawns, Chinese water deer have four or five. These young are, again like hares, deposited around in various protected sites to spread risk from predators and disturbance. It seems to work as they too are increasing rapidly in the areas that are quiet and undisturbed by dogs.

The sparrow hawks are as busy as usual. I often glimpse these birds as they flash along a hedgerow or dodge between trees in the Abbey Garden. The most obvious evidence of their existence is the little circles of feathers left where they have plucked another victim. It seemed such a shame to find evidence of more unusual birds being so treated. I've lately seen the feathers of greenfinch and spotted woodpecker left in evidence.

How long before we're saying, "We have too many sparrowhawks about"?



**“... UNLIKELY IN DRY
ASTON ABBOTTS BUT
THERE ARE CHINESE
WATER DEER”**

Pete Knight

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Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 3rd December 2003

Present

Cllrs. T.Manning (Chairman), C. Higgs, D.Dicken, M. Kent, J. Farrands and Mrs. K.Curry (Clerk). Two members of the public were present. Apologies were received from Cllrs R. Clarke, P.Shorrocks and County Cllr. B.Jennings.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

County Council, District Council & Police Matters

No representatives were present from the Police or County Council.

Peter Cooper gave a brief update on the Luton Airport plans, including the news that representatives from the Airport will be willing to talk to parishes at meetings next year.

Comments From The Floor

The Church Room – A comment was made that the development of the Church Room did not seem to be progressing. In the light of this, would it be acceptable to form a committee to investigate building a brand new Village Hall on the Recreation Ground?

The roads around the area are in a very poor / dangerous condition, and never seem to be properly repaired.

The signpost on The Green is rather low – a member of the public has bumped his head on it.

Church Row Pump

The Council discussed whether to finance restoration work on the water pump situated in Church Row. Resolved to include £50 in next year's budget.

Bull And Butcher Development

To discuss choosing a suitable street name for the above development. Resolved to ask for the name to be Humphrey's Close

Planning

To consider planning applications:

- 03/02496/APP Willowbrook Farm, Bushmead Road, Whitchurch. Change of use of land from agricultural to mixed agricultural and equestrian use, conversion of redundant barn to equestrian use and construction of manege. Resolved not to comment on this application until the planning history of the site is known.
- 03/02873/APP The Old Vicarage, Cublington Road. Part first floor, part two-storey side extension. Resolved to make no comment on this application.

Recreation Ground

Safety check – children's play area: up to date.

Date Of Next Meeting

Confirmed that the next Meeting of Aston Abbotts Parish Council will be on Wednesday 14th January 2004 at 8 pm in the Church Room

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG

~ Kate Curry, Parish Clerk

The Ladies Club

Dec 4th

Twenty members were present at today's meeting. The Chairman opened the meeting after which the minutes were read and signed. Readings and carols for our Carol Service at Cublington due to be held on Dec. 18th were agreed. This was followed by a discussion concerning a possible theatre trip in February.

Today we held an 'Entertain yourselves' afternoon with members reading poems, short stories and anecdotes. Our Tea Hostesses were Margaret Kent, and April Curnow, and the raffle prize was won by Daphne Rogers.

Dec 18th.

Twenty three members were present at today's meeting which was our Annual Carol Service held in Cublington Church.

The Service was taken by Siv Tunnicliff with readings by Jane Brine, Carol Harris and Shirley Ford

Following the Service, members went to the home of June Brine where the Cublington members had prepared a delicious tea.

~ Shirley Ford

Marathon Runner

Andrew Ford has been accepted for this year's London Marathon. He plans to run for Cancer Research, so, should anyone wish to sponsor Andy, please contact him on 681865.



Stop Press - Luton's Extended Runway Is Not A Sure Thing

The Government says it supports a longer runway at Luton Airport (White Paper on the Future of Aviation, published December 2003), to accommodate larger planes as well as an increase in the current fleet. However PAVAN, Protect Aylesbury Vale Against Noise, claims that the airport cannot justify the extension on economic or environmental grounds:

"Engineering constraints will push up the costs - which the Government say should be met by the airport operators" Luton needs more airspace and an additional flightpath (Option 3, or latterly Option 3a), which has already proved a major stumbling block for them. The Government has just ordered a comprehensive review of airspace for all airports in the south east, so Luton's flightpath proposals could be delayed again while the review is taking place :

A longer runway could see traffic at Luton increase from 7m to 30m passengers per annum - that's up to one plane every two minutes at 3-5000 feet over the Vale. But PAVAN claims that Luton Airport is scaremongering at the moment by trying to get people used to the idea of 30 mppa. Then when they later say they will ONLY expand to 20 mppa, they would expect us to meekly accept the situation. They really do not know Aylesbury vale!

