

THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 251 ~ December 2005



We wish all of our
Readers a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy
New Year

Email : editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Editorial

One Last Time

It is not without some sadness that I sit here writing my very last editorial comment for The Chronicle. I have enjoyed my five years as editor and I consider it a privilege to have been entrusted with this publication, started nearly 25 years ago by Graham Parker, who had the original vision and dedication to get it off the ground.

In my five years in this seat I have seen a lot of changes and challenges for Aston Abbots. In those five years we lost a pub, a restaurant and a shop. The number of houses in the village increased by over 10% and some village activities seem to have fallen off.

Now we face the unknown impact of the proposed A418 improvements, widely expected to bring an up-rated A-road closer to the village. Government backed plans to build 26,000 houses in Aylesbury will cause big increases in traffic in the region. The 800+ houses to be built at Weedon Hill in the next year or two will surely increase traffic through the village. Not only have we almost certainly "won" a chicken farm, but it looks like we may soon be awarded the bonus of an overhead flightpath – for an airport that has just announced it's intention to extend it's runway and build a new terminal in time for the 2012 Olympics. Yes, there are challenges ahead, and The Chronicle will continue to report the news of them as they occur.

However, I feel far from gloomy. There is still a very strong community spirit in Aston Abbots. There is still lots going on and a strong sense of fun. New people moving into the village are coming forward to join in with village activities. Church attendance is on the increase. The Chronicle will, I hope, continue to be an important part of this village.

Your New Editor

John Hardcastle takes over as editor next month. John has lived in the village for a little over two years; about the same time that I lived here before I started as editor. I hope you will all give him as much support as you have given to me. This is your magazine and it's value and interest is very much down to the contributions made by you, the readers. Just look at the range of items we have this month: articles about village events like the Dawali and the village fireworks, a tale of derring-do on the high seas from Admiral Chesher, Peter's Countryside Diary, and so on. Please keep these contributions flowing for John. His address is Marloes, on Lines Hill. Some of you will remember this as where the late Don Bellingham used to live. For those of you who don't know it, just head out of the village towards Lines Hill and it is on the right after you pass through the road gate next to Norduck Lane.

Continued on Page 5...

THE CHRONICLE
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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)...

...Can you afford not to be in?

~o~

Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 16th December 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 December Chronicle ~

- Dawali
- Fireworks
- Sailing with Neil Chesher
- Countryside Quiz
- Childrens Play Area Update
- Your Letters

and much, much more.....

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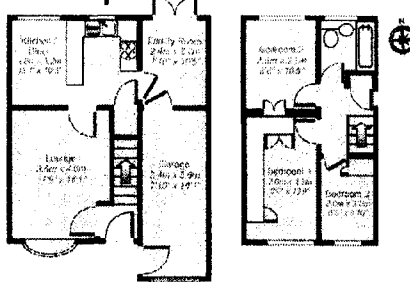
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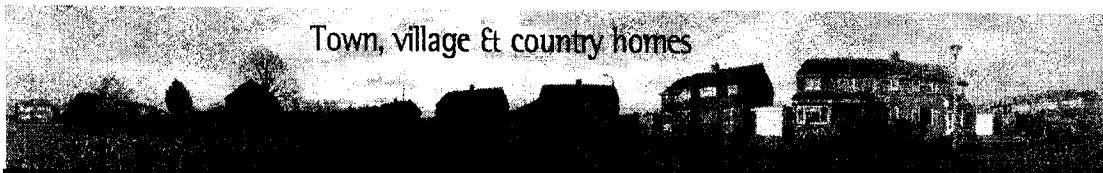
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In The Village

... editorial comment continued from page 2

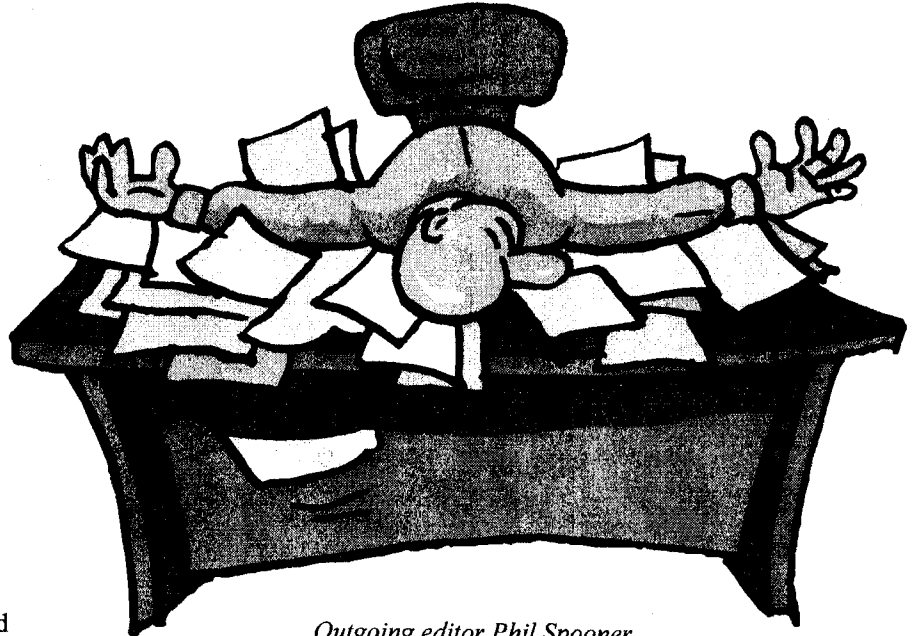
My Thanks

To try to thank everybody who has contributed and helped over the last five years would not only be difficult, but also rather dangerous as I am sure that I will miss someone out, and I don't want to upset anybody. However, I must try and mention our regular monthly contributors. Peter Knight for his wonderful monthly diary. John Hardcastle for the crossword (preceded by Don Bellingham, who did it for so many years).

Alison Lewis for her gossip column. Colin Higgs for What's On information and village notices. The reverend Bob Willmott for Church Information and his report. Shirley Ford for Ladies Club information.

There are also a number of people who contribute articles, not necessarily every month. Some of them have articles or jokes printed this month. Please continue to keep sending those items to John.

My thanks also to John Whyte, who looks after our finances, making sure that we have money in the pot and that our bills are paid. Claire Gresswell for taking care of our advertising, preceded by Ivan Greenaway. I mustn't forget our Delivery Team, who pop The Chronicle through your door each month – and of course our many, many advertisers, without whom we could not afford to exist.



Outgoing editor Phil Spooner



Last, but certainly not least, my sincere thanks to Andy Bystra. Not just for his regular contributions, but also for his hard work behind the scenes organising the printing and distribution, and most especially for his unflinching support. It has always been a great help to know that there has been someone with whom I can chew over any issues, or look to for advice. Many thanks, Andy.

Finally, my thanks to you, our readers. It simply wouldn't be worth doing it if it were thought that villagers did not value the Chronicle.

Now I leave you in the capable hands of Mr John Hardcastle. I hope to contribute articles in the future, if I don't get rejection slips from John.

Before I go, a very Merry Christmas to all of you and may I wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Phil

Incoming editor, John Hardcastle

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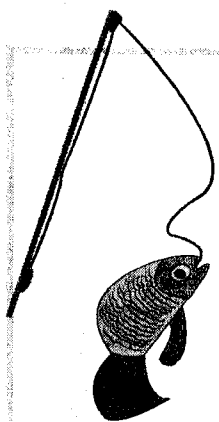
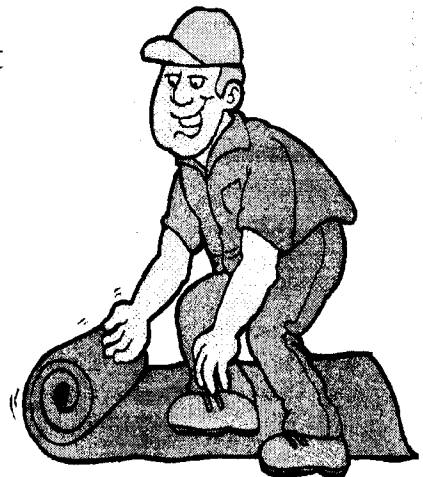
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Letters To The Editor

Dear Phil,

I notice that the PCC were disappointed about the lack of support for the sale of produce following Harvest Festival this year.

Back in September I remember feeling most upset when I realised I had missed this year's Harvest Festival at St James, and also missed the chance to bid for some of the fruit, vegetables and beautiful flowers, which are traditionally auctioned afterwards. I didn't come because I didn't know about it! When I looked back at the September Chronicle I realised why - the only advert for this event was a one-liner in the 'What's on in September' page at the very back of the magazine! So I went to the July/August edition - again a one-liner on the back page, mentioning only the Church Service, not the sale. No wonder so few people attended!

I for one would very much like to support events like this at the Church, even if I do not attend services every week, but it would be good to have the date more than a week in advance. Perhaps the PCC should consider a full page advert next year, as happens for most other events in the village - I feel sure this would have a positive effect on the numbers attending.

Also, may I suggest that more of the farming community might come if the service was later in the year - I am sure some of the farmers are unable to make it to Harvest Festival because they are still in the fields harvesting!

