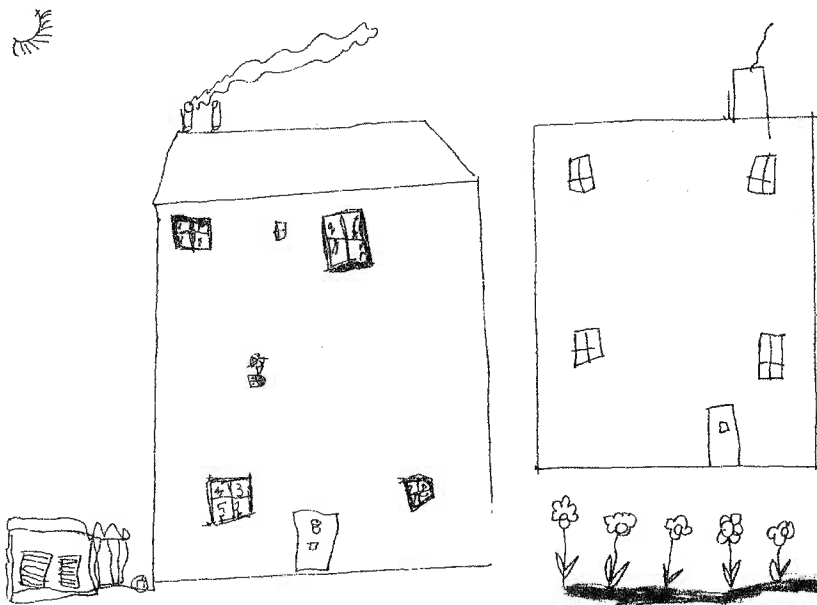


THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 252 ~ January 2006



MY VILLAGE

By Tom Farrands

Farrands
by Ellie

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Email : editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Editorial

First Time

I know that many have written personally to Phil thanking him for his editorship of the past 50+ Chronicles. On behalf of everyone in Aston Abbots I would like to echo their praise of the high standard Phil has set and to thank him for producing a Parish Magazine of great quality. I notice that Sally had the last word in her capacity as 'Censor' and I am pleased to advise that Judy (my wife) is happy to take on that role.

I am afraid that my taste in jokes is not far removed from Phil's - so apologies are offered already. I'll do my best to continue in Phil's footsteps. This is your magazine and I am reliant on your contributions - please keep them coming.

Your New Editor

When I originally offered my services I did comment to Phil that as a newcomer I had the disadvantage of not knowing that many people in the village and that if someone of greater standing came forward I would happily bow out. No one did - so here I am. I am 60 years old. I was born in Fulmer and spent all my childhood in South London. I married Judy in 1968 when I was still a student studying for a diploma in architecture. We have two sons, Chris and Steve, and twin daughters, Sally and Jane. We moved to Aston Abbots in 2003 having lived in Chesham for the previous 20 years. We live on Lines Hill in Don Bellingham's old house. We really like this house and it's lovely location. We had been looking to move for at least two years and it was as if we had come full circle because the first property we tried for was the stabling at Norduck now occupied by Matt and Lisa. The other big bonus was that the field immediately behind Marloes and which borders Lines Hill was on the market. I think it had been sold once but the transaction failed. Anyhow we were able to agree terms with Mr & Mrs Sharp (who now live in Australia). I do count myself extremely blessed to have such a wonderful outlook across the fields and from our field across the Vale towards Hardwick and Waddesdon beyond. As some of you will be aware our 'secret garden' was one of the gardens 'open' last year. It's a four acre patch adjoining the field and accommodates three ponds originally constructed by Peter Knight some 30 years ago. With no management the ponds had become choked with rushes, flag iris and overhanging trees, shrubs, nettles and brambles the size of trees. I have restored the land hopefully to something of how it might have been and have optimistically planted some new trees although I doubt I'll see them in their prime.

I think it is important the Chronicle continues to thrive. It does help to knit our community together. As Phil commented in his final editorial there are a number of challenges ahead and I will endeavour to continue recording the news to the best of my and your ability. This is your magazine and I am reliant on your contributions - but now I'm repeating myself.

