

Editorial

More Disturbing Happenings

Sadly we once again learn of disturbing happenings in Aston Abbots. There was an attempt to force the front door of a house on The Green, and a straw barn was set alight at Red Barn Farm—see page 9.

Sergeant Robert Gregory of Wing Police assured this year's Annual Parish Meeting that Aston Abbots is a relatively safe and crime-free place in which to live. We must be grateful for this, but not complacent. This week the LBO reports that burglaries in the Wing area have increased by 40% this year. Burglary, vandalism and antisocial behaviour are bugbears of modern urban life and we should remain vigilant to prevent them spilling out into villages such as ours. You might think that there is little for you to do to prevent these occurrences, but there are a number of things that you can do.

Firstly, keep an eye out—not just for yourselves but for your neighbours who might be out or at work. If you see anything suspicious or anybody acting suspiciously around the village then phone the police. If you feel the incident doesn't warrant a 999 call then there is a new number—0845 8 505 505—to report non-urgent matters.

Secondly, report things that trouble you to the police, using the form that is printed on page 27 of this Chronicle. It could be vandalism, anti-social behaviour or anything else that you feel the police should know about. At the Parish Meeting it was clear that a number of people were upset about a car parked on The Green that had no tax and appeared to be visibly unroadworthy. You can use the form to report such things, The police cannot act unless they hear about these things.

Finally, why not tell The Chronicle if you suffer vandalism or crime within the village? We will respect your privacy if you don't want to be named, but if we tell the village then residents are warned about what is going on.

We are lucky to live in such a relatively crime-free area. Let's all work together to try and make sure that it stays that way.

Church Service Times

I understand that several people, including the bell-ringers, missed at least one church service because it started before the time printed in The Chronicle. We are sorry for this, but the times printed were the correct times given to us when we went to press. The problem has been caused by changes brought about by the expansion of Bob Wilmott's ministry to include the church in Wing. This caused a small number of services to be moved to earlier times after The Chronicle was printed. This month we are printing service times for more than eight weeks ahead and Bob has taken great care to ensure that the information is as correct as possible. However, please allow him a little leeway whilst he adapts to the new circumstances. If there are any changes the latest list will be on the notice board outside of the Church. Alternatively, if you wish to confirm a time you can phone any member of the Parochial Church Council. Their numbers are on page 29.

Phil

THE CHRONICLE

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July/August 2004

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~o~

A note to all would be advertisers -

More than 202 households receive The Chronicle 11 times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines)...

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~o~

Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 27th August 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 Abbots, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

In This Issue

In your July/ August Chronicle ~

- *Gnomes Go To The Dogs*
- *Footpath Meeting*
- *Funny That....*
- *Parish Council Minutes*
- *Your letters*

and much, much more.....

There is no August Issue—see you in September

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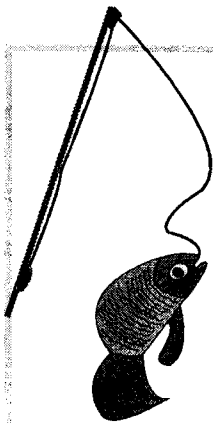
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In The Village

Fete 2004

This year's Aston Abbots Fete will soon be upon us— so let's hope that the weather is kind to us. Jackie Farrands' team have been working hard to ensure that it will be every bit as good, if not better, than in previous years.

The Aston Abbots fete is a traditional English fete. All of your favourite attractions will be there, headed up by Morris dancers, the Silver Band, rides and stalls for the children, food, the plant stall, books, the Tombola and much, much more. Our bric-a-brac stall draws people from far and wide, so make sure you get there early to get the bargains.

Of course there will be teas in the Church Room - St James church will be open – and don't forget the raffle!

This year the fete will be the biggest single fund-raiser for the village, raising much-needed funds for the Church, the Church Room (or possibly a new village centre) and to help support The Chronicle. Please come to the fete on July 24th if you can, but even if you can't come you can still help by donating little items – there is a list on page 21 and volunteers will knock on your door on the Monday or Tuesday before the fete to see if you have anything to give.

With your help we can make 2004 a bumper year, so let's all try and make it a terrific success!

~ Phil Spooner

Council Issue Guidelines

Bucks County Council has just issued a new guideline as to which council section is responsible for which services. They are as follows:

County council: schools, social services roads/highways, rights of way, libraries, transport, tourism.

District council: housing, council tax, planning, environmental health, concessionary travel, street cleaning, refuse and fly tipping.

Parish councils: Allotments, bus shelters, close churchyards, highways, war memorials, litter bins and open spaces.

~ Colin Higgs

Yellow Perils

A number of people have spoke to The Chronicle about the yellow police notices that have sprouted up at various places around the village. Although everybody is appreciative of the intention – to warn about leaving valuables in the car – the general consensus seems to be that the yellow plastic looks "hideous" and out of place.

~ Phil Spooner

Close, But Not Close Enough

A large sign has appeared outside of the Bull and Butcher development, proclaiming the name as Humphries Close— named after the Humphreys family. Shame they spelt the name wrong, despite ringing and asking about the spelling.

However, we believe (and hope) that the spelling will be corrected before proper road signs are made.

~ Phil Spooner

Funny That....

I could have sworn that at the time of the Bull and Butcher planning application being considered by AVDC the flats were described as "affordable housing". How come they turned into "luxury apartments"? And wasn't there supposed to be a space at the end of the row of houses to preserve the view of open countryside from the road? How come there are two garages with a little tunnel between them?

And weren't there a dozen or more parking spaces on the plans? How come there only seem to be five or six now?

Funny that, I could have sworn....

~ Clare Shorrocks

That is indeed strange... I also seem to recall the term "affordable housing" being bandied around at the time. At the Bull and Butcher meeting in the Village Hall I remember a couple of chaps asking "What about our affordable housing?" when they heard protests against the development. Well, there they are lads—snap 'em up!

I hope the current parking problems around the development are temporary. Just today a bemused villager remarked to Mrs Ed that he didn't know where to stand as there were vans and cars parked over the bus stop and he didn't think the driver would see him. However, we should remember that currently there is disruption caused by the ongoing development and there may be more parking spaces when it's finished, but I hope the Parish Council are keeping an eye on matters to see that the correct parking is provided. ~ Ed.

Gnomes Go To The Dogs.