Yours sincerely,

~ Kate Curry

In the village where my Mum and Dad live they have a harvest supper. £2.50 for ham, hot boiled potatoes and salad, a pound (I think) for a glass of wine. The event is advertised widely in the village and tickets are sold door-to-door. Lots of people go to it, have a good time, and bid for the fresh produce. A lot of money is made for their church. When Carol and I came to this village the harvest sale was the first village event we attended and it was good fun. In last month's PCC minutes I read "The harvest festival teas and sale event had not been a success with virtually nobody from the village turning up so there would need to be a rethink about what to do next year." I agree with Kate's comments above—a little promotion would do a lot to help make the event a success and raise much needed money for the church. ~ Ed

Dear editor,

Please will you thank all those folk in Aston Abbots who filled shoeboxes for the Link Romania Family Shoebox Appeal. This was co-ordinated by members of Wingrave Methodist Church and we had a great response from the communities of both parishes..... 59 shoeboxes are now making their way to families in Romania.

Craciun Fericit (Romanian for Merry Christmas!)

~ Sandra Purrett

Many thanks to those who have emailed or written to me during the past month. Your comments are very much appreciated ~ Phil



The Village Fireworks

"That was a monster display..." was the comment I overheard as the final sparks fell to earth on November 5th.

As usual, the price of admission was on large firework. I arrived early and took my giant Roman Candle over to van where the display was being prepared.

Immediately I felt inadequate as I saw the size of some of the fireworks being prepared -- who says size doesn't matter? My attention was drawn to a large military style battery. "That's mine," said Major Tim proudly. As I walked back to the viewing area I realised that Major Tim's pride was soon going to take a dent. A stream of people were arriving clutching large items that looked like dynamite stick clusters or bits broken off a scrapped Jedi Starfighter. Furnished with the incredible incendiary array, Lol Hinds and his team provided a spectacular 18 minutes of noisy mayhem.

The Gnomes provided hot food and drinks again this year. Cunningly they had managed to set up their stall directly windward of the enormous bonfire which was belching out clouds of smoke from a ton of damp garden refuse, ignited with several gallons of petrol. Despite the Gnomes frequently disappearing from view in the thick smoke they still managed to make around £150 toward the playground equipment, from sales of hot dogs, soup, jacket potatoes and mulled wine.

The full comment that I actually overheard was, "That was a monster display -- for so few people". There were plenty of people present, but there did not seem to be quite as many as in previous years. However, I believe that was because it was a Saturday night and many people had other social engagements; some went to major organised displays with their friends. I hope the slight dip in attendance will be only temporary, because each year Lol and his guys work hard to produce a truly "monster display".

~ Phil Spooner

Dear editor,

I hope the person who poured paint stripper or something over the disabled parking area is very pleased with themselves. I didn't know we had such nasty minded people in the village. For your information, it was put there for both Cephas and my use, as we both had badges in our own right. All you have done is given BCC extra work and you ought to be made to pay for it.

~ Dorothy Liscott

Dear Phil

I'm happy to be on the churchyard mowing rota, but I like the wild area too - and I don't think we should expect it to look "pretty". How about a note in the Chronicle now and again to tell us what's growing in there?

Many thanks for so many great issues of the Chronicle, and enjoy your freedom!

Best wishes,

~ Caroline Lane

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Dawali

In common with a number of other villagers, your correspondent attended the Diwali Party at the Church Room on Saturday 12th November. As you may imagine, the cream of Aston Abbots society was there, to celebrate the Hindu Festival of Lights. A large number of the luminaries present were wearing Indian attire, and on your correspondent



enquiring, he was told that these clothes had kindly been lent by Avi & Poonam. Having regard to Avi & Poonam's size, and the size of some of the benefactors of their generosity, one can only assume that Indian clothing is infinitely expandable!

After the partygoers had drunk copious amounts of alcohol (an Aston Abbots improvement on the original Hindu model, one gathers), a splendid Indian meal was provided, having been prepared by Poonam, her mother and mother-in-law and Francesca, including an unusual but delicious pudding, which I can only describe as being like doughnuts in a sweet sauce.

The party then adjourned outside to enjoy a short, but spectacular, firework display. A well-known electronics expert in the village was ascribed the job of letting these fireworks off. Fortunately he was dissuaded from letting them off from a waste bin immediately below one of the chestnut trees on the Green, so the party did not have to enjoy in addition the arrival of the local fire brigade.

After this we all repaired back to the Church Room to take part in some gambling, which is apparently an essential part of the celebrations. We were given the choice of playing roulette or a card game called Shoot; and instead of gambling chips, we were given Monopoly money to play with. Your correspondent tried his luck at the Shoot table, with some success, and actually showed a profit at the end – a profit, that is until he attempted to redeem his Monopoly money, when the local representative of H. M. Customs & Excise (who for some inexplicable reason had been entrusted with the bank) offered him an exchange rate which relieved him of all his winnings and a bit more beside!

The evening continued with a traditional Hindu stick dance – a dance which provides strong corroborative evidence for the existence of bands of itinerant English Morris Dancers having infiltrated the Indian sub-continent. Worn out with his terpsichorean* endeavours, and feeling a bit tired and emotional, your correspondent left soon after this, but gathers that carousing and partying continued for some time after his departure.

Our thanks to Avi & Poonam, their parents, Francesca, Alison, Deirdre and Vanessa for organising the evening. The sale of tickets for the event, together with the depredations of the Customs & Excise agent mentioned above, raised £354 towards the children's playground. Well done all!

* *But that's the first time this word's been used in the Chronicle!*

~ The Chronicle's Indian Correspondent

Children's Play Area Update

You may have noticed the transformation that has occurred on the Recreation Ground recently. The old slide and climbing frame have gone, and in their place is a splendid new piece of apparatus called a 'Multiplay'. This is Phase One of the refurbishment of the play area, and together with the new surfacing, has cost around £11,500.

The Recreation Ground Committee would like to thank both the Parish Council and the many people who have so generously contributed to the fund, enabling us to complete this part of the project so quickly.

Donations from people in the village so far total an amazing £3277, including proceeds from such diverse sources as the Czech weekend (an amazing £1994), dance classes, breakfasts, sale of books, food served on firework night, the Diwali party and various other contributions. The fete has raised £1843 for us over two years and the Parish Council took out a £10,000 loan. For those of you who can't add up, this makes a grand total of £15,120 raised since July 2004 - quite a stunning amount for such a small village! A huge thank you to you all!

You may have noticed, however, that I mentioned 'Phase One' in my first paragraph; this means there is a 'Phase Two' still to come, when we hope to complete the Play Area by adding an aerial runway and a basketball hoop for the older children and eventually some smaller equipment for very young children. We are currently in the process of applying for grants from AVDC, the Lottery, the Playing Fields Association and various others. We need to raise approximately another £10,000 to enable the project to be finished, hopefully with the majority of this coming from various grants, but your support will still continue to be appreciated for some time to come..... watch this space.....

~ Kate Curry and Jackie Farrands

It's a Cracker!

Q. What beats his chest and swings from Christmas cake to Christmas cake?

A. Tarzipan!

Q. What did the eskimos sing when they got there Christmas dinner ?

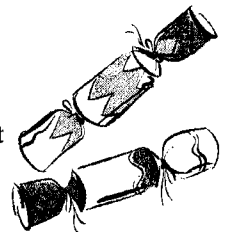
A. "Whalemeat again, don't know where, don't know when"

Q. What happens if you eat the Christmas decorations ?

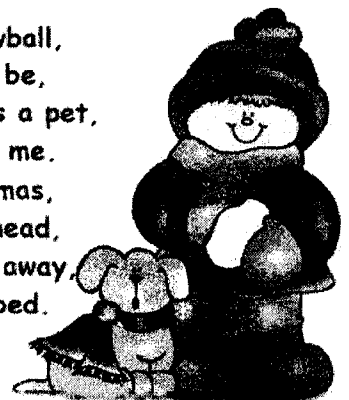
A. You get tinsel-itus !

Q. How long does it take to burn a candle down ?

A. About a wick !



I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first-- it wet the bed.



HOT NEWS

Andy & Sally are returning soon to Aston Abbots having achieved their goals with the pub some 14 months ahead of schedule! Huge thanks to those who supported us and visited us in St Issey.

The cottages in North Cornwall are still available for self-catering holidays, weekend breaks - or any time that you want to get away from it all.

TREGERRICK - A cosy two bedroom cottage in the historic fishing village of Padstow, just 100m up the road from TV chef Rick Stein's restaurant and 400m from the harbour. It is fully furnished and fully equipped for self-catering with all the usual mod cons, including TV/DVD, CD player/radio, dishwasher, telephone, washer/drier, microwave, gas central heating and open fireplace.



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Peter Knight's Countryside Diary

22nd November

Here with the traditional countryside quiz.

I have not done a simple one and a tougher one this year, as I don't believe any children read these scribblings. Just a simple quiz to test your knowledge of rural matters.

Vic Scott can, of course, complete this quiz with arms tied, eyes shut, and his mouth taped up. So at the end I have a simple question for Vic.

