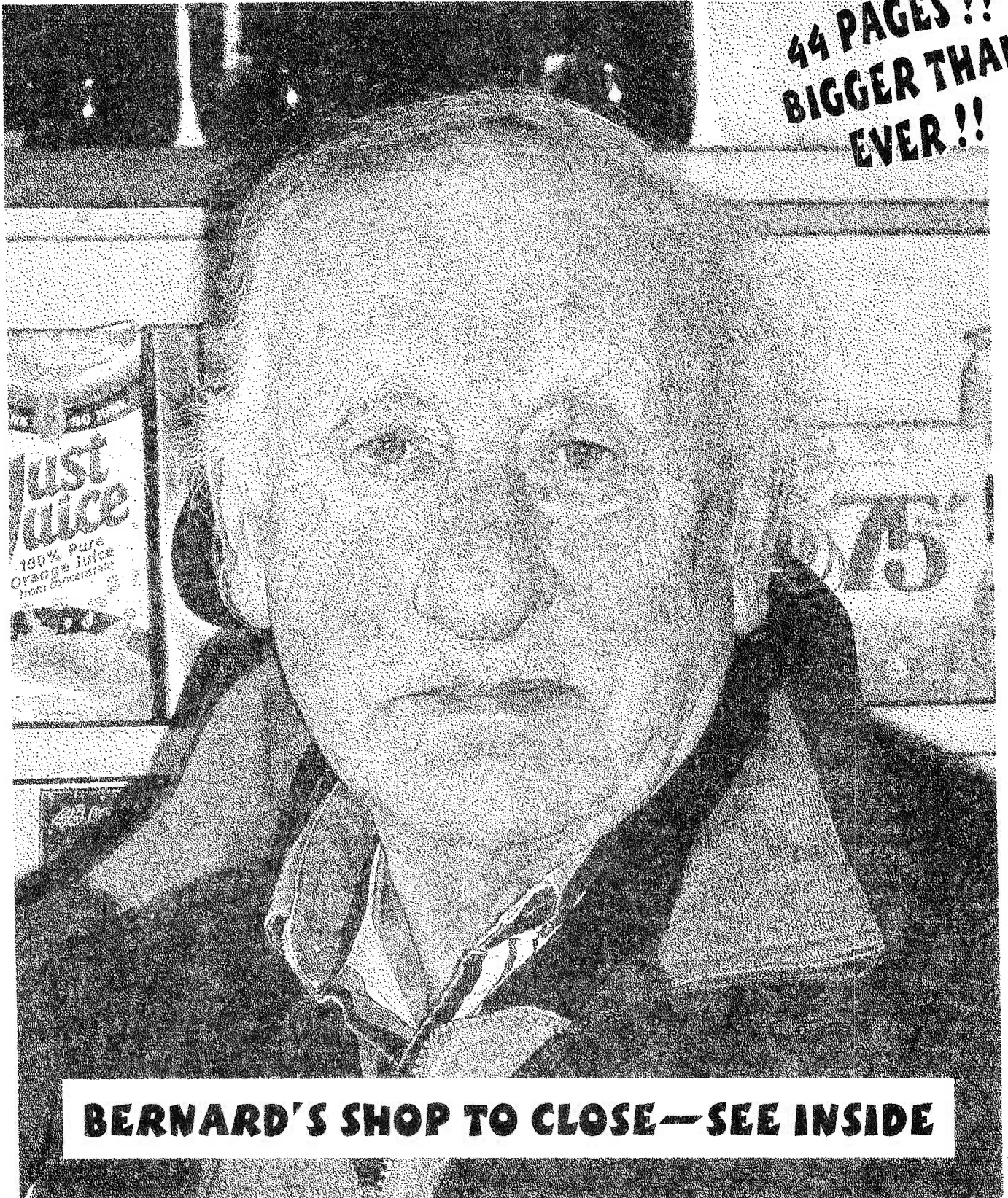


THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 244 ~ April 2005

44 PAGES !!
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EVER !!



BERNARD'S SHOP TO CLOSE—SEE INSIDE

STOP PRESS

The organisation of the celebratory weekend to celebrate the 60th anniversary of V E Day (and this village's connection with Eduard Benes, the late President of Czechoslovakia, has hit a snag. As was mentioned in the last Chronicle, to carry out the full programme of events, it was going to be necessary to obtain a substantial grant. Application was therefore made to the body which gives such grants (which is connected to the National Lottery), but unfortunately that body has returned the application with a number of questions. There is no problem in answering these questions, but unfortunately this has had the effect of sending our application back to the beginning of the queue, and, incredibly, the body concerned thinks it is acting quickly if it makes a decision in less than 8 weeks; and the committee which meets to consider grant applications only sits once a month!!

The result of this is that the organising group is being told that they cannot be given a decision until the middle of May!!! Even if the Group makes a fuss, and succeeds in getting them to treat their application as urgent, they are not going to know whether they will get a grant, and if so, for how much, until mid-April at the earliest - and that will clearly be too late for them to start making arrangement for events to take place at the end of April & beginning of May.

The organising Group is meeting on Monday 21st March (unfortunately too late for its decision to appear in this edition), and it will have to decide what to do. The likely options are either to proceed with a limited programme of events for the weekend of 30th April/1st May; or else to postpone the celebrations until a later weekend - and one suggestion is that it might be possible to have them on the same weekend as our fete. It is hoped that the Group's decision will be available to be published and sent out on a flyer to accompany this edition of the Chronicle.

~ Peter Shorrock

Annual Parish Meeting

You will find details of this year's Annual Parish Meeting inside this issue. If you are new to the village you might like to know that this is a public meeting where a number of items of importance are discussed. These include things like the fete, County and District Council reports, the proposed Village Centre, how to distribute the profits made from the fete, and anything else that you wish to raise.

Phil

Everybody is welcome, so please come along .

In your April Chronicle ~

- Magic Plan for the Fete
- Chicken farm Protests
- Osborn's To Close
- Village Centre
- Alpaca Breeders Fibre School
- Czechs in Aston Abbotts

and much, much more.....

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 244

April 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:

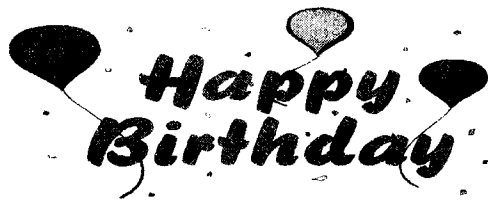
Friday 22nd April 2005

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 Abbotts, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

In This Issue

Alison's Gossip Column



John Hardcastle	30 th Mar
Chris Farrands	1 st April
Ian Hinds	4 th
Caroline Lane	5 th
Philip Wheaton	6 th
Karen Brandon	7 th
Adrian Bystra	11 th
Laura Whyte	11 th
Avi Gupta	12 th
Anthony Palmer	13 th
Geoff Curnow	14 th
Robert Clarke	18 th
Sam King	20 th
Alison Lewis	20 th
Thomas Stefancyyk	22 nd
Helen Peacock	22 nd
April Curnow	22 nd
Enid Ludlam	23 rd
Janet Biddle	25 th
Abbie Lee	26 th
Kate Curry	27 th
Diana Picking	28 th
Kirsty Peacock	28 th
Chris Espley	30 th

Lewis Roadside Repairs has been very busy this week after a spate of "burst" tyres. Our own daughter's car had to be repaired with **Dave** running alongside as **Kirsty** didn't have time to get out!!

But poor **Deirdre Whyte** suffered 2 tyre attacks. Well, it would have been only one if her husband (that well known & obviously underpaid, Scotsman!) hadn't replaced the 1st tyre with a cheap secondhand one from some dubious place in West Drayton, which subsequently punctured the next day!!

As for spare tyres, you apparently don't need them if you work for Customs & Excise!



We were very shocked to hear of the untimely death of local man **Paul Kirk** aka Porky. We send our condolences to his family and friends.



A warm Aston Abbots welcome to **Mr and Mrs Knight** (Peter's parents) who have moved into Nash's Farm. We hope that you enjoy living here in Aston Abbots.



Congratulations

Phil White has passed all three parts of his driving examiners course. Congratulations from Lynne and Rosie.



We were sorry to hear that **Kate Curry** was involved in a car accident in March but pleased to find that she did not suffer serious injury. We send our best wishes for a quick recovery.



We hear that gravel-voiced singer **Tony Rees**, who proved so popular at the Astonbury shows, is due to take over as landlord of the Carpenters Arms in Stewkley towards the end of March. We send him our very best wishes for success in his new venture.



Our warmest birthday wishes to Chronicle crossword compiler **John Hardcastle** who will be 60 on March 30th. Many Happy Returns John.

Did you send us your birthday dates in the past year? Unfortunately, due to finger trouble on the part of the *Keeper Of The Birthdays Database*, our entire list of birthdays from which we publish the list above each month has been lost. I have recovered much of the information from old issues of the Chronicle, but recently included birthdays may be missing. So if you recently sent us your birthdays, or if you wish us to include your birthday, please send them to the editor - contact details on page 2.

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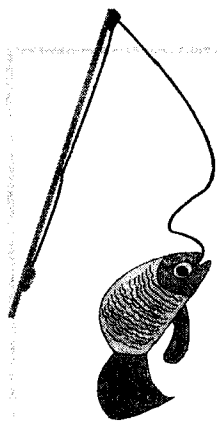
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In The Village

Magic Plan For The Fete

An award-winning children's entertainer and a Dog Show are just two of the new attractions promised by Poonam Gupta, the organiser of the Aston Abbots Fete 2005.

Colonel Custard, who was voted "United Kingdom children's entertainer of the year" is to bring his magic show to the fete. There is also to be a dog show, and villagers will be encouraged to enter their pets. It is hoped that there will be a display of tractors through the ages. This is in addition to all of the usual favourite attractions, including the always popular Great Horwood Silver Band, the Morris men, bric-a-brac, and all the other stalls.