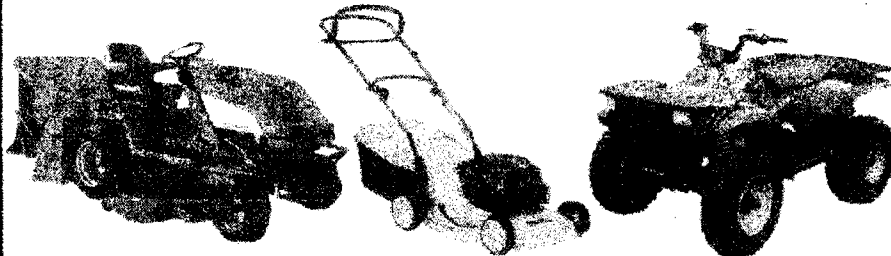
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~ Rachel Webb

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Cabaret Girls

The film *Calendar Girls*, about a branch of the Women's Institute who stripped off and posed for a calendar to raise money for cancer charities, caught the public imagination last year. It also caught the attention of Aston Abbotts cabaret director Neil Chesher.

The packed audience at this year's cabaret, staged in the Church room in early December, was rather puzzled when Neil started to push, shove, and beat them out of the way during the interval in order to make room to set up a laptop computer and projector. At the same time a group of cabaret performers were gamely manhandling a large projection screen onto the stage, nearly decapitating several members of the audience in the process.

What could Neil be up to? Was he about to give us his legendary presentation on the finer points of latex carpet tile adhesive, which he is known to perform quite spontaneously when under the influence of Guinness or red wine? The lights dimmed. The projector flickered and spluttered into life. The sound of the song *Calendar Girls* filled the room. The audience held their breath. The screen filled with a picture from the film *Calendar Girls* and a caption that read "*For The Gnomes - With Affection*". The audience released their breath - it wasn't going to be the carpet tile adhesive presentation after all.

The show progressed with a number of slides from the film and from the original Women's Institute calendar. Then, suddenly, the pictures were back, but with a difference. Neil had replaced the heads of the original calendar girls with the heads of our village Gnomes and some of the other village girls! The audience howled with delight. (Those of us who have already seen Neil's carpet tile presentation howled with relief.) Each picture was greeted with fresh roars of laughter as another "victim" was recognised.

Then it was the girls' turn to get their revenge. After dealing with the girls Neil had turned his attention to the boys. This time he had taken girly swimsuit pictures and transplanted the boys' heads on to them. The girls shrieked as they identified

each picture. It was a great show and superbly done, although one or two wondered if Neil had been spending too much time on his own recently?

Having gone to the trouble of rigging up the projector and screen Neil took the opportunity of presenting a further slideshow - an affectionate thumb-to-the-nose tribute to his long-term friend and stalwart cabaret performer John Brancker, who was performing for the last time this year.

Of course, the above slide shows were just two items in a packed programme that included performances from many of our favourite cabaret performers. It is difficult for me to single out any particular performance as they were all hugely enjoyable, but I'll mention one or two. It was great to see John and Anne Brancker perform *Love And Marriage* in their last ever cabaret. Dave Lewis performed his always popular and ever controversial stand-up comedy act - one or two red lights were seen to go on, although the official offence-ometer has long since been abandoned because it overloaded and blew up several years ago. We were also treated to great performances from Bridget Brandon, Lynne Manning, Nigel Palmer, Tony Rees, John Whyte, Neil himself, and our compere Avi Gupta.

For the finale, the entire cast performed the *Grease* Megamix and Neil split the audience with the girls moving to one side of the room and the boys on the other, a somewhat precarious and risky operation considering the number of tables and chairs and the state of the audience by this time.