Last Tuesday a group of 13 assorted Gnomes spent an evening at Milton Keynes Dog racing stadium. It was a new experience for most of us and one which we all thoroughly enjoyed. We had a good 3 course meal (my apologies again to April's cousin for the flying duck incident) and a small amount of alcohol was consumed. Once we had been shown the ropes by the more experienced members, the betting began. We soon got the hang of it, just pick a name you fancy and put a pound on each race. Needless to say I did not come out in profit! Most of us filled out the race cards in advance, in case our judgement should be impaired as the evening wore on. It was all great fun and thanks to Sally Clarke, Kate and Alison for driving, and to Sally C. for organising such an enjoyable evening out.

~ Carol Spooner

Open Day at Buffalo House

This Buffalo farm at Slapton is well worth a visit. Nick Griffin has a herd of 400 Indian Water Buffalo and produces a number of products from milk, cheeses, ice cream and meat to manure & wood chippings. I've tried the cheeses & milk and particularly liked the Mozzarella which, unusually is made from 100% buffalo milk. The milk is low in cholesterol and is also proving to be an excellent cure for many allergies.

The Buffalo burgers went down well on the Barbie and my hanging baskets have definitely benefited from the liquid fertilizer known as Liquid Gold!

~ Alison Lewis.



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Mr and Mrs Shillingford (junior)!!

Congratulations to Diana Kent and Andy Shillingford on their marriage in Cyprus last month. The legal marriage took place on the 2nd June followed by the 'religious' ceremony on the 3rd. This momentous occasion was witnessed by members of their families and close friends and marked by a 'bit of a do'!! By all accounts a great time was had by all.

Rita and I have known Diana since moving to AA. some 25 years ago, and Andy even longer, so it was with considerable pleasure that we found ourselves invited to the 'post nuptial' celebration at The Royal Oak on the 12th June.



We were not alone!

The pub and marquee were packed and it was particularly nice for us to meet so many people we hadn't seen for several years. A nice touch was that Diana wore her wedding dress and Andy the suit he was married in, all of which added to the sense of occasion. As usual, Teri & Gary had laid on an excellent spread of food and I think it fair to say that everyone who was there had a great evening.

[Thanks to Ray Wilkinson for the picture ~ Ed]

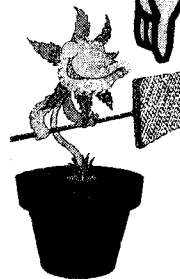
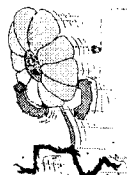


BE LIKE CLARE AND...

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It's that time of year again! Clare needs you to remember the plant stall at the fete. Please pot up surplus seedlings and any bits and pieces that have spread too much in your flower beds. Keep them safe and give them to Clare at Oak Farm House the week before the fete.

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HOT NEWS

WIN A WEEK'S HOLIDAY IN PADSTOW

Tickets will be sold up to and during the fete weekend to win a week's accommodation at Tregerrick in Padstow. The draw will take place at Breakfast at the Chapel on 25 July 2004.

ALL PROCEEDS TO VILLAGE FUNDS

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Re; Issue 235.

Firstly,

I would like to add to the list of 'Incident's. There was a most serious incident at Red Barn Farm in the parish of Aston Abbots. Namely a farm FIRE. Two hundred bales or 100 tonnes of straw, not hay as reported in the Bucks Herald. This incident was undoubtedly caused by some sad pranksters on their way home late at night. I am sure these persons do not realise the magnitude of what they do. Lucky for us our nearest neighbour (John Sutton) alerted the fire service before alerting ourselves and the fire was dealt with and controlled.

Secondly,

May I respond to the very fine article headed Countryside Diary. Peter Knight asks the question, Does the Ash ever come into leaf before the Oak? Simple, No! The country saying is quite correct but the length of time between the two can vary from two to fourteen days, the longer the delay the drier the summer! Incidentally, the Ash is always the last of our native trees to come into leaf and also the first to drop.

Peter also asks if anyone has heard the Cuckoo in the parish of Aston Abbots? Simple, Yes! The Cuckoo, As you all know, arrives on or around April 20th, the birds were well in time this year, he and or she has also been very vociferous at this end of the parish, in fact he is on the verge of being a nuisance. The bird has now stopped thank goodness, early to mid June he ceases to ring out his single melody. The pair probably only sing whilst breeding? The Cuckoo leaves our islands in September. We shall await his return to song in 2005.

Finally, Peter, Keep it up, a brilliant article from a man who obviously loves and understands the countryside and its code.

Regards,

Bill Hallam

The fire occurred on Thursday 6th May at 11.20 pm. I'm sure Bill would be pleased to hear from anyone with any information about this serious incident.

I'd like to echo Bill's sentiments regarding Peter Knight's Countryside Diary. Quite a number of people have commented upon how much they enjoy reading it, and I look forward to it every month too. My grateful thanks to Peter for his excellent contributions. ~ Ed

Hi Phil,

I liked your rant on the poor recycling service and thought I'd let you know you missed a great recycling method. I use Vermiculture (worms) to get rid of my kitchen waste (non meat) and most of the paper junk mail and cardboard.

They've been ravenously chomping there way through a small mountain of junk mail and producing some thing much more useful - worm casts or black gold, excellent fertiliser for the garden. My bin is hardly used which makes paying the extortionate Council Tax even more infuriating.

Regards,

Brian Smith (No. 81)

Brian is happy to pass on details to anybody who would like to know more. ~ Ed



Happy Birthday

George Fox	2 nd July
Donna Wiggett	2 nd
Margaret Kent	6 th
Nigel Palmer	6 th
Nicola Lovell	9 th
Vic Scott	13 th
Gordon Smith	15 th
Andrew Plested	19 th
Ellie Williams	19 th
James Hartnett	21 st
Anne Brancker	24 th
Daniel Smith	24 th
Christy Oldfield	24 th
Deirdre Whyte	27 th
Lawrence Hinds	29 th
Nora Hartnett	30 th
Julia King	31 st July
Paul Fletcher	4 th August
Liz Barlow	4 th
Ivor Belgrove	7 th
Christine Fox	10 th
Mark Hewitt	11 th
Jackie Coates	12 th
(Glorious 12 th !!)	
Dorothy Hinds	14 th
Louise McManus	17 th
Zoe Williams	19 th
Andrew Parker	21 st
Shivum Gupta	22 nd
Zoe Oldfield	24 th
Andrew Peacock	24 th
Jenny Howell	27 th
Dean Wiggett	29 th
Poonam Gupta	29 th

Countryside Diary

18th June

Past the middle of June and the sheep haven't been shorn yet, despite the splendid shearing weather. Not our fault - we rely on contractors and I think that this year we must be last on the list. As we have no buildings, shearing has to be done outside and is therefore dependent on dry weather. When I was a boy wool was a very important product with real value, but unfortunately nowadays it costs more to shear the sheep than we get for the wool - 55p per kilo is roughly what we will be paid, depending on the wool quality.