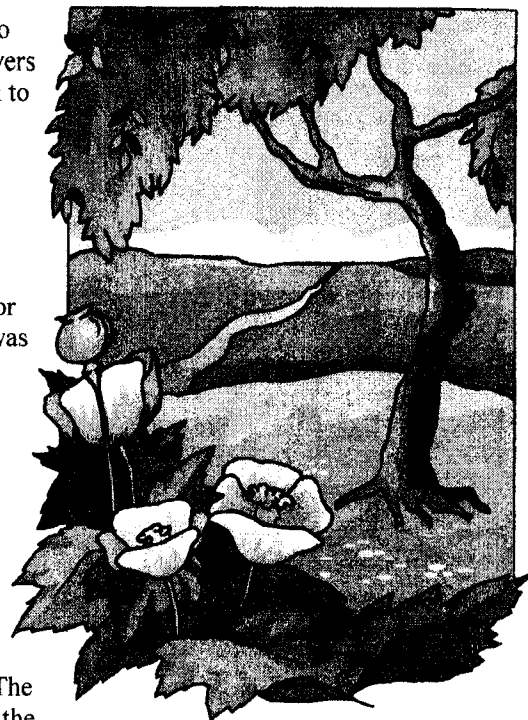
The Quiz

1. What is the home of an otter called?
2. Does a cow get up back end or front end first?
3. Does a horse get up the same way as a cow?
4. Is an Oak Apple a fruit, gall, or a berry?
5. A covey is the collective noun for what?
6. Suffolk is a breed of what?
7. So what is a Suffolk Punch?
8. What does a drill do on the land?
9. What is a ley (pronounced lay)?
10. A gatekeeper is a: latch, butterfly, or bird?
11. Does a female wren build a nest?
12. What are bullaces?
13. Three woods are used in a cart wheel. Name them and what parts they supply?
14. What is a bushel?
15. Bucks is the stronghold of a type of poplar tree is it white, black, lombardy, or grey?
16. Do sloes grow on blackthorn, whitethorn, hawthorn?
17. What nests in a form?
18. Name the male and young of the following: Fox, badger, ferret, goat, hare?
19. What is a Tup another name for?
20. Roses and daisies flower - does wheat flower?
21. What is a fly agaric?
22. Timothy is a type of?
23. A common plant of lawns and fields closes its leaves at night - which is it?
24. A glow worm is a: beetle, caterpillar, or grub?
25. What is the breeding home of a mole called?
26. Why have you bothered with this quiz?

For anyone who got all the answers right a question to ponder on:

Something common in farming was taken as the standard measurement for an inch and it was not the last thumb joint. What was it? Answer next month.

Now for Vic Scott's questions: answer please on a postcard to the door 59 The Green. What is the meaning of life and the part DEFRA play in it?



Pete Knight

The answers are on page 35—no cheating now.



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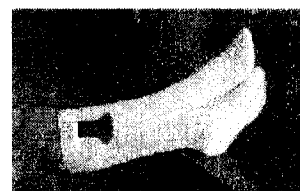
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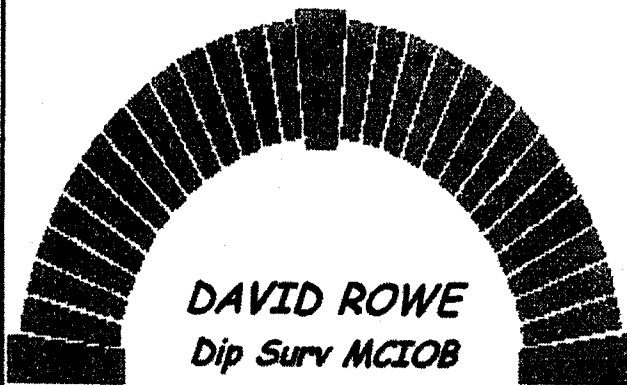
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Gnomes Raise More Money

Recent activities by the Aston Abbots Gnomes and their friends have raised more money for the Children's playground on the recreation ground:

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR : £280

FIREWORKS FOOD : £142

Adding in the recent sales of Neil Rees' Czech Book at these events makes for a grand total of :

£512

Well done girls!

~ Phil Spooner

GNOMES AT HOME

This year's Christmas Gnomes At Home will be at Sally Clarke's house on Tuesday 20th December. Nibbles provided, but please bring a bottle of your favourite tippie.

All Gnomes welcome.

Wingrave U-7's Football Team

Away To Chinnor, Sun 16th Oct

Transported whilst watching Wingrave Under 7s football teams away at Chinnor on Sunday, (first away game) I could almost hear the late Bryon Butler's epic commentary, updated... "Eddy Garton, like a little eel, twists and turns..." What a difference a few training sessions makes. There was passing. Communication. Spirit. Fun. After coming a poor second in their first competitive fixture to Pitstone, this was a much better performance from the two small-sided, small-person teams. Wingrave remained undefeated in all 4 games. For the record, team A won their games 0-1 and 1-4. Team A-plus managed two draws, 2-2 and 1-1. Eddy Garton deserved plaudits for his poaching instincts which brought him 4 goals, and the Maradona comparison. Imagine how fed up his dad and team coach, Andy, must be feeling. It's a tribute to his efforts, and those of co-conspirators, Lee Camfield and Mitch Levine who set up this little team with a big future just a few weeks ago, that these lads and lassies are playing with so much enthusiasm. Further hero-grams on the playing front to Robert Farquhar, (no relation honest,) for his two goals in the drawn matches, delivered with the sort of determination that if you could bottle, would make you a fortune. Big up to Little Joey Levine and Tom Farrands, Wingrave's other goalscorers, who proved size doesn't matter...but this was a great team effort, and all 11 should be mighty encouraged, their mums and dads proud as punch.

*Gordon Farquhar
Olympics/Sports News Correspondent
BBC Radio Five Live*

The Computer's Swallowed Grandma

The computer's swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly, its true.
She pressed 'control' and 'enter',
And disappeared from view.

It's devoured her, completely.
The thought just makes me squirm.
Maybe she's caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind.
I've even used the Internet.
But, nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves;
My searches to refine.
The reply, from him, was negative;
Not a thing was found 'online'.

So, if inside your 'In Box'
My Grandma you should see
Please Scan, Copy and Paste her
In an email back to me

~ Anon. Sent in by Fred Poulter



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Never Let An Adagio Go By

have always made a point of not writing in this journal about our various sailing exploits because, as they say, what's said on the boat stays on the boat.

However the other Tuesday I had got home to find my neighbour Rod proffering a bit of paper and muttering something about a ½million £ yacht and give this chap a ring...

So ring I did and talked to David who was Number 2 and the Engineer. Somehow the boat, Adagio, was involved in a nautical challenge on behalf of the Prostrate Cancer Society. It was on it's way to Tobago in the Carribean.

10 am the following morning I am meeting with David and John, the boat owner. Each person warily checking the other one out. I had the right experience and bits of paper it seemed,..... but was also available.

The boat turns out to be a monster, a 57 foot sailing Catamaran and had got as far as Jersey on the way to Portugal before the weather had turned nasty. It had been partly built by its owner and was the height of luxury.

Having agreed to go I met the others in Gerards Cross at 0600 on Thursday am with kit bag in hand. I had been told that this was going to be 'shirt sleeve sailing' because it was a luxury yacht and the owner did not like going to windward. It was not !!!!!

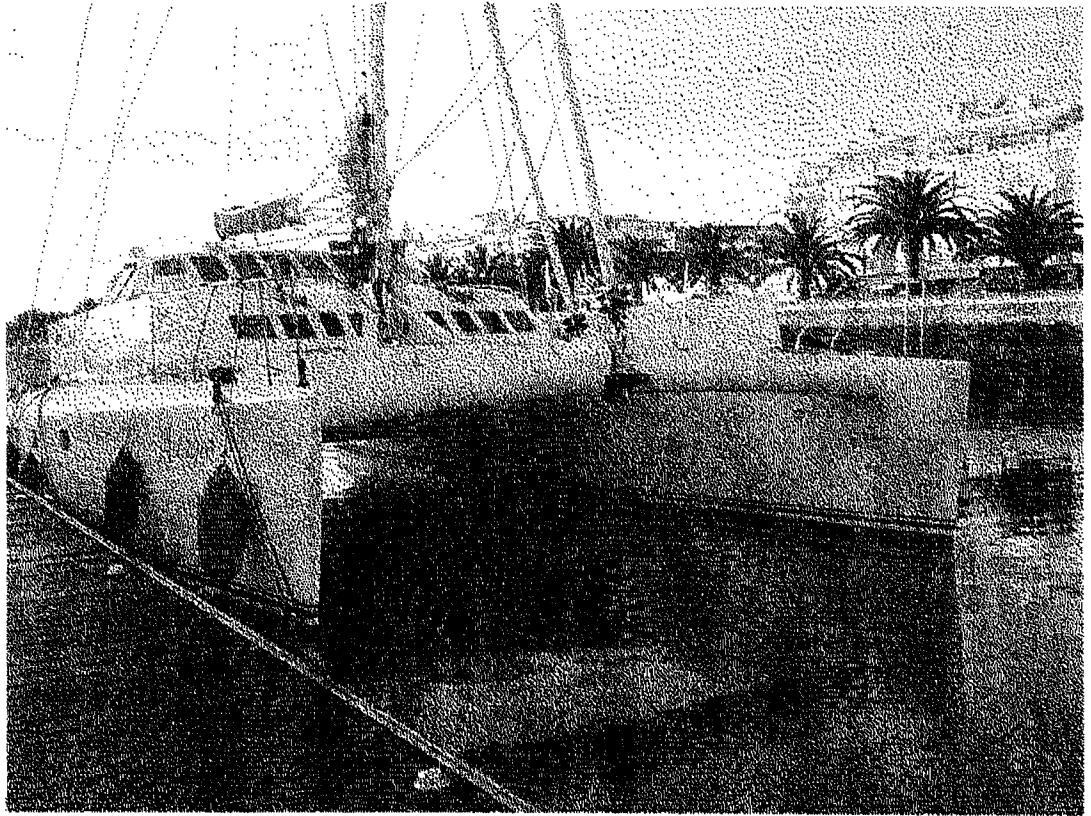
We shot down to Portsmouth in an equally salubrious motor and caught the 0900 Ferry to Jersey. Calling it a rough crossing is an understatement we had Force 7 and 8's all the way and the journey took 3 hours more than normal.