Our thanks to all of the performers who gave up so much of their time for rehearsals as well as performing on the evening, to the "stage crew" for the set-up and breakdown, to the "hostesses" for providing the pre-cabaret meal, and most of all to Neil Chesher for organising and staging another great cabaret.

~ Phil Spooner

Mr John Brancker can be seen making his final cabaret appearance in the centre of the picture.



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Vale Volunteers

A New Chapter Opens!

For nearly 7 years Vale Volunteers has been working across Aylesbury Vale to help find helpers for nearly 300 charities and not-for-profit groups. During this period over 1500 individuals have been placed as volunteers, giving an hour or so of their time to help the wider community.

From the beginning of January 2004 Vale Volunteers will be taking on a new role. We have been awarded a 3-year Community Fund (lottery) grant to offer a wide range of services to local voluntary and community groups. Of course, we will continue to promote volunteering in the same way as before, putting people in touch with organisations needing volunteers, but Vale Volunteers is now able to do much more!

If you run a village or community organisation and need advice or information, then Vale Volunteers will be able to offer assistance. We will help new groups to get started, and established groups to grow. In addition we will be involved in consultations with Aylesbury Vale District Council, Bucks County Council and other statutory groups and will be a voice for the voluntary sector, enabling your voice to be heard, and getting appropriate information out to you. We are offering a number of different office services, such as lamination and photocopying at cost price, and can loan display equipment at nominal rates. We will hold training sessions and provide opportunities for networking and the sharing of experience and information.

If you would like to know more about how Vale Volunteers can help you, either in connection with volunteering, or in our new role as Aylesbury Vale's Council for Voluntary Service, please contact us, without any obligation, on Aylesbury (01296) 337456, write to Vale Volunteers at 14 Prebendal Court, Oxford Road, Aylesbury HP19 8EY, email on valevols@bucksnet.co.uk or visit our web site at www.valevolunteers.org.uk.

A LOVE STORY

I shall seek and find you...

I shall take you to bed and have my way with you...

I will make you ache, shake and sweat until you moan and groan.

I will make you beg for mercy... Beg for me to stop.

I will exhaust you to the point that you will be relieved when I'm finished with you.

And you will be weak for days.

All my love,

The Flu

Insatiable

Late one night this guy runs into a pub and demands a glass of water from the landlord. The guy drinks it in one gulp then asks for a second glass. Six pints later, and he has recovered enough to speak.

"Thanks," he croaks.

"That's one hell of a thirst you've got," says the landlord.

The guy says: "Any man would be as bad if they'd just made love with the woman I've got in the back seat of my car. She's insatiable. We've already done it three times and she wants me to go right back out there and do it all again. I'm not sure I have the energy"

"Where's your car?" the landlord asks.

"Behind the pub" the guy gasps.

"Tell you what," says the landlord, "You watch the bar for me while I nip out and take your place. It's dark out there, she'll never notice the difference"

"Be my guest." the guy says.

So the landlord goes outside and climbs in the back seat of the car. It's totally dark, so the woman doesn't realize she's with a different man. And so they get right down to it.

Five minutes later there's a knock on the window. It's a cop. He shines his flashlight on the naked couple.

"What's going on here?" he asks.

"It's all right, officer," explains the landlord, "She's my wife."

The officer replies apologetically, "Oh, sorry sir, I didn't realize."

"That's OK," said the landlord, "Until you switched on that damned light, neither did I."

Make a Difference in 2004

Is your New Years Resolution to do more in your community?

Not sure what's available, or expected of you.

Then Vale Volunteers can answer all your questions. In conjunction with WEA, Vale Volunteers are presenting a 6 week course that will introduce you to a wide range of voluntary opportunities that will put your skills and experience to good use.

This free course will run for 6 weeks starting on Wednesday January 28th at the Multicultural Centre in Aylesbury, with a break for half term, travelling expenses to attend the course will be reimbursed.

Over 20 organisations will give a presentation on volunteering in their organisation; there will also be an opportunity to visit as many of these organisations to see them in action.

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The Farmer and The New Christian

An old farmer went to the city one weekend and attended the big city church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was.

"Well," said the farmer, "It was good. They did something different, however. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns."

"Praise choruses," said his wife, "What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay. They're sort of like hymns, only different," said the farmer."

"Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife.

