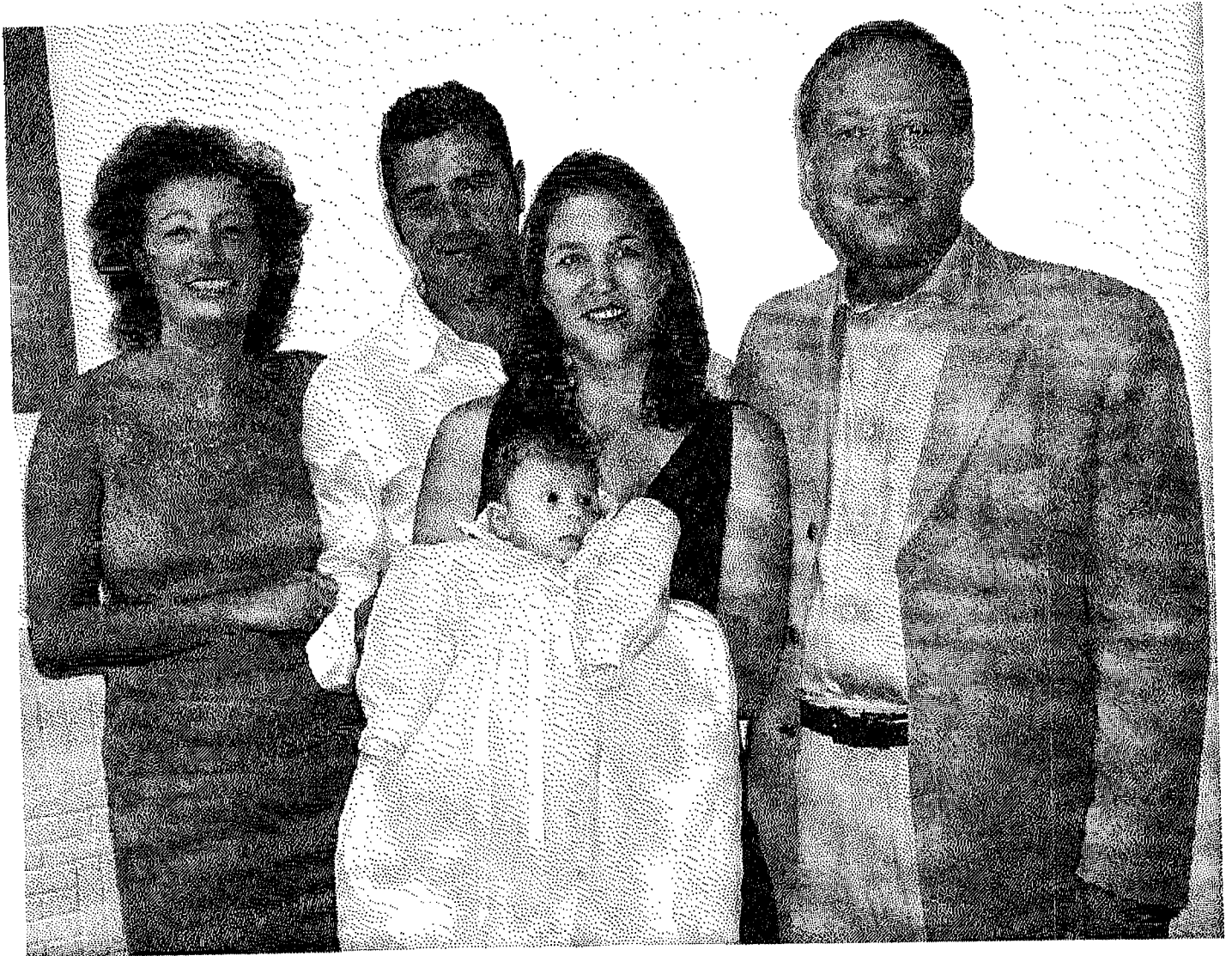


THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 242 ~ February 2005



Proud grandparents Francesca and Robert Bean with Victoria, Roberto and baby Luca

Victoria and Roberto would like to thank Aston Abbots for all the presents, cards and messages sent to us on the birth of Baby Luca.

We are looking forward to seeing all our family and friends at the Wedding in October!!!

*With Love From
Bondi*

Editorial

The New Village Centre

The public meeting about the new village centre produced what I believe it is the second largest meeting turnout since I have been in the village, although no doubt those who were here when it was proposed to turn Aston Abbots into a baggage handling hall for Cublington Airport will remember much larger meetings!

Although this was intended as an introductory meeting to discuss the proposal in general terms, a number of concerns were raised which required a level of detail which is not yet available. What will it look like? How often will it be used? How will the maintenance be funded?

These are all very important questions and the teams are only now being formed to look into these issues. However, it is essential that everybody should feel that they can have their say. There is a contact e-mail address printed with the meeting report on page 15. Alternatively, please write to the Chronicle, as several people have done this month.

At present the proposal is in its very early stages and there will be a further canvassing of village opinion before (if) it goes ahead.

The Chicken Farm

The proposal to build an 18,000 bird chicken farm on the edge of the village is also causing concern to many people. Opinions expressed to your editor seem to range from statements like "it seems a reasonable agricultural use of the land" to deep concerns about the possibility of a pervasive odour encompassing the village.

The parish council meeting minutes on page 17 detail some of the issues that were raised at the meeting when the proposal was put forward. At the time of going to press no planning application has been made, but as we understand that the land has already been purchased it seems likely that an application is imminent. One submission this month suggests writing to the planning authorities, but please remember that letters written at this stage cannot be considered as objections to a future planning application so, if you have an objection, you may need to write again. If this matter concerns you, keep an eye on the planning section in the local press. We will of course bring you any news as we get it, but the brief period allowed for planning objections may expire before the next Chronicle is published.

Children's Playground Equipment

The parish council are to invest a substantial sum of money in new equipment for the children's play area in the Recreation ground. This is essential, as the old equipment does not meet modern standards. The parish council wish to make sure that they buy equipment wanted by the children in the village and there will be an opportunity to view the catalogues and assist in the choosing on 24th February. More details on page 5.

Phil

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 242

February 2005

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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 25th February 2005

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 Valentine's Chronicle ~

- The Chicken Farm
- The New Village Centre
- Burns Night Raises £428 for Tsunami Appeal
- Gnomes Go Karting
- Czech VE Day
- Clucking Hell

and much, much more.....

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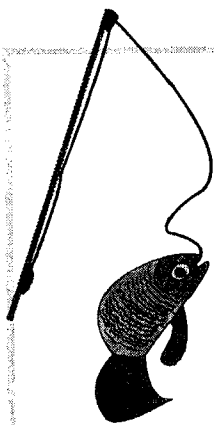
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In The Village

Chicken Farm Proposal

For those of you who did not attend the last Parish Council Meeting in January, you will wish to know that a contract has been exchanged for the sale of Norduck Farm to a chicken farmer. His intention is to erect three large sheds on the land either side of Norduck lane leading to the existing large farm barn and adjacent to Masons Wood. The intention is to house 18,000 birds and to stock some of the land with cattle and sheep. The chickens will be free range and their enclosures will cut across the two existing footpaths that cross the farm land and also the bridleway that runs from Moat Lane to the Cublington to Whitchurch road.

The effect of this undertaking on the village will be far reaching. The most immediate consequence will be the increase in heavy traffic through the village to provision the farm and to remove the produce and manure. Perhaps the most persistent and noticeable effect will be the chicken odours that will pervade the village when the wind is from a westerly direction. This is the prevailing wind direction. For those of you with expensive houses, you might find that the creation of a chicken farm on the village doorstep would have an adverse effect on the resale value of your property.

The Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) Planning Officer (Mr W Nicholson) and our very own District Councillor (Peter Cooper) have held confidential discussions with the purchaser of the farm and appear to support the plan for a chicken farm. The procedure for granting planning permission for the venture is to submit the plans to AVDC for scrutiny and at the same time forward the plans to the Parish Council for their comments. AVDC then take into consideration any opposition before granting or rejecting the plans.

We all have a right to oppose any plan for housing, or any plan that you consider would be unneighbourly; therefore if you feel that a chicken farm so close to the village will reduce your enjoyment of life here, then you should write to either Mr Cooper or Nicholson at AVDC, 66 High St, Aylesbury, and express your opposition.

~ Ann Dicken

There is more information about the chicken farm proposal in the Parish Council minutes on page 17 ~ Ed

Farewell to Don. Bellingham

Don's funeral was held on the morning of Monday the 17th January 2005.

Mourners arrived to the strains of a violinist playing quietly in the bell tower.

There followed a very moving Service conducted by Rev. Bob Wilmott during which Don's son-in-law Erich gave a resume of his extremely interesting life. A moving tribute to Don 'the family man' was paid by his nephew Roger and this was followed by an appreciation of Don 'the country man' by Peter Knight.

The ceremony concluded with an RAF trumpeter sounding the Last Post from the bell tower.

A fitting 'send off' for a much respected and loved gentleman of Aston Abbots.

Aston Abbots Is Hot

Well, what a hip village. Residents of Aston Abbots are still very hot-to-trot.

My second new year here will not be forgotten!

Thank you everyone involved for all your efforts. I had, like everyone else, a great time. Apart from the delightfully decorated venue and great DJ's and food, for me it was so nice to see all of us greeting and wishing we would have a happy new year in such a personal way. What a good start to the new year - over 50 hugs!