John Hardcastle

In This Issue

- *New Crossword by Rod Rothero*
- *The 'Eggs' Factor Show*
- *Victor Scott Talks*
- *Countryside Diary*
- *Recollections of India, Tobago and Canada*
- *Title Page* is first of drawings on the theme of 'My Village' - please let me have your childrens' drawings for future editions. Many thanks to Tom and Ellie, aged 7. Ed.

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 252 January 2006

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~o~

A note to all would be advertisers

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Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 20th January 2006

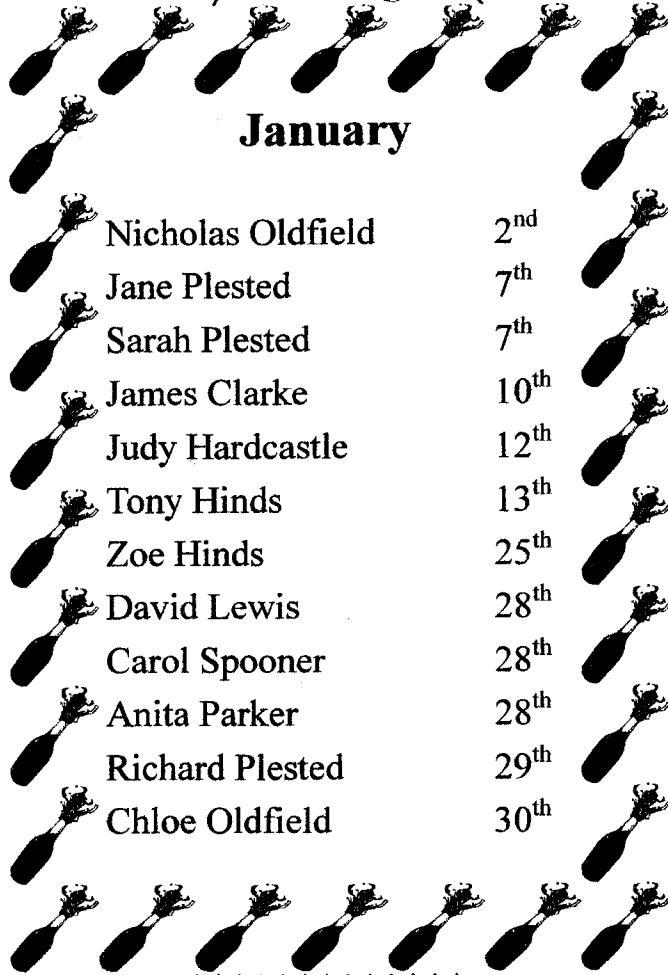
Please pass items to John Hardcastle at Marloes on Lines Hill or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible.

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.

Alison's Gossip Column

Happy Birthday

January



Nicholas Oldfield	2 nd
Jane Plested	7 th
Sarah Plested	7 th
James Clarke	10 th
Judy Hardcastle	12 th
Tony Hinds	13 th
Zoe Hinds	25 th
David Lewis	28 th
Carol Spooner	28 th
Anita Parker	28 th
Richard Plested	29 th
Chloe Oldfield	30 th

Belated birthday greetings to Peter Curry (groom extraordinary) who's birthday was on 19th December.

Welcome to Sam and Geoff Crawley who have recently moved into Hillberry on The Green. They were landlords of The Old Jug in Hardwick until recently.



Refuse and Recycling dates for NEW Year

Normal Collection	Revised Collection
<i>Thursday 5th January</i>	<i>Saturday 7th January</i>
<i>Thursday 12th January</i>	<i>Friday 13th January</i>

For information about refuse and recycling call 01296 585510

Geoff and April Curnow were sad to have missed the Chronicle deadline to send good wishes for Christmas to all our friends in Aston Abbots. However can we belatedly hope that everyone had a great time and wish you all a Happy New Year.