The farmer said, "Well it's like this - If I were to say to you: 'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' well that would be a hymn. If, on the other hand, I were to say to you: 'Martha Martha, Martha, Oh, Martha, MARTHA, MARTHA, the cows, the big cows, the brown cows, the black cows, the white cows, the black and white cows, the COWS, COWS, COWS are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, the CORN, CORN, CORN,' then, if I were to repeat the whole thing two or three times, well that would be a praise chorus."

Alternatively.....

A young, new Christian went to his local church one weekend and attended the small town church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was.

"Well," said the young man, "It was good. They did something different, however. They sang hymns instead of regular songs."

"Hymns," said his wife, "What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay. They're sort of like regular songs, only different," said the young man.

"Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife.

The young man said, "Well it's like this - If I were to say to you, 'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' well that would be a regular song. If, on the other hand, I were to say to you:

Oh Martha, dear Martha, hear thou my cry
Incline thine ear to the words of my mouth.
Turn thou thy whole wondrous ear by and by
To the righteous, inimitable, glorious truth.

For the way of the animals who can explain
There in their heads is no shadow of sense,
Hearkenest they in God's sun or his rain
Unless from the mild, tempting corn they are fenced.

Yea those cows in glad bovine, rebellious delight,
Have broke free their shackles, their warm pens eschewed.
Then goaded by minions of darkness and night
They all my mild Chilliwack sweet corn have chewed.

So look to that bright shining day by and by,
Where all foul corruptions of earth are reborn.
Where no vicious animal makes my soul cry
And I no longer see those foul cows in the corn,

Then, if I were to do only verses one, three and four and do a key change on the last verse, well that would be a hymn."

~ submitted by Clare Shorrock

Christmas Dangers

It arrived a little late for the December issue, but this article shows how careful we should be around Christmas time. Despite Christmas being a time of peace and goodwill to all men there is nothing to stop ourselves being dangerous to ourselves as this hotchpotch of statistics proves... Be careful out there.

- 3 people die each year testing if a 9v battery works on their tongue
- 142 people were injured in 1998 by not removing all pins from new shirts
- 58 people are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers
- 31 people have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the lights were plugged in
- 19 people have died in the last 3 years believing that Christmas decorations were chocolate
- hospitals reported 4 broken arms last year after cracker pulling accidents
- 101 people since 1997 have had to have broken parts of plastic toys pulled out of the soles of their feet
- 18 people had serious burns in 1998 trying on a new jumper with a lit cigarette in their mouth
- a massive 543 people were admitted to A&E in the last two years after opening bottles of beer with their teeth
- 5 people were injured last year in accidents involving out of control Scalextric cars.and.....
- 8 people cracked their skull in 1997 after falling asleep while throwing up into the toilet

~ spotted in AMPS, the Newsletter of the Association of Motion Pictures Sound

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates. "In honour of this holy season," Saint Peter said, "you must each possess something that symbolises Christmas to get into heaven."

The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. It represents a candle, he

said.

You may pass through the pearly gates Saint Peter said.

The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells".

Saint Peter said you may pass through the pearly gates.

The third man started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolise?"

The man replied, "They're Carols".

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Rectors Report

Here we go again!

Another New Year, and another opportunity for us to make changes to our lives and our lifestyles. As we go into the New Year we can be filled with good intentions. But sadly, many of them do not last very long.

This might be because we are not very good at learning from our failures. Although "failures" is probably too strong a word. The thing is that we only need to make a new start when things haven't gone quite as well as we hoped that they would. Sometimes they go almost disastrously wrong, whilst at other times they fall into the area of "could do better". Sometimes we have to put our hands up and admit that the reason for this lies with us. We are frequently the ones who are at fault.

But being human, we all always try to shift the blame onto someone (anyone) else. There are things that happen for which we can take no responsibility – but I suspect that these are significantly fewer than we like to admit. We have usually played some part in them – even if we have not realised it at the time.

So what about this particular New Year? What new starts are we going to make? Can we build on the lessons we have learnt through 2003 and make 2004 an even better experience?

There could be a danger in trying to make Resolutions that only improve things for ourselves. After all, it is not much use making the world a wonderful place for me if it is absolute hell for everyone else! We need to remember that ancient philosopher who spoke of gaining the "Greatest good for the greatest number of people".