At last there is plenty of grass in the fields this year, although if this dry spell runs on for another week things could change dramatically. Our overgrown hedgerows are still ablaze, now with elderflowers and dog roses - "there about the hedge row blows, an English, unofficial rose" - and don't I just love them. Every wild rose different from its neighbour, varying in size, shape and colour from white to deep pink, cascading down the hawthorn bushes, attracting bees and butterflies to feast.

There is another wonderful sight at the moment. As you drive over Lines Hill towards Weedon in the morning, two fields of the most beautiful blue colour, in the evening they are gone. Linseed. Every morning each plant produces one delicate flower which lasts only for that morning, in the evening the fields are quite green again.

In response to last month's writing the cuckoo has turned up in Aston Abbots far more frequently than last year and once was in the Abbey gardens clearly both visible and audible. (I could see it and hear it Neil.)

The gardens are struggling a bit at the moment, desperately short of rain and with pests and disease taking advantage of the weak state of some plants. Blackfly is rife on the broad beans at the Abbey and seriously affecting the growing tips of the runner beans. Also wood pigeons are a constant threat to brassicas and peas in particular. At home the broad beans are free of blackfly, but the runner beans have no growing tips thanks to a young rabbit which caused havoc for a few disastrous days. Gardening and rabbits do not mix.

There is so much cover in the fields that I see very little animal life now except rabbits. Hares and foxes are occasionally spotted, but I haven't seen a deer for weeks now. Young birds are plentiful - should I say some young birds are plentiful, clamouring to be fed by obviously harassed parents - a dry rock hard soil makes things very difficult for rooks and jackdaws

and already dead young are a common sight but then they, in turn provide food for other hungry scavengers.

There are so few swallows, Housemartins and Swifts in the village nowadays - something I greatly miss. Hopefully swallows are nesting in a friend's field shelter because, if not, then I suspect there are no nests of these birds in the village. Even the swifts in Wingrave Church tower have less nests than last year so the decline is general.

No doubt some bright spark will include "intensive agriculture" as a reason for this decline - agriculture gets blamed for everything that is becoming scarce, but receives no credit for anything that is doing well - buzzards, kites and deer for instance. In truth I suggest that a huge combination of climate and environment plus outside influences all react together. For instance, are swallows finding life more difficult after they leave these shores and head for Africa? Are their wintering grounds in Africa as safe - is food as abundant as in previous years?

Thanks to the lady who sent me a cutting from a quality newspaper. Apparently the way to keep badgers out of a garden is to sprinkle lion's pee around the boundary - all we need is a volunteer to slip over to Whipsnade or Woburn with an empty milk bottle and - well use your own initiative!



Pete Knight

Housing Options Appraisal

The Parish Council understand from Aylesbury Vale District Council that they are required by the government to consult with Council House tenants in order to decide whether or not to keep the housing stock under the present arrangements or transfer it to a housing association.

Under current arrangements AVDC have to pay a substantial subsidy from housing income to the government. Within the next two years this subsidy will put the housing account in to the red and AVDC would be forced to make savings in order to keep the account in balance. These cuts would seriously affect the quality of service given to tenants in terms of repairs and maintenance.

An option is for AVDC to set up a housing association and to transfer the stock to this independent body. This has the benefit

of keeping control of the stock within a company owned and managed by the Council whilst avoiding the need to pay the subsidy. All other matters such as level of rent, security of tenancy and right to buy remain unchanged whilst the amount of money available for maintenance will be enhanced.

Tenants have received a series of leaflets explaining this process in detail and will soon be balloted in order to confirm their agreement to the stock transfer.

~ Kate Curry, Parish Clerk

Q: Name something that a goose can do, a duck can't do, and a lawyer should do?

A: Stick his bill up his backside

S. J. LEE

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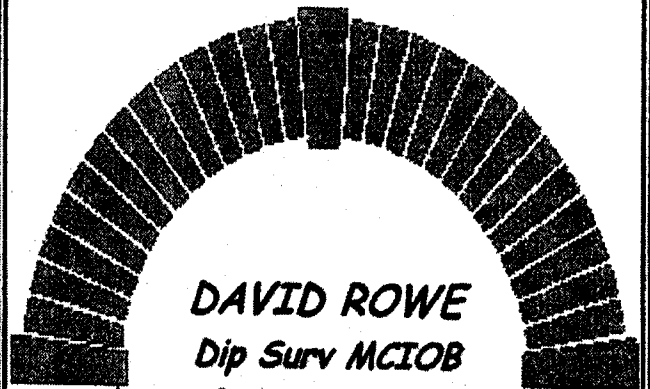
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Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 23rd June 2004

Present

Cllrs. C. Higgs (Chair), D.Dicken, P.Shorrocks, R.Clarke, M. Kent and Mrs. K.Curry (Clerk). One member of the public was present. Apologies were received from Cllrs. J.Farrands and T. Manning.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

Matters Arising

A public meeting has taken place to consider the Rights of Way consultation document.

County Council, District Council And Police Matters

District Councillor Peter Cooper talked about the content of the most recent consultation document on flight paths to and from Luton Airport, which the P.C. will be considering at its next meeting. The planned improvements to public transport around Aylesbury (Aylesbury Hub) is also now out for consultation, with an exhibition in Friars Square.

Police - the Clerk circulated an e-mail from Sgt. Gregory, giving an update from the police. The Community Feedback form was discussed.

Nobody was present from the County Council.

Planning

04/01112/APP Saddlers Farm, Cublington Road. Demolition of existing stables and erection of new B & B facilities. Resolved to support this application.

Highways

Diversion signing re A418/A413 was discussed. It was suggested that the Police should put temporary signs in the

Luton Flightpath - A New Proposal

Just when you thought it was quiet enough to go back in the garden, Luton Airport has proposed yet another flightpath over Aylesbury Vale, including Aston Abbotts.

The new proposal is similar to Option 3 that was defeated in 2002 and has been dubbed Option 3a. It heads west-ish off the Lorel Stack (northeast of Luton) but the swathe is further south and over Leighton Buzzard. It then widens even more and sweeps around over the Vale before heading back eastwards towards Luton and the runway. The changes to the proposals are subtle but the resultant increase in air traffic and noise would be just as devastating as before. Local community action group, PAVAN (Protect Aylesbury Vale Against Noise) has vowed to fight 3a as vigorously - and as successfully - as it did Option 3.

For more information, contact PAVAN at 01525 240950 or email Rachel@pavan.me.uk

Rachel Webb PAVAN - Protect Aylesbury Vale Against Noise 01525 240950

village when traffic is diverted due to accidents on the main road. The clerk will contact the Police for their reaction.