This year the hot food will be served from 1 pm through to 3 o'clock, with the fete opening at its normal time of 2 pm. Poonam is appealing to people to come to the fete early to have their lunch. Tea and cake will be served in the Church room from around 2.30 and it is hoped that many will take the opportunity of having both lunch and tea here with us in Aston Abbots.

Poonam is appealing for volunteers to help on the day of the fete, especially with the cooking. If you would like to help please call her on 682204.

~ Phil Spooner

Council Tax Upset

Some people were upset by an item in the Bucks Herald which singled out two parish councils, including Aston Abbots, as having large increases in their precept. The article stated that "their steep increases are likely to upset residents with the charges well above the average for parish and town precepts".

However, the Bucks Herald article failed to make it clear that our parish council precept has been increased specifically to address the need to replace the equipment in the children's play area of the Recreation ground. This equipment has to be taken out of use as it no longer meets modern regulations.

The increase was voted in only after widespread consultation within the village and in response to many requests that the equipment should be replaced.

The increase in the precept will finance a loan which will allow the children's equipment to be replaced.

The precept, of course, represents only a very small proportion of your council tax bill which, for 2005, will be

Band A	£816.83
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Band E	£1,497.53
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Band H	£2,450.50

~ Phil Spooner

Chicken Farm Protests Grow

The proposed Norduck chicken farm development has caused considerable concern, not just here in Aston Abbots, but also in neighbouring villages. One letter of objection from a couple in Cublington reads "living in Cublington means we are already affected by the chicken farm in Stewkley, the smell from that unit some weekends is dreadful. The thought of having to suffer the same smell from another village close by is an unbearable thought."

I counted 100 submissions to Aylesbury Vale planning authorities over this application. Although I did not have time to read them all I sampled a good number, all of which were opposed to the application.

You can read the correspondence and the objections on line by going to the Aylesbury Vale District Council website—

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

- go to the planning section and search for planning reference 05/00258/APP. Then click on the button which leads you to the documents. You will need the (free) Adobe Acrobat reader program installed on your computer to view them.

The closing date for objections has now passed and we await to hear what happens next. In the meantime we understand that a group of residents have formed an association in order to fight the application and we hope that they will keep us informed of their progress.

~ Phil Spooner

Letter To The Editor

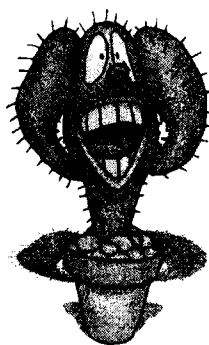
Dear Editor,

On the subject of the recreation ground I would like to make two points.

From where we live we have a good view of the field and it has been brought to my notice by a neighbour that several people still are not picking up their dogs mess. I think anyone who has children who play in the recreation ground should think very carefully about letting them do so. If people cannot be responsible maybe dogs should be banned altogether.

Could something be done about the remains of last years bonfire? It spoils an otherwise beautiful view which is a shame. We even have what looks like the rusty metal springs from an old mattress (we did try to improve this at Christmas by putting some tinsel on it, but someone stole it !!)

~ J. West



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Bernard Osborn's Shop To Close

It seems that Bernard Osborn's shop is finally to close at the end of March, after 80 years serving the people of Aston Abbots. There had been a shop in the village earlier in the last century, but it had gone out of business before Osborn's opened.

When I interviewed Bernard for The Chronicle a few years ago he told me, "My mother and father started the shop here in Aston when they were married. They moved to the Old Forge, then they moved down here. It would have been 1926."

Bernard's father had been a tea and coffee blender, although that was not what his family had wanted him to do. "My father's family were engineers. They used to do the old steam engines, and he was the odd one out - they wanted him to go in to the engineering business and he rebelled and went into the grocery trade. Mother, she loved the shop. Like a lot of the people years ago, they pottered. They didn't kill themselves with work, but they were going gently all the time. They did things in their own time."

Life was very different back then, when the village shop was a central part of village life. Bernard remembers how they used to run "accounts" for local people: "In years gone by The Abbey was the main employer in the area. They paid their men at 12 o'clock on Saturday and then the men would come down to shop and settle the account for the few things they had put 'on book' during the week. Running a book or an account was all part and parcel of a village shop."

As a boy, Bernard often helped out in the shop. When the war came, much changed. "The early part of the war my father did the Post Office. They hadn't got a postman so the Head Postmaster rang him up and said could he undertake deliveries. For years I delivered the mail round Aston. That was on the carrier bike - a big wheel one. Then we lashed out on a little wheel one with a big basket and I took the lady who used to live up at Longmoor home in that basket more than once! You had to make sure you were sitting on the saddle before she got in there otherwise you went arse upwards.

"Of course wartime and just after the war, we were very busy here. Village shops were busy - that was the heyday of them - because people could not go in to town and that. We used to sell an awful lot of stuff in those days."

After completing his National Service, Bernard returned to Aston Abbots. "I did very well in the Air Force and they wanted me to stop in. They offered me a post straight away in Japan, but my one aim was to come out and that was one of the silliest things I've ever done you know, come back here! It was kind of expected of you, wasn't it, to move back into the family business."

Bernard and Valerie moved to Cublington after the war, but Bernard has continued to run the shop in Aston Abbots. At one time he was President of the Aylesbury District Wavy Line Association. But he has seen the growth of the supermarkets



and the changes in village lifestyle gradually erode the business. "Things have changed. The amount of deliveries and stuff we used to have in, possibly six boxes of butter a week, things like that. But today... I just can't sell it within the sell-by date. It's just had to go like so many other things."

Back in 2000 I asked him if he was saddened by the decline in trade? "Well yes, to a point. You think you've got the right product, the price is right, but people still don't bother. Then once in a while people come in and they say 'I didn't know you stocked so and so', or 'You're cheaper than Tesco's' and things like that, but they still won't use the village shop now. Years ago we used to carry an awful lot more stuff. It's quantity again. A box of bananas is 28 pounds - I just couldn't sell it.

"Little shops like this.... It's things like the rates and so on, which are crippling. You're penalised for giving a service... Truthfully, money-wise, I've propped this up for years." Bernard isn't bitter, although he recognises that the trade for his village shop has gone forever, "Oh no, no. It won't come back!"

Now in his 70s, Bernard has finally decided to retire. "The village doesn't want a shop. We have a few loyal customers.... but it's been a bit of a hobby". He tells me that he will close the shop at the end of March.

Perhaps Bernard is right, perhaps the village doesn't really want a shop. He is almost certainly right that there are not really enough houses in Aston Abbots to support one. However, he and his father provided a valuable service to the village for many decades. Even in recent years, when the shop became just a shadow of what it once was, there have been many of the older generation who have been very grateful for the service he provided. Quite a few villagers have been in the habit of popping into the shop for a bit of a chat with Bernard and I know that he will be very much missed.

So how does Bernard feel, now that the decision is made? "Truthfully, I will miss it," he says. And we will miss him.

~ Phil Spooner

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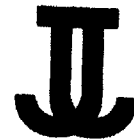
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Peter Knight's Countryside Diary

14th March

Well winter came at last. March certainly came in like a lion, let's hope it goes out like a lamb.

Although we have had two weeks of frosts and snow showers I am grateful that we haven't had two weeks of cold rain for lambing and the garden. That would have been far worse.

The cold has undoubtedly put back gardening a bit - this time last year we had a lot of seeds sown and all the early potatoes were in. If however we have the temperatures that are forecast for next week then it will all catch up.

The one thing we could do without now is a blackthorn winter - the blackthorn bushes are just about to burst into bloom. Somehow I think we shall avoid another cold snap.

Birds certainly think spring has arrived - the dawn chorus has started and the rooks have been very busy repairing and strengthening their nests alongside the A 418. They always seem to need sticks of about 18 inches in length, which makes flying rather difficult, but don't they just do a good job. I've never seen a rook's nests crash down.

Incidentally did anyone else see the heron hunting, on foot, alongside the main road by Wingrave crossroads? He must have been hard up for a meal.

While on the subject of birds I've recently noticed something I have never seen before. There is a holly tree in Wingrave Road still covered in berries - usually all the berries have gone by early January if not by Christmas. For some reason the birds cannot have discovered this particular bush.

Cock pheasants have been behaving in their best bombastic manner, showing off and trying to attract as many hens as possible. As I drove into the village the other day one flew down into the road from the roof of the Royal Oak, and out in the fields they strut about showing off the full glory of their plumage.



Hares too have been very active, boxing and appearing in fields where they are not normally seen. It seems to me that their coats turn lighter at this time of year, but I'd never heard anyone else suggest this is so. Badgers too have been busy. One of our fields has diggings every 20 yards or so all over the turf, I assume they have been digging for earthworms or

possibly leather jackets. Badgers also dig a hole in which to defecate usually about six inches deep, but one fellow must have had time to spare as he dug a pit 3 ft from the edge of the A418 and a good foot deep into which he left his deposit - perhaps as a protest against the ever increasing traffic.

The lambing has gone pretty well this year; we now

need the grass to grow to ensure a good milk supply from the ewes. Our biggest problem has been the ewes carrying only one lamb. The easy winter has meant that the single lambs have grown too big inside the ewes and have therefore given problems with difficult births. Obviously it's easier to pass two reasonably sized lambs than one big one especially if that one has a large head. So far we have had 14 sets of triplets, which is not too bad - and the fewer the better.

One unusual happening - a ewe gave birth to a good white lamb which she cleaned up and then she laid down and had a pitch-black lamb. Nothing particularly unusual in that. However when she got up and saw the black lamb she took an instant dislike to it and attacked it. She would have killed it had I not been there. Margaret Kent was helping at the time and she did her best to protect the lamb while I rigged up some stocks to trap the ewe by her neck so she couldn't turn around and flatten the poor mite. Three days later I let the ewe out of the stocks hoping she had forgotten her dislike. No - the very first thing she did was to attack it again. I'm afraid it will have to join the orphans at 59 The Green!