May we take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Phil for his wonderfully packed Chronicle, beautifully presented every month, a mine of information and a mixture of fun and seriousness. We got to know the village a good deal easier by regularly reading the Chronicle every month as soon as it was dropped through the letterbox. Thank you so much

Commiserations to Clare Fletcher and Percy Humphrys. Both have been victims of bad driving. Percy's car has been badly damaged whilst parked outside his own house and Clare's new structural wall has been hit by TWO cars within 15mins.

Welcome to James and Lesley Clough and their brand new baby Nicholas + a very white cat, Beanz.

Get Well to Jeff Bannister who's been off work for weeks and can't wait to get back!

Some cracker questions

What ring is square?
 How do you save meatballs from drowning?
 Why did the tightrope walker visit his bank?
Answers somewhere in the Chronicle

Somewhere on an Advert is added a cockerel - can you spot him?



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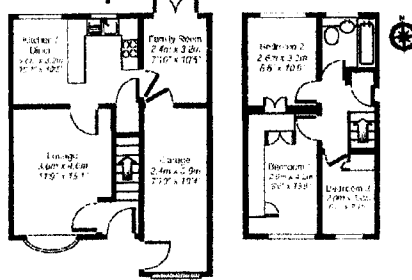
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In The Village

Norduck Developments

The earth certainly moved for Judy and I the Sunday morning the Buncefield Depot exploded. The whole house shook for many seconds. My first reaction was that we'd had an earthquake. Judy thought it must be thunder. Second thoughts were that a chimney had crashed down. Some minutes later I thought I heard a distant rumble so concluded that, as always, Judy was right - although there was not a cloud in the sky. Sometime later the radio came on and we learnt of the 'bomb blast'. The newscasters quickly ran out of things to say so we got on with life thankful that I had filled the car up with petrol on Saturday - such are the banal and selfish thoughts one has.

The Council has apparently decided that Lines Hill is not a road that will be gritted in cold weather. It's been, on occasions, like an ice rink - and the speed of some of the cars beggars belief. I'm amazed that more serious accidents haven't occurred. One morning, just passed the gate in Moat Lane, there were 5 cars in various states of distress and it took Simon Roberts with his tractor to act as fairy AA Man for one poor lady. Claire, who lives on the corner of The Green, had two cars slide into her building. The impacts have damaged the brickwork and will probably mean the wall will have to be repaired/replaced.

I really enjoyed the The Eggs Factor Show and was thrilled to receive the Gunga Din Award, one of the six 'Colins' - decided by a secret panel. I had to check out Gunga Din to be sure it was an honour. We all know the line 'You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din!'

Gunga Din was one of the more famous poems by Rudyard Kipling. The poem is a rhyming narrative from the point of view of a British Soldier, about a native water-bearer who saves his life. Like several other Kipling poems it celebrates the virtues of non-Europeans while portraying a colourful infantryman's view of such people as being 'lower order'. It inspired a 1939 swashbuckler film about three British soldiers and their native water bearer who fight to survive a Thugee attack in colonial India. It starred Cary Grant, Victor McLaglan, Douglas Fairbanks Jr, Sam Jaffe and Joan Fontaine.

I would have preferred to have won the Cary Grant Award but then I know my place.

The final verse of Kipling's poem is:-

Din! Din! Din!

You Lazarushian-leather Gunga Din!

Tho' I've belted you an' flayed you

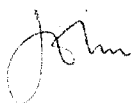
By the livin' Gawd that made you,

You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din!

I wonder what Phil is doing with all that spare time?

Please read report of the village hall 'Thursday Shop'.

Page 23 has all the details.



You are all probably wondering what is happening with the development of the 18,000 bird egg production plant at Norduck so this is a brief outline of the action that the Residents Association and the Aylesbury Vale District Council planners have and are taking.

Following the debacle of the Development Control Committee meeting where AVDC agreed to approve the application subject to conditions to be decided by the planning officer, the Residents took advice from a solicitor who specializes in environmental and human rights law. His considered advice was to issue a judicial review protocol letter to AVDC for three reasons: the planning officer had decided that an environmental impact study was not necessary and in fact it should have been considered. This omission renders the decision to grant permission unlawful. This is reinforced by the AVDC press release that uses the phrase "with the appropriate controls" and this indicates that the Council recognizes that the application does require "appropriate controls" without which there would be significant effects on the environment. The protocol letter was issued on 17 November and we await the action that AVDC intends to take on this legal point.