Many hedges around the village have been left to grow, encroaching on the highway or footpaths, and in some cases causing dangerous obstructions. It is the responsibility of residents / landowners to keep hedges cut.

Recreation Ground

The Children's Play Area Inspection Report was discussed at length. Resolved to obtain quotes to have the areas around the equipment surfaced with I.A.S., and for the modifications which are necessary to the slide. The quotes will be considered at the next meeting, and if the Parish Council is unable to afford these items, the slide will be dismantled and removed.

Safety check - children's play area: up to date. The two swings have now been replaced. One of the cradle swings was broken and has been removed for repair.

Accounts

Resolved to approve the Statement of Accounts and Statement of Assurance. The Annual Return was signed.

Resolved to approve the opening of a new deposit bank account.

Date Of Next Meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of Aston Abbotts Parish Council will be on Wednesday 28th July 2004 at 8 pm in the Church Room.

Everyone Is Welcome To Come Along

~ Kate Curry, Parish Clerk

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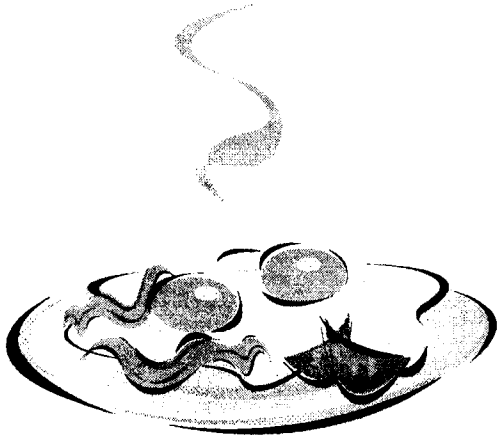
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Breakfast in the Chapel



Due to popular demand, breakfast will again be laid on in the Methodist Chapel the morning after the Fete – that is Sunday 25 July 2004. Full English breakfast, tea, coffee, juice etc will be on sale at the Chapel between 9 am and 12 noon. Or, just come for tea and toast. All profit to village funds.

Please make your table reservations as soon as possible to avoid disappointment! Call Sally & Andy on 682716.

Food/drink donations are requested and very gratefully received. The less I have to buy, the more profit goes to the village!



WIN A WEEK'S HOLIDAY IN PADSTOW

Tickets will be sold up to and during the fete weekend to win a week's accommodation at Tregerrick in Padstow (see the advert on page 8). The draw will take place at Breakfast at the Chapel on 25 July 2004.

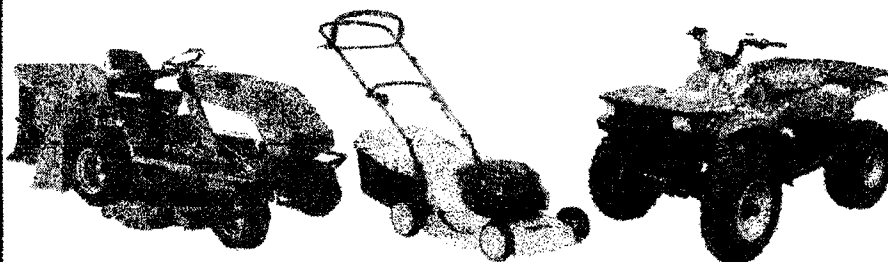
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100 Club Members—2004/2005

Number	Surname	Forename/s			
1	Abel-Smith	Caroline	52	Lowden	Mr & Mrs G F
2	Abel-Smith	John	53	Ludlam	Mrs E J
3	Arnold	Simon & Tracey	54	Makin	Clare
4	Bannister	Jeff	55	Maurice	Carole & Mike
5	Barlow	Liz	56	Moult	Teri
6	Barnett	John	57	Moult	Teri
7	Osborn	Fransesca	58	O'Kelly	Mrs J B
8	Bellingham	Barbara	59	O'Kelly	Mr K F
9	Bellingham	Don	60	Palmer	Sally
10	Biddle	Janet	61	Parker	A R
11	Brancker	Anne	62	Parker	Annetta
12	Brandon	Bridget	63	Peacock	Andrew, Helen & Kirsty
13	Brandon	Ivy	64	Peacocke	Tim
14	Butler	Oliver	65	Poulter	Fred
15	Clarke	Richard	66	Prouting	Bob
16	Clarke	Liz	67	Robinson	Rita
17	Copping	Kevin & Jane	68	Rothero	Roderick & Valerie
18	Curnow	April	69	Scott	Vic
19	Curnow	Geoff	70	Scutchings	Mrs D E
20	Curry	Kate	71	Shorrock	Clare
21	Day	C D	72	Smith & Dolling	Miss S & K
22	Dicken	Ann	73	Smith	Val
23	Digby	Andy & Sue	74	Spooner	Phil
24	Dutton	Mr A A & Mrs S Y	75	Towle	Mrs V
25	Ellis	Mrs M	76	Towle	Mr R
26	Fletcher	Mr K J & Mrs P E	77	Towle	Mr I
27	Ford	Shirley	78	Turner	Jack
28	Fox	George	79	Turnham	Sally
29	Fox	Christine	80	Waite	Mrs C
30	Gadsby	Marion & Dave	81	Wenble	Jill
31	Goodman & Kemp	Ann & Gordon	82	Wheaton	Mrs L & Mr D C
32	Gray	David	83	Whyte	Deirdre
33	Gupta	Poonam	84	Wicks	Charles
34	Gutierrez	Juan	85	Wilkinson	P
35	Guy	Sue & Simon	86	Wilkinson	Ray & Sharon
36	Hardcastle	Judy	87	Williams	Paul & Ellie
37	Hewitt	Pam	88	Woodford	D
38	Higgs	Mr & Mrs R	89	Worrall	Vanessa
39	Higgs	Colin			
40	Higgs	Mrs N			
41	Hinds	Tracy			
42	Hinds	Margaret & Tony			
43	Hughes	June			
44	Humphreys	Sheila			
45	Jenkins	Lisa			
46	Jolly	Mrs			
47	Knight	Alex & Peter			
48	Lane & Smith	Caroline & Gordon			
49	Lewis	Allison			
50	Liscott	Mr C & Mrs D			
51	Loader	Tim & June			

Only 89 people have agreed to take part in the Friend Of St James 100 Club. A number of people who took part last year haven't signed up this year. If you are one of them and you do want to take part, please contact Gordon Kemp on 681763.



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The Aston Abbotts & Cublington Ladies Club.