The Catamaran, Adagio, was moored in the marina and I quickly assessed it was like no other boat I had sailed. It had air-conditioning, a dishwasher, a tumble dryer, a washing machine, 2 fridges, a freezer, a water maker, an ice-maker, a DVD and flat screen TV as well as a generator to power everything.

All the boat controls were computerised.

Off we went into a cold Friday morning heading for Portugal. After a slightly bumpy ride we put in at Lezardrieux on the Brittany coast. The following day we headed for Ushant and the dreaded Chenal du Four tidal raceway. By this time I seem to have been appointed Navigator and IT Manager. We took the race in the dark and to my consternation I found that the French had inserted new buoys which were not on the chart. Very alarming. We arrived at Camaret battered and bruised and had a layover day

I checked the weather forecasts twice daily on the BBC website



with the on board PC(Another Toy) and plotted way points through another Race called the Raz du Seine and a passage over the Bay of Biscay.

Unfortunately, the forecast showed strong winds in the wrong direction. We decided to head south through the Raz and deep into the Bay. Then the winds started to move around we could head more towards the Rhumb line and the coast of Spain. The winds built and built until we had almost 45 knots of wind over the boat and we were crashing through waves at 12 knots taking great splumes of water over the bow. It was quite daunting being on the 3 to 6 am watch on deck on your own as the boat bangs its way through these seas and all you can see is blackness. At times we hit 17.5 knots, which is very fast and very scary.

This went on for 3 days and 2 nights and finally on the second night we shortened sail to slow the boat down. Water had got into most of the high tech kit so we were losing power and we had to start shutting systems down, It was a bit like Apollo 13!. The ice-maker was in danger !

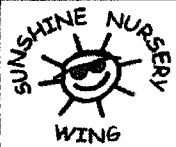
That night 3 catamarans sank in the Bay of Biscay and one sailor was lost. They were in a Transatlantic race. We started to get frantic phone calls on the Satellite telephone (another toy !) because this news had been on UK TV.

Finally dawn came and we were horrified to see an Amazon Rainforest hurtling towards the boat. A ship had lost it's deck cargo of timber and the planks were all over the place. We had to weave the boat in and out to avoid damage.

Weary, we finally arrived at La Coruna on the northern Spanish coast.

Here we put in for repairs, but failed to find any qualified engineers, so just set off again down the coast of Spain and then Portugal

(Continued on page 19)



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(Continued from page 17)

The winds came round to a northerly direction and, delightfully, 2 hours before dusk about 100 dolphins came up and played with the boat. They chased backwards and forwards and seem to take great fun in riding between the pontoons of the Catamaran.

At night at sea you are always looking for other ships and this coast seems to be alive with fishing vessels, with their bright deck lights obscuring their navigational lights

Southward we went and the sea had one more trick to play. As we rounded Cape St Vincent on the southern of Portugal the wind piped up to 50 Knots and the boat surfed along at a high speed.

We arrived at Lagos on Saturday at 0630, tying up outside the marina

We had cover 1500 nautical miles and had taken 8 days.

Anne and John Brancker, live close by and came out to see the boat and I blagged 20 euros off JB to contribute to the charity.

If you want to look at the details check out www.SailAdagio.co.uk

Adagio will now be on its way across the Atlantic
And..... I was offered the chance to make that part of the voyage as well, but had to turn it down because of other commitments.

~ Neil Chesher

Don't Step On The Ducks

Three women die together in an accident and go to heaven. When they get there, St. Peter says, 'We only have one rule here in heaven: don't step on the ducks!'

So they enter heaven, and sure enough, there are ducks all over the place. It is almost impossible not to step on a duck, and although they try their best to avoid them, the first woman accidentally steps on one.

Along comes St. Peter with the ugliest man she ever saw. St. Peter chains them together and says, "The punishment for stepping on a duck is to spend eternity chained to this ugly man!"

The next day, the second woman steps accidentally on a duck and along comes St. Peter, who doesn't miss a thing. With him is another extremely ugly man. He chains them together without a word.

The third woman has observed all this and, not wanting to be chained for all eternity to an ugly man, is very, VERY careful where she steps. She manages to go months without stepping on any ducks, but one day St. Peter comes up to her with the most handsome man she has ever laid eyes upon... very tall, long eyelashes, muscular, and thin...

The happy woman says, "I wonder what I did to deserve being chained to you for all of eternity?"

The guy says, "I Don't know about you, but I stepped on a duck!"

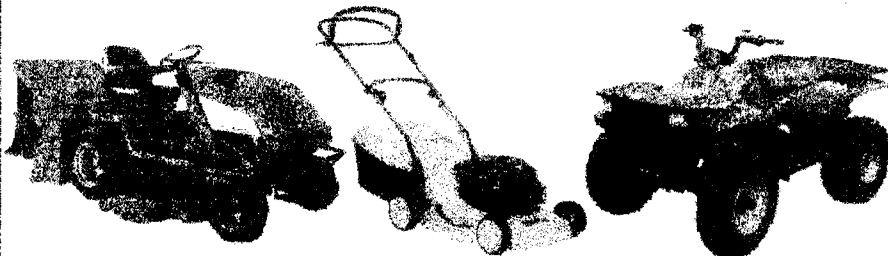
~ submitted by Fred poulter



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Dating in 1959

It's the summer of 1959 and Harold goes to pick up his date, Peggy Sue. Harold's a pretty hip guy with his own car and a ducktail hairdo.

When he goes to the front door, Peggy Sue's mother answers and invites him in. "Peggy Sue's not ready yet, so why don't you have a seat?"

He does, and Peggy Sue's mother asks Harold what they're planning to do.

Harold replies politely that they will probably just go to the malt shop or to a drive-in movie.

Peggy Sue's mother responds, "Why don't you kids go out and screw? I hear all the kids are doing it."

Naturally this comes as quite a surprise to Harold and he stammers "Really?"

"Sure," says Peggy Sue's mother, "We know Peggy Sue really likes to screw; why, she'd screw all night if we let her!"

Harold's eyes light up and he smiles from ear to ear. Immediately, he has revised the plans for the evening. A few minutes later, Peggy Sue comes downstairs in her little poodle skirt with her saddle shoes, and announces that she's ready to go.

Almost breathless with anticipation, Harold escorts his date out the front door while Mom is saying, "Have a good evening kids," with a small wink for Harold.

About 20 minutes later, a thoroughly dishevelled Peggy Sue rushes back into the house, slams the door behind her and screams at her mother:

"Dammit, Mum! Twist! The Twist! It's called The Twist!"

A Senior Moment

Two elderly women were eating breakfast in a restaurant one morning. Ethel noticed something funny about Mabel's ear and she said, "Mabel, did you know you've got a suppository in your left ear?"

Mabel answered, "A suppository?" She pulled it out and stared at it. Then she said, "Ethel, I'm glad you saw this thing. Now I think I know where my hearing aid is."

Ghandi

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot his whole life, which created an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him frail, and with his odd diet, he suffered from very bad breath. Do you know what this made him? A super-callused fragile mystic vexed by halitosis.



The River

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large raging violent river. Needing to get on the other side, the first man prayed, "God, please give me the strength to cross the river."

Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about 2 hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed, "God, please give me strength and the tools to cross the river."

Poof! God gave him a rowboat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed, "God, please give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross the river."

Poof! He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, hiked one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

~ submitted by Sally Palmer

An Explanation Of Life

On the first day God created the dog. God said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's too long to be barking.

Give me ten years and I'll give you back the other ten."

So God agreed.

On the second day God created the monkey. God said, "Entertain people, do monkey tricks and make them laugh. I'll give you a twenty-year life span." The monkey said, "How boring, monkey tricks for twenty years?"

I don't think so. Dog gave you back ten, so that's what I'll do too, okay?"

And God agreed.

On the third day God created the cow. God said, "You must go to the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer. I will give you a life span of sixty years." The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. Let me have twenty and I'll give back the other forty."

And God agreed again.

On the fourth day God created man. God said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. I'll give you twenty years." Man said, "What? Only twenty years! Tell you what, I'll take my twenty, and the forty the cow gave back and the ten the monkey gave back and the ten the dog gave back, that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You've got a deal."