We have ascertained that Mr Williams, the applicant, markets the Oli-Free system (to be installed at Norduck) under the name of Kinsale Agriculture and he also manages Liberty Livestock Systems. Freedom Foods have approved the method under their welfare scheme providing the pullets are reared from the same style houses. Would you believe it, Mr Williams and Deans Foods are the only people with such rearing houses.

Deans Foods/Sainsbury organic egg production scheme involves the funding of tree planting on up to 20% of the six hectares associated with each poultry house. The applicant considers this to be a good thing and that there is an opportunity to substantially screen the three poultry houses from public view by planting on up to 1.2 hectares of land around each house. He fails to appreciate that in 10 - 15 years when the trees are developed this planting will completely change the character of this particular landscape.

You might recall that Clare Shorrocks sent a letter in to the editor of the Bucks Herald concerning Avian Flu and its possible impact on the planned development at Norduck. The editor obviously asked Williams for his comments and 9/10 of the eventual press article was devoted to Williams and the remaining 1/10 to Clare. In response, Clare drafted another letter to the editor pointing out one or two misleading statements, but the editor elected not to publish this letter.

From time to time we inspect the Norduck application on the working file at AVDC and also the web site, but these give little indication on the progress that is underway; it tends to suggest that AVDC and the applicant are doing almost all of their business at meetings or by other means that are not recorded. What we do know is that an Operational Management plan is to be submitted, presumably by Williams, and approved, presumably by someone who knows nothing about poultry, before the commencement of the development and similarly a Landscape Maintenance and Management Scheme. A simple complaints mechanism consisting of a register for complaints is to be installed and any entries are to be sent to AVDC once every six months. What happens after that is unclear.

Dickie Dicken

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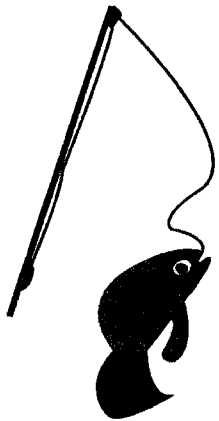
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Letters To The Editor

There weren't any - must be something Phil said!



Happy 50th
Birthday
Carol

Love

Phil

LIFE'S GREAT IMPONDERABLES

When an agnostic dies, do they go to the 'great perhaps'?

Why is the time of day, with the slowest traffic, called the rush hour?

Do you think Houdini ever locked his keys in his car?

Can atheists get insurance for Acts of God?

If procrastinators had a club would they ever have a meeting?

If practice makes perfect, and nobody's perfect, why practice?

Is it possible to have deja-vu and amnesia at the same time?

How do you know when it's time to tune your bagpipes?

Many thanks to those who have emailed or submitted articles during the past month. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Please keep up the good work~ Ed.



Christmas in the Doghouse

It may come as no surprise to some of you to hear that more than one 630 Club member has, in the past, spent Christmas in the doghouse. Usually this is the result of some excess partying leaving the hapless soul with a Christmas morning hangover so bad that he is unable to distinguish between the mother-in-law and a well-stuffed turkey. However, this year the whole 630 Club spent Christmas in the doghouse. Or, to be more precise, Christmas at the Doghouse, in Broughton Crossing.

The Doghouse, formerly the Moathouse, was taken over by Teri and Gary Moulta a few months ago and they have put a great deal of effort into decorating and refurbishing the pub. Around thirty-four 630 Club members and guests took over the restaurant on the first December Saturday for the annual 630 Club Christmas dinner.