Burns night was equally successful. They transformed Hall again, with such a wonderful atmosphere. A team of Ladies bought food to table (I understand some gentlemen did preparation of spuds and swedes). On this occasion we all had to stay seated, we listened to a Burns poem and the haggis was produced. We were given a short lesson from Andy and Peter on improvising with our own voices for the bagpipes. It was very funny for all us adult kids. April read an extremely funny poem by Pam Ayres. We were seated for almost four hours, which was over in no time, but the happy glow will last for a long time. Thank you to the gnomes and 630 Club.

~ Jan Johnson.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN

Do you live in Aston Abbots?

Would you like to use the equipment in the Children's Play Area?

The Parish Council is hoping to buy new equipment very soon. We have started to look at designs, but need to know what the children in the village would really like.

To have YOUR say, come to a meeting in the Church Room on Thursday 24th February from 6.15pm to 7.15pm. You will be able to look at the brochures and tell us what you would like us to buy. Please bring your parents too!



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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor

Village Hall

I am in favour of a New Village Centre but I feel that there are further considerations that need to be debated before definitive action is taken:

Sustainability

Echoing some of Mike Wembles concerns from his letter in the last Chronicle - How much income will we need per year to manage and maintain the Hall? we will then be able to estimate where this might come from in more specific terms and ensure that we can generate this income.

Nuisance Factor

This is in part linked to the point above. If the income required for the Hall is such that we will need to "sell" the hall to people outside the village for parties, wedding receptions etc then without tight controls the nuisance factor of the Hall will be substantially higher than the 1 or 2 nights mentioned in the feasibility study. More parties until later at night with a higher volume of people who have no interest in worrying about where bottles are left/thrown and who's high spirits may take them to the adjoining fields which contain livestock. The traffic for these events will lead to increased noise, traffic and parking in the vicinity + the danger to children using the rec.

Location

I am concerned that most of the recreation ground will be needed to accommodate the Hall and related parking and that the other sites considered should be re-investigated, so that we can retain this green space in the centre of the village. A suitable piece of land in the village has just been sold - others may be/become available.

Church Rooms

Whilst I have always accepted that the Church Rooms are not really large enough for some of our events, we still have the option to re-furbish them especially since we have recently heard that the Church will grant a lease. Don't let's forget that this is still an option.

~ Liz Barlow, Nash's Farm

Re: New Village Centre

Yes we have ticked it would be a good idea as extra space provided by a new centre could be advantageous to the village, and yes we are willing to help.

We also appreciate all the hard work put into this new project by volunteers in the village.

However, as newcomers to the village and after further thought, may we raise the following points:-

Nuisance Factor

To be an ongoing financially sustainable project, surely the hall would need to be hired out more than 1 or 2 nights a year as suggested, which would result in frequent noise and disruption. This would affect the residents living on or near the recreation ground. Whilst no doubt the villagers would respect these householders - would 'outsiders'?

Location

The 'small area' to be used as the main hall does not take into consideration the extra rooms which will eat up more recreation space.

Neil,

Its better to have an opinion than not.....

Clearly there are a lot of positive reasons for building a new village centre which you and Simon conveyed with great clarity at the Village Open meeting last week. However, there are also negative issues which need to be considered and addressed before we could support your proposals.

Quoting directly from your Feasibility Study - item 7.3 - Nuisance Factor:

'However, it would only be fair to assume that on 1 or 2 nights per year some event may cause some form of nuisance.'

Our question is; how do we limit the nuisance factor to 1 or 2 nights per year? The facts are that every time an evening party with music is held a noise nuisance will be created for all the closest residents. How are we going to guarantee that the centre will only be used for 1 or 2 nights per year for this purpose? Is this going to be written into the Centres Charter?

We predict little or no noise nuisance from most activities such as badminton, yoga, keep fit, painting, pottery, piano lessons, photography, whist, toddlers parties etc as the number of people attending will be small and will not involve loud music. Its the frequency of teenage & adult parties and wedding receptions that are of concern to us. With up to 120 people attending it is inevitable that noise nuisance will be caused to the residents in the immediate vicinity (others more so than us incidentally) particularly those facing on to the recreation ground.

In our opinion it is imperative that the 'nuisance factor' is reduced to a minimum and impact on a minimum number of residents of the village as possible. Is the recreation ground the best location for a venue as large as the one you are proposing? Or is it simply the fastest and cheapest option as the village already owns the land?

If the recreation ground really is the only available and viable site, have we considered locating the Centre in the far corner of the recreation ground?

If these issues can be addressed we would be happy to get involved in fund raising.

See you soon,

~ Paul and Ellie. Nashs Farm

Parking/Traffic

The car park could possibly take up to 2500sq.m. of space(inc bays and turning space). 120 people - 30 cars seems a conservative estimate. Where will the extra cars park? Brickstoc, Nash's Farm and surrounding roads. This will inconvenience residents and could hamper access for emergency vehicles if needed.

Could further sites be more fully examined, possibly on the outskirts of the village, so as to keep noise and disruption to a minimum for the villagers?

~ Rod Rothero

There is a report on the village centre meeting on page 15, where you will also find an email address that you can use if you wish to make private comments to the team.

If you would like to make a public comment—then please drop us a line ~ Ed

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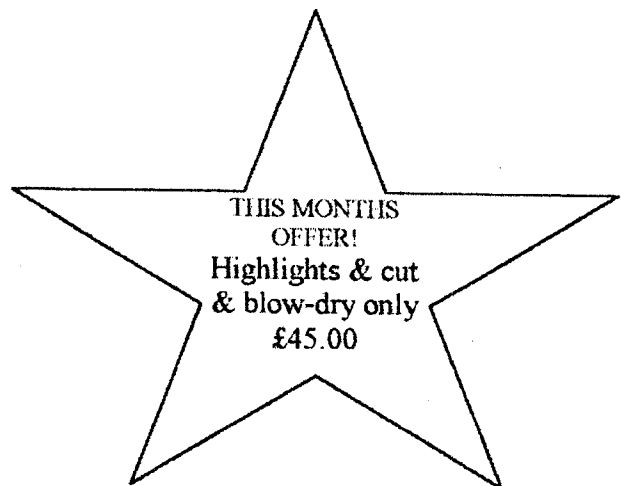


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Peter Knight's Countryside Diary

17th January

January 17th and it's still mild and dry. I rather hope it will get wetter in the next two or three weeks. It's bound to rain appreciably sooner or later and I would rather it was sooner, as we don't want a wet spell later when we are lambing.

I shouldn't have started off referring to lambing as my mind is still in turmoil after reading a countryside article in a certain broadsheet newspaper at the weekend.

An Australian academic woman, who writes about the English countryside and recently appeared on a strange TV programme, absolutely slated sheep farmers this weekend. Unfortunately most of urban man who read her diatribe will take it as true. If you read the article please take it all with a pinch of salt. If you read the article and are worried about the ethics of sheep farming, please telephone or write to me. I feel sure I can put at least some of your mind at rest.

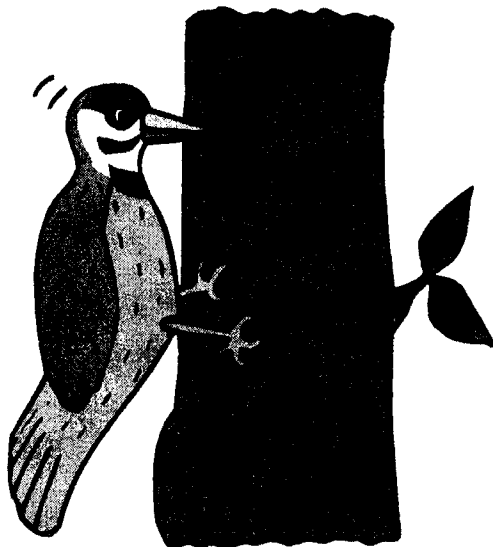
Enough!

Now what about the real countryside? Well - the grass is still growing - the village green was mowed on 18th December and it looks as if it needs mowing again. This is good news for sheep - plenty of fresh young grass, albeit rather wet, so hay is on offer to firm up the diet a bit. This week we shall start feeding cereals to the in-lamb ewes, thus making sure the lambs are born big and strong to cope with their early life.

Birds have been very active this spring-like weather. We have recently had goldcrests in the garden and their little yellow top knots have shone like real gold. Obviously they are in splendid condition.

Woodpeckers have been drumming at the Abbey and flocks of redwings and fieldfares have been feasting in the hedgerows. Rooks and crows have been diving and swooping in flight so they too must be well and enjoying the easy conditions.

I'm sure that the abundant and, in this weather, active worm population of our permanent grassland is the basis of our thriving wildlife. Foxes and badgers rely on worms and lately I've regularly seen a heron in a field and can only assume it too is after earthworms. An old friend always referred to a heron as a



Mollern - an old local name - and I was reminded that my old relatives in Leicestershire had local dialect words for most common birds. How I wish I'd made a note. I remember Dunnock for hedgesparrows Scribblelark for yellowhammer and young birds in the nest were Bolshins, but there were scores more.

I suspect I saw a goshawk the other day. I can't be sure, but if not a goshawk what was it???

A friend and I were talking about waxwings the other day - he is even older than me and neither of us have ever seen a waxwing in this country. I understand that there has been a real influx of them this winter - I'd love to see one in the parish.