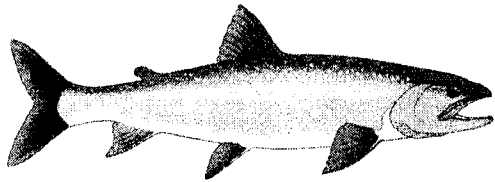
So that is why the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play, and enjoy ourselves; for the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family; for the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren; and for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

~ Submitted by Dickie Dicken

It's the start of a new term and the English teacher announces to the class, "There are two words I don't allow in my class. One is gross and the other is cool."

And a voice from the back of the class calls out, "So, what words are they then?"

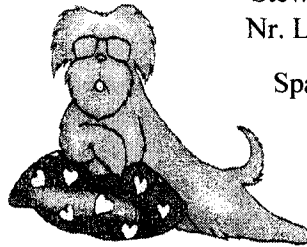


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Clergy Comment

"You are wishing your life away", my father used to say when I was going on about what I was going to do in the future. "Make the most of the present – it will soon be past and you will have missed it!"

Of course I knew what he meant. Yet I find myself at the beginning of November writing an article that will be read in about a month's time and that must somehow inevitably be related to Christmas. I suppose that is a different kind of looking ahead than deciding where and when I shall spend my holidays next year.

It seems as though I have only just finished unpacking my holiday clothes and I have to think about buying and wrapping Christmas presents.

December is a month where we concentrate on getting ready for Christmas. I daresay that as soon as the Halloween displays are taken down in the shops they will be replaced with Christmas merchandise. The ghoulish masks and plastic tridents will give way to plastic baubles and decorations that are somehow intended to remind us of the coming of God's only Son.

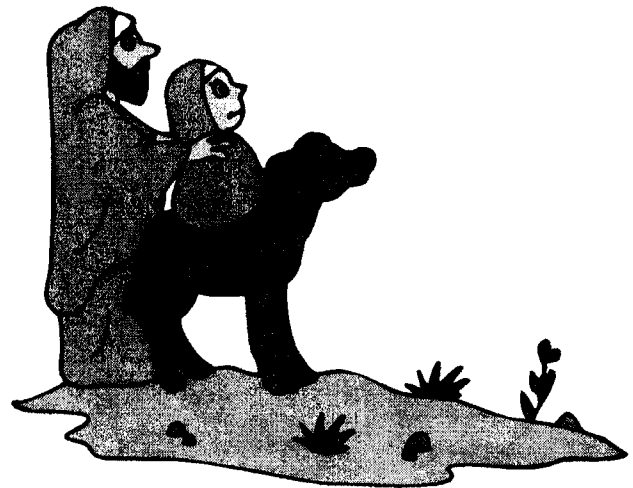
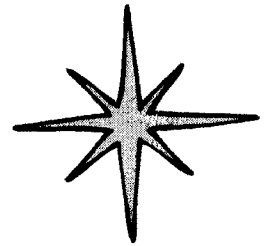
We are sometimes tempted to think of Christmas more in terms of 'presents' than of 'presence'. One of my daughters tells me that she has already bought her Christmas present – all I have to do is to give her the money!

Halloween reminds us of the presence and power of darkness and evil in our world. I have to ask whether we really need to

be reminded of this, because the less good side of life is very evident in much that we see around us. Turn on the television, open a newspaper, what a mess our world seems to be in! It is far harder for us to catch a glimpse of the goodness of God's Creation. The presence of that tiny innocent baby – God's present to us - in the stable in Bethlehem brings hope to a world that is dominated by the sordid and squalid. It reminds us of the purity of the New Life that God offers us through Jesus – of the Light that shines in the Darkness and can bring light and hope to even the darkest places in our world.

Christmas is about God giving us the chance to make our world a better place – reminding us of the ultimate victory of Good over Evil. The present is very important – because presence means being here and now. If we don't want the future to repeat the mistakes of the past, then we must take care how we use the present.

~ Bob Willmott



I asked God to take away my pain. God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, No. Her spirit is whole and her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations, it isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain. God said, No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, No, You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.

I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as he loves me. God said... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

When everybody on earth was dead and waiting to enter Paradise, God appeared and said, "I want the men to make two lines. One line for the men who were true heads of their household and the other line for the men who were dominated by their women. I want all the women to report to St. Peter."

Soon, the women were gone and there were two lines of men. The line of the men who were dominated by their wives was 10,000 miles long, and in the line of men who truly were heads of their household, there was only one man.

God said, "You men should be ashamed of yourselves. I created you to be the head of your household. You have been disobedient and not fulfilled your purpose. I told you to be the spiritual leader in your family. Of all of you only one obeyed. Learn from him. Tell them, my son, how did you manage to be the only one in this line?"

"I don't know," the man replied. "My wife told me to stand here."

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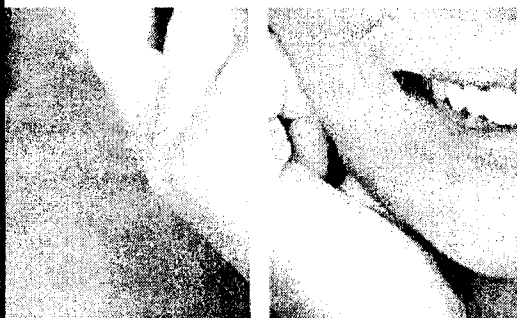
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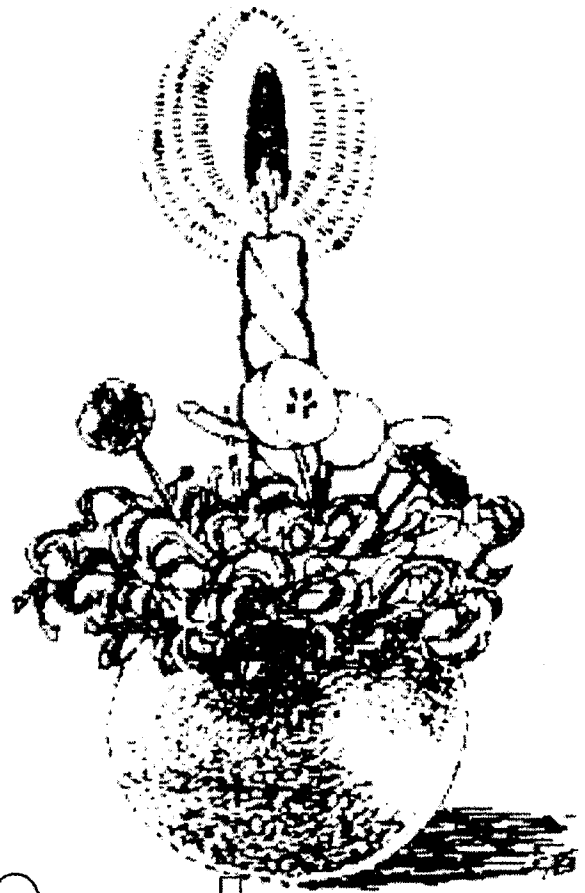
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Aston Abbotts & Cublington Ladies Club

6th Oct

17 members were present at today's meeting in the Church Room. The minutes were read and apologies for absence were received from June Loader and Audrey Stephenson

Our speaker today was Mr. David Spencer who had come from Winslow to talk about the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and their means of fund raising. He was thanked by Shirley Ford.

Tea and biscuits were served, after which the raffle prize was won by Shirley Ford.

20th Oct

15 members were present at today's meeting in the Church Room. The minutes were read and signed.

Our Chairman, Joan Alexander told members that potential events for next year's had been discussed at a recent committee meeting. These will include a trip to the theatre, a summer outing and a bingo afternoon in early January.

Today's speaker from the NSPCC. was cancelled at short notice so members relaxed and had a jolly good 'natter'.

Tea and biscuits were served by Christine Scott and Carol Maurice. The raffle prize was won by April Curnow.

3rd Nov.

17 members were present at today's AGM in the Church Room. The minutes of our last meeting were read and apologies for

absence received from Jean Bliss and Audrey Stephenson.

Last year's AGM minutes were read and signed. Reports were then received from Joan Alexander, our Chairman, June Brine the Program Secretary, April Curnow, the Treasurer and Avril Bradley, the Social Secretary.

The members voted the existing officers back into office for the ensuing year 'en bloc'.

Several ideas were put forward for next year's Summer outing. These however are to be 'whittled down' to two by the end of the year.

The afternoon ended with members enjoying a quiz which had been arranged by Avril followed by tea and biscuits served by April Curnow and Shirley Ford.

17th Nov

16 members were present at today's meeting in the Church Room. The minutes were read and apologies for absence received.

Our speaker today was Mr. Barry Oxley who had come along to show us a selection of his beautifully produced slides of birds, flowers and animals of Texas and Arizona. He was thanked by Shirley Ford.

Tea was served by Joan Alexander and Mary Morris and the raffle prize was won by June Loader.