Yet, having said that, it sounds rather like something that is very difficult for us to face. For our generation has become very focussed on our individual gratification. It is "I want", "I must have", and so on. Surely one of the lessons that we need to learn again is how to share things with each other. We sometimes called children whose every whim is satisfied "spoiled children". We know that they learn through having to manage without some of the things that they claim to "really, really want".

Perhaps our New Year's resolution should simply be to be less selfish and more considerate of the needs of others.

~ Bob Willmott

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Angels

Once upon a time there was a child waiting to be born. The child asked God, "They tell me You are sending me to earth to-morrow. How am I going to live there being so small and helpless?"

God replied, "Among the angels, I'll choose one for you. Your angel will be waiting for you."

The child further inquired, "But tell me, here in heaven I don't have anything to do but sing, smile, and be happy."

God said, "Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you every day. And you will feel your angel's love and be happy".

Again the child asked, "And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me when I don't know the language?"

God said, "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak".

"And what am I going to do when I want to talk to You?"

God said, "Your angel will place your hands together and teach you how to pray."

"I've heard that on Earth there are some very wicked people.

Who will protect me from them?"

God said, "Your angel will protect you even though it means risking life itself"

"But I will always be sad because I will not see You anymore".

God said, "Your angel will always talk to you about Me, and will teach you the way to come back to me, even though I will always be next to you."

At that moment there was much peace in heaven, but voices from Earth could be heard and the child hurriedly asked God, "If I am leaving heaven now, will you please tell me my angels name?"

"Thier name is unimportant to you," said God, "you will simply call her Grandma."

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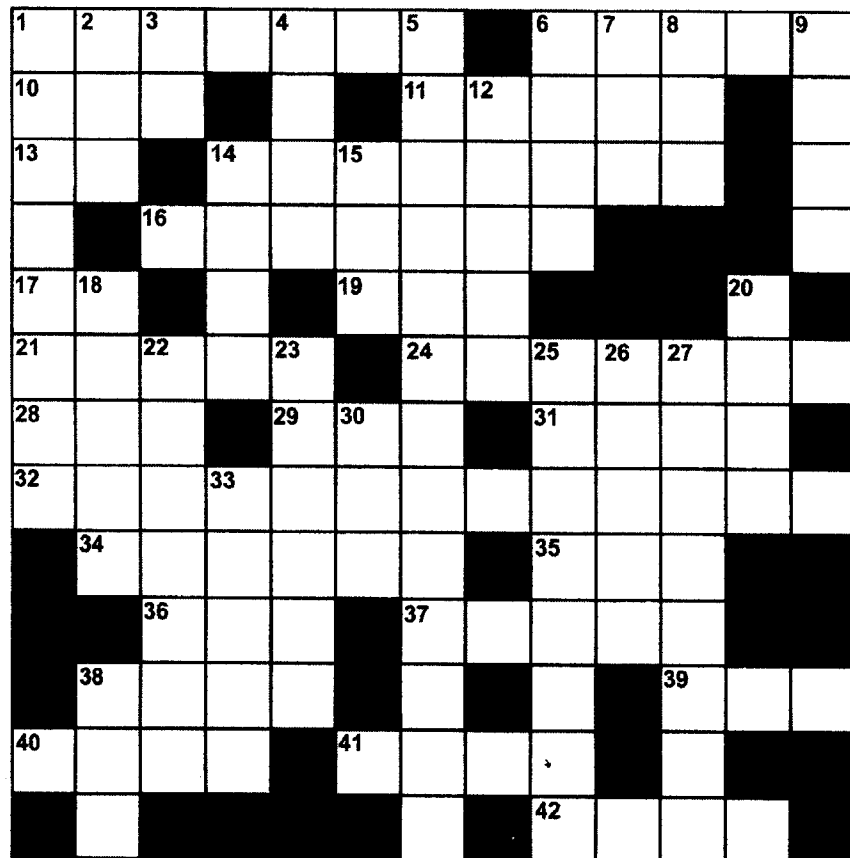
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The Chronicle Crossword

January 2004



December solution

Across 1 Mesa 5 Zeal 10 Inert 11 Quoted
14 Next 15 Outgoing 17 Cry 18 Idaho
19 Tar 20 Eg 21 Veto 22 Yo ho 24 Ernie
27 Ore 29 Orbs 31 Doyen 32 Blot 35 Ajar
37 Rio 38 Gas 40 En 41 Enrols 44 Bliss
46 WE 47 Soot 48 Dozens 49 Tusks