The Doghouse is warm and welcoming and the restaurant could easily have seated a few more. However, a December Saturday means that some members were unfortunately unable to be there due to other festive arrangements. Bad luck for them, because they missed an excellent Christmas dinner. I went for a pretty standard affair myself—leek and potato soup (nice and hot), followed by Roast Turkey with all of the trimmings (tons of it, with loads of roast spuds), finished off with Christmas pudding with brandy sauce (no room for it, I'm afraid). Others, who had the lamb, beef, or mushroom Wellington expressed equal pleasure with their meal. We were very well looked after by Gary, the girls and the other staff, who made sure that we had everything we wanted. Meanwhile Ray Wilkinson organised the ensemble with typical Teutonic efficiency, ably assisted by Major Tim.

After the excellent meal there was just time for a final drink or two before the taxis dragged us off back to Aston Abbots. Many thanks to Ray for organising the evening.

A week after the 630 Club Christmas dinner I attended a dinner at smart hotel in Hitchin, where the portions were less than generous and the melon was the only dish which was not nearly stone-cold (and that included my coffee). After the excellent fare at the Doghouse, it was a bit of a let down. Given the choice of where to go for my Christmas party next year, I think I would rather like to spend Christmas in The Doghouse.

~ Phil Spooner

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First Question

You are in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in? go to page 17

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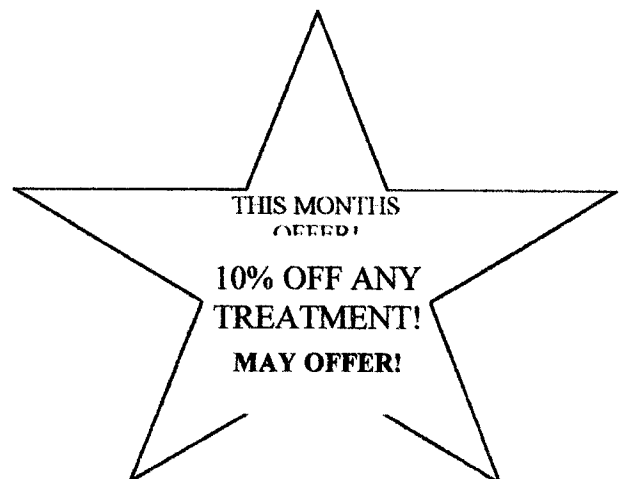


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Indian Adventure *John Hardcastle*

In November Judy and I joined a group of 9 on a tour of the 'golden triangle' Delhi, Jaipur and Agra. The flight was nearly 9 hours long. We arrived in Delhi at 1 in the morning. The first tussle with prospective baggage handlers started immediately we were outside the airport. I grimly hung on to our suitcase only to realise too late that this helper was part of the welcoming party.

First sight of the roads of Delhi was so different to anything I'd seen before. After recovery time in our hotel we were driven through a bit of old Delhi. Steven Spielberg couldn't have invented the set. I did feel uncomfortable in my air-conditioned coach looking out on unimaginable chaos and so many people seemingly living in a huge jumble of rickety concrete and timber with electricity cables in a complete tangle trailing everywhere. People on bikes, camels, donkeys - rickshaws, small motorised 'Reliant Robin' like vehicles, bicycles, large lorries carrying huge loads hidden under tarpaulins held in place with elaborate roping - all pushing and shoving each other along like driver ants.

The rule of the road in India relies on the principle that if I can get my 'nose' in front then you have to give way. Its like a giant game of chicken. Driving in India was to my eyes completely insane. Our guide explained that to survive on these roads you needed 'good brakes, good horn and good luck'.

We viewed the buildings designed by Lutyens (New Delhi) - I liked their proportions and colour. During our visit the President exited his office in a large convoy - policemen shouted at our group to move at least 100yards away from his route. I presume they are concerned at possible assassination attempts - the police shut great chunks of the city off to allow VIP's easy passage - the resultant jams can only be imagined.

The drive to Jaipur took 6 hours. The State Highway was not a good road - there are no good roads in India. The rush hour in Jaipur was just incredible - this was driver ants on drugs. Our coach driver took it all in his stride. Just amazing. Our hotel turned out to be through an unprepossessing archway - and suddenly we were in an oasis of calm and good living. Our bedroom was exotic with a four-poster bed. The mattress was rock hard. At five in the morning we could here the faithful being called to prayer and it sounded at though someone was cleaning his teeth just outside our window.