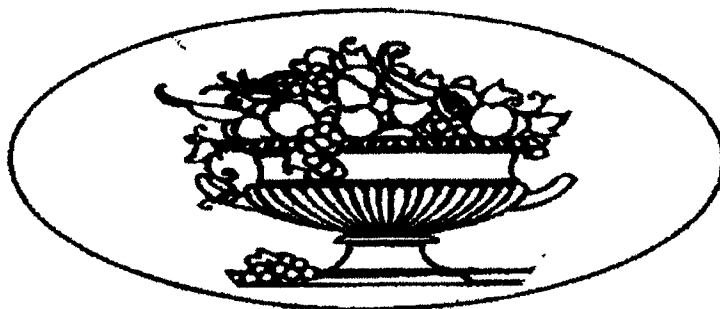
~ Shirley Ford

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB PROGRAMME 2005/2006

Dec. 1 st	Norman Brackley	Sweet Peas
Dec. 15 th		Carol Service, Cublington, Tea at "Treeways", Cublington
2006		
Jan. 5 th		Entertain ourselves afternoon
Jan. 19 th	Vic and Christine Scott	
Jan 2 nd	Julie Margiotta	The work of a Chiropractor
Feb. 16 th	John Cornwall	R.H.S. Wisley
Mar. 2 nd		Spring Lunch. Church Room, Aston Abbotts
Mar. 16 th	Audrey Tompkins	Fits of Laughter
Mar. 30 th	Hugh Grainger	Sayings from Village Life
April 13 th	Chris Skidmore	Indian Head Massage
April 27 th	Jean Hall	Scilly and the gardens of Tresco
May 11 th	Margaret Deakin	The Land of the Long White Cloud
May 25 th		To be advised
June 8 th		Visit to the garden, The Old Stables. Tea at "Treeways", Cublington
June 22 nd		Competition
July 6 th		Outing
July 20 th		Garden Party

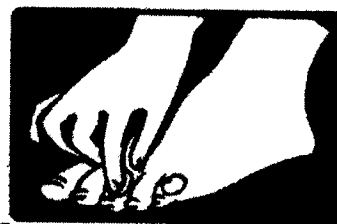
The Aston Abbotts and Cublington Ladies Club meets twice a month in the Church Room, Aston Abbotts. All ladies from Aston Abbotts and Cublington are very welcome. Please contact Shirley Ford on 681865 for more information.

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Gender

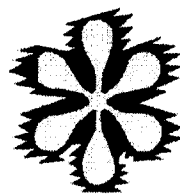
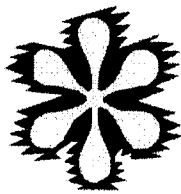
You may not know that many non-living things have a gender.

For example:

1. Seal-Easy Bags - They are Male, because they hold everything in, but you can see right through them.
2. Photo-Copiers - They are Female, because once turned off, it takes a while to warm them up again. It's an effective reproductive device if the right buttons are pushed, but can wreak havoc if the wrong buttons are pushed.
3. Tyre - Male, because it goes bald and it's often over-inflated.
4. Hot Air Balloon - Male, because, to get it to go anywhere, you have to light a fire under it, and of course, there's the hot air part.
5. Sponges - Female, because they're soft, squeezable and retain water.
6. Web Page - Female, because it's always getting hit on.
7. Train - Male, because it uses the same old lines to pick people up.
8. Hourglass - Female, because over time, the weight shifts to the bottom.
9. Hammer - Male, because it hasn't changed much over the last 5,000 years, but it's handy to have around.
10. Remote Control - Female..... Ha! You thought it'd be male. But consider this - it gives a man pleasure, he'd be lost without it, and while he doesn't always know the right buttons to push, he just keeps on trying.

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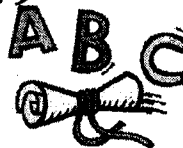
Contact: Claire Upton/Pre-School Leader

01296 681700 - 0787 0787579

Or

Terri-Anne Perkins

01296 681963



A man goes into a pub, goes up to the bar and orders a drink.

The barman serves him his drink, accompanied by bowl of peanuts. To his surprise, a voice comes from the bowl of peanuts.

"Hello", says the voice, "You're looking great tonight. The colour of that new shirt really suits you. . . and that aftershave you're wearing is tremendous!"

The man is obviously a bit puzzled by this, but decides to ignore it, and goes over to the fruit machine to play it. He puts a coin in the machine, and to his astonishment another voice comes out of it.

"You pathetic b*st*rd - do you know what an idiot you look like in that stupid shirt? And that aftershave makes you smell like a tart's boudoir!"

By now the man is thoroughly perplexed, and he goes up to the barmaid and asks for an explanation.

"I'm sorry, sir." she says "The peanuts are complimentary - but the fruit machine is out of order!"

~ Submitted by Peter Shorrocks



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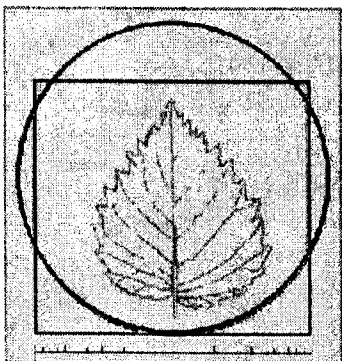
interruptions and to share ideas with other scrapbookers, these

workshops are ideal for new scrapbookers to have fun & encouragement and to try a new hobby.

For bookings & further details on workshops please contact

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Mrs Laurette Draper 07766 727753 (Daytime)



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Visa Scam

My thanks to Fred Poulter for forwarding this information on a Visa Scam. Although this example originated in Oz there are many such scams perpetrated over here as well.

A few weeks ago Mrs Ed received a call from her bank. A short while into the call the caller asked her to confirm some personal security questions. Naturally, she declined. Maybe it was her bank, but why would they call out of the blue and ask for personal information?

Never, ever, give out personal information to unsolicited callers. Your bank will not ring you up and ask for the expiry date of your card, or whatever. They already know that. Just politely hang up.

This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

The scam works like this: Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge Number is 12460 your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing company based in Arizona?" When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?" You say "yes". The caller continues - "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of Your card". He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers". There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security Numbers' that verify you are the possessor of the card.

These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card. Long story made short - we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is reissuing us a new number. What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation.

The real VISA say that they will never ask for anything on the

card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit.

However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost to late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report. What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a "Jason Richardson of MasterCard" with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a Police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening.

Stroke Identification

This is a serious item and it only takes a minute to read it.

Recognizing a Stroke: A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke... totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed and getting to the patient within 3 hours which is tough.

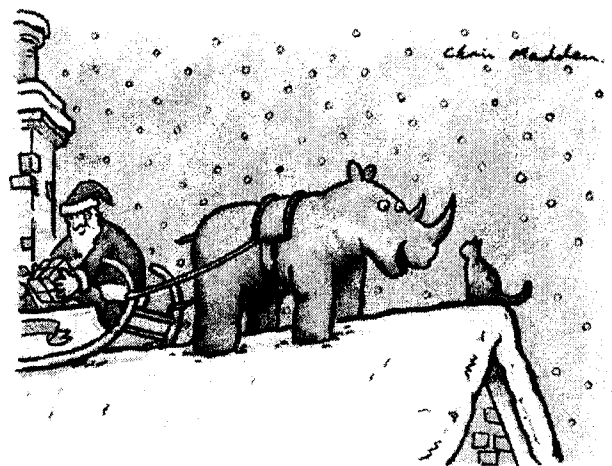
Recognizing A Stroke

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

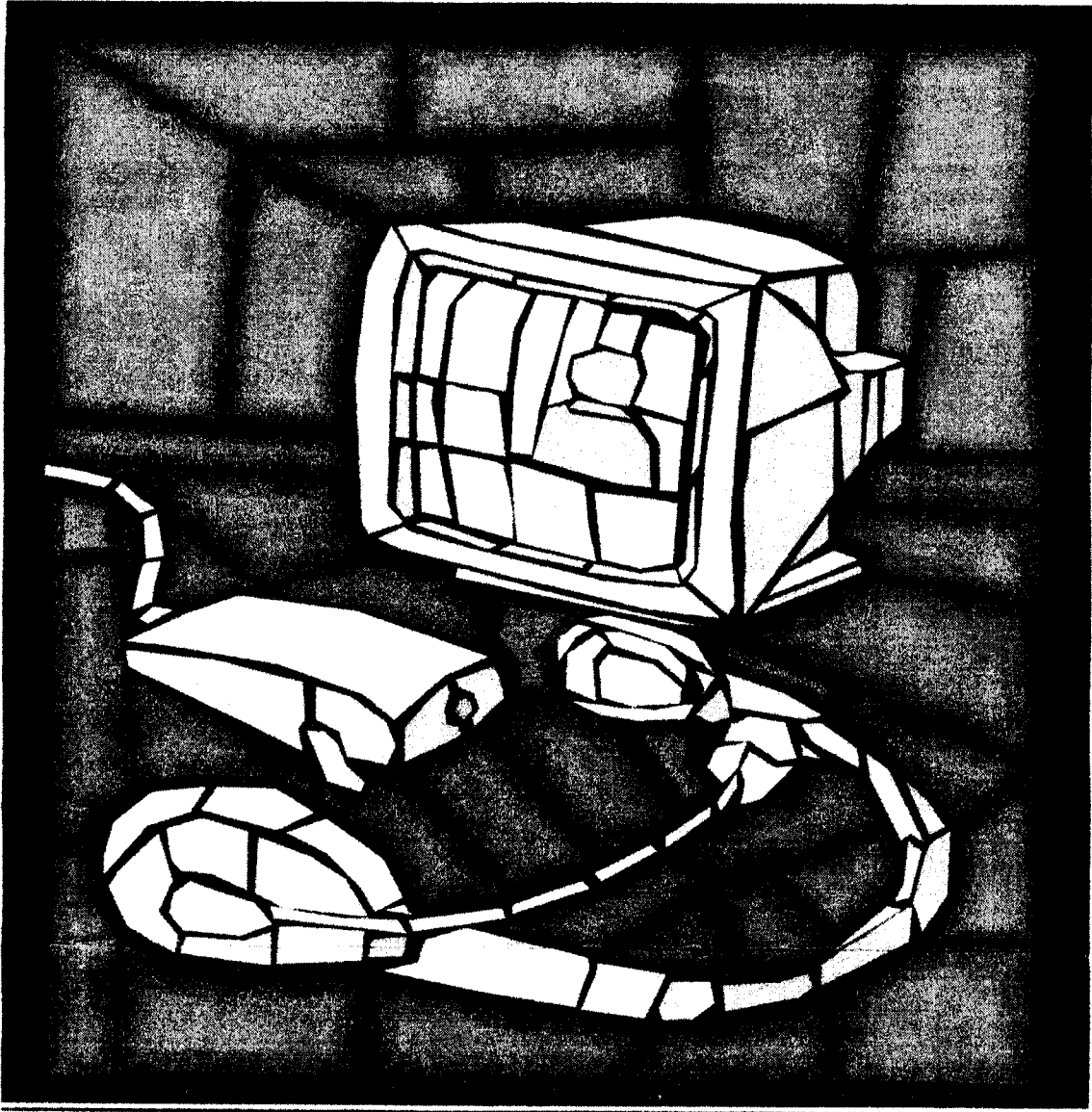
1. Ask the individual to SMILE.
2. Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
3. Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i. e. . . It is sunny out today)