Down 1 Mince 2 Energy 3 Sexy 4 Art
6 Equate 7 Authors 8 Logo 9 Edna 12 To
13 Either 15 Ode 16 Grins 18 Ivory
23 Hoot 25 Iota 26 Fibre 28 Eel 30 Beans
31 Door 33 Lingo 34 Jabs 36 Jests
39 Slot 42 Owe 43 Len 45 IOU

ACROSS

- 1 RIP RENT (an 8)
- 6 Fine cloth (5)
- 10 Age (3)
- 11 Alert (5)
- 13 Compass point (2)
- 14 Rubbished (8)
- 16 Ludicrous (7)
- 17 Morning (2)
- 19 Scrap (3)
- 21 STAGE (an 5)
- 24 Russian Empress (7)
- 28 Verse (3)
- 29 In what way? (3)
- 31 Loan (4)
- 32 Preserves buildings (8 & 5)
- 34 More irate (6)
- 35 Hasten (4)
- 36 Incline the head (3)
- 37 Circle (5)
- 38 In good time (4)
- 39 Fuss (3)
- 40 Loch --- (4)
- 41 Extremities (4)
- 42 Encounter (4)

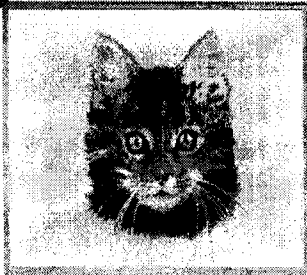
DOWN

- 1 US defence HQ (8)
- 2 Tier (3)
- 3 Not out (2)
- 4 Beverages (4)
- 5 Homes for small mammals (6 & 7)
- 6 Aromatic herb (4)
- 7 Eisenhower (3)
- 8 Guided (3)
- 9 COTS (an 5)
- 12 Dance (5)
- 14 Donate (4)
- 15 Curved bone (3)
- 18 A lady (5)
- 20 Extremities (4)
- 22 Disease (7)
- 23 Poorly made (6)
- 25 Regard for others (8)
- 26 Play again (6)
- 27 Overwhelm (8)
- 30 Number (3)
- 33 False gods (5)
- 38 Lair (3)

Compiled by Don Bellingham



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this service to help the elderly,
housebound or the just 'too fed up
with shopping'

24 hour notice - Free service
within the village of Whitchurch
and a £2 delivery or £20 minimum
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villages.

Fresh bread delivered daily -
fresh vegetables - groceries - plus
a wide range of household
requisites and stationery,
confectionery and drinks.

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and shoe repairing service -
and even bulk supplies of pet
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OPENING HOURS

Monday
8 am to 5 pm

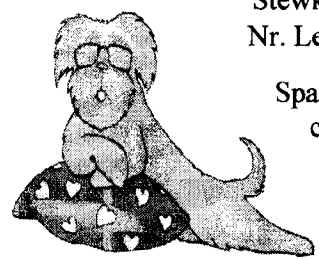
Tuesday—Friday
8 am to 1 pm & 2.30 pm to 5 pm

Saturday
8 am to 1 pm


Woodland Flowers
 by Margaret Jarvis
 Tel/Fax: 01908 503502 Mobile: 0403 197799
 Thrift Wood, Buckingham Rd, Whaddon
 Milton Keynes MK17 0EQ

Wingrave Netball Club
 7-9 year olds, 9-10 am every Saturday during term time at WINGRAVE SCHOOL. (£1 per session)
 10-13 year olds, 9-10 am every Saturday during term time at WINGRAVE NEWPARK. Contact Sandy (coach) if interested on 688952
 14 yrs—adults, 10-11.30 am every Saturday at WINGRAVE NEWPARK (£1.50 per session)
ALL NEWCOMERS ARE MADE VERY WELCOME
FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT KAREN 01525 240869


Lakeside Trout & Coarse Fishery
 Lakeside Farm, Wing Road, Cublington
 Nr. Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 0LF
 Tel: 01296 682201

Stear Farm
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- ✓ Sausages
- ✓ Pies
- ✓ Preserves
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THINKING ABOUT HOLIDAYS NEXT YEAR?