Plant-wise there has also been a lot of activity. Colours are showing on snowdrops, crocus, grape hyacinth and winter aconites to name a few.

Have you seen the roundabout at Aston Clinton - daffodils on the 17th January!

All bulbs seem to be growing fast and honeysuckle and some clematis have small young leaves are showing. It all seems to get a little earlier every year.

One downside to the easy living in the wild is the rat population - it seems to have exploded. Farmer friends all report large infestations of their buildings this year.

I find it curious that we have an industry producing thousands of tons of poison every year which is spread about farms, warehouses, and private homes, killing millions of mice and rats in a horrific and agonising way, yet no Australian academic or animal rights activist ever seems to think that this is cruelty on a huge scale. If we poisoned a badger by mistake we can be prosecuted - if we fail to poison rats we can be prosecuted. interesting logic. Politics was always a mystery.

Peter Knight



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CHILLI EATING in Cornwall!

Some strange things go on in Cornwall in the middle of winter – and we were there at the Chilli Eating Competition at the Ring o' Bells in St Issey!! It was a hot night (no doubt followed by a pretty heated morning for the contestants!)



They had to bite and chew some of the hottest chillies known to man! From the small but extremely dangerous bird's eye chillies, to the absolutely lethal scotch bonnets, all that washed down with a shot of home-made chilli vodka – Chef Pete's personal creation!!

The crowd was huge and the laughter loud at some of the strange faces being pulled! In the end it was a close competition between Dave Chick and Alan MacDonald the local photographer (who took these photos incidentally!)

Dave gave it his best (even going so far as removing the seeds from the chillies – that's cheating!), but he couldn't beat the canny Scotsman who was the ultimate winner!

The locals here are obviously game for a laugh, which is fine with us. We raised a lot of money with the Christmas raffle which goes towards maintaining the village playground maintenance fund. The regular live music spot is going down well too and who knows, maybe one day, there'll be a St. Isseybury...

Don't forget, the pub is on the main road between Padstow and Wadebridge. It's a seventeenth century country pub with a lively community atmosphere to it (much like our own in Aston Abbots!), and a busy 50 seat restaurant serving up delicious home-cooked food, including fresh fish specials created by our chef Peter Quentin Francis. We have a roaring log fire and cosy leather sofas to relax in.



We also have four B&B rooms in the pub, three doubles and a twin, all ensuite. So, for a weekend getaway or longer if you prefer to have someone do all the cooking for you, why not spend some leisure time with us in Cornwall. There are regular flights from Stansted to Newquay and we can collect you from the airport, if you require.

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Burns Supper raises £428 for Tsunami Appeal

For many years the 630 Club had traditionally organised a Burns supper in the village. However, when first the Bull and Butcher and then the Old Masters restaurant closed their doors it was felt that there was nowhere which could offer the facility to seat sufficient people in one room for a semi-formal supper with speeches and toasts.

It took a Gnome – April Curnow to be precise - to suggest over dinner one evening to 630 Club secretary Andy Bystra that it should be possible to hold a Burns supper in the Church room. Until then it had been thought impractical to serve a full hot meal with the limited facilities available there, but a team of hard working gnomes led by Francesca Bean and April did the impossible!

Two long tables were laid out in the Church room to seat around 44 people. Francesca, April and several other Gnomes laid on a delicious and piping hot traditional Burns supper, starting with cock-a-leeky soup . A dozen haggises (or should that be haggi) were cooked and Christine Elwood, one of possibly only two real Scots in the village, was called upon to address the haggis. A desert of crowdie and cheese and biscuits followed the main course of haggis, neeps and tatties.

Appetites sated, it was time for the toasts. Ray Wilkinson led with a toast to the Queen, followed by Peter Shorrock who gave us some fascinating stories of Robbie Burns. Andy Bystra toasted the lassies, Clare Shorrock replied for the Gnomes, then Carol Spooner toasted the 630 Club, with the reply from 630 Club chairman Peter Elwood.

Later in evening a selection of Scottish songs were sung, despite a rather confusing episode when Neil Chesher played the wrong music!

The intention was to raise funds for on the tsunami appeal during the evening. In the event the whole evening raised a magnificent total of £428. Thanks must go to everybody who worked so hard to make the evening a success, especially Andy, April and Francesca, but also the many others who put in so much effort and gave us all such a wonderful time.

~ Phil Spooner

Many thanks to all who helped organise and attended the Gnomes/630 Club Burn's Night held on Saturday 22nd Jan.

The 'economics were as follows:-

Ticket sales	£440.00
Sale of raffle tickets	£295.00
Sale of 'excess' Fruit & cheese	£13.30
Expenses	£320.00
Profit	£428.30

Thanks to the generosity of those who came along and/or helped, £428.30 was paid into the above fund on 26th Jan.



To a Mouse

Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie,
O, what a panic's in thy breastie!
Thou need na start awa sae hasty,
Wi' bickering brattle!
I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,
Wi' murd'ring pattle!

I'm truly sorry man's dominion,
Has broken nature's social union,
An' justifies that ill opinion,
Which makes thee startle
At me, thy poor, earth-born companion,
An' fellow-mortal!

I doubt na, whiles, but thou mayst thieve;
What then? poor beastie, thou maun live!
A daimen icker in a thrave
'S a sma' request;
I'll get a blessin wi' the lave,
An' never miss't!

Thy wee bit housie, too, in ruin!
It's silly wa's the win's are strewin!
An' naething, now, to big a new ane,
O' foggage green!
An' bleak December's winds ensuin,
Baith snell an' keen!

Thou saw the fields laid bare an' waste,
An' weary winter comin fast,
An' cozie here, beneath the blast,
Thou thought to dwell-
Till crash! the cruel coulter past
Out thro' thy cell.

That wee bit heap o' leaves an' stibble,
Has cost thee mony a weary nibble!
Now thou's turn'd out, for a' thy trouble,
But house or hald,
To thole the winter's sleety dribble,
An' cranreuch cauld!

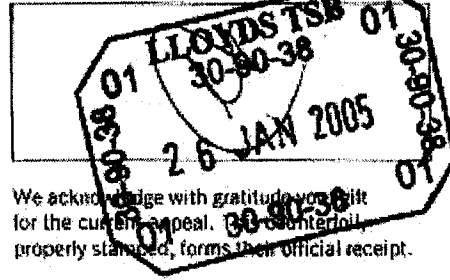
But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane,
In proving foresight may be vain;
The best-laid schemes o' mice an' 'men
Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy!

Still thou art blest, compar'd wi' me
The present only toucheth thee:
But, Och! I backward cast my e'e,
On prospects drear!
An' forward, tho' I canna see,
I guess an' fear!

~ Robbie Burns—1785

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Gnomes Go Karting

On Tuesday January 19th, twelve intrepid GNOMES set off to go Go Karting. I went as an observer as I had developed a back problem (that's my excuse—and I am sticking to it).

The fun started in the changing rooms, as ladies of various sizes attempted to get in to overalls of various sizes. Some had to lie down on the floor and be zipped in by several helpers (I guess it was one Danish Pastry too many), whilst another managed to break the zip in a valiant effort to get in to them!

When finally attired, we were herded into the practice area and given the rules and regulations. Everyone looked nervous, and I was beginning to feel glad I was not taking part.

After a five minute practice session, the endurance race began. Before long Mandy (our very own Aston Abbots police woman) was cautioned for speeding and crashed in to the barrier! Francesca flew around at amazing speed whilst her partner Brigitte went like a bat out of hell, clocking up the fastest lap time (bet she was practicing at home, as it transpired she has her own go kart).

Jayne deserved her medal for clocking up an amazing 45 minutes, she looked utterly shell shocked when she finally removed her helmet and her arms were rigid! Alison "lippy" Lewis was seen touching up between races (her lipstick of course, not the cute young mechanics, Dave).

Mandy and Kate came first with 95 laps, Brigitte and Francesca came a close second with 94 laps, and strangely, Rita and Jane came third (we think they had a little inside help) with 91 laps, Clare and Alison came fourth with 87 laps, Sally and Anne were fifth with 81 laps and April and Judy came sixth with 72 laps.

Most said they thoroughly enjoyed the experience though a few clearly were not so sure. Bearing in mind that some of us are no longer exactly spring chickens, it took some courage to embark upon it in the first place and I take my hat off to them all for being up for it and having a go. We all thank you very much Sally P. for the organisation of this "fun" event. What next then, parachute jumping, white water rafting, or maybe snow boarding.....

~ Carol Spooner

Alternative Gnomes

An alternative meaning for GNOMES (Girls Night Out Men Excluded Sorry) was recently kindly suggested (thank you Tracy), Grannies, Nannies, Old Maids and Eccentric Spinsters. Well there are a few grannies, but no old maids or spinsters in actual fact, as for eccentric, well maybe..... Any other suggestions? Neil is banned from taking part as his last suggestion would have not passed the chronicle censor!

~ Carol Spooner

Can You Blveiee It?

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuau mnid. Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? yaeh and I awlyas thought slpeling was ipmorantt.

~ Sent in by John Hardcastle



Winning team Kate and Mandy proudly display their winners medals after the Gnomes Gokarting experience

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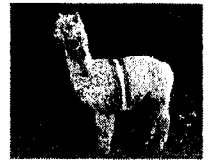
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New Village Centre Meeting

Over 50 people crammed into the Church room on 19th January to hear initial ideas about the proposed new village centre project.