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 999 [or whichever] immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

~ sent in by Dickie Dicken



'That flying reindeer stuff is just a silly myth.'



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Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and would like you to observe the 12 days of Christmas Fire Safety Code.

The 12 Days of Christmas Fire Safety

- **On the 1st day of Christmas**

Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard

- **On the 2nd day of Christmas**

Never place candles near your Christmas tree or furnishings. Don't leave them burning unattended

- **On the 3rd day of Christmas**

Make sure your family and guests staying for the festive period know what to do in an emergency. Make a fire escape plan.

- **On the 4th day of Christmas**

Decorations can burn easily – don't attach them to lights or heaters

- **On the 5th day of Christmas**

Never overload electrical sockets. Take special care with Christmas lights.

- **On the 6th day of Christmas**

Most fires start in the kitchen – never leave a cooker unattended.

- **On the 7th day of Christmas**

Celebrate Christmas and New Year safely. The risk of accidents, especially in the kitchen, is greater after alcohol is consumed.

- **On the 8th day of Christmas**

If you are planning to celebrate with fireworks, store them in a metal box, read the instructions, never go back to a lit firework and keep a bucket of water nearby.

- **On the 9th day of Christmas**

Make sure you have a working smoke alarm.

- **On the 10th day of Christmas**

Check the battery in your smoke alarm every week and use Christmas as a reminder to clean it and remove dust.

- **On the 11th day of Christmas**

Make sure candles and cigarettes are completely extinguished before going to bed. Keep matches and lighters away from children.

- **On the 12th day of Christmas**

Take a second to check on elderly relatives and neighbours this Christmas – make sure they are fire safe.



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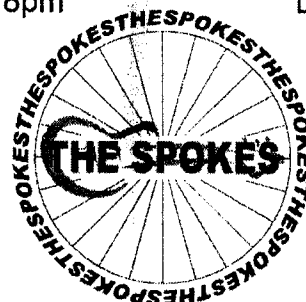


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Please contact Liz Darlington 01296 682482
for tickets. Book early because tickets are limited!

Answers to Peter Knights Countryside Quiz on page 11

- 10. Butterfly or larch
- 11. No, the male does
- 12. Wild plums
- 13. Oak - the rim. Elm - the centre. Ash - the spokes
- 14. A measure of volume
- 15. Black
- 16. Blackthorn
- 17. Hare
- 18. Fox - Dog - Cubs
- 19. A male sheep or Ram
- 20. Of course
- 21. A fungus
- 22. Grass
- 23. Clover
- 24. Beetle
- 25. A fortress
- 26. Because you are interested in the countryside around you

- 1. A Holt
- 2. Back
- 3. No, front first
- 4. Gall
- 5. Partridge
- 6. Sheep
- 7. Horse
- 8. Sow seeds
- 9. Temporary grassland

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The book tells the story of President Benes of Czechoslovakia at Aston Abbots and his officials at Wingrave and Addington. The book is based upon interviews with people who lived at Aston Abbots during the war and with Czechoslovak veterans. It uses 136 illustrations, mainly taken in Aston Abbots, with captions to tell the story of the Czechoslovaks from their arrival in the Aylesbury Vale in 1940 until their return to Prague in 1945.

The author is Neil Rees who is from Bucks. He learnt about the local Czech connection from his grandmother who used to live at Rowsham.

The book is ISBN 0-9550883-0-5 and costs £7.50.

The book is available from Peter and Clare Shorrock, cheques payable to "The Czech Connection": Oak Farm House, Wingrave Road, Aston Abbots HP22 4LU

Tel: (01296) 681260 e-mail: petershorrock@hemscott.net

All profits go to the new children's play equipment in Aston Abbots, to replace the old that was bought with money left to Aston Abbots School by President Benes.

If you have any information or memories about the Czechs in Bucks during the Second World War contact the author Neil Rees, 1 Eskdale Avenue, Chesham, Bucks HP5 3AX tel: 01494 776457/ 793921 or e-mail neil.rees@czechsinbucks.org

Neil Rees has been interviewed about this book by Radio Prague. You can read or listen to the interview at <http://www.radio.cz/en/article/69301>

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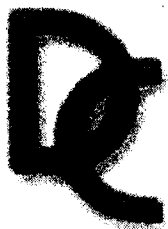
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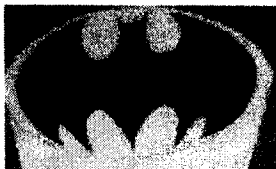
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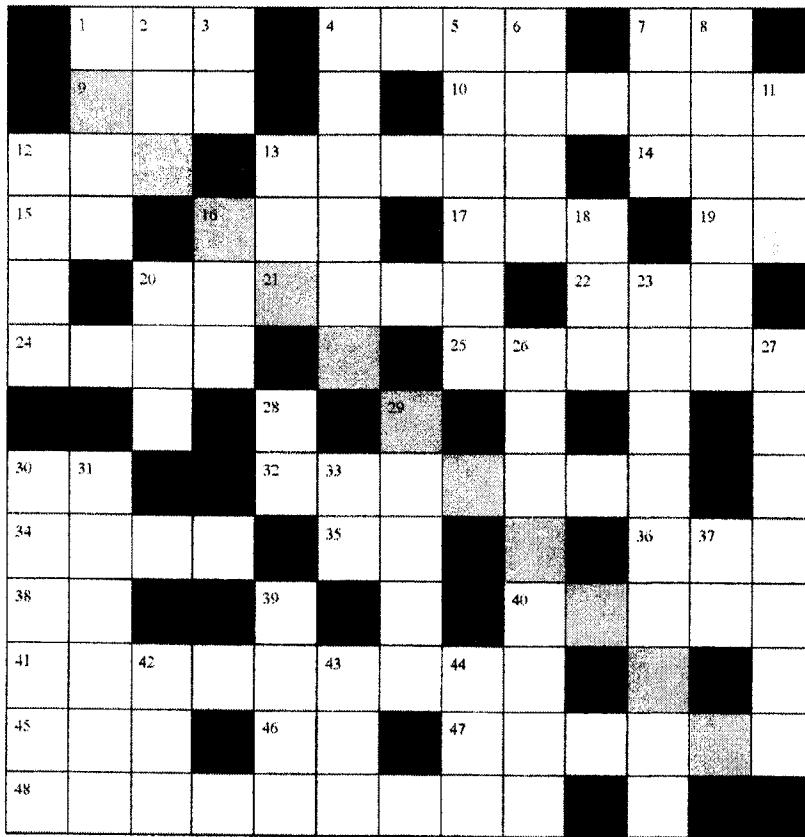
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For Non-Villagers: £10 per hour (plus electricity) and £50 Booking Deposit (Returnable)

The Chronicle Crossword

December 2005



November Solutions

ACROSS 1 Precipitation 11 Log
 12 Inane 11 VE 14 About 17 Beans
 19 Neat 22 Hit 23 Educate 25 LSD
 26 Dolmen 29 Sin 30 Ogress 32 WC
 32 Sag 36 Ah 37 Or 38 Copious
 39 Me 40 Kepi 41 HM 42 Pcon
 44 Owe 46 Shuts 48 Enquiry 49
 Groan 50 NS
 DOWN 1 Planet 2 Rob 3 Ego 4 Pi
 5 In 6 Tab 7 Anew 8 Tea 9 Ovoid
 10 Nest 15 Unconscious 16 Teal 18
 NHS 20 Atmosphere 21 Tee 24 UDI
 25 Larkspur 27 No Go 28 Ashen 29
 Screens 31 Samosas 32 Wok 34 Aim
 43 Eton 45 WI 47 HGV
 DIAGONAL 1&35 Poonam Gupta

DIAGONAL 9&21
 Retiring man of God (3,8)