May 27th

Only 12 members of the Ladies Club met today in the Church room; several being on holiday. Shirley Ford acting as Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming members after which the minutes were read and duly signed. There were no matters arising although it was noted that as the hall would be in use for elections on the 9th June, the next meeting will be held on the 10th.

Today's speakers had to cancel and so Shirley Ford gave a talk about her recent holiday in South Africa. This was followed by tea cakes and biscuits served by Bess Lovell and June Loader. While having tea, members took part in a quiz devised by Audrey Stephen. Ivy Brandon was the winner. The raffle was won by Daphne Bissell.

June 9th

Thirteen members of the Ladies Club met today in the Church room. Several apologies were received. The minutes are to be read at the next meeting. Our Social Secretary had planned a 'competitions' afternoon with five different competitions producing a mixture of hilarity and puzzled looks. The winner was Etherley Gutheridge and the 'booby' prize went to Doreen Liddel. Tea cakes and biscuits served by Jean Biss and Joan Alexander

~ Shirley Ford

Church News

Decisions were made at a June parochial church council meeting, to obtain quotes for new altar curtains and back boards.

Wing has joined the benefice services so service times at St James' will now be changed to 10 am with an occasional 11.15 am service, and a lay-led service once a month.

A songs of praise will be held on the Aston Abbotts Festival Sunday (July 25) at 6 pm and hopefully members of the different village organisations will be invited to read a lesson or choose a hymn.

The harvest festival is scheduled for September 19 at 11.15 am, followed by lunch in the church. A cheese and wine quiz evening was booked for Friday October 22 in aid of church funds.

Ann Goodman is in charge of the church cleaning rota which she is about to activate. Shirley Ford will be responsible for the altar linen and Colin Higgs the brass and silver.

~ Colin Higgs

Test Your Brain

1. Mary's father has five daughters: Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono. What is the 5th daughter's name?
2. An easy one. You are in a race and you overtake the second person. What position are you in?

~ Submitted by Dickie Dicken—
answers at bottom of page 21



Heart Disease

Every year in the UK, almost a quarter of a million men, women and children die prematurely from heart disease. What's more, some 270,000 people have a heart attack and become seriously ill, while heart disease disables over 650,000 people. This calls for action ... heart disease is such a BIG problem, we need BIG money for BIG treatments, preventative measurers and cures. This year during Heart Week we are holding Big Red Fightback Collections and are looking for Big Red Fightback Team Leaders as well as Big Red Fightback Team Players to collect at shopping centres, pubs, clubs, your workplace ... whatever! The more collectors, the more money raised and the biggest impact on heart disease.

If you think you can help this really worthwhile cause, please contact Stephanie Henderson-Barrett on (01582) 418518 or henderson-barretts@bhf.org.uk - TODAY!



Be More Assertive

A mild-mannered man was tired of being bossed around by his wife; so he went to a psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist said he needed to build his self-esteem and gave him a book on assertiveness, which he read from cover to cover on the way home.

The man stormed into the house and walked up to his wife. Pointing a finger in her face, he said, "From now on, I want you to know that I am the man of this house and my word is law!

"I want you to prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and when I'm finished eating my meal, I expect a sumptuous dessert afterward.

"Then, after dinner, you're going to run me a bath so I can relax. And, when I'm finished with my bath, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?"

"The bloody funeral director," said his wife.

The Dentist

A man goes to the dentist for a routine inspection. The dentist stares into his open mouth and says that there is one tooth so bad that it's going to have to come out right now

The man, in a cowardly fashion, says, "OK—but I need something for the pain and I hate needles."

So the dentist gives him a glass of water and a little blue pill.

"What's this?" says the man.

"Viagra," says the dentist.

"Will that take away the pain?" asks our hero.

"No," says the dentist, "but it will give you something to hang onto when I'm extracting the tooth!"

~ submitted by Neil Chesher



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HEY THERE ASTON ABBOTTS!

FETE 2004 COLLECTION

**Monday 19th &
Tuesday 20th July**

We will be calling to collect items for the 2004 Aston Abbotts Fete on the evenings of Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th. Please donate **Books, Bottles** for the Tombola, **Gifts** for Prizes, **Small gifts** for the Kiddies Lucky Dip, **Groceries, Bric-a-Brac**. Everything that you give helps. (Sorry, we can't take clothes or electrical goods.)

Please deliver **Plants** to Clare Shorrock at Oak Farm House in the week prior to the fete—and deliver **Cakes** to the stalls on the day. Contact Jackie on 681182 if you can help on the day.

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For more information contact Claire on 01296 682949

Please tell us about your birthdays, anniversaries, etc, so that we can send you a greeting in Alison's Gossip Column

Test your brain. 1—Mary. 2—second

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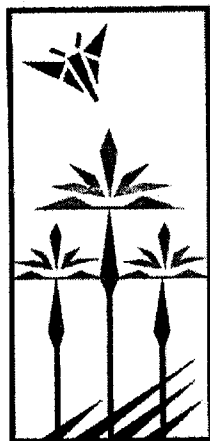
The Chronicle to

Ivan Greenaway, 1 Nash's Farm,

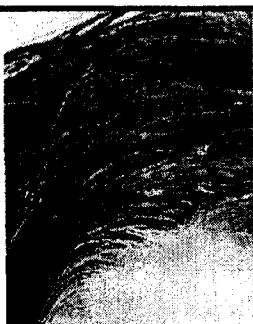
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A Holiday In South Africa

Andrew and I left Heathrow at 9 pm. On the evening of May 5th arriving at Cape Town at 8.30 the following morning. We were met by our 'Saga' rep. and driven to the Holiday Inn which is quite close to the waterfront. Before going up to our room, we were taken to the bar where we were introduced to another couple over a 'welcome' drink. Once in our room on the twelve floor, we freshened up and Andy watched the Chelsea v. Monaco match. I took a nap until the game was over then we took the hotel shuttle bus to the Victoria & Albert waterfront. This waterfront had been converted into two large shopping centres with lots of indoor and outdoor restaurants. There are lots of open spaces and entertainment.

We returned to the hotel bar at 7 am. to be introduced to the rest of our group prior to going off for a carvery style meal. The hotel was proving to be very comfortable with marble floors, good food and excellent coloured staff.

After breakfast the following morning, 14 of us piled into a minibus and were taken around the waterfront Andrew and I had seen the previous evening. We then set off to the main attraction, Table Mountain where we took the rotair cable car up to the top. The weather that morning had started off cool and cloudy, but as the day wore on it became much warmer. By the time we reached the top it was nice and sunny; just perfect to admire the views of Cape Town which were marvellous.