Chairman Andy Bystra welcomed everybody and explained that this was a meeting to decide whether or not there was a 'village will' for the project and also 'to inform you' about the ideas that were being discussed.

Neil Chesher started his presentation by stating that it is a feasible, 'do-able', project. However, he stressed that we have done well with our conservation area in the village and that anything we do must fit in with the conservation guidelines.

Neil then turned his attention to the Church Room. He pointed out that it was licensed for only 60 people, and it had poor toilets (actually just one toilet), it had been built in 1896 for a rural population, it is currently used mainly by over 55s, and that those comprise mainly three groups - the Ladies Club, the Whist Club, and the Parish Council. He also explained that some other groups have ceased to use it because they found it unwelcoming and that its small size and lack of facilities excluded a lot of people from being able to use it. But he also pointed out that there had been many successful events held in the Church room, highlighting the Diwali celebrations and the Christmas shows, although these two events often left people excluded because insufficient numbers could be accommodated. "Aston Abbots deserves something better," said Neil.

Neil explained that we do have an ideal site for a new facility, that there appears to be a strong underlying need for a new facility, that in discussions with parishioners he had strong indication of support for the idea, and that the planning authorities and other agencies have also indicated support. A project such as this would benefit the village for many years to come and reverse the trend of village amenities disappearing. It would provide better facilities for all. This in turn should encourage residents old and new to get more involved and to organise their own events, increasing inclusiveness and hopefully drawing village newcomers into village life. However, critically, it all depends on whether or not there is a "village will".

The location was discussed next and it was revealed that several sites have been considered. However the only one that is suitable, available, and could have the support of the planning authorities is in the corner of the recreation ground where the utilities shed now stands.

The proposal would probably be for a main hall about 22 metres by 10 metres with a further area for toilets reception and storage. It would be big enough to house over 120 people, but as the distance from the hedge to the nearest bungalow in that field is over 95 metres a good separation distance could be maintained. Neil also suggested that, as the recreation ground was raised on 'made up' ground, the Centre could be sunk down to the level of the surrounding area to minimise the visual impact, with earth and surrounding banks further minimising any noise impact. Finally Neil explained that there were five important questions asked by the planning authorities and that we met or could meet with the requirements of all five of these.

Simon Gresswell then took the floor to explain what it could look like. However he was careful to stress that these were only ideas - not plans - just to give some kind of visual representation of the sort of thing being discussed. Pictures of the Quainton village hall project were shown (these have previously been printed in the Chronicle). Then an artist's impression of how the

Aston Abbots village centre could look was shown, but once again it was stressed that this was just simply an idea and not anywhere near a firm plan.



Neil and Simon also looked at the various issues such as parking, access, and nuisance factor.

Finally Neil and Simon turned to how such a project could be planned and financed. It was estimated that the cost of construction could be around £300,000 and that although the village would have to raise a substantial sum, a large proportion of this could be made available by funding and grant agencies, should we be able to satisfy their requirements. This meant having a well thought-out plan and convincing people that the project could be managed successfully. In order to do this the project needed to be set up as a not-for-profit trust, with funding, building, and activities teams. To this end, if the 'village will' was proven, volunteers would be sought for the various groups.

The very professional and well thought-out presentation complete, it was time for questions from the floor.

Richard Clark was concerned over the percentage of the Recreation ground that would be lost to this project and was assured that existing leisure facilities for the children must be preserved. Other people raised concerns over the access going past the children's play area. Clare Shorrocks pointed out that, although she was in favour of the project, had we had been able to obtain a lease for the Church room from the Church authorities then the Church room would have been improved.

Simon responded to questions about the orientation and aesthetics by pointing out that these were all areas for future investigation. Another question concerned the funds raised for the Church Room restoration (now nearly abandoned because of the failure to obtain a lease) and Peter Shorrocks explained that the money could be spent on the new hall if a remit was given from the village.

Then a number of people raised concerns about the sustainability - i.e. financing the running and maintenance of the centre. Neil and Simon explained that this was an area that had not been addressed at this very early stage and Nigel Palmer pointed out that such planning would have to be in place before we could apply for any grants.

Finally, meeting chairman Andy Bystra thanked everybody for coming and asked them to return the questionnaire slips on the back of their agenda. None of the returned slips said no, a few said yes with the some concerns, and the rest were in favour.

The next stage will be to set up the teams to look at the project in more detail. There will be further opportunities for villagers to have their say before any project goes ahead. As we hear more information we will make sure that it is publicised in the Chronicle. In the meantime, if you wish to ask questions or find out any more information you can use the special e-mail address of

AstonAbbotts_Village_Centre@MSN.com

Alternatively, if you have any comments - for or against - you can write a letter to The Chronicle.

~ Phil Spooner

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Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 12th January 2005

Present Cllrs. C. Higgs (Chair), P. Shorrock, M. Kent, R. Clarke and Mrs. K. Curry. Twenty six members of the public attended. Apologies were received from D. Dicken, T. Manning and J. Farrands. Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

Proposals For Development At Norduck Farm

- A presentation was given by Mr. Roy Buttery (planning consultant) and Mr. Nigel Williams of Kinsale Agriculture about their proposal to site an organic egg producing unit and temporary mobile home at Norduck Farm.

Mr. Buttery explained that Kinsale Agriculture proposes to establish an organic egg production unit at Norduck Farm, together with organic beef, sheep and arable crop production. As there is no dwelling to serve the farm they will apply for an agricultural worker's dwelling.

In addition to the cattle and breeding ewes, there is a proposal to erect three low profile poultry buildings; two measuring 42 metres by 20 metres and one measuring 84 metres by 10 metres. Each house will accommodate 6000 birds, which will graze on a total of 18 hectares of grassland. The manure from the birds and other livestock will be spread on the agricultural land. Mr. Buttery insisted that the egg production units would not involve any noise, smell, flies or vermin, and that only two egg vans would visit the farm weekly to collect the eggs.

It was recognised that the proposals would introduce three new buildings into an Area of Attractive Landscape, and a range of landscape proposals will be included, providing new hedges and copse planting.

Permission will be sought for a mobile home for a three-year period, at the end of which permission would be sought for a permanent dwelling.

Mr. Williams introduced Kinsale Agriculture; a family business mainly involved in the production of organic eggs. He explained that the proposal involved the use of the latest Swiss/Swedish technology, using high spec high quality buildings and equipment. The organic pullets would be reared at their farm in Dinton and transferred to Norduck at 16 weeks of age. He told the meeting the other possibility open to Kinsale was to use mobile poultry houses for which no planning permission would be required. He said he did not foresee problems with running a poultry unit in locations adjacent to houses or footpaths / bridleways.

Questions from the floor: a brief period was allowed for questions from Councillors and the public.

- How many workers would there be? (A. 1 manager and 4/5 workers)
- How many traffic movements? (several answers given)
- Is there really no smell ever?
- How many tractor and trailer loads per week? (A. One)
- How long would it take for the farm to be classed as Organic? (A. 12 months for the chickens and two years for the arable)

- What fencing do chickens require? (A. chicken wire plus electric fencing)
- What about the bridleway and footpaths? (A. they would be fenced with post and rail and electric fencing)
- Do chickens carry disease? (A. They are all vaccinated)
- What happens to dead stock? (A. It is frozen, then incinerated)
- Would the driveway be maintained? (A. Yes - not specified exactly how)

A member of the public pointed out that it seems unfair to sell off all the farm accommodation, then apply for permission to build new.

Finally, District Councillor Peter Cooper gave AVDC's point of view, saying that many redundant farms nowadays are converted to light industry, and AVDC would prefer to support an agricultural enterprise. (It was pointed out from the floor that Norduck Farm is not currently 'redundant').

At this point the Chairman stopped the discussion and thanked Messrs. Buttery and Williams for their time.

Clerk's Report

The Horse Chestnut tree on The Green is diseased and will need to be felled. The Clerk had obtained quotes for the work and recommended this amount should be added to next year's budget.

County Council, District Council, Police Matters

District Councillor Peter Cooper reported on the following issues:

The District Council has decided not to make a charge for the village freighter service - this will continue to be free.

Speed limit review - apparently the County Council tends to agree with the suggestion that a speed limit should be applied to the A418 between Bierton and Wing. The review for our area is planned to take place early this year.

He reported that the Cabinet is planning to take action to tighten the planning enforcement regime in Aylesbury Vale. He said it simply has not been working as it should, and this is how, for instance, an extra house was able to be built at the Bull and Butcher development before the planning permission had been granted.

No one was present from either the County Council or the Police.

Restoration Of Bus Shelter At Wingrave Crossroads

In view of the planned celebrations in May involving the Czech Ambassador, it was resolved to add the sum of £100 to the budget to contribute to the restoration of the bus shelter.

Budget And Precept

Resolved to accept the Budget prepared by the clerk for 2005-6
Resolved to set a precept for 2005-6 of £8800

Twining

This item was adjourned to the next meeting.

(Continued on page 19)

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Clucking Hell

Your Chronicle correspondent sat in on the Parish Council meeting where the presentation was made about installing 3 chicken factory units at Norduck. (For the moment). To this bemused onlooker it was more of a scene from Chicken Run, the cartoon film based on the Great Escape, featuring world famous chickens.