ACROSS

- 1 Type of ale (1,1,1)
- 4 Small wooden building (4)
- 7 Not down (2)
- 9 Female undergarment (3)
- 10 Sermon, tutorial (6)
- 12 ... ? Grande (3)
- 13 Desire (5)
- 14 Consumed (3)
- 15 In whatever degree (2)
- 16 Large constricting snake (3)
- 17 Flightless bird (3)
- 19 Denoting position (2)
- 20 Alloy of tin and lead (6)
- 22 Union of train boat and road workers (1,1,1)
- 24 Old (4)
- 25 Older or higher in standing (6)
- 30 Steamship abbrv. (1,1)
- 32 You'd find this in the bottom of 30 across (7)
- 34 Volcano (4)
- 35 Mother (2)
- 36 Vinyl records (1,1,1)
- 38 Father (2)
- 40 Mopes anagram (5)
- 41 South African region (9)
- 45 Very cold (3)
- 46 Therefore (1,1)
- 47 Pledge, give yourself (6)
- 48 Yuletide (9) and I trust you have a happy one
Compiled by John Hardeastle

DOWN

- 1 Wading bird worshipped by the ancient Egyptians (4)
- 2 A reason or argument in favour (3)
- 3 Road organisation (1,1)
- 4 Beds of sedimentary rocks (6)
- 5 Young eels (6)
- 6 Judge or think (4)
- 7 America (1,1,1)
- 8 Solanum tuberosum (6)
- 11 Fish catcher (3)
- 12 Indian prince (4)
- 13 Sacred Indian animal (3)
- 16 Flower?, oyster?, sea? (3)
- 18 Holds ashes (3)
- 20 It's mightier than the sword (3)
- 23 Seasonal kissing plant (9)
- 26 Typical case (8)
- 27 Print again (7)
- 28 England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales (1,1)
- 29 South American camel (5)
- 30 Putrid, poisoned (6)
- 31 Laundry stiffener (6)
- 33 Before noon (1,1)
- 37 After noon (1,1)
- 39 Thames in Oxford (4)
- 42 Scottish town (3)
- 43 Animal doctor (3)
- 44 Girl's name (3)

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St James Church

Church Services

	WING	WINGRAVE	ASTON ABBOTTS	CUBLINGTON
4 Dec <i>Advent 2</i>	8.00 Communion (extension) 10.00 Parish Communion	10.00 Parish Communion	10.00 Parish Communion	10.00 Christingle (Lay)
11 <i>Advent 3</i>	10.00 Parish Communion 16.00 Christingle	8.00 Communion 10.00 People's Praise (Lay) 18.00 Christingle	10.00 Parish Communion	8.45 Parish Communion
18 <i>Advent 4</i>	8.00 Communion 10.00 Parish Praise (Lay) 18.00 Carols (Lay)	10.00 Parish Communion 18.00 Carols	15.00 Christingle	10.00 Family Communion 15.00 Carols
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	17.00 Crib Service 23.00 Midnight Eucharist	18.30 Crib Service 23.00 Midnight Eucharist		
25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	10.00 Parish Communion	10.00 Churches Together (Lay)	10.00 Family Service & Communion	8.45 Parish Communion
1 Jan <i>Naming of Jesus</i>		10.00 Parish Communion (All 4 parishes)		
8 <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	10.00 Family Service Communion 18.00 Evensong	8.00 Communion 10.00 People's Praise (Lay)	10.00 Parish Communion	10.00 Parish Communion

Sunday Readings

4 Dec	Advent 2	2 Peter 3.8-15; Mark 1.1-8
11	Advent 3	1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28
18	Advent 4	Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38
25	Christmas	Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14
1 Jan	Naming of Jesus	Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.15-21
8	Baptism of Christ	Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.4-11

Church Flowers

3 rd /4 th	Advent no flowers
10/11 th	" " "
17/18 th	Christmas Decorations
24/25 th	" "

Church Sidesmen

4 th	Mr.A. Bystra
11 th	Mr. G.Kemp
18 th	Mrs.A. Curnow
25 th	Church Wardens

From The Registers

Baptism

6 Nov Jamie Underwood at Wingrave

Marriage

8 Oct Roberto Fucci & Victoria Bean at Aston Abbots

5 Nov Reginald Adley and Betty Skinner at Wingrave

Funerals

16th Nov Ada Bonner at Amersham



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
Busses	Arriva	468730 or 423445	Police	Emergencies	999
Chronicle Advertising	Claire Gresswell	682949	Police	Non-emergency	0845 8 505 505
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Chronicle Editorial	Phil Spooner	681544	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Church Room Redevelopment	Tom Manning	07812 525703	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Room Hire	Colin Higgs	681343	Rector	Reverend Bob Willmott	681623
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Coach Trips	Colin Higgs	681343	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
Council	Bucks County Council	395000	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
Fete Coordinator	Poonam Gupta	682204	Toddlers Group	Claire Gresswell	682949
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544	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

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What's On In December

- Thursday 1st** Coffee and shop in the Church Room. 10.30-12.30
- Saturday 3rd** 630 Club Christmas Dinner at The Doghouse
- Sunday 4th** Rambling Club members meet at Cublington Crossroads. 2 pm
- Thursday 8th** Coffee and shop in the Church Room. 10.30 -12.30
also: Whist Drive in the Church Room. 7.30 pm
- Saturday 10th** The Eggs Factor—Aston Abbots Christmas Show
- Tuesday 13th** Rambling Club members Christmas dinner at the Queens Head, Wing. 6.30 for 7 pm
- Thursday 15th** Coffee and shop in the Church Room. 10.30 – 12.30
also: Bingo in the Church Room at 7.30 pm
- Sunday 18th** Rambling Club members meet at Dunsmore. 2 pm
also: Christingle Service with Rowsham Band. St. James Church. 3 pm
- Thursday 22nd** Coffee and shop in the Church Room. 10.30 -12.30
also: Whist Drive. Church Room. 7.30 pm
- Sunday 25th** Christmas Day. Family Communion with Carols St. James Church at 10 am
- Monday 26th** Boxing Day
- Sunday 1st** January Rambling Club members meet at Lomond Drive, Linslade at 2 pm

New Address

Please note that all future submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to John Hardcastle, Marloes, Lines Hill, Aston Abbots, Bucks. Email submissions may still be sent to:

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Any items received at the former editor's address will be passed on, but there may be a delay and we can't be responsible for missed deadlines.

Thank You.

Classified

NATHAN MAHOGANY DISPLAY UNIT v.g.c. £30
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On behalf of the **Aylesbury Knit Club** Christine Fox would like to say Thank You to the people who donated their oddments of wool. As the club is ongoing all donations are gratefully received at any time. For contact ring Christine on 01296 682024

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A Message for the 630 Club

For 630 Club members, here is Cliff's Beer Theory, as featured in the TV programme Cheers.

A herd of buffalo can move only as fast as the slowest buffalo, and when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular culling of the weakest members.

In much the same way the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we all know, kills off brain cells, but naturally it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first.

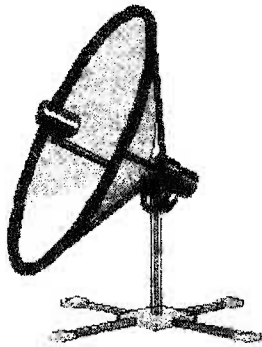
In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, constantly making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.

And that gentlemen, is why you always feel smarter after a few beers.

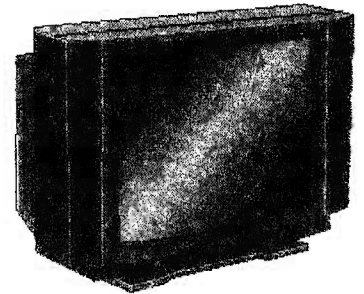


FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

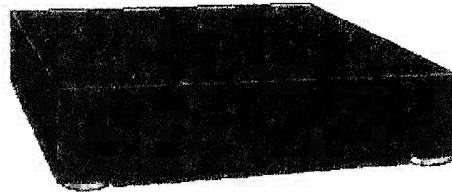


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The End Of The Back Page

For my five years as editor of The Chronicle I have, each month, stolen half of the back page – a full-page advert purchased at a premium rate by Flackwell Electronics – to heap insults and derogatory remarks upon the proprietor of that company, Mr David Lewis. When I have failed to find a suitable insult I have turned my sights upon his lovely wife, our gossip columnist Alison.

Now, as I retire as editor, I believe the time has come to allow these poor people a little peace in their lives. No longer will they await The Chronicle's delivery with apprehension, no longer will they live in fear of finding intimate details of their private lives exposed to the whole of Aston Abbots. As I finish this paragraph I will draw a line under this episode and undertake that in future I will only write serious items for the back page, and in future I will accord Dave Lewis all of the respect that he deserves. It ends here. ~ Phil Spooner.



An Extra Second Of Life

Aston Abbots is buzzing with the news that we have a leap-second on New Years Eve. For one second at midnight on December 31st the clocks will indicate 23:59:60 as we all gain an extra second in our lives. There is a furious speculation as to what villagers are going to do with this extra second, but Dave Lewis is adamant as to how his one second will be spent. Dave is going to **■■■■** of course. Twice.

Editor's note: We apologise for the Chronicle Censor's final intervention—but she is also retiring this month.