By mid day we were back in Cape Town to continue our 'mini tour'. The Malay quarter was particularly colourful with it's brightly painted houses, but then it was on to St Georges Cathedral and a walk through a lovely park before visiting the South African Museum of Culture and History. The trees in the park were strikingly green, contrasting with the bright red of

the Hibiscus. An Aloe tree, Frange Panis, was in bloom giving out a most beautiful smell.

We all had lunch back at the waterfront in time to catch a boat which was to take us to Robben Island to see where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned. However, at the very last minute we were told that the trip would have to be cancelled owing to engine problems. It was such a disappointment.

By mid afternoon we were back in the hotel, sitting by the pool writing cards, drinking tea and eating chocolate cake.

~ Shirley Ford

The Cowboy

A tough old cowboy once counselled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning.

The grandson did this religiously and lived to the age of 110.

He left 4 children, 20 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, 10 great-great grandchildren and a fifty-foot hole where the crematorium used to be.



EXCUSE ME!

Sorry to interrupt your reading, but the Aston Abbotts Fete Committee urgently need volunteers to help for an hour or two on fete day—Saturday 24th July. We especially need people to help set-up on Saturday morning and clear up after the fete has finished.

If you could help please phone Jackie Farrands on 681182.

Thank You.



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Claire Upton on 01296 681700 or Sonya Hardy on 01296 688833

Treading The Correct Path

A special open meeting to discuss Bucks CC consultation on the production of a rights of way was held on the evening of Wednesday 16th June in the church room and chaired by Colin Higgs

Footpath four linking Aston Abbotts to Cublington, and footpath nine linking up to Wing were well used. But sections of footpath four had dangerous holes caused by rabbits and overhanging vegetation, which needed attention most footpaths required dog fences and gates instead of stiles for easier access..

It was suggested a short link should be provided from footpath four to footpath eight at Longmoor/Red Barn area and a bridleway created from Norduck Farm to Hardwicke.

Consideration was also given to a short link from footpath one to footpath two and footpath nine forming part of the village circular walk to be upgraded to take pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Also, it was considered that that roadside verges be upgraded to create horse margins on narrow country roads, so as to make it safer for horse riders.

~ Colin Higgs

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Saturday July 34th at 2 pm

The Green—Aston Abbotts

SEE YOU THERE!

Lesbians and Gay Men

The invisible community of Buckinghamshire

Being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered in Buckinghamshire can be an isolating experience. And if you're older, have a disability or are part of an ethnic minority community, and also happen to be gay, you are twice as likely to be invisible and isolated. New services offered by Lesbian & Gay Link, aim to change that.

Being part of an ethnic minority community means there can be religious, family and cultural difficulties with being 'out'. For people with disabilities or without transport, there can be problems accessing services. For older people, there can be a belief that the gay community caters only for younger people. And people in all these groups can experience prejudice from other gay and lesbian people because of their other differences.

Lesbian & Gay Link has appointed Tony O'Shea as Equalities Officer, to help to reduce isolation for gay and lesbian people who might be cut off from the gay community.

Services include one-to-one support, buddying, assertiveness courses and social groups. Tony can meet people in a range of accessible venues around the county or at informal places like coffee shops. People in care or housebound can have a home visit and complete confidentiality is assured.

There are also volunteering opportunities available and Tony is particularly keen to hear from older people, people with disabilities, people from ethnic minority communities and people living in villages. Full training and ongoing support is given.

To find out more about services, groups or volunteering, please contact Tony ~

Tel: 01908241528

Mob: 07834714504

Email: equalities@bucksgaylink.org.uk

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Fourth Street, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 1EH

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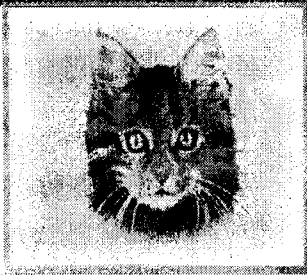
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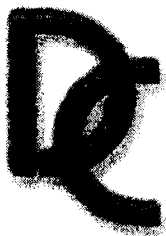


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ISSUES OF CONCERN

If there are 'NO ISSUES' Please endorse the form None at this time

NUMBER	WHATS THE PROBLEM?	WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN TIME & DAYS	WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN?	WHO IS INVOLVED?
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

Please return this form to: Kate Curry, Parish Clerk, 2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane, Aston Abbots.
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6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane ~ 681137

MARGARET KENT
6 The Green ~ 681454

RICHARD CLARKE
Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

JACKIE FARRANDS
1 Norduck Cottages ~ 681182

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The Bungalow, West Park Farm, Wing,
Beds, LU70PG

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PETER COOPER
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham ~ 681250

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Clergy Comment



There are some things that I find completely baffling. When I have my haircut, for example, the barber always asks whether I want the back cut square or tapered. I have no idea whether there is any significance in having it cut one way or the other – and anyhow, I cannot see it, so I wouldn't know! Maybe it is supposed to be a statement about who I think I am – “Look at me, my hair is cut square at

the back!” Perhaps it helps to define my personality.

I guess that there is a similar logic behind having a tattoo or some body-piercing. This may be something that we might consider when we are not feeling very happy with the way we see ourselves. It may seem like a good idea at the time, but on reflection, I am sure that it has its down side (apart from the risk of infection). We are left with the question – “Is it really me?” Or as others might say - “What *does* he/she look like?”

It might be fine for animals – sheep and cows have ear-tags, and pets have micro-chips implanted for identity purposes. But does this mean that when we add these marks to ourselves we are making ourselves into animals?

Maybe we should all have an identification bar-code tattooed onto our foreheads shortly after we are born. Just think how convenient it would be? At the supermarket the cashier would zap the shopping and then zap the customer and the goods would be paid for automatically. You could be zapped at the airport when you go on holiday, and even if you lost your memory, a quick zap would help you fill in the missing details. It would put an end to people using false or assumed identities - for it is not easy to erase or over-write a tattoo.

But, thank goodness that is still only the stuff of nightmares. Even though it may have things that commend it, there is still a great deal that we need to be thankful for. For we are all different – even without bar-coding. We are all individuals, and God knows and loves us all as individuals.

Tattoos are frequently placed in positions where they are unlikely to be seen – even by the “wearer”. Are they about our “inner secrets”? Body-piercing is usually a much more public display – but it still completely mystifies me. Both of them seem to be about trying to improve or enhance the way we think we look. What is it that makes us so unhappy about ourselves that we feel the need to make this kind of improvement?

However our hair is styled and whether or not we choose to adorn ourselves with tattoos or with body-piercings, God is still there for us. The good news is that God likes us just as we are. And that, surely, is a good thing.