First cultural stop was the Hilltop Fort at Amber. The view across the river, with elephants being washed, the solitary boatman, water fowl and the Fort above could have been the subject of a painting by Turner. We visited, amongst other Palaces and Forts the Jantar Mantor Observatory. At first glance an odd assortment of strange sculptures. Our guide made it interesting and we saw the biggest sundial in the world accurate 'we were told' to 10 seconds. Because of variations you had to add 11 minutes to the time the sundial indicated.

From Jaipur we journeyed towards Ranthambore. This a National Park which accommodates the fast diminishing Indian tiger. All we saw were footprints.

After two tiger hunting drives we headed off for a night stay in Haveli, a small village. The hotel was interesting but not that comfortable. The village, I judge, was smaller than Aston Abbots but housed 1500 people. The children mobbed us hoping for small handouts.

We visited Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. A fantastic place. Extensive lakes which attract huge flocks of birds, some resident and many migratory. Ironically the first birds we saw were coots who had arrived two weeks earlier. Our guide was a fountain of knowledge. He seemed to have eagle eyes as he spotted birds that even with the benefit of binoculars I found hard to see. I would have liked to have spent longer here.

And then on to Agra via Fatehpur Sikri, a ghost city, once the seat of the Mughal Empire.

In the evening we were taken to Agra Fort from which we had our first sight of the Taj Mahal. Everyone who has seen the Taj Mahal says what a lovely building it is. Princess Diana famously had a 'sad' photo taken in front of it. I half expected to be disappointed - I can report that it is one of the few buildings that really moved me. It is beautiful in its own right - but its setting - its sits in wonderful isolation, set against the sky. I'm so pleased to have experienced it. The Taj was built by Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his wife Noor Mahal who died giving birth to their 14th child. Its impossible not to be struck by the building's ethereal sad beauty.

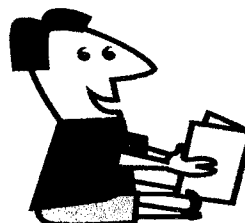
Continued on Page 15



Children's Books

A recent poll of librarians asked to recommend one book that every child should have received for Christmas produced the following top ten list. I recognise and have read some. Do you have a favourite to add? *Ed*

- 1 **The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe** by C S Lewis
- 2 **Winnie the Pooh** by AA Milne
- 3 **The Magic Faraway Tree** by Enid Blyton
- 4 **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle
- 5 **Alice in Wonderland** by Lewis Carroll
- 6 **Wind in the Willows** by Kenneth Graham
- 7 **The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- 8 **Goodnight Mr Tom** by Michelle Magorian
- 9 **Fairy Tales** by Brothers Grimm
- 10 **Charlie and The Chocolate Factory** by Roald Dahl



Suggestions to the Editor

HOT NEWS

Andy & Sally are returning soon to Aston Abbotts 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.



ANNET - A beautiful, newly refurbished 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. Recently refurbished, with original slate floors, old 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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Peter Knight's Countryside Diary

Winter upon us but a good one so far. I just wish it didn't worry me that we still have had so little rain. The ditches are still dry, no land drains run and many ponds remain without water. I just hope all the required rain doesn't come in February/March when we are lambing - that would be a problem.

Talking of lambing, we have in fact started, not intentionally of course, but we had a lamb born on 3rd September - certainly a surprise to us, possibly a surprise to his mother as well. For some reason the old expression was that the ewe had 'stolen the ram' meaning, I suppose, she had got something she shouldn't have. There are many old farming expressions and words that I enjoy, one refers to an animal of dubious sexual orientation, round here they were called Willjills.

When I asked about the word it was explained - 'its obvious isn't it' neither a boy nor a gal - neither a Will nor a Jill.

If twin calves are born, one of either sex, then the male hormones dominate the female (Dave Lewis is right!) and the female can be born unable to breed, in that case the official word for it is a FREEMARTIN - why I have no idea.

So what's going on in the countryside? - well winter is a time for survival and as little activity as is necessary to life. If food is scarce then creatures may have to take risks to search further afield - hence a heron beside the A418; again but I can't begin to imagine what it found to eat.