"A Peck of dust in March is worth a king's ransom" - another of Grandma's sayings. Something that was certainly true years ago when a successful harvest was helped by a good sowing into dry ground in March. Nowadays there is so little spring corn so that a dry March hardly matters for harvest, but is always welcomed by gardeners - we need to get those early peas in ASAP.



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.

Bed & breakfast at the pub is £30 per person per night.

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ANNET - Another two bedroom 18th century character cottage with garden, three miles from Padstow, opposite the church in St. Issey, near the village pub and backing onto fields with a footpath leading to the Camel estuary and the famous Camel Trail for walkers & cyclists. Newly refurbished, with original slate floors, pine floors, exposed stone walls, ledge & brace doors and a brand new modern kitchen. All mod cons – TV/DVD, CD/radio, dishwasher, washing machine, microwave, gas central heating, shower and bath.

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Call For Help

I am doing some research on the Czechs in Aston Abbots and the local area during the war. I am collecting stories and items for an exhibition to held in the village during the VE Day Weekend, and for a book about the Czechs in Bucks. If you have any stories or artefacts, or you know of anyone who used to live in Aston Abbots during the war but has moved away, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Contact me:

Neil Rees

1 Eskdale Avenue, Chesham, Bucks HP5 3AX

Home tel: 01494 776457

Work tel: 01494 793921

e-mail: neilrees@studge.freemove.co.uk

Nuisance Phone Calls

A number of people have complained about receiving nuisance phone calls recently. Frequently these are generated by automatic dialling equipment used by sales companies. This is nearly always the case when you answer a call and there appears to be nobody at the other end, so you should not be too alarmed about these calls.

If you wish to try and reduce such nuisance calls you can sign up for the Telephone Preference Service. Sales companies are forbidden from calling numbers which are on this official list. If you wish to find out more about the Telephone Preference Service you can call 0845 070 0707 or checkout their website which is

www.tpsonline.org.uk

~ Phil Spooner

Czechs In Bucks

Dobry den!

Kirsty, Piers and I and a few others, having got more interested in the Czechs in Bucks that we imagined, have set up the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile Research Society!

Our aim is basically to research the Czechs in Bucks and Beds, by using London and Prague archives, and talking to local people.

By forming a society we can find out who else is interested, and it makes a great of difference when talking to archives in Prague! We aim to produce a book, a website and give talks where groups would like one. If you want to join we will send out an occasional newsletter with details of talks, events etc to do with our local Czechoslovak historical connections— i.e.

- President Benes at Aston Abbots, Bucks
- The Czechoslovak military guards at Aston Abbots
- The President's Chancellery staff and families at Wingrave, Bucks
- The Military Intelligence staff and families at Addington, Bucks
- The Wireless Transmission Station at Hockliffe, Bucks

If you are interested, please contact me:

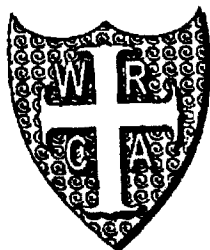
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Caroline Daniels and Sondra Dickason on behalf of Wingrave School

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at the Church Room at 8.00 pm on

Wednesday 20th April

and we hope to see as many residents there as possible. It is an opportunity to meet your District and County Councillors, hear news from local groups and to put your own views forward. It is the time to decide how money raised at the Fete will be spent, and even to offer your help if you are inclined to! Do join us!

Everybody Is Welcome

If you have any issues you would like to see discussed at this meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Kate Curry on 681137.

AGENDA

- **Apologies**
- **To approve minutes of meeting held 21st April 2004 (see page 15)**
- **Matters arising**
- **Police matters / Neighbourhood Watch**
- **County Council and District Council Reports**
- **Recreation Ground**
- **Church Room**
- **New Village Centre**
- **The Chronicle**
- **Fete 2004**
- **Fete 2005**
- **A.O.B.**

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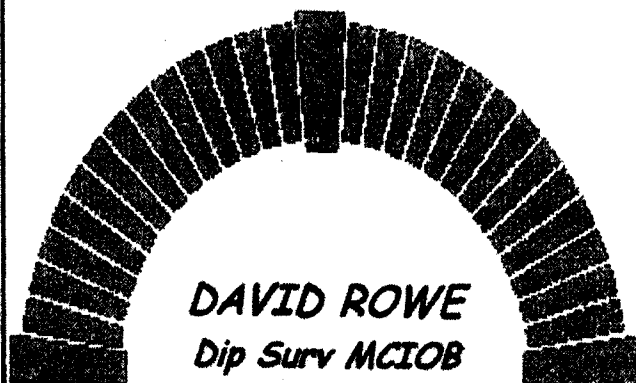
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Minutes From The Aston Abbots Annual Parish Meeting 2004

We are re-printing the minute of the 2004 Parish Meeting, so that they can be quickly approved at the beginning of this year's meeting.

The annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 21st April in the Church Room at 8 pm.

Present

Tom Manning (Chairman of the Parish Council), Kate Curry (Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting), Peter Cooper (District Councillor), Brenda Jennings (County Councillor), Sergeant Gregory (Police) and 30 parishioners.

Minute 1 Apologies

None

Minute 2 Minutes of previous meeting

These were approved by the Meeting as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.

Minute 3 Matters arising

None.

Minute 4 Police

Sergeant Gregory reported that Aston Abbots is a relatively crime free village, with a total of only 21 recorded crimes during the past year. He said the crime figures for the whole of the Thames Valley region are lower than the national average, and the area has the lowest police officer to population ratio in England and Wales. He gave an interesting talk outlining the structure of the police force in our area, and answered questions from the floor. The Chairman thanked him for attending the meeting.

Minute 5 County Council & District Council

County Councillor Brenda Jennings spoke about housing, roads and transport.

She emphasised the County Council's commitment to ensuring the infrastructure is in place before the planned housing developments in Aylesbury Vale begin. The road which will affect us most directly will be the A418 between Wing and Aylesbury, which is to have significant improvements.

The Luton Airport Consultative Group is to be restructured, with less representation from local authorities.

Rights of Way – The County Council is opposed to the use of unclassified roads by motorised vehicles.

Illegal roadside dumping – she reported that the use of CCTV cameras has been quite successful, and that they will continue to be used locally.

Mrs. Jennings admitted that our local roads are in poor condition. The County are to introduce a new provision this summer, called 'Highways on Call', which will provide various new services and should alleviate the situation.

Finally, Mrs. Jennings said that the Area meetings, which are currently held in Winslow, are to be divided into cluster groups in an attempt to make them more 'local'.

District Councillor Peter Cooper talked to the meeting about the Growth Agenda.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has proposed in the Milton Keynes and South Midland Study to build additional houses. Between now and 2031, 59,000 new houses are to be built in Aylesbury Vale (double the existing stock) and 28,000

new jobs created. These figures do not include Milton Keynes. Aylesbury Vale will have a Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV), and AVDC and BCC will retain their planning powers. LDV will have the powers to acquire land, provide roads, doctors, crematoria etc. Also "Vision 2031" will be set up to advise Delivery 2031; it will represent local people and organisations such as Parish Councils, with Sir Nigel Mobbs as Chairman.

Housing: It is intended to concentrate housing in Aylesbury, Buckingham, Winslow, Wendover, Newton Longville and a small amount in Haddenham. Milton Keynes could overflow into the small villages in the north of Aylesbury Vale.

Economic Development: This is a major concern for Peter as it is his brief in the AVDC Cabinet. It is intended to attract new businesses into Aylesbury Vale. Currently a net 17,000 people leave Aylesbury Vale to work and he wants to reverse this. As Aylesbury is now a development area lots of government help is available.

Minute 6 Church Room

Peter Shorrock told the meeting that little progress has been made towards the granting of the lease for the Church Room to the Church Room Trustees because of the legal problems encountered along the way. It is possible that the problems could be solved by the Parish Council taking the lease instead. At the moment Bucks Association of Local Councils are looking at the position on our behalf.

Bob Willmott said he could not understand why the situation had become so complicated. The delay in procuring the lease meant the Church was now accruing debts for the Church Room, which it is unable to pay. There was some discussion on the subject, but no conclusion was reached.

Minute 7 The New Village Centre

Neil Chesher spoke about the idea of building a new Village Centre. He said the Church Room was built many years ago, to cater for a very rural population. It is now used only by the older generation, not by toddlers or children's groups any more. Also, the village is expanding. He asked whether Aston Abbots should consider building a completely new centre: modern, and 'owned' by the village, possibly with a sporting connection. At present a feasibility study is being carried out, and the group are talking to other villages, such as Quainton, who have recently embarked on similar projects. Bucks Community Action would probably be able to help with the planning stages.

Minute 8 The Chronicle

Phil Spooner said the Chronicle had passed two milestones during the year: its first colour cover and its first 'nudity'! He was grateful that several new contributors had come forward during the year. Funds are healthy, thanks to donations from the fete and the Parish Council, and the efforts of Clare Gresswell, who is in charge of advertising. Andy Bystra was thanked for continuing to organise the distribution.

Minute 9 Fete 2003

Gordon Smith reported that the Fete made a profit of about £3000 last year. It was a most enjoyable day, for which special thanks must go to the organiser, Jackie Farrands.

Minute 10 Fete 2004

Preparations are already underway for this year's fete, which
(Continued on page 37)

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The Aston Abbotts Village Centre

Following on from the successful January Village Open meeting on the new Village Centre there has been a deliberate period of inactivity to allow any further comment to be made or issues to be identified.

Our conclusions from that meeting, and a number of other people who had given their verbal encouragement, was that we had indeed established a village 'want' and maybe had a little way to go to establish a village 'will'.