It seemed ironical that the new Stalagcluck Norduck would bear an uncanny resemblance to the former prisoner of war camp at Norduck itself.

Confusion ranged (or was it free ranged) upon confusion as the Jockies were worried that the hens would get onto the bridlepath and scare the horses. Why one thought, would the Jocks not get off their scary GeeGees and walk then to safety through the marauding masses of pullets

Next confusion came when it was revealed that these chickens did pongless poos. Oh, said the ladies of the village, tell us how you did it and we will feed it to our husbands.

Then, they said, the tonnes of fresh poo would be carted away to some unsuspecting gypsies encampment in Oxfordshire. Yes, let's see how they like it, came the underlying murmur.

A non horsey person was heard to say that there was almost as many horses in the village nowadays as the expected number of chickens and no one complains about their poo.

The word "Organic" must be the most violated word in the English language after "Gay". These Organic chickens would be free range, of sorts, and each hut would be assigned about 6 acres. Cunning I thought, probably too much for them to tunnel their way out..

All the chickens would be white, for virginal, since none of them would see a cock in their 18 month life. I cried Fowl

A vision of transport hell then came to mind as the presenters were forced to admit the number of truck movements of feed in, poo out, eggs out, chicks in, chucks out. And no body wanted to repair the Norduck track. No fear, not me, was the retort. Eggzactly, I thought.



Casually dead birds will be frozen for later disposal, but there was no reference to what happened to the other birds at the end of their 18 month life. I was informed that they did not enter the food chain... so where do they go? Up in smoke? Time for another Pope!

There was even talk of electrified water rather than holy water. Imagine Julie Andrews coming over Norduck Hill singing "The hills are alive, to the sound of chickens". Yes, there will be thousands of these horse scaring fowl, no doubt, as females do, in deep meaningless conversation with each other creating some unholy din as they wait for the time to hang their rear ends over the conveyor belt and deposit their daily work

Ah well, Keep yer pecker up, as they say

~ Your Poultry Reporter

When reading the above tongue-in-cheek report please remember that this is significant development within the village. Please see the Parish Council minutes on page 17 of this issue for more information on what is proposed. ~ Ed

(Continued from page 17)

Quality Status

This item was adjourned to the next meeting.

Web Site

This item was adjourned to the next meeting.

Illegal Dumping

Everyone has received leaflets. Agreed to encourage people not to dump their waste illegally.

Recreation Ground

Safety check – children's play area - up to date

Graffiti - It was suggested that a dedicated 'Graffiti Wall' might help to solve the problem. This suggestion will be put to the Committee working on the renovation project.

Planning

- 04/02864/APP Saddlers Farm, Cublington Road - Extension and change of use from stables to B&B accommodation. Resolved to support this application on the grounds that there is a need for B & B

accommodation in the area.

- 04/03221/APP 20, The Green, Aston Abbots - Demolition of existing and erection of replacement conservatory. Resolved to make no comment on this application.
- 04/03436/APP The Old Masters Restaurant, Old School, Cublington Road - Erection of two semi-detached houses with alteration to access. Resolved to oppose this application on the grounds that it would adversely affect the character of the Conservation Area, and is an overdevelopment of the plot.

Highways

The Chairman reported that the damaged kerbstones on The Green are going to be repaired.

Date Of Next Meeting

To confirm that the next Meeting of Aston Abbots Parish Council will be on Wednesday 23rd February 2005 at 8pm in the Church Room.

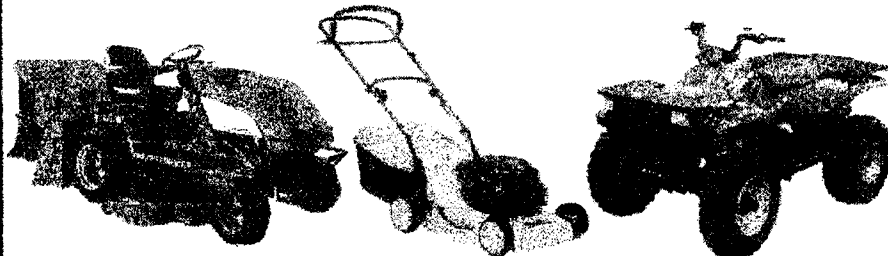
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~ Kate Curry—Parish Clerk

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Aston Abbotts Czechoslovak VE Day Weekend

Minutes of meeting held at Aston Abbotts Church Room
Wednesday 12th January 2005 from 7 pm until 7:45 pm

Present: Colin Higgs, Peter Shorrocks, Rev Bob Wilmott, Shirley Ford, April Curnow, Richard Clark, Geoff Aldridge, Anita; also: Piers Pettman, Neil Rees, Kirsty Crombie Smith (Czechoslovaks in Bucks Research Society). Minutes taken by Kirsty

Quick Meeting: Colin Higgs said that this would have to be a quick meeting finishing at 7:45pm because there was an important Parish Council meeting at 8 pm.

Embassy: Monika Studena and David Frous were going to attend from the Embassy but did not because it was a short meeting. Neil Rees said that he was in contact with Mr Frous about photographs and can organise that separately.

Czech Dance Band: April contacted John Bladon about the Josef Vejvoda Czech Band. She has had no reply yet. Neil Rees lent her 2 CDs of the band playing. She has looked into marquees and she had a quote for £1008 including flooring and lighting. She said there was the question of chairs and there was the possibility of some from Wingrave. Kirsty asked whether we need to think about heating?: Toilets: Colin reported that he had a quote for 8 toilets @ £400 + VAT, 10% deposit required

Talks and Exhibitions: Contacted people about talks and displays:

1. Alan Griffin is happy to come for free from Leamington Spa with his display on the Czech Army at Leamington Spa and the Assassination of Heydrich with a slide show and talk. Neil and Kirsty are friends with Alan and will be seeing him soon.
2. Richard Beith of the Anglo-Czechoslovak Stamp Society will come for free from Cheshire and stay with his sister in Gt Missenden. He has a philatelic exhibition of the Czech Army in Gt Britain.
3. Bob McLeod will come for free from Aylesbury and has 2 possible displays on the Czech Army in England or on Czechoslovakia. Neil is meeting Bob on Friday in Wendover and can ask him then. Bob knows Richard Beith.
4. Neil Rees, Kirsty and Piers can do a display and talk on President Benes and the Czechoslovak Government in Exile in Bucks (Aston Abbotts, Wingrave and Addington). Colin said that they can use the Aston Abbotts display boards that they used for the Millennium exhibition.

Peter was interested in establishing the size of their display boards because the Church Room is not very big. Need projector stand and screen. It was suggested to ask Victor Scott who has such equipment, otherwise Neil has some.

Home Guard Re-enactment groups: Home Guard re-enactment groups: Mik Burkenshaw is ill and cannot organise anything: Home Front Friends can't put enough people together: There is also a group in Kent.

Czech re-enactment group: Pavel Vlcek has contacted and said that up to 10 people are interested from Prague. They haven't decided whether to come by coach or plane yet. They would like to use one of Jeff's Nissen huts.

Czechoslovak Visitors: Peter said that about 5 people may

come from Cholmondeley Branch of the Cheshire Czechs. : about 3 from Leamington Spa, and the possibility of: Air Force Association may bring 30 people. Jana Snicer, who was Benes's cook at The Abbey, lives in USA: Mary Pavezka widow of Benes's bodyguard lives in Canada: Vojta Levin, was sometimes guard at Aston Abbotts lives in Norfolk: General Kaspar, once did guard duty at Aston Abbotts, lives in London: plus people that the Embassy want to bring from Prague

Flights: Peter looked into prices for flights to Prague. Easyjet have return flights for about £50. Kirsty said to look at Czech Airlines too.

Embassy offers: Petr Miller of the Embassy offered to bring the Czech Military Folklore Band. Peter Shorrocks is waiting to hear from him about this.

Food and Drink: Embassy offered to organise some Czech beer. Still waiting to hear about this. Need to get some Czech recipes to the Royal Oak for catering. Anita said that she has Czech friends who may make Czech cakes. Kirsty has Czech recipe books if anyone is interested. Neil Rees has recipes of Czech food which were published in the Bucks Herald and the Farmers Weekly during the war.

London Czechoslovak Folk Dance Groups: Beskydy have said they will come, possibly combine with Karpaty. No reply from Karpaty group.

Globe: No answer yet from Aylesbury Museum about the return of the School Globe that President Benes donated to the school.

Slovak Embassy: No reply from Slovak Embassy. Geoff Aldridge said that they have had a big turnaround in staff. Suggested asking Petr Miller to talk to them if they are interested in taking part.

Church: Rev Bob Willmott said that a Memorial Service in the Church was possible. Services are at 10 am but we need to decide what we want. Should be able to get bell-ringers too. Contact Peter Knight.

Day: There was some discussion about which day should be the focus day for different events. Sunday seemed appropriate for memorial events. Geoff Aldridge suggested that the weekend should build up to a climax on Monday as the main day. He said this worked well for the Wingrave celebrations in 1995. May need to ask the Embassy which day suits them best.

Addington: Colin Higgs has been in contact with Addington village where the Czechoslovak Military Intelligence lived. They are interested in taking part and helping in some way.

Ladies Club: Shirley Ford said that the Ladies Club will do catering for one session.