We have a holiday home for rent in
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for weekends or weekly lets all year round.
Sleeps 4-5. Close to town and beaches,
beautiful views overlooking
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Ring Helen and Simon Dowling for further details

01525 383315

St James Church

Church Services

4 th Jan	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service
	Aston Abbots	11.15	Parish Communion
11 th	Wingrave	08.00	Prayer Book style Communion
	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Covenant Service at Methodist Ch.
	Aston Abbots	11.15	Parish Communion
18 th	Cublington	08.45	Family Service with Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Parish Communion
25 th	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Aston Abbots	11.15	Morning Service
1 st Feb	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service
	Aston Abbots	11.15	Parish Communion
8 th	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	People's Praise
	Aston Abbots		No Service



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



Sunday Readings

4 th Jan	Christmas 2	Ephesians 1.3-14; John 1.10-18
11 th	Epip 1	Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21-22
18 th	Epip 2	1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11
25 th	St Paul	Acts 9.1-22; Matthew 19.27-30
1 st Feb	Epip 4	1 Corinthians 13.1-13; Luke 2.22-40
8 th	3 before Lent	1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11

From The Registers

Baptism

30 th Nov	Abigail Jeffers at Wingrave
14 th Dec	Christopher Fairhurst at Wingrave

Wedding

29 th November	Tom Ridgway & Gwyneth Davies at Wingrave
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Funeral

12 th November	Gwendoline Lambert at Amersham
17 th December	Sidney Bonner at Amersham
18 th December	Irene Bateman at Wingrave

Church Flowers

3/4 th	-
10/11 th	Mr C Higgs
17/18 th	Mrs F Bean
24/25 th	Donated
31/1 st Feb	Mrs S Ford

Anyone who is interested in joining the Church Flower rota – please contact Colin on 681343

Church Sidesmen

4 th	Mr C Higgs
11 th	Mr G Kemp
18 th	Mr A Ford
25 th	Mr C Higgs
1 st Feb	Mr A ford

The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
A418 Committee	Tom Manning	TBA	Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229
Astonbury	Peter Shorrock	681260	NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Line	0845 46 47
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Parish Clerk	Kate Curry	681137
Bingo	Doris Scutchings	681243	Parish Council Leader	Tom Manning	TBA
Busses	Arriva	468730 or 423445	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Chronicle Advertising	Claire Gresswell	682949	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Chronicle Editorial	Phil Spooner	681544	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763	Rector	Reverend Bob Willmott	681623
Church Room Redevelopment	Tom Manning	TBA	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Church Room Hire	Doris Scutchings	681243	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
Coach Trips	Colin Higgs	681343	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	Shop (Osborn's)	Bernard Osborn	681233
County Councillor	Brenda Jennings	01525 270610	Toddlers Group	Claire Gresswell	682949
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Wingrave Preschool	Claire Upton	681700
Fete Coordinator	Jackie Farrands	681182	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	681011
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave School	Office	681346
Friends of St James	Clare Shorrock	681260	Wingrave Stores	Andy & Helen Hall	681696
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000			
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865			

Please let us know of any errors or omissions

Andy and Helen Welcome You to

WINGRAVE POST OFFICE STORES

**NEWSAGENT • GENERAL STORE • OFF LICENCE
PHOTOCOPYING • VIDEO CLUB
DRY CLEANING AGENT • CASH MACHINE**



OPENING HOURS



SHOP

Monday - Saturday 6am - 7pm
Sunday 6am - 1pm

Tel: 681696

POST OFFICE

Monday - Friday 9am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

Tel: 681011

**DAILY VILLAGE NEWSPAPERS DELIVERED IN WINGRAVE AND ASTON ABBOTTS
MAGAZINES ORDERED AND SAVED**

**CONFECTIONARY • ICE-CREAM • GREETINGS CARDS • WRAPPING PAPER
FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES • FRESH BREAD & MILK DAILY**