We planted several new hedges a few years ago and the wild roses we planted have done well as they are not eaten by livestock or rabbits. This year there was a splendid crop of rose hips which provide food for field mice - in the hedge bottoms one can find little piles of skin and pips where the mice have sat and eaten the flesh from those rose hips. It looks as if someone has discarded the remains of a tomato.

The holly berries all went early this year with pigeons, fieldfares and redwings clearing them out of the village in early December.

Am I right in thinking that the leaves have stayed on the oak trees longer this year? The occasional oak is still basically green. Bulbs are coming through the ground as they always do in December; as I've said before, something triggers their growth 6 inches below the surface in early November so the tips appear in December - some unbelievable timing mechanism?

Despite the frosts and cold air yesterday we had sun out at midday and I was amazed at the number of

insects hovering or dancing in the sun's rays.

There were thousands of midges and mosquitoes and small flies. What on earth do they feed on to replace the energy used in flying.

There was a time in my early farming days when winter meant shooting, ferreting and logging with an old countryman called Rodney Welsh. One Saturday afternoon - we had to work on Saturday mornings in those days - Rodney and I were ferreting a sandy bank. We'd had some success but were busy digging out a ferret that had gone to ground, probably caught a rabbit that hadn't bolted fast enough.

Along came the 19 year old son of 'his Lordship' who owned the land and for whom we worked - he carried a gun. 'Afternoon Welsh' was his greeting, 'ferreting then?'. 'Yes Sir', said Rodney, 'would you like a brace of rabbits?'. 'Yes I would' said the young man - thank you' and off he went with his brace.

Rodney was furious and gave me another lesson in country etiquette (manners).

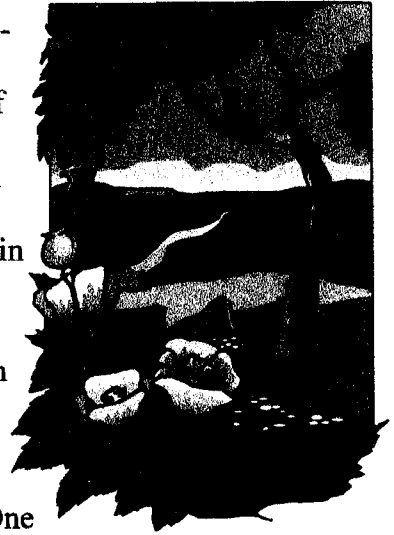
'That ain't right - damn it - it just ain't right! I'm meant to say 'would you like a brace Sir?' and he should have said 'no thank you Welsh but thanks for the offer'. Its always bin like that - his Lordship would never have taken them'.

'It ain't right and that all there is to it' - Rodney muttered and cursed mildly for the rest of the afternoon - a day spoilt.

Rodney is still ferreting. The young man became a cabinet minister.

In answer to my question regarding the basis for an inch - three barley grains end to end were taken as the standard.

May I thank Christine Scott for answering my question on the meaning of life and DEFRA's part in it - not only did I get a plausible answer - I also had a map to show me the way.



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Indian Adventure - continued

The journey from Agra back to Delhi took forever. Judy and I had a train to catch which was to take us up the hills to Shimla. Our tour company met the situation by organising for a taxi to meet the coach to ensure we got to the station on time. We boarded the train at 11pm. We were lucky to have a sleeping compartment to ourselves. We managed to sleep as the next thing I knew was the compartment door opening when the train had arrived in Kalka at 5am.

A porter took our bag along the platform to a 'toy' train waiting to take us to Shimla. The train was the 'First Class' train that travelled direct. There was another 'stopping' train that followed on the single narrow gauge track. The views as we climbed up into the hills, with the rising sun, were very beautiful. Tea and breakfast was served en route. Each carriage had a conductor. The toilet was a hole in the floor and I advised Judy to hang on if possible.

Shimla (Simla as it used to be known in the days of the Raj) was the hilltop town invented by the British and from where they ruled during the summer months.

The Viceregal Lodge was a magnificent pile built in the Scottish Baronial style.