Chairs: Contact Joy Parker of Wingrave Community Association. Maybe cheaper to order them with the marquee. Richard reckoned he could get better quotes for toilets and marquee by next Wednesday.

Car Parking: Colin has arranged the use of field for parking. Kate has offered Lines Hill field, Warren at the Old Masters, Oxley Farm paddock. Need people to man the car parks.

Grant Application: Not yet filled in. (Nigel Palmer): Need to open bank account. (Andy Bystra): Neil said that the grant application should estimate costs of things where they haven't been given amounts. Also add costs of printing

(Continued on page 27)

Woodland Flowers
by **Margaret Jarvis**
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Wingrave Netball Club

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10-13 year olds, 9-10 am every Saturday during term time at WINGRAVE NEWPARK. Contact Sandy (coach) if interested on 688952


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The Aston Abbotts & Cublington Ladies Club

6th Jan. 2004

The Ladies Club met in the Church Room for our first meeting of 2005 where 20 members were present. Our Chairman, Joan Alexander welcomed all and thanked the Aston Abbotts members for a delicious tea after the Carol Service. The collection is to go to the Fishermen's Mission.

Joan Alexander read a letter from 'Sight Savers' thanking us for our donation.

Today was a day when we were to entertain ourselves. Many members stood up and gave short talks about sad and funny life experiences and recited humorous poems.

Tea and biscuits and raffle were given by June Brine. The raffle was won by April Curnow.

20th Jan. 2004

19 members were present at our meeting today in the Church Room. Apologies were received from Ivy Brandon and Etherlie Gutteridge. The Chairman welcomed everyone and the minutes read and signed.

Members were asked to think about a venue for the Summer outing. Woburn Abbey was suggested but no decision made.

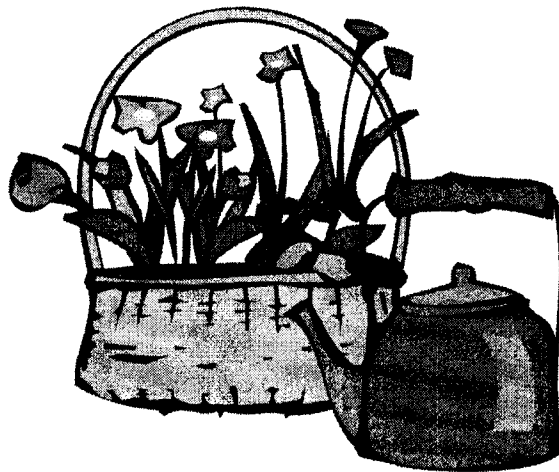
The Chairman introduced today's speaker, Mrs Pamela Wright from London who had come to show us slides of Borno,

Jarawak, and Brunei people, their countryside, buildings and wildlife. She was thanked by Joan Alexander.

Tea Hostesses, June Loader and Irene Lowden served tea with cakes and biscuits.

The raffle prize was won by Avril Bradley Davis. .

~ Shirley Ford



Stella Awards—2004

Be warned, this could happen here! (Some may say it already has?)

It's that time once again to review the winners of the annual "Stella Awards."

For those of you who do not know what the Stella awards are, read on....

The "STELLA'S" are named after 81-year-old Stella Liebeck who, if you remember, spilled coffee on herself and then successfully sued McDonald's for a small fortune! That case inspired the 'Stella' awards for the most frivolous successful lawsuits in the United States.

So then, here are the 2004 winners: -

5th Place (tie): Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas, was awarded \$780,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving little Toddler was Ms. Robertson's son.

5th Place (tie): 19-year-old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbour ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car while he was trying to steal his neighbour's hubcaps.

5th Place (tie): Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage He was not able to get the garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation, and Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found, and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The

jury agreed to the tune of \$500,000.

4th Place: Jerry Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas, was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the rear end by his next door neighbour's beagle. The beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been just a little provoked at the time by Mr. Williams, who had climbed over the fence into the yard and was shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.

3rd Place: A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx (tailbone). The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

2nd Place: Kara Walton of Claymont, Delaware, successfully sued the owner of a night club in a neighbouring city when she fell from the bathroom window to the floor and knocked out her two front teeth. This occurred while Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the window in the ladies room to avoid paying the \$350 cover charge.. She was awarded \$12,000 and dental expenses.

And the Winner is.... 1st Place: This year's runaway winner was Mrs. Merv Grazinski of Overland Park, KS. Mrs. Grazinski purchased a brand new 32-foot Winnebago motor home On her first trip home (from a KU basketball game), having driven onto the freeway, she set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the drivers seat to go into the back & make herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the Winnebago left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not explaining in the owner's manual that cruise control isn't automatic pilot. The jury awarded her \$1,750,000 plus a new motor home

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Valentines Day—February 14th

These are entries to a competition asking for a rhyme with the most romantic first line but ... the least romantic second line:

I love your smile, your face, and your eyes
Damn, I'm good at telling lies!

Love may be beautiful
Love may be bliss
But I only slept with you,
Because I was p*ssed.

I thought that I could love no other
Until, that is, I met your brother.

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Sugar is sweet
And so are you
But the roses are wilting
The violets are dead
The sugar bowl's empty
And so is your head.

Of loving beauty you float with grace
If only you could hide your face.

Kind, intelligent, loving and hot;
This describes everything you are not.

II



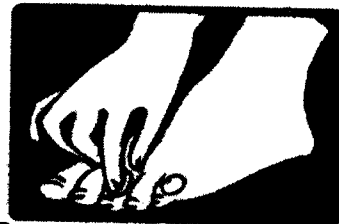
want to feel your sweet embrace
But don't take that paper bag off of your face.

My darling, my lover, my beautiful wife:
Marrying you screwed up my life.

I see your face when I am dreaming.
That's why I always wake up screaming.

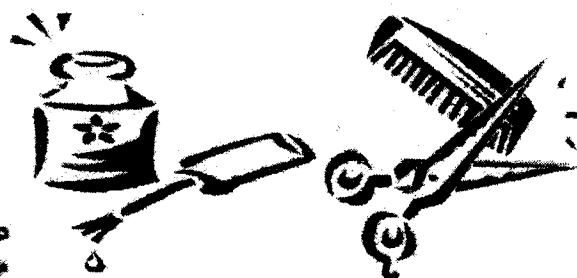
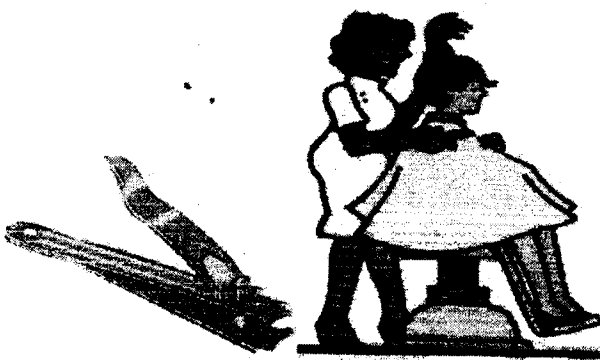
My love, you take my breath away.
What have you stepped in to smell this way?

What inspired this amorous rhyme?
Two parts vodka, one part lime



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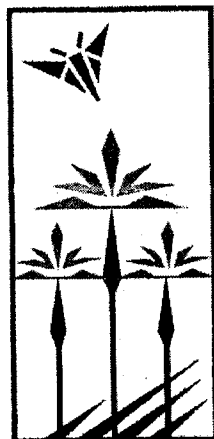
Claire Gresswell

19 The Green, Aston Abbots, Bucks

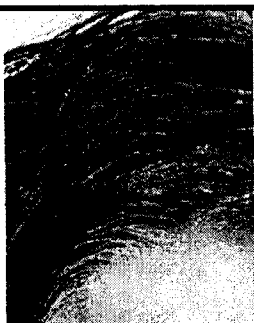
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Birthday Blues

Woke up early feeling a little depressed because it was my birthday and I thought, "another year older" but decided to make the best of it. So I showered and shaved, knowing when I went down to breakfast my wife would greet me with a big kiss and say "Happy Birthday".

All smiles, I went into breakfast and there sat my wife reading the newspaper as usual. She didn't say one word. So I got myself a cup of coffee and thought to myself, 'oh well she just forgot'. The kids will be in in a few minutes, all cheery and they will sing "Happy Birthday" and have a nice gift for me.

There I sat, enjoying my tea, and I waited. Finally, the kids came running in yelling, "give me a slice of toast I'm late" and 'where is my coat?' Feeling more depressed by the minute, I left for the office.

When I walked into the office, my secretary greeted me with a nice smile and a 'Happy Birthday boss' and said 'I'll get you some coffee'. Her remembering made me feel a lot better.

Later in the morning, my secretary knocked on my office door and said "since its your birthday, why dont we have lunch

together?" Thinking it would make me feel better, I said it what a good idea.

So we locked up the office and, since it was my birthday I said "why dont we drive out of town and have lunch in the country."

We drove out of town and went to a little out of the way place and had a couple of Martinis and a nice lunch.

We started driving back to town when my secretary said "why dont we go back to my place and I'll fix you another Martini?" It sounded like a good idea, since we didn't have much to do in the office anyway. So we went to her apartment and she fixed us both a Martini. After a while she said, "if you will excuse me, I think I will slip onto something more comfortable". And she left the room. Within a few minutes she opened her bedroom door and came out carrying a big birthday cake and following her was my wife and all my kids. And there I sat with nothing on but my socks!