The feed back from the forms was mostly supportive, with one person writing that they were 'positively excited' by the whole idea. Three letters appeared in the Chronicle with some issues on location, these were also raised on their feedback forms. Clearly there are things there to address as the discussion now evolves.

Our discussion model was always Quanton new hall and this is now at the iron work stage. The photo here shows the compactness of the design. It was difficult to get a clear shot because of all the builders machinery in the way.

Our next stage is to ask the people who volunteered to attend meetings to set up the starting committees. We envisaged one team for fund raising and one for Design and Build. Now is the time to remake contacts with Aylesbury Leisure and Bucks Community Action to seek their help in establishing the program.

In the meantime, if there are further issues or if you are keen to volunteer for one of the teams then pop a note through my door at 3 Nash's Farm.

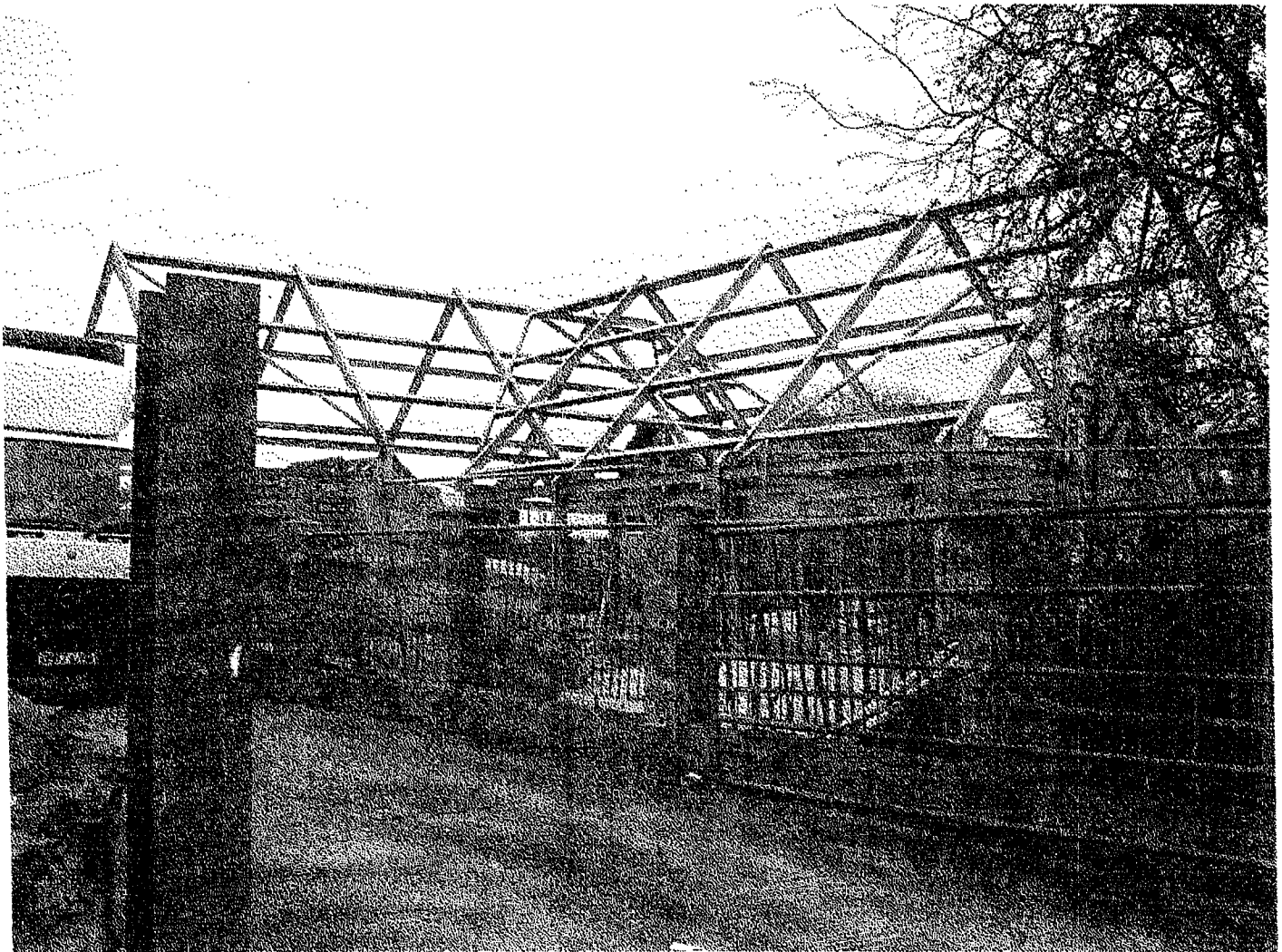
~ Neil Chesher

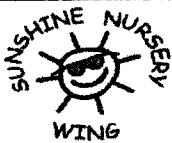
Last month we revealed Liz Barlow's REAL job at Little Chef' Liz comments ~

"Well, the truth is out about why I spend so much time away from home.....all I can say is that I can only afford to live in my mansion in Shropshire for part of the week as my Little Chef customers are such great tippers..... thanks Mr Swain!!"

You were served by
LIZ BARLOW
Term 1 Inv 28498 Cashier 2
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The picture below shows the Quanton Village Hall at its "skeleton" stage. This is being taken as a possible model for an Aston Abbotts Village Centre





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3.00pm

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An attractive young girl, chaperoned by an ugly old lady, entered the doctor's office.

"We have come for an examination," said the young girl.

"Alright," said the doctor. "Go behind that curtain and take your clothes off."

"No, not me," said the girl. "it's my old aunt here."

"Very well," said the doctor.

"Madam, stick out your tongue...."

"I'm a hypochondriac. At least that's what my gynaecologist keeps telling me." ~ Greg Rogell

AVDC Village Freighter Service 2005

The AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL Village Freighter Service will be visiting your village, at the listed site, on the dates below.

Monday 25th April ASTON ABBOTTS
12:00 to 15:30 The Green

Monday 7th November ASTON ABBOTTS
07:30 to 11:00 The Green

If, for any unforeseeable reason, we are unable to attend the site the Parish Clerk will be informed as soon as possible.

Please see the list of items we are not able to take away for you, there will be no exceptions and the list may be amended without prior notice.

If you have large bulky items you are unable to take to the freighter that you would like removed, or you cannot wait for the freighter visit, please telephone the Refuse Helpline on 01296 585510 and we will be happy to help you with our Chargeable Bulky Household Waste removal service.

Please **DO NOT** leave any refuse on the site prior to the Freighter arriving, this will be regarded as fly tipping and offenders may be prosecuted.

The refuse freighter will be provided to villages based on the dates and times previously submitted to Parish Council Clerks or Parish Meetings.

The service is provided for the collection of Household Waste (not including exemptions) but is not provided for the collection of the following:

Sharps: Please ensure that any potential dangerous objects such as broken glass, knives or other sharps, are not disposed of in a manner that is dangerous to others. You must securely wrap such items to ensure they will not harm others and label with large letters stating the content.

Hot ashes or other potential ignition: Please ensure that any potential source of ignition is not presented to avoid a potential fire. Should you have such items you must ensure that they are completely safe prior to being presented for collection.

Fridges and freezers: For the disposal of these items, due to

the hazardous linings and CFC's, a special collection must be arranged. Or they can be delivered to one of the Bucks County Council Household Waste Sites.

Clinical Waste: Due to the special requirements for disposal a special collection must be arranged by your District Nurse at your local surgery. Sharp boxes must be used for syringes.

Tyres, Exhausts,

Batteries, Oils etc: Such waste must be taken to a Civic Amenity site where special disposal arrangements are available.

Hazardous Waste - Asbestos etc: Due to the special requirements for disposal a special collection must be arranged with a contract that is licensed to handle asbestos.

Commercial Waste - Any waste generated as part of a business: The disposal of such waste must be paid for; therefore special collection arrangements must be arranged.

Building Rubble etc: Such waste must be taken to a Civic Amenity site where disposal arrangements are available.

Paint, Liquids etc: As with general household refuse collection paints and liquids cannot be taken away in the freighter. The Civic Amenity Site has disposal arrangements.

Should you wish to arrange a special collection, this is a chargeable service please telephone: 01296 585510

AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL Department of Environment & Planning

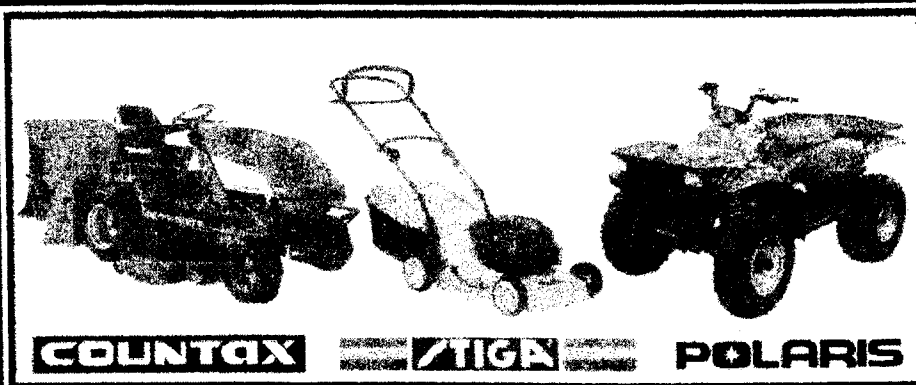


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Alpaca Breeders Fibre School – Peru 2004

We have become used to seeing alpacas around Aston Abbots in recent years. Liz Barlow and Ivan Greenaway from Livanti Alpacas, Aston Abbots have been to Peru. In this article they share their experiences with us.

What a learning adventure; spending 16 days on a trip to the home of the alpaca in Peru with two world renowned experts as our tutors; Maggie Krieger and Dr Julia Sumar.