~ Bob Willmott

Church Sidesmen

4 th	Mr. A. Ford
11 th	Mrs. S. Ford
18 th	Mr. G. Kemp
25 th	Mr. C. Higgs
1 st August	No service.
8 th	Mrs. S. Ford
15 th	
22 nd	Mr. G. Kemp
29 th	
5 th September	Mr. C. Higgs

If you are unable to do sidesman duty on your allocated date please advise next on the list.

Church Flowers

July 3/4 th	Donated
10/11 th	Miss. A. Goodman
17/18 th	Mrs. Parker
24/25 th	Festival
August 1 st	No service.
7/8 th	Wedding.
14/15 th	Wedding
21/22 nd	Mr. C. Higgs
28/29 th	Service at Wingrave
September 4/5 th	Mrs. Bean

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
Colin Higgs	681343

Church Service times are correct at the time of going to press. However, due to the changes brought about by the expansion of the Reverend Bob Willmott's ministry it is occasionally necessary to change the time at short notice. Every effort is made to avoid this inconvenience during this period of change.

Please check the notice board outside the Church for the most up to date list of times.
Thank You.

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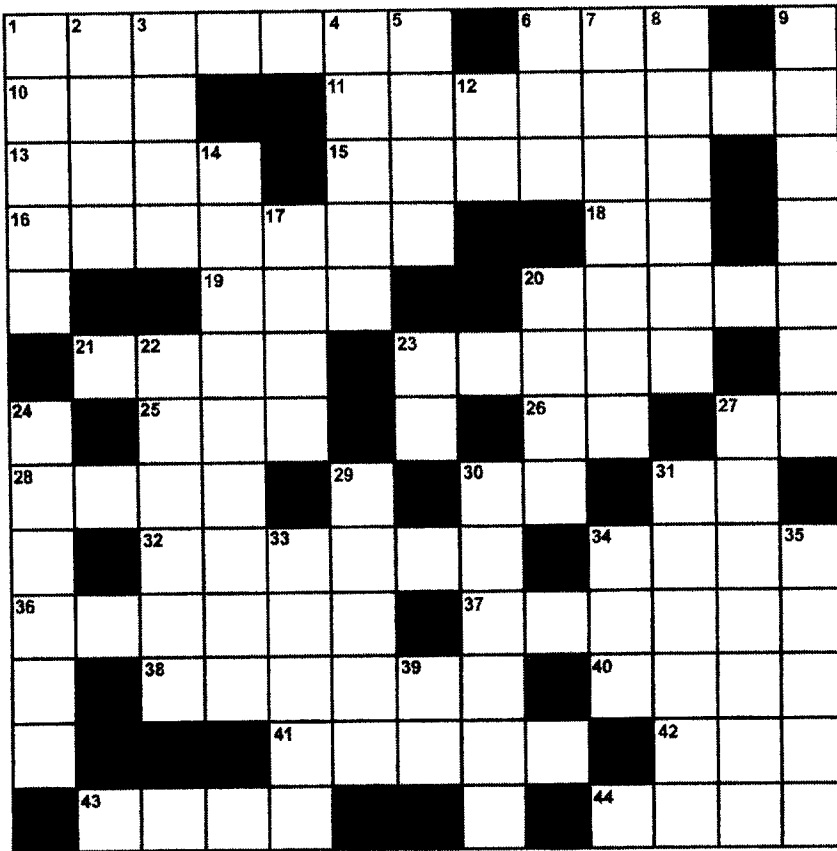
Monday
8 am to 5 pm

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

Saturday
8 am to 1 pm

The Chronicle Crossword

July 2004



June solution

Across 1 The Green 7 Scan 10 Hone
11 Notion 13 Opera 15 Cranage
16 Ramshackle 17 Sign 18 Sly 19 Ein
21 No 23 Tue 24 Lid 27 Imp 28 Element
30 A nd 31 IOU 32 Ho 34 El 35 Prig
37 Any 39 Be 41 None 43 Yam 45 Eng
47 Tsar 48 Expert 49 Bra

Down 1 Thousand 2 Hop 3 Energetic
4 Geranium 5 Enchanted 8 Coals
9 Angela 12 Tack 14 Am 20 Nepal
22 Dim 24 Learn 25 Deigns 26 Stun
29 No 32 Ha 33 Onyx 36 Iota 38 Yap
39 Bet 40 En 42 Ear 44 Me 46 GB

ACROSS

- 1 Future kings (7)
- 10 Lubricate (3)
- 11 Gave evidence (8)
- 13 Misfortunes (4)
- 15 Suppress (6)
- 16 Settled comfortably (7)
- 18 Scottish no (2)
- 19 Assist (3)
- 20 Putrid (5)
- 21 Soft material (4)
- 23 Passage (5)
- 25 Insect (3)
- 26 Title (2)
- 27 Manuscript (ab 2)
- 28 Those (4)
- 30 In the manner of (4)
- 31 Burmese knife (2)
- 32 Apportion (6)
- 34 Fuel (4)
- 36 Fault finder (6)
- 37 Man's name (6)
- 38 Antenna (6)
- 40 Profit (4)
- 41 Gas (5)
- 42 Explosive (3)
- 43 Bravery (sl) (4)
- 44 Girl's name (4)

DOWN

- 1 TO PIN (an 5)
- 2 Annoy (4)
- 3 Misfortunes (4)
- 4 Made easier (5)
- 5 Nail (4)
- 6 Marry (3)
- 7 Apart (7)
- 8 To secure (3)
- 9 Location (7)
- 12 Disease (2)
- 14 Deadlock (9)
- 17 Similar to (4)
- 20 Charity gifts (4)
- 22 Peninsula (6)
- 24 Adheres (6)
- 27 Borders (7)
- 29 Legal (5)
- 30 Corners (6)
- 31 RED TEA (an 6)
- 33 Flags (5)
- 34 Pet (3)
- 35 Apertures (5)
- 39 Exclamation (2)

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St James Church

Church Services—July

4 th July	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion (by extension)
	Wing	10.00	Parish Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Patronal Festival Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service (Lay led)
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Morning Service (Lay led)
11 th	Wingrave	08.00	Prayer Book style Communion
	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion
	Wing	10.00	Family Service & Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	People's Praise (Lay led)
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Parish Communion
	Wing	18.00	Evensong
18 th	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service with Communion
	Wing	10.00	Family Service (Lay led)
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Service with Cublington at 10.00
25 th	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Wing	10.00	Parish Communion
	Aston Abbots	18.00	Songs of Praise