~ Sent in by Paul williams

(Continued from page 21)

invitations, leaflets and advertising.

Safety: April talked about getting an entertainment licence. Need to contact Aylesbury Vale District Council. Need fire extinguishers.

First Aid: It was suggested that First Aiders are required. Contact Aylesbury St John's Ambulance.

Lidice roses: The one remaining plant of the strain of rose called "rosa Lidice" that Victor Scott wanted is in Prague. Some arrangement is being made with the Royal Horticultural Society to get a cutting.

Meanwhile the Ambassador had previously offered some roses (of other strains) from Lidice for Aston Abbotts. Just need to identify a place in the village where these can be planted as a small memorial garden.

Football Match: Laurence is organising the Aston Abbotts team. We still don't know about the opposition. Suggested playing the game on the Saturday.

Films: Neil's friend Steve offered to bring a mobile film-showing equipment to show films. We need to decide if this is possible in the hall or not with other things going on. Neil will send details to Peter Shorrock.

Morris Dancing: Can contact Whitchurch and/or Aldbury. Both have been to Aston Abbotts before. Neil will send details to Peter Shorrock.

Maypole Dancing: Contact Neil's friend Jennifer Morton in Chalfont. Neil will send details to Peter Shorrock.

Flypast: Not heard from Jeff Bannister about the Battle of Britain flypast.

Next Meeting: Set for Wednesday 26th January at 8pm: The Church Hall is free that evening so it can be a longer meeting if necessary.

~ Neil Rees (apologies for errors, misspellings of name or omissions)



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Calling all green-fingered friends! We need volunteers in your area to help take care of older people's gardens.

Gardening can be a major concern for older and disabled people who may have difficulty keeping things looking tidy. Your involvement in this initiative could really help someone stay independent.

If you enjoy being outside, meeting new people and can spare some time once a week or a fortnight, please get in touch!!! N.

You don't need to be an expert, you just need enthusiasm!

Any expenses you incur while helping out with the Gardening Project (including travel) will be covered by Vale Volunteers. You will also be covered under our insurance policy.

If you feel you could help out in any way, please ring 01296 337456. Alternatively, you can write to Vale Volunteers, Rycote Place, 30-38 Cambridge Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1RS, or e-mail:

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Clergy Comment

Thinking back, I am sure that I felt much more anger after the attack on the twin towers on 11th September 2001 than I have felt after the recent Tsunami in South East Asia.

This is probably because the attack on the twin towers was a deliberately planned and executed attack, whilst the Tsunami was a natural disaster for which it is impossible to find anyone on whom to pin the blame.

Much too much has already been written about both these events – yet events like these remind us of the fragility of our human existence and that we are by no means masters of the Universe that we inhabit. There is also another dimension to them that we might be tempted to overlook. Tragedies such as these unite people in a way that we find difficult to explain.

People who class themselves as Christians, as Muslims, as Hindus, as Buddhists and as Atheists - or none of these, have all responded to the desperate plight of those who have been caught up in the devastation around the Indian Ocean. The rival Tamil groups in Indonesia have been working side by side. There have, of course, been reports of money raised for relief being stolen or misappropriated – but I suppose that is a factor of our human condition. There will always be those who will see easy pickings and feel that their need is greater than that of the people for whom those gifts were intended.

But the focussing of World attention and effort onto a common problem is something that, much as we might wish otherwise, is a very rare thing. We are reminded that there are some things that are greater even than the differences that divide our fragmented world. Things that drive us to look out for, to care

for, to sympathise with those who share our human journey. In a very divided world it is good just occasionally (and disasters like this fortunately only happen very occasionally) to find a common cause – something that draws us together.

Perhaps this disaster has given us a beacon for the future. Although I am writing this in the first few days of January, I do not think it will prove to be a New Year's Resolution – because they have a habit of not lasting very long – would it not be fantastic if the barriers that divide groups of people on our planet were not rebuilt? The time will come when some of these people will no longer be in urgent need of our help. The time will come when they can once more stand on their own feet. Yet we must never build the barricades up so high that people feel that they are unable to realistically expect help when they need to do so. And for those of us who are in the fortunate position of being able to help, we must ensure that we do not place impossible conditions on that help.

~ Bob Willmott

Church Room Improvements

A special meeting held in Aston Abbots Church Room, between the trustees and the proposed new village hall committee, agreed to carry out some improvement works on the Church Room to keep it going until the new hall is built, with money allocated from development sites. This includes electrical work to lighting and heating in the toilet, with a water heater in the kitchen, installing a water meter, and minor repairs to the floor and handrail to the front door.

The Rev Bob Willmott will obtain quotes for the electrical work and heaters and the installation of the water meter, and quotes are to be obtained for a disabled toilet.

~ Colin Higgs

PCC Meeting

At January's St James' Parochial Church Council meeting it was noted that £500 would buy a shelterbox, or £200 an aquabox for the Tsunami appeal, and with the collections from each Sunday in January at the four churches governed by the Rev Bob Willmott this should be possible.

A check on loose gravestones is to be made and repairs carried out as necessary to make them safe. Letters for grave maintenance fees will shortly be sent out. A quote is to be obtained for hedge trimming and clearing up.

~ Colin Higgs

George W Bush

George W Bush could not sleep one night. The ghost of George Washington appeared to him,

“What should I do for the good of the American people?” Bush asked.

“Always tell the truth” replied the first president.

Next, the ghost of Thomas Jefferson appeared.

“What shall I do for the American people?” asked Bush.

“Set them free, cut taxes, trust them” replied Jefferson.

Next appeared the ghost of Abraham Lincoln. “What shall I do for the American people?” asked Bush.

“Go to the theatre...” replied Abe.

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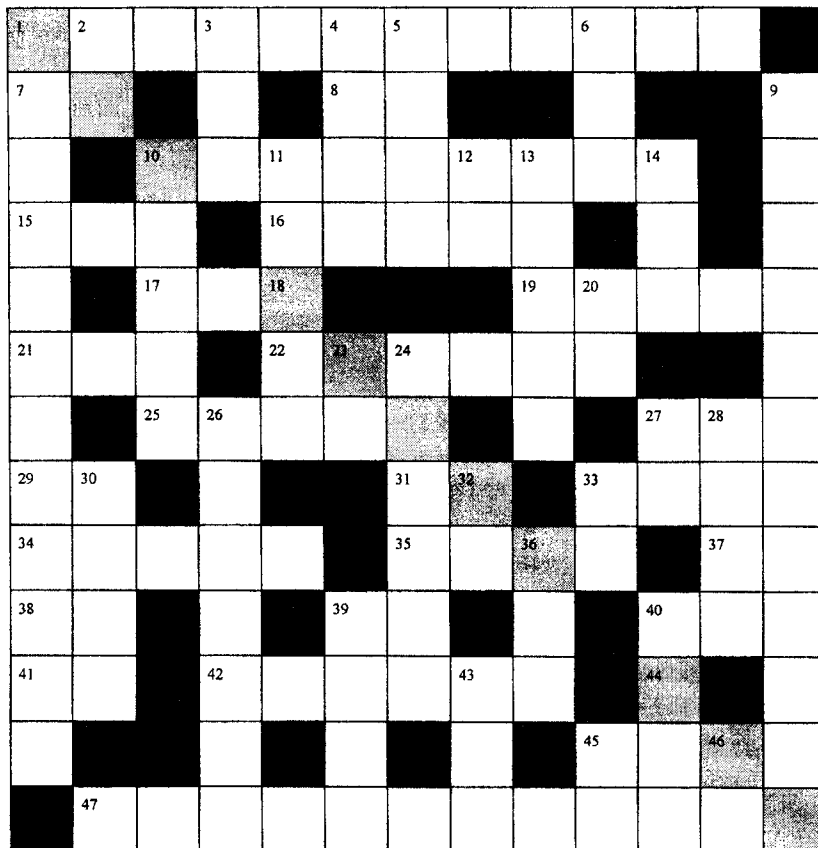
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The Chronicle Crossword

February 2005



January Solutions

Across 1 Aardvark 6 Hate 8 SA 9 Ox
11 Opts 13 Glimmer 17 Pi 18 Oils
20 Aphid 22 Erroneous 25 Pa 26
Riots 27 Rose 28 Ant 30 TA 31 Train
Buff 35 Eon 36 Deb 37 Owl
38 Canute 41 Or 42 Mantis 45 Coldest
48 St. 49 Sash 50 Skodas

Down 2 Aspirin 3 Rat 4 Angle 5 Koi 7
Thrips 10 Xmas 11 Operatic 12 Soot
14 LSO 15 MP 16 Eh 19 Instant
21 Daedalus 23 Rotten 24 Up 27 RAF
29 And 30 Tub 32 Rounds 33 Beam
34 Fort 39 Amos 40 Els 41 Onto

ACROSS

- 1 Every hue (12)
- 7 Surprise (2)
- 8 Army doctor (1,1)
- 10 Aubergines (3,6)
- 15 Carp (3)
- 16 Composition (5)
- 17 Falcon (3)
- 19 Wooden House (5)
- 21 Bevan (3)
- 22 Voting matter (6)
- 25 Could go wrong (5)
- 27 I'll eat mine if you get this wrong (3)
- 29 Father (2)
- 31 Used to be a Dutch department store (1&1)
- 33 Greek letter (4)
- 34 Popeye's girlfriend (5)
- 35 Merely (4)
- 37 Off and .. (2)
- 38 That is (1,1)