We flew into Lima and spent a day sightseeing and visiting shops full of wonderful alpaca products.

We met up with the rest of the group for lunch the Sunday and went to a wonderful fish restaurant overlooking the Pacific. Carlos the tour coordinator briefed our English-speaking group, which also consisted of Americans,

Canadians and Australians. Then, an early night was called for, as we had to be up at 4.30 am to get to the airport for our 7.30 flight to Cusco. This flight gave us our first view of the Andes and it was in Cusco that we took time out to acclimatise to the altitude in preparation for our staying at 14,200 feet on the altiplano.

The air was clear and scenery breathtaking as we flew into Cusco. Then, the sound of Pan Pipes and pictures of wonderful alpacas met us as we walked through the airport. After a rest to counteract the effects of the altitude and a wander in the bright sunshine to a small café for lunch, we spent the afternoon sightseeing - Inca ruins, Cathedrals and impressive colonial architecture.

The following day we took the train and descended the mountains to Machu Picchu. Here we spent several hours exploring the ancient city with our local tour guide. It was spectacular and just like the pictures that we had seen and it even had a small herd of Llamas grazing in the city.

Later that night we went out to a restaurant and many of the group sampled Alpaca - its on the menu at most restaurants and was shown on a list as having lower cholesterol levels than chicken. It was fine, with a milder taste than beef and not a trace of fat. We felt that we had to try it whilst we were there, but we won't be having it again.

It was now Thursday and we were all raring to go, and get on with the "alpacaing" part of the trip. However, the time to acclimatize is really important and we were definitely "slower" during those first few days.

Malkini

We boarded the coach for the long drive up the Andes and to the Mitchell ranch at Malkini - Mitchells are the largest alpaca fibre processors in Peru. We passed through some spectacular countryside and the research station where Dr Julio Sumar did much of his alpaca research that we were to hear about during



The ancient city of Machu Picchu

the coming days. We'd heard some "horror" stories about the accommodation and the food. However, we were pleasantly surprised by the relative comfort and the good food during this part of our trip - we did have a specially supplied cook though! Yes we shared a bathroom with several others but it was clean. We only had electricity for a few hours each evening, but this was adequately compensated for by a lovely log fire each evening and we were at 14,200 feet.

For the next 6 days we had lectures on a wide range of topics including the history our South American Camelids, understanding reproduction including male and female defects, basic concepts of genetics, fibre and what influences excellent fibre and much more. We shared our marketing methods with others in the group and "talked alpaca" from dawn until dusk. Bliss!

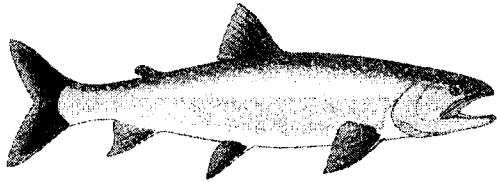
Most of each day was spent at another part of the ranch doing lots of practical work with alpacas involving us in assessing alpacas for fibre and confirmation, taking blood, cutting teeth, learning how the Peruvians restrain alpaca and sharing a wide variety of hints and tips on husbandry.

We saw herds of alpaca being grazed with their "minders" usually a woman and one or two children - herds of all white Huacaya, Huacaya and Suri and coloured herds. We also saw herds of Llama and we took a close look at Vicuña.

Rural Alianza

On day seven we said goodbye to everyone at Malkini and boarded the coach for a 5-hour trip to Alianza - we were near Lake Titicaca but didn't see it, and we stopped in a local town to visit Internet cafes and sample the local lamb dish for lunch. Passing several large churches "in the middle of nowhere" we saw many herds of alpaca and llama as we passed through breathtaking hills and valleys, past lakes, and all under a "huge" blue sky. Wending our way through a river gorge we

(Continued on page 23)



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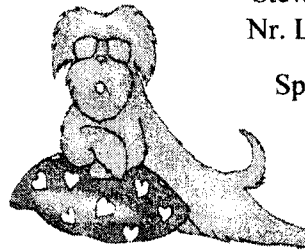
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Gossip Column*

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(Continued from page 21)

arrived at Rural Alianza, a collection of low huts high on the altiplano, complete with a small school and football pitch.

We'd joined up with a truck containing our food for the next few days complete with the cooks! They did a great job in keeping us fed under difficult conditions. Again, we only had electricity for a few hours each evening. Unfortunately the rooms and the rest of the facilities did not match up to Malkini however, the quality of the alpacas more than made up for the facilities. We saw some wonderful alpacas, both Suri and Huacaya.

We spent three days examining and comparing alpacas from a breeders point of view, discussing the merits of the various fleece characteristics, fineness, density, crimp, uniformity etc and on numerous occasions, we practiced selecting the best alpaca(s) in a group. This was judging from a breeders perspective.

We also spent time looking over our notes and copies of the slides, because we needed to pass an exam before leaving Alianza if we wanted to become accredited Alpaca breeders. Luckily the trio from the UK all passed and at a celebratory meal in Arequipa we received our certificates.

Arequipa

The journey to Arequipa (fortified by a packed lunch from our amazing kitchen staff) saw us passing through more great scenery and keeping our eyes peeled for wildlife; flamingos on the lakes, unusual birds and herds of Vicuña. The terrain became more desert like and the weather hotter as we headed down the mountains.

We visited the factories and learnt about and saw fibre processing from sorting the raw materials (done by feel and eye by experienced female workers), through washing, carding, spinning and dyeing. We then saw the finished alpaca and Vicuña products in the Mitchell and Grupo Inca's factory shops.

What a treat to see all that alpaca fibre being processed and turned into desirable soft, light garments, and to see and feel the "gold of the Incas" Vicuña, the most expensive fibre in the world.

As breeders, we wish that this course had been available earlier in our career; even as experienced breeders, we learnt a lot, some of which it would have been much more difficult or impossible to cover in the UK. We met some great "alpaca people," had a superb time and did not suffer from altitude sickness or Montezuma's revenge!

~ Liz Barlow



The Aston Abbots & Cublington Ladies Club

Ladies Club March 3rd

The Ladies Club held their annual Spring Lunch in the Church Room. Twenty six members and their friends were welcomed by Joan Alexander. The Rev. Siv Tunnicliffe said Grace and everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by members. We finished with a large raffle and many people went home with a prize.

17th March.

16 members were present at today's meeting in the Church Room and apologies were received from Irene Lowden and Doreen Liddell. The Chairman welcomed members and the minutes read and signed

Our summer outing to Woburn Park on July 7th was the only item under 'matters arising'.

The spring lunch held on March 3rd raised £153.00 for Club funds.

Our Speaker today was Mr Richard Musgrove Manager of the RSPCA centre at Blackberry Farm, Quainton. He spoke about his early days in the organisation in Bradford and Southport and how he became to move to Bucks. It took some 12 months to build the present centre at Quainton at a cost of £1.6 million. They currently look after some 2000 animals per year with a full time staff and much needed volunteers.

A vote of thanks was given by April Curnow.

Tea today were hostesses were Christine Scott and Carol Maurice and the raffle prize was won by April Curnow.

~ Shirley Ford.

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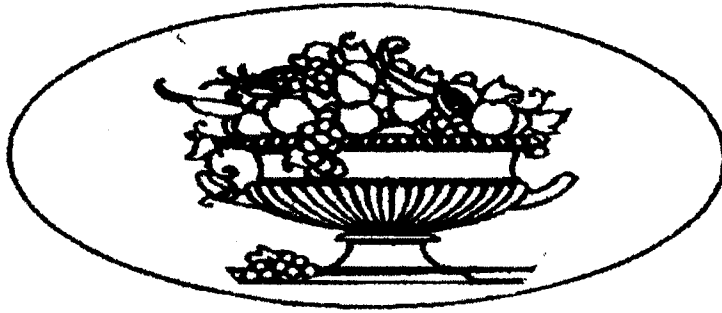
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President Benes in Aston Abbots

In recent months we have carried many articles about President Benes of Czechoslovakia and his time spent here in Aston Abbots during the war. Here we present some extracts from the book "utek do druheho odboje" ("Our president in England) by Josef Hodek, published 1946 by Knihovna Narodniho Osvobozeni. These extracts give an insight into the president's time living at The Abbey and I am indebted to Neil Rees for his translation work and providing these extracts for us ~ Ed

On June 1939 our President returned to London from his journey to America. Originally his office was at Park Street but this later moved to Grosvenor Place. The President was first accommodated in the London suburb of Putney, but at the end of 1940 he moved to a country residence at Aston Abbots, in the county of Buckinghamshire, which is about 40 miles from London. In this beautiful English country house he spent four full years of his stay in England.

His office in Grosvenor Place was in one of the best quarters of London, close to the large and world-famous Hyde Park and Buckingham Palace Gardens. From the time he started working there his office became the centre of attention of the diplomatic world and of all national leaders from large and small democratic countries.

Throughout the Blitz the President continued working in London. However his colleagues insisted that when he got home to his Putney villa, that he slept in the air-raid shelter which was in the garden. The shelter was very small. It had four beds, two bunk-beds made of wooden slats with normal mattresses, with a narrow aisle between them.

These difficult conditions meant that the President and his wife sometimes spent the night outside London. Eventually he was persuaded to move to the countryside to Aston Abbots, which I mentioned before. It happened on 24th November 1940, after the worst of the blitz.

The country residence of the President in Aston Abbots had its own great advantages compared to London, mainly because of its security, but there were also disadvantages. One of these disadvantages was the daily commuting to his London office because the journey took one and a half hours. It was a loss of three hours of precious time, which the President needed badly because his daily schedule was calculated down to the minute. In the summer with good weather the journey was fine. The worst journeys were those driving through with mist, and unpleasant autumn and winter weather which slowed down the journeys, moreover they were more dangerous and tiring. However even in the very bad weather the President never cancelled or even delayed his journey for a few minutes. He went to London in all weathers according to his set routine and he even used the time he spent sitting in the car commuting to London and back.