CASH MACHINE IN THE STORE • FRESH BREAD COOKED ON THE PREMISES

What's On In January

- Thursday 8th Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm.
Saturday 10th Ramblers New years Party. 13 Moorlands. Wing. 8pm
Sunday 11th Rambling Club members meet at Marsworth. 2 pm.
Tuesday 13th Mobile Library at The Green, Wingrave Road and Oxley Farm.
Please use the library – it's under threat!
also Friends Of St James meet at The Royal Oak at 8.30 pm
Wednesday 14th Parish Council meeting. Church Room. 8 pm.
Thursday 15th Bingo in aid of Whitby Lifeboat. Church Room. 7.30 pm.
Sunday 18th Village footpath walk. Meet at The Green, 2 pm.
Tuesday 20th Floral Class. Church Room. 7 pm.
Thursday 22nd Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm.
Friday 23rd FEBRUARY CHRONICLE DEADLINE
Saturday 24th Allotment rent collection in the Church Room. 10.30-12 noon.
Tuesday 27th Mobile Library at The Green, Wingrave Road and Oxley Farm.
Please use the library – use it or lose it!
Thursday 29th Highways meeting at Winslow Centre – 6 pm. Any bus or train
queries to Colin or Richard
Sunday 1st Feb Rambling Club members meet at Wing. 2 pm.

Book This Date

The 2004 Aston Abbotts Festival and Fete weekend is Saturday and Sunday the 24th and 25th of July

Church Room Notice

New Hire Charges

Following a meeting of the Trustees of the Church Room, we would advise that a revised hire charge will be made from January.

- Hourly rate : £2.50 + metered electricity (village residents)
- Hourly rate : £10 + metered electricity (non-residents)
- Weddings, parties, christenings, etc at £2.50 per hour (village residents) plus an additional one hour charge for preparation time.

All fees must be paid when the key is returned to Doris. The person booking the room will be responsible for the payment.

Thank You.

Please mention **The Chronicle** when responding to advertisements

BUCKINGHAM MOBILE

MOBILE LIBRARY - 2003

ASTON ABBOTTS THE GREEN 10.25-10.55
ASTON ABBOTTS WINGRAVE ROAD 11.00-11.15
ASTON ABBOTTS OXLEY FARM 12.55-13.10

For further information or enquiries, please contact:

Buckingham Library
Verney Close
Buckingham
Bucks MK18 1JP
Telephone: 01280 813229
Fax.: 01280 823597

www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries/lima_lib_mobiles.stm

Surveys on the Mobile library are being carried out. If you want the service to continue - please use it!

Classified

Sarah Smith is available for **BABYSITTING**. Phone 01296 681373

NATHAN TEAK EXTENDING DINING ROOM TABLE WITH FOUR Nathan chairs. Very good condition. Phone 01296 681182

BROTHER LW810 WORDPROCESSOR. Integrated LCD display and word-processing software for editing letters, documents, etc. Built in inkjet printing (colour capable). Save to disk facility. Around three years old. Very good condition in original box with manual. Price £35. Phone 01296 681544.

Do you need a **BABYSITTER**? I am experienced in looking after children of all ages and am willing to offer my services. Contact Nikki on 01296 681413 or 07903 083085.

PLASTIC CAR DOG SEAT COVER— £5. Phone 01296 681544

BABYSITTING—Phone Claire Biddle on (01296) 681102

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle. Phone us on 01296 681544 or email editor@aachronicle.co.uk

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS Tel: 01296 682126

DAVE LEWIS IS CERTIFIED



Yes – it's official. Dave has been certified. This momentous event happened when Dave, accompanied by three fellow experimenters, defied the laws of gravity to fly in a heavier than air machine on the 100th anniversary of flight, December 17th 2003. Leaving Wycombe Air Centre mid-morning Dave first climbed to an unbelievable height of 2000 feet and proved conclusively that he would not spontaneously combust due to flying too close to the sun. Flying up the Vale he circled Aston Abbotts and Waddesdon before impressing all on board by his uncanny ability to find his way back to High Wycombe. Unlike the Wright brothers who kept their achievement secret for several years, upon safely returning to *terra firma* Dave immediately headed for the Royal Oak where he informed a less-than-stunned crowd of two of his feat, provoking incredulous gasps of, "You nearly parted my hair" and, "Oh, I wondered who was in that plane". All crewmembers survived the experience without physical or mental injury and received certificates from the Air Centre. In addition, Dave will be certified by the CAA for his heroic achievement. Well done Dave—and Thank You from your fellow travellers.