DOWN

(3,5,3)

- 1 Conversational item (7,5)
- 2 Teenage grunt (2)
- 3 Wild pig (3)
- 4 Small mischievous people (4)
- 5 Passes through a mountain range (4)
- 6 Decide (3)
- 9 Principle heavy armour of the army (8,4)
- 10 Alpine peak (5)
- 11 Malign micro-organisms (5)
- 12 No booze allowed here (1,1)
- 13 Man made material (5)
- 14 Unhappy (3)
- 20 37 again (2)
- 23 Alright (1,1)
- 24 Very successful person (6)
- 26 Concern oneself emotionally (7)
- 27 The male indicated (2)
- 28 Small thing to make a big bang (4)
- 30 Beers (4)

DIAGONAL 1,18,44 Mine's a pint

Compiled by John Hardcastle

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6 th Feb <i>1 before Lent</i>	08.0 Communion 10.0 Parish Communion	10.0 Parish Communion	10.00 Parish Communion	10.0 Family Service (Lay)
9 th (Ash)	19.30 Communion	20.00 Communion		
13 th <i>Lent 1</i>	10.0 Family Communion 18.0 Evensong	8.0 Communion 10.0 People's Praise (Lay) (with Methodists)	10.0 Parish Communion	8.45 Parish Communion
20 th <i>Lent 2</i>	8.0 Communion (by Extension) 10.0 People's Praise (Lay)	10.0 Service at Methodist Church	10.0 Parish Communion	10.0 Family Communion
27 th <i>Lent 3</i>	10.0 Parish Communion	10.0 Parish Communion (with Methodists)	18.00 Evensong Communion	8.45 Parish
6 th Mar <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	08.0 Communion (by Extension) 10.0 Parish Communion	10.0 Service at Methodist Church	10.00 Parish Communion	10.0 Family Service (Lay)

Sunday Readings

6 th Feb	1 before Lent	2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9
13 th	Lent 1	Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11
20 th	Lent 2	Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17
27 th	Lent 3	Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42
6 th Mar	Mothering Sunday	Colossians 3.12-17; John 19.25-27

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

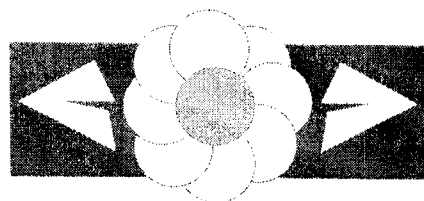
Church Sidesmen

6 th Feb	Mr. G. Kemp
13 th	Mr. C. Higgs
20 th	Mrs. S. Ford
27 th	Mr. A. Ford

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

Church Flowers

5/6 th	Mrs. Bean
12/13 th	No flowers during Lent
19/20 th	" " " "
26/27 th	" " " "



The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Line	0845 46 47
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	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	Colin Higgs	681343	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	Whist	Doris Scutchings	681243
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave Preschool	Claire Upton	681700
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	681011
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865	Wingrave School	Office	681436
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave Stores	Shop	681696
Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838			
Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229			

Please let us know of any errors or omissions

Aston Abbotts & Cublington Ladies Club

Programme for 2004/2005

<p>October 7th October 21st November 4th November 18th December 2nd December 16th January 6th January 20th February 3rd February 17th March 3rd March 17th March 31st April 14th April 28th May 12th May 26th June 9th June 23rd July 7th July 21st</p>	<p>Toybox Childrens Charity - Sarah George Curtains and Cushions - Clare Shorrocks Annual General Meeting Waddesdon Manor - Talk by Mr Keating Christmas Floral Decorations - Mrs Pat Trunkfield 2005 Carol Service - Aston Abbotts Entertain ourselves afternoon Slides - Pamela Wright Slides - Spring Flowers of the Swiss Alps - G Atkins Talk by Joyce Whipps Spring Lunch R.S.P.C.A. - Talk by Richard Musgrave Snapshots of Italy - Peter Fellows Talk by St John's Ambulance Crossroads, Caring for Carers - Talk by Claire Dalton Musical Afternoon - Lindsay Stafford-Smith Sight Savers - Talk Vale Speakers Club - Talk by Penny Dabten Competition Afternoon Summer Outing Garden Party</p>
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For more information about these events, or to find out about the Ladies Club, please contact Shirley Ford on 681865. NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS WELCOME

Eclipse

Beauty Therapy
01525 240249

Give your body the attention it deserves.....

A full range of beauty treatments in a friendly and professional atmosphere

25% OFF
First Treatment

- Aromatherapy Massage
- Facial Treatments
- Manicure/Pedicures
- Waxing
- Eye Treatments
- Self Tanning
- Gift Vouchers

Introducing ***Fake Bake***
 The self tan of the stars - voted the best organic self tanning in the USA

Please call Clare to book an appointment or for more information on Stewkley (01525) 240249

Evening appointments available

What's On In February

- Thursday 3rd Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 8th Shrove Tuesday. Pancake Day.
Pancakes/coffee. Church Room 10.30-12
- Thursday 10th Bingo. Church Room. 7.30 pm
- Saturday 12th Bellringers AGM Church/Church Room 2 pm
- Sunday 13th Rambling Club Members meet at Cublington crossroads. 2 pm
- Thursday 17th Whist Drive Church Room 7.30 pm
- Friday 18th P.C.C Film evening. Church Room. 8 pm. Tickets from Shirley or Colin (bring your own wine)
- Sunday 20th Village footpath walk The Green 2 pm
- Wednesday 23rd Parish Council Meeting. Church Room. 8 pm
- Thursday 24th Children's Playground meeting. Church Room. 6.15 to 7.15 pm. See page 5.

Book These Dates

Friday 29th April – Monday 2nd May. Czech VE Day Celebration weekend

Saturday/Sunday 23rd/34th July. Festival and fete weekend

FLORAL CLASS

Due to lack of support it is regretted this will no longer be held.

A minimum of ten people are required.

WE URGENTLY NEED MORE WHIST PLAYERS, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED CONTACT COLIN OR DORIS

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



KIDS ~

Help choose the new children's playground equipment—

see page 5

Classified

IRONING - Never enough time? Do you hate it? I can help! Phone Denise on 077 9939 4752

REST ASSURED SINGLE BED with mattress. Blue Velvet headband. As New. 01296 681356

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

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

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

INSTRUMENTAL TEACHING NOW AVAILABLE FOR DRUMS AND CELLO

I have recently opened up a teaching space in central Aylesbury and am eager to find new pupils of all abilities. I aim to provide inspirational instruction of an excellent standard. Interested? Call Anthony on 01296 681152 or 07932 496164

What did the bat say to his Valentine?
"You're fun to hang around with."

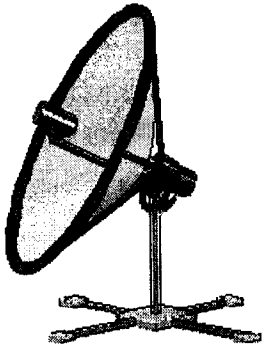
What did one pickle say to the other?
"Valentine, you mean a great dill to me!"

What did the French chef give his wife for Valentine's Day?
A hug and a quiche!

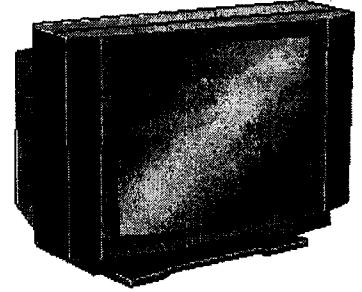
Why did the cannibal break up with his Valentine?
She didn't suit his taste!

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

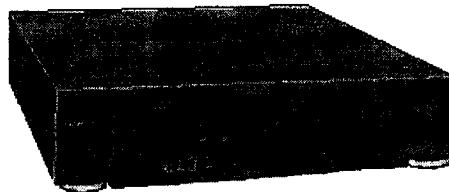


T.V. VIDEO AND
SATELLITE
SERVICING AND
GENERAL REPAIR



RENTALS, NEW
AND USED SALES

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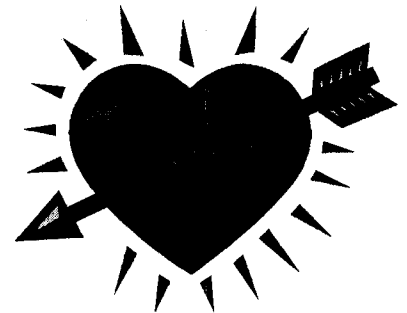


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My Darling Valentine

Where do I find the words to express what I feel in my heart for you?

Through these many years that we have been together you have been my faithful companion - my friend. Each morning when I wake up you are there, waiting for me, ready to go. You have responded to my merest touch. You have done everything I ever asked of you - especially when ridden hard. You have never complained, even when I have cursed you, kicked you, or lent you to my friends. I have spent much time underneath you recently, yet still you have taken my full load. I have never lost my love for you; even now, in the twilight of your life, when you have suffered a few screws loose, a noisy big end and a leaky sump. Even though another ford transit has now come into my life I won't forget our three hundred and forty two thousand miles together. You are my only voyager - you are my everything



Your loving David x x x x x