The great advantage of this country residence was primarily peace and quiet, peaceful sleep which he had not had recently in London and clean, fresh air. The building was surrounded by gardens and by exotic trees, even a small lake with water flowing down a man-made rockery planted with popular English perennials.

In front of the entrance to the building there was a sand yard which was surrounded on three sides by lawn and was kept up. On the other side on front of the house there some flower beds, and then the main road, and there was a lawn which was

sometimes used in the summer months for playing croquet. Even the President played sometimes.

The building itself was covered by "hedera helix" (English ivy) and "ampelopsis" (Virginia creeper), and it was protected from the sides by tall and huge elm trees. The only disadvantage of this ivy was that its leaves offered a refuge to sparrows. Their loud concerts began at dawn and ended after sunset, and during the summer nights instead of their cheerful chirping we heard loud monotonous hoots of owls. The owls were not easily bullied and if you managed to disturb one a second owl flew over and announced its presence with a deep tone. These delights were brought to us by the English countryside. And the President got used to it after some time.

The President arose regularly at 7 a.m., sometimes earlier. By 8 a.m. he had listened to the English official news on the radio and he was already downstairs in his office where he was getting ready for departure, and at exactly 8:30 a.m. he was getting into the car with his wife, who accompanied him on all journeys. He usually got to London around 10 a.m.

From his London office he usually returned around 8 p.m., sometimes later, and often very late at night. After his arrival after dinner he had a stroll from which he returned to his office where he stayed until the early hours of the morning. Usually between midnight and 1 a.m. there you could hear the radio on quietly coming from his private rooms on the first floor.

In England weekends are traditionally days for relaxing, but not for the President. On Saturdays if he wasn't outside his residence for work, he hosted a member of our government-in-exile or a British or Allied statesman or some other important guests. On Sunday afternoons the first person to visit was his private secretary: Dr Taborsky, then Chief of the Presidential Chancellery: Smutny, his political advisor: Dr Drtina, the Head of the Military Department: Divisional General Nizborsky and the Chief of the Military Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence: Colonel Moravec. Jan Masaryk usually came in the afternoon, if he was in England, and regularly stayed the night and he used to leave on Monday mornings.

On Sunday afternoons the President allowed himself to have a long walk outside his residence when he was accompanied by Mrs Hana Benes and by both secretaries Mrs Klucka and Miss Benes. Sometimes he was also accompanied by some of his close favourite well-known guests. These walks were the only moments of relaxation in which the President showed a lively interest in nature and everything that was around him.

The most enthusiastic companion on all of the President's walks, who couldn't be moved away and who wanted to have all of the attention, was an Alsatian dog called DOGA [Czech for Great Dane]. The President threw a stick which the dog brought back and put at his feet. The dog stood in front of him in such a way that he could not continue the walk and the dog would stare at the President's eyes and observed carefully his every movement. He wouldn't move until the President picked the stick up and threw it again.

After these short breaks of peace, followed a sequence of days filled with extremely important and responsible work on which the fate of the whole nation rested.

From the book "utek do druheho odboje" ("Our president in England) by Josef Hodek, published 1946 by Knihovna Narodniho Osvobozeni. Translated by Neil Rees.

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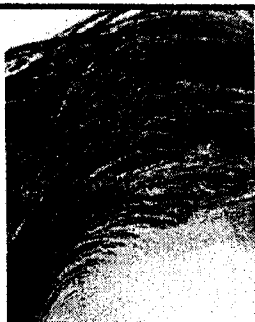
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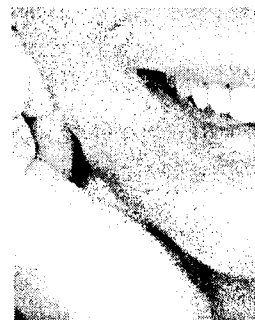
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Age Poem

Here's a note to say I'm living, and I'm not among the dead,
though I'm getting more forgetful and mixed up in my head.
I am used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned,
I can manage my bifocals, but gosh I miss my mind!
For there's times I can't remember, when I stand at the foot of the stair,
if I must go up for something or have I just come down from there?
Stood before the fridge so often - my poor mind fills with doubt...
have I just put food away, or have I come to take some out?
So if I missed my turn to write you, there's no need for getting sore,
I may think I've already written and don't want to be a bore.
Just remember that I love you and wish that you were near.
Now it's close to mail time so I must say goodbye, my dear.
I'm standing beside the mailbox and my face is turning red.
Instead of posting you my letter, I've just opened it instead!

~ Sent in by Pam Dixon

Another Delay For Luton Flight Path

Luton Airport has admitted that the proposed Option 3a flight path over Aylesbury Vale and southwest Herts cannot now be implemented until January 2006, if indeed the CAA approves it.

The airport had intended to submit its proposals to the CAA in January 2005, but at a meeting on March 7th, said that it would be another couple of weeks before the documentation was finalised. The airport would not say what had caused the latest delay, or if they would be submitting Option 3a as consulted upon or a modified plan. PAVAN (Protect Aylesbury Vale Against Noise) is pressing for more details in the interests of open and transparent consultation.

The airport might have delayed submission of the application pending the outcome of the Judicial Review against the Government's Aviation White Paper. At the end of February 2005, the High Court ruled that it was unfair for the Government to consult on two options for additional runway facilities at Luton (realigned runway or a brand new one) and then announce a third (extension to the current runway). A further consultation exercise is therefore necessary prior to any extension plans being finalised.

If you would like to "do your bit" against airport expansion, here are a few suggestions:

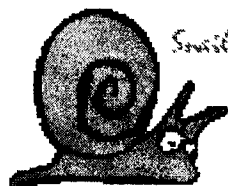
1. If you are disturbed by plane noise then contact Luton Airport to complain, giving the date and time of the offending flight(s) ([href="mailto:noise@ltn.aero"](mailto:noise@ltn.aero) / 01582 395382)
2. Visit <http://www.airportpledge.org.uk> and fill out the form against airport expansion
3. Visit [href=http://www.nonightflights.org](http://www.nonightflights.org) and "sign" the petition against night flights
4. Contact PAVAN for more information and to join our e-mail database. Rachel@pavan.org.uk

~ Rachel Webb 01525 240950

Ageing Gracefully

- Any woman can have the body of a 21-year-old .. as long as she buys him a few drinks first.
- My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.
- Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.
- I've still got it, but nobody wants to see it.
- I'm getting into swing dancing. Not on purpose. Some parts of my body are just prone to swinging.
- It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.
- I think I've reached my sexpiration date.
- People our age can still enjoy an active, passionate sex life! Provided we get cable or that dish thing.
- The good news is that even as we get older, guys still look at our boobs. The bad news is they have to squat down first.
- These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief."
- I've tried to find a suitable exercise video for women my age, but they haven't made one called "Buns of Putty."
- Don't think of it as getting hot flushes. Think of it as your inner child playing with matches.
- Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up.
- Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing.

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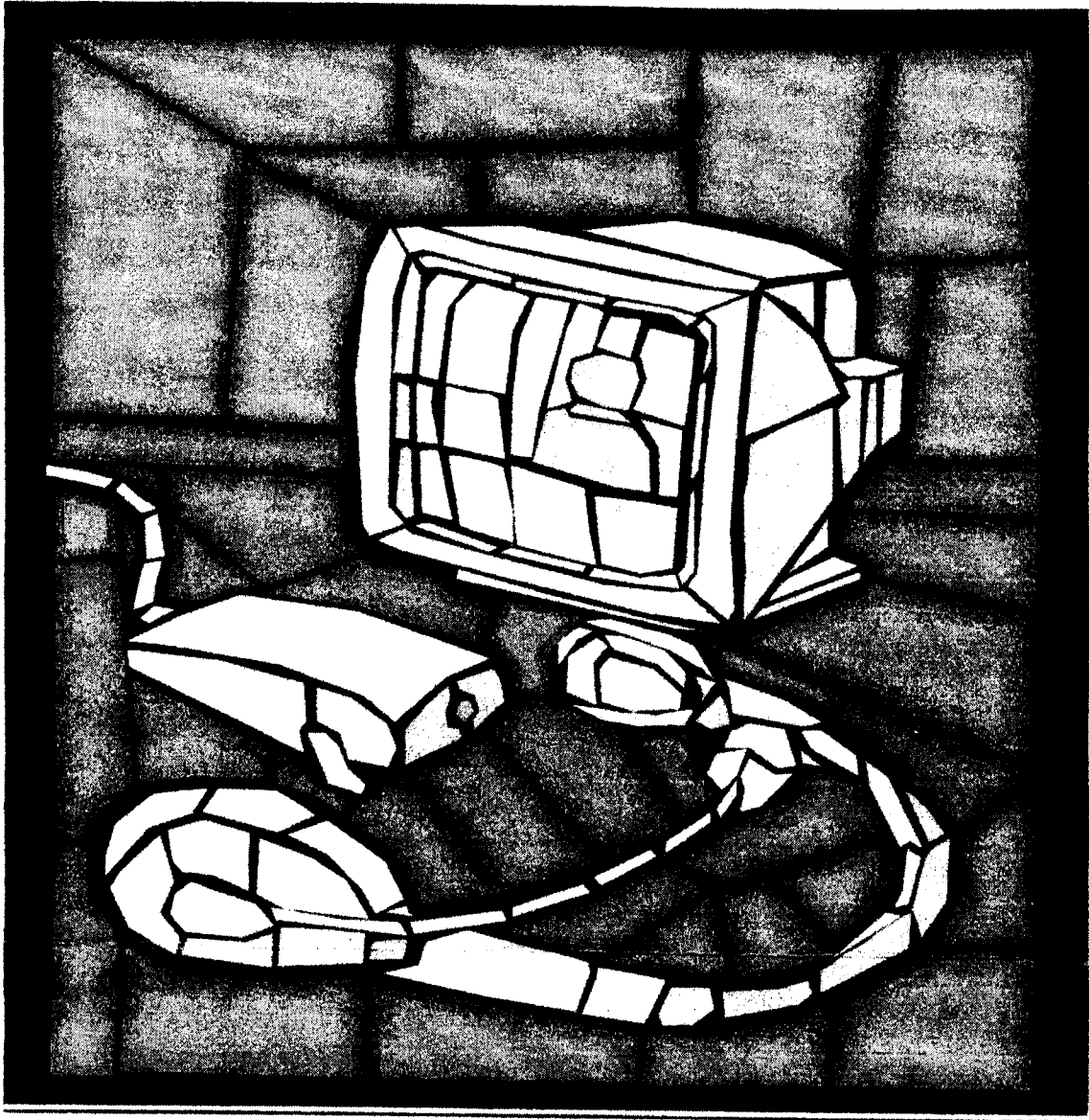
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What My Mother Taught Me