Sunday Readings

4 th Jul	Trinity 4	Galatians 6.7-16; Luke 10.1-11,16-20
11 th	Trinity 5	Colossians 1.1-14; Luke 10.25-37
18 th	Trinity 6	Colossians 1.15-28; Luke 10.38-42
25 th	St.James	Acts 11.27-12.2; Matthew 20.20-28
1 st Aug	Trinity 8	Colossians 3.1-11; Luke 12.13-21
8 th	Trinity 9	Hebrew 11.1-3,8-16; Luke 12.32-40
15 th	Trinity 10	Hebrews 11.29-12.2; Luke 12.49-56
22 nd	Trinity 11	Hebrews 12.18-29; Luke 13.10-17
29 th	Trinity 12	Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16; Luke 14.1,7-14
5 th Sep	Trinity 13	Philemon 1-21; Luke 14.25-33

Church Services—August

1 st Aug	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion (by extension)
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Wing	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Service with Wing at 10.00
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Service with Wingrave at 10.00
8 th	Wing	10.00	Family Service & Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Service with Aston Abbots at 10.00
	Wing	18.00	Evensong
15 th	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion
	Wing	10.00	Parish Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Service with Wing at 10.00
	Cublington	10.00	Parish Communion
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Service with Cublington at 10.00
22 nd	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Parish Communion
	Wing	10.00	People's Praise (Lay led)
29 th	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Wing	10.00	Service with Wingrave at 10.00
	Cublington	10.00	Service with Wingrave at 10.00
	Aston Abbots	10.00	Service with Wingrave at 10.00
5 th Sep	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion
	Wing	10.00	Parish Communion
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service (Lay led)
	Aston Abbots	11.15	Parish Communion

From The Registers

Marriage

22nd May Russ McNeill & Liz Howe at Aston Abbots

5th June David Hewitt & Ruth Bridge at Wingrave

12th June James Dixon & Venita Little at Aston Abbots

Funerals

11th June Jozsef Kapui at Amersham

17th June Ronald Gurney at Wingrave & Amersham

Flowers & Sidesmen—see page 29

The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Line	0845 46 47
Astonbury	Peter Shorrocks	681260	Parish Clerk	Kate Curry	681137
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Parish Council Leader	Colin Higgs	681343
Bingo	Doris Scutchings	681243	Police	Emergencies	999
Busses	Arriva	468730 or 423445	Police	Non-emergency	0845 8 505 505
Chronicle Advertising	Claire Gresswell	682949	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Chronicle Editorial	Phil Spooner	681544	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Room Redevelopment	Tom Manning	07812 525703	Rector	Reverend Bob Willmott	681623
Church Room Hire	Doris Scutchings	681243	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Coach Trips	Colin Higgs	681343	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
County Councillor	Brenda Jennings	01525 270610	Shop (Osborn's)	Bernard Osborn	681233
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Toddlers Group	Claire Gresswell	682949
Fete Coordinator	Jackie Farrands	681182	Wingrave Preschool	Claire Upton	681700
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	681011
Friends of St James	Clare Shorrocks	681260	Wingrave School	Office	681346
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000	Wingrave Stores	Shop	681696
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865			
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343			
Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838			

Please let us know of any errors or omissions

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What's On In July/August

July

- Wednesday 7th** Church spring cleaning 7 pm
- Thursday 8th** Highway meeting. Winslow Centre. 6 pm
also Whist Drive. Church room 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 13th** Mobile library, The Green, Wingrave Rd, Oxley Farm
Aylesbury Vale transport meeting County Hall. 7.30 pm (Bus/train queries to Colin)
- Sunday 18th** Rambling club members meet at Blue Lagoon M.K. 2 pm. Nether Winchendon house/gardens open.
- Monday 19th/Tuesday 20th**
Collections for items for various stalls for fete. No electrical goods please.
- Thursday 22nd** Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm.
- Saturday 24th** **FETE/FESTIVAL. Opens 2 pm.**
- Sunday 25th** Church open for floral display. 2-5 pm
also Songs of Praise. 6 pm
- Tuesday 27th** Mobile Library, The Green, Wingrave Rd, Oxley Farm.
- Wednesday 28th** Parish council meeting Church room 8 pm

August

- Thursday 5th** Whist Drive, Church Room, 7.30 pm.
- Sunday 8th** Rambling club members meet at The Green 2 pm.
- Tuesday 10th** Mobile Library The Green, Wingrave Rd, Oxley Farm
- Thursday 19th** Holiday footpath walk Rowsham – Hulcott (catch 2 pm bus from village)
also Whist drive. Church room. 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 24th** Mobile library The Green, Wingrave Rd, Oxley Farm
- Sunday 29th** Rambling club members meet at Wing 2 pm
- Monday 30th** Bank Holiday
- Thursday 2nd September**
Bucks. County Show Weedon Park.
- Friday 3rd** Refuse collection - NOT Thursday

Book These Dates

- Sunday 19th September** Harvest Festival service 11.15 am.
Followed by lunch in Church room 12.45 pm
- Friday 22nd October** Cheese and wine Quiz evening

Classified

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.

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FOR SALE—2 tickets to the Goodwood Revival Meeting, Sunday September 5th. General entry, reserved seats in Startline Grandstand, plus Paddock Passes. £150.

Contact Phil on 688191

CLEANING JOB SOUGHT in Aston Abbots or Wingrave. Good references. Reliable. Please phone Mary on 681356.

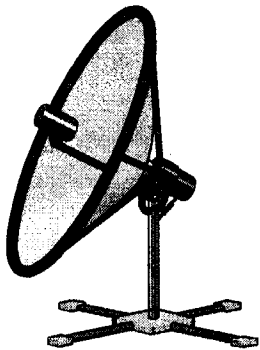
GARDENER WANTED. I'm looking for someone to help with the garden. Please phone Mary on 681356.

Our thanks to **Sally Palmer** for standing in for a holidaying Andy Bystra and delivering and collecting the Chronicle from the printers last month. It was much appreciated.

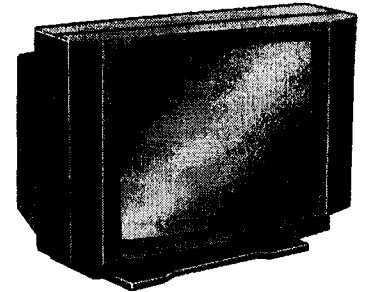
Please don't forget tell us of any events that you would like included in the What's On list

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OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

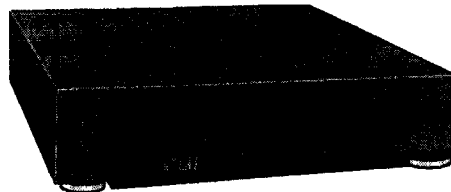


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