My mother taught me **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE**. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning"

My mother taught me **RELIGION**. "You'd better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about **TIME TRAVEL**. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My mother taught me **LOGIC**. "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me **MORE LOGIC**. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

My mother taught me **FORESIGHT**. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me **IRONY**. "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about the science of **OSMOSIS**. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

My mother taught me about **CONTORTIONISM**. "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

My mother taught me about **STAMINA**. You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

My mother taught me about **WEATHER**. "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

My mother taught me about **HYPOCRISY**. "If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

My mother taught me the **CIRCLE OF LIFE**. "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about **BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION**. "Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about **ENVY**. "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

My mother taught me about **ANTICIPATION**. "Just wait until we get home."

My mother taught me about **RECEIVING**. "You are going to get it when you get home!"

My mother taught me **MEDICAL SCIENCE**. "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."

My mother taught me **ESP**. "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

My mother taught me **HUMOUR**. "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My mother taught me **HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT**. "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My mother taught me **GENETICS**. "You're just like your father."

My mother taught me about my **ROOTS**. "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me **WISDOM**. "When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

My mother taught me about **JUSTICE**. "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

Sudan 1 Food Cancer Scare

A man walks up to a 24/7 garage shop and approaches the counter...

Customer: Worcester sauce please mate...

Shop Keeper: Sorry can't, it's off the shelves, cancer scare.

Customer: Oh right, uh Chinese Chicken Wings?

Shopkeeper: Ah... that's the same mate, cancer scare

Customer: Hamburger Relish?

Shopkeeper: Cancer scare

Customer: Sausage and Mash?

Shopkeeper: Cancer scare

Customer: Cottage Pie?

Shopkeeper: Aye, ...no wait, cancer scare.

Customer: So they're all off the shelves because of a cancer scare?

Shopkeeper: Yup.

Customer: Good grief, that's terrible. Just give me a packet of fags then.

Shopkeeper: OK—no worries mate. £5.25 please.

The Chinese Meal

A couple decide to go for a meal on their anniversary and after some deliberation decide on their local Chinese restaurant. They peruse the menu and finally agree to share the chef's special Chicken Surprise.

The waiter brings over the meal, served in a lidded cast iron pot.

Just as the wife is about to start in on the meal, the lid of the pot rises a tiny amount and she briefly sees two beady little eyes looking around before the lid slams back down.

"Jesus, did you see that?" she asks her husband. He hasn't, so she asks him to look in the pot.

He reaches for it and again the lid rises, and this time he sees two beady little eyes looking around before the lid firmly slams back down.

Rather perturbed he calls the waiter over, explains what is happening and demands an explanation.

"Well sir", says the waiter, "What did you order?"

"We both chose the same", he replies, "the Chicken Surprise."

"Oh I do apologise, this is my fault" says the waiter, "I've brought you the Peeking Duck!"

Golf

A foursome of senior golfers hit the course with waning enthusiasm for the sport.

"These hills are getting steeper as the years go by," one complained.

"These fairways seem to be getting longer too," wheezed a second.

"And somehow, the sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember 'em too," said the third.

Hearing just about enough from his golfing partners, the oldest, and the wisest of the foursome at 87-years-old, piped up and said, "oh my friends, just be thankful we're still on this side of the grass!"

The Carpenter's Arms

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Clergy Comment

/ do not want to side with one group or another – but the legality of the marriage of Prince Charles has been (and may still be) hotly contested in some quarters. It depends which group of people and which legal precedents you believe to be more reliable and accurate.

That surely is the problem with the Law. Even the lawyers cannot manage to agree on how it is to be interpreted. The more Law that gets written down and defined by Parliament, the more confusion there is – and the more our ancient freedoms seem to be diminished. If it hasn't already been fired, the starting gun for the next General Election should be going off any day now – so I had better not expand too much on the roles of Politicians and Lawyers.

But it did strike me, whilst all this questioning about the legality of the Royal Marriage, the legality of the War in Iraq business, Anti-Terrorism and other legislation was going on, that there is a very strong link with the Easter that we are celebrating.

If you want dodgy Law then you do not have to look very much further than the trial of Jesus. The Jews of that time were very hot on keeping the detail of the Law as they saw it. They had to do quite a bit of twisting of arms and “interpretation” of the Law to persuade the Roman Governor to agree to have Jesus put to death.

The Old Testament is all about God's chosen people (the Jews) struggling and generally failing to keep the Law that God had given them. Jesus comes to fulfil the Law. In dying on the Cross he provides us with a new way of living. He brings in a

new relationship with God. No longer are we condemned for our failure to live under the old Law. Perhaps you could say that the message of Easter is that “Where there is life there is hope”.

You could argue that really the Christians have always been guilty of trying to put a positive “spin” on the life and death of Jesus. But surely his rising from the dead on Easter Day does give us new hope? So why should we feel guilty about that?

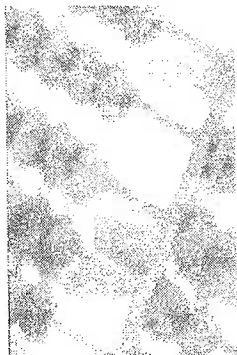
So in these rather complicated times maybe we should be “hoping for the best”. Things may not turn out quite as we expect them to – after all the disciples were not expecting Jesus to be put to death on the Cross any more than they were prepared for the empty tomb. It was not quite what they were expecting – but the outcome far exceeded their expectations. For the risen Christ transformed the Age of Law into the Age of Grace.

Maybe we need the Grace to look again at the Laws that are limiting our ability to perceive what lies before us.

~ Bob Willmott

“Waking up in the morning would be a whole lot easier if it involved flopping into bed, burying my head into my pillow, and closing my eyes.” ~ Jeffery D. Trock

“A study in the Washington Post says that women have better verbal skills than men. I'd just like to say to the authors of that study, ‘Duh!’” ~ Conan O'Brien



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(Continued from page 15)

will take place on July 24th. Jackie Farrands will again be organising it, and everyone was asked to support it, and to encourage their friends to support it too.

After some discussion, it was agreed to distribute the proceeds as follows:

Church	40%
Church Room Restoration Fund	25%
Chronicle	15%
Recreation Ground	20%

Minute 11 Recreation Ground

The Chairman said the Parish Council had employed a new contractor to mow the Recreation Ground this year.

Richard Clarke was thanked for the work he has taken on in connection with repairing playground equipment and the installation of the skateboard ramp.

There are repeated problems with dogs fouling on the Rec. Mr. Manning suggested reporting offenders directly to AVDC, as fines of up to £1000 can be imposed.

Concerns were raised by some residents of Bricstock regarding the level of noise from the skateboard ramp during the evenings.

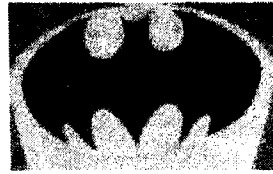
Minute 12 A.O.B.

None

The meeting closed at 9.57 pm

~ Kate Curry, Parish Clerk

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- Includes background to the culture of the country
- Plenty of variety, lots of practice (Social and/or business)
- Tutor currently teaching in Cublington, references can be supplied

**Please phone Malcolm Burrell
for further information telephone**



01525 221413



CHURCH ROOM BOOKINGS

Please contact Colin Higgs on 681343 if you wish to book the Church Room

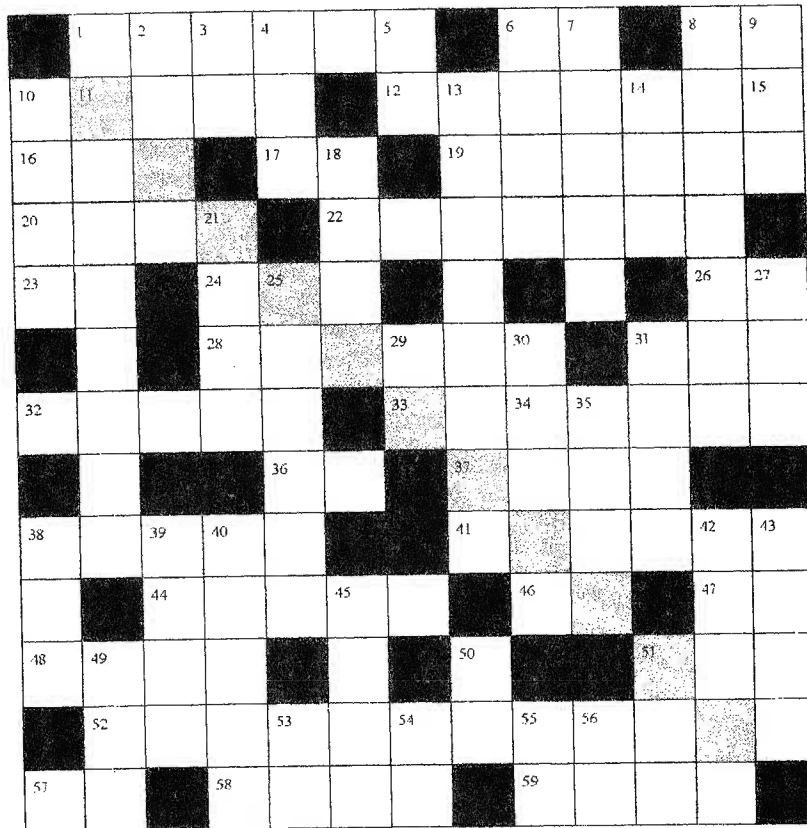
Rates are as follows:

For Villagers: £5 per hour (plus metered electricity) and £50 Booking Deposit (Returnable)

For Non-Villagers: £10 per hour (plus electricity) and £50 Booking Deposit (Returnable)

The Chronicle Crossword

April 2005



March Solutions

ACROSS 1 Samaritan 6 SNP 9 eta
 10 Otter 11 Taj Mahal 16 ere 17 Coat
 18 Appends 21 Alum 22 am 23 M1
 24 Oedipus 27 Backs 28 So 29 Wet
 30 Piccolo 35 Op 37 Shoo 38 Hope
 39 Ten 40 Etna 42 St 43 Brae 44 Egret
 46 Ed 48 Sash 50 cc 51 Branch 52 EP
 53 GBH
DOWN 1 Set 2 Atacama 3 Majolica 4
 Tea and scones 5 No 6 Sten 7 Nerd 8
 Presents 13 Mau 14 Atmospheric 15
 LP 19 Pap 20 Emu 25 IOC 26 Swop
 27 Boots 31 Iota 33 Oh 34 Lough 36
 Pcter 41 Etch 44 ESP 45 ECB 47 DA
 49 A&E

DIAGONAL 11,33

Our journalistic shepherd (5,6)

ACROSS

- 1 Diminished (6)
- 6 I and others (2)
- 8 Father (2)
- 10 Edible part of asparagus (5)
- 13 Person who boasts or blusters (7)
- 16 Large monkey (3)
- 17 South African yes (2)
- 19 Imperfect (6)
- 20 Trap - anagram (4)
- 22 '..... Keepers' - saying (7)
- 23 Chemical symbol for strontium (2)
- 24 Expanse of water (3)
- 26 That is (1,1)
- 28 Shot from bows (6)
- 31 Ship's record (3)
- 32 Ship's rear (5)
- 33 He makes exceedingly good cakes (7)
- 36 Phil Spooner's a small one (2)
- 37 Midday (4)
- 38 English cricketers want to win these (5)
- 41 Barmy redhead (6)
- 44 Fantastic action or trick (5)
- 46 Insurance Company (1&1)
- 47 Californian City (1,1)
- 48 Loose feather (3)
- 51 Not her (3)
- 52 Blue flowers you'll always remember (6,2,4)
- 57 Isle of Man race (1,1)
- 58 Stringed toy
- 59 Horse Race Betting Organisation (4)

DOWN

- 1 Items used for a task (9)
- 2 Ale (4)
- 3 They help heavy drinkers (1,1)
- 4 Attempt (3)
- 5 Measurement of sound (1,1)
- 6 Hospital room (4)
- 7 White heron (5)
- 8 Retirement fund (7)
- 9 Aesthetic endeavour (3)
- 10 Draws strength (4)
- 13 Making valid again (8)
- 14 Pike-like fish (3)
- 18 Long way away (4)
- 21 The emperor of Russia (4)
- 25 The importance of being who? (6)
- 27 Can be hard boiled (3)
- 29 Fine (1,1)
- 30 Ruin (5)
- 31 Heather (4)
- 35 Of great linear measure (4)
- 38 Objective (3)
- 39 Saintry ring (4)
- 40 List of competitors (5)
- 42 The most gifted people (5)
- 43 Male sheep (4)
- 45 Slippery (4)
- 49 Frequently (3)
- 50 Before noon (1,1)
- 51 Not her (3)
- 53 Start (2)
- 54 In the direction of (2)
- 55 Film about creature from space (1,1)
- 56 Refusal (2)

Compiled by John Hardcastle

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St James Church

Church Services

	WING	WINGRAVE	ASTON ABBOTTS	CUBLINGTON
3 Apr <i>Easter 2</i>	08.00 Communion 10.00 Parish Communion & AGM	10.00 Parish Communion	10.00 Parish Communion	10.00 Family Service (Lay)
10 <i>Easter 3</i>	10.00 Family Communion 18.00 Evensong	10.00 People's Praise (Lay)	10.00 Parish Communion	8.45 Parish Communion
17 <i>Easter 4</i>	08.00 Communion (by extension) 10.00 People's Praise (Lay)	10.00 Parish Communion	at Cublington 10.00	10.00 Family Communion
24 <i>Easter 5</i>	10.00 Parish Communion (4 Parish)		18.00 Evensong	
1 May <i>Easter 6</i>	08.00 Communion (by extension) 10.00 Parish Communion	10.00 Parish Communion	10.00 Morning Service (Czech)	10.00 Family Service (Lay)

Sunday Readings

3 Apr	Easter 2	1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31
10	Easter 3	1 Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35
17	Easter 4	1 Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10
24	Easter 5	1 Peter 2.2-10; John 14.1-14
1 May	Easter 6	1 Peter 3.13-22; John 14.15-21

From The Registers

Funerals

18 Feb	Jeanne Tarbuck at Wingrave & Amersham
22 Feb	Ruth Bellingham at Aston Abbots & Amersham
25 Feb	Donald Baverstock at Crown Hill
26 Feb	Janet Gibson at Wing and Wingrave

Church Flowers

2/3 rd	Miss A Goodman
9/10 th	Mrs. A Parker
16/17 th	No flowers, service at Cublington
30 th April – 1 st May	Czech display

Church Sidesmen

3 rd April	Mr. G. Kemp
10 th	Mr. C. higgs
17 th	
24 th	Mr. A. Ford
1 st May	Church wardens

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

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



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	Poonam Gupta	682204	Whist	Doris Scutchings	681243
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave Preschool	Claire Upton	681700
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	681011
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000	Wingrave School	Office	681436
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865	Wingrave Stores	Shop	681696
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343			
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

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

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

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Evening appointments available

What's On In April

- Tuesday 5th Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting. Church Room 8 pm
- Thursday 7th Bingo. Church Room 7.30 pm
- Thursday 14th Whist Drive. Church room 7.30 pm.
- Saturday 16th Wingrave School PTA Snail Racing. Wingrave Community Centre. First race 7.30 pm. See page 29 for more information
- Sunday 17th Rambling club meet at Winslow 2 pm
- Wednesday 20th **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.** Church Room 8 pm. This is a public meeting—please see the agenda on page 13 and the minutes of last year's meeting on page 15.
- Saturday 23rd St. Georges Day
also British Legion Bingo. Church Room 7.30 pm
- Sunday 24th Evensong St. James Church 6 pm
- Monday 25th Village Refuse Freighter calls at The Green to pick up your extra waste and bulky items. See page 19 for more information.
- Friday 29th – Monday 2nd May Czech VE Day celebrations—**MAYBE POSTPONED**—see page 2
- Sunday 1st May Czech memorial service - St. James Church 10 am
- Mon 2nd May May Day Bank Holiday
- Wednesday 4th Wingrave School PTA May Fair. Wingrave School 3.00 pm. See page 19 for more details
- Thurs 5th May Elections. Church Room 7.30-9.30 pm

Chronicle Deadlines

- May Issue Friday April 22nd Distribution starts Friday April 29th
- June Issue Friday May 27th Distribution starts Friday June 3rd
- July/August Friday June 24th Distribution starts Friday July 1st

NB—These are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control

Classified

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

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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.

Book These Dates

Friday 29th April – Monday 2nd May. Czech VE Day Celebration weekend. Maybe postponed—see page 2.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday. 29th, 30th, 31st. May.

St. James Flower festival. Teas Sat. and Sun. 2.30- 4.30 pm.
Ploughman's lunch Monday 12.30 – 2.30

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

NOTICES

Refuse collections:

Usual day – Thursday 31st March
Revised day— Friday 1st April

Gardens open Sunday 10th

April : Long Crendon gardens and Whitchurch gardens

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

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

Travel News

Get a £7.00 Explorer for up to 2 adults and 2 children (£3.50 OAP).

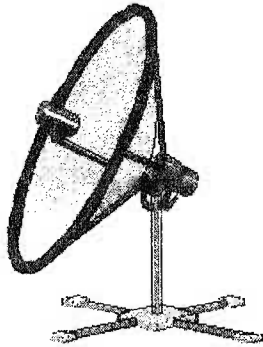
Use 65 bus to Aylesbury, then Oxford for shopping, museums, river trips. Watford for shopping, Tring for museum, High Wycombe, for chair museum, caves, shopping.

Leighton Buzzard for narrow gauge railway, canal trips, walks, shopping. Milton Keynes for cinemas, roller skating, lakeside walks shopping (Bletchley Park).

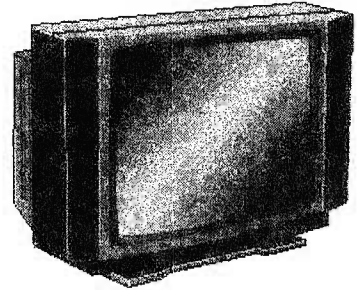
Or by train to London for art galleries, museums, shopping, zoo, open bus tours, river trips.

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

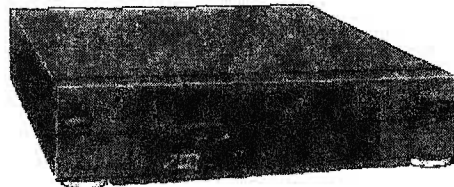


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