From Shimla you get distant views of the Himalayas. Shimla is 7000 feet above the heat and dust of the plains and used to part of the kingdom of Nepal.

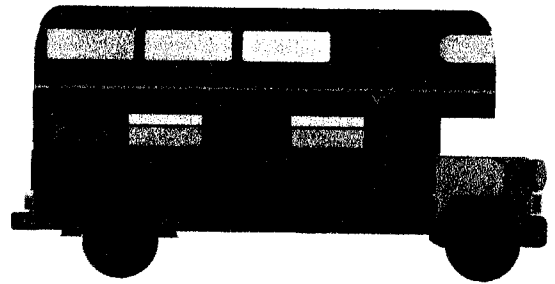
Our hotel was very comfortable - probably one of the best hotels we have ever stayed in. It was fairly empty - peak time is during the summer and we were there in the autumn.

The town was largely pedestrianised and lots of the buildings were very English Colonial.

We were there for three days. The contrast of life here to the other parts of India we visited, was profound.

Judy indulged my interest in golf when we made a pilgrimage to the first golf course to be built in Asia. Naldehra golf course was built in 1895 by Lord Curzon. Lord Curzon was so enchanted with Naldehra that he returned to it time after time for a respite from 'the despotism of the despatch boxes'. One sign that amused warned that 'Golf balls are fatal'.

I went to India with some reluctance - not sure whether I would feel comfortable with the extremes - but I am now a convert. It's a fabulous country and Judy and I would like to see more - we've only scratched the surface. *John Hardcastle*



I mentioned my early days were spent in South London - many journeys to school were spent on a 159. So it was with some nostalgia that I read recently of the last journey by a Routemaster Bus. Flanders and Swann's *Transport of Delight* comes to mind



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At 20 miles-per-hour in the middle of the road

We like to drive in convoys- we're most gregarious

The big six wheeler scarlet painted London Transport diesel engined 97 horsepower omnibus.

Earth has not anything to show more fair

Mind the stairs! Mind the stairs! Mind the stairs!

Earth has not anything to show more fair.

Any more fares? Any more fares? Any more fares? Any more fares? Any more fares?

When cabbies try to pass me, before they overtake

I sticks me flippin' 'and out and jams on all me brakes

Them jackal taxi drivers can only swear and cuss

Behind the monarch of the road Observer of the Highway Code that big six wheeler scarlet painted London Transport diesel engined 97 horse power omnibus.

I stops when I'm requested although it spoils the rides

So he can shout 'Get out of it, we're full right up inside!'

We don't ask much for wages we only want fair shares

So cut down all the stages and stick up all the fares

If tickets cost a pound a piece Why should we make a fuss?

Its worth it just to ride inside that 30 foot-long by 10 foot-wide Inside that monarch of the road Observer of the Highway Code That big six wheeler scarlet painted London Transport diesel engined 97 horsepower omnibus.

Hold very tight please! Ting - ting!

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ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 30th November 2005

PRESENT Cllrs. P. Shorrocks (Chair), M.Kent, R.Clarke, D.Dicken,

T Manning and Mrs. K Curry (Clerk). Four members of the public attended. Apologies were received from Colin Higgs and Jackie Farrands

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed. There were no matters arising.

COUNTY COUNCIL, DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE MATTERS -

No-one was present from either the District Council or Police. Our newly elected County Councillor, Quintin Ings-Chambers, introduced himself and talked about the following matters:

- Council Tax - around 40% of BCC's total budget comes from the Council Tax, the remainder being made up by a Direct Service Grant from the Government. This year the Direct Service Grant is low, leaving the Council to make up a larger amount than usual. Negotiations are taking place with the Government to try and obtain more grants and avoid large increases in next year's Council Tax.
- Domestic Waste - The Government wants to significantly reduce the amount of household waste going to landfill sites. The Landfill Tax is to rise over the next five years from £30 per ton to £150 per ton. Therefore BCC is working to encourage more recycling and alternative ways of disposing of household waste.
- Housing Growth - Bucks will be growing at a rate of 3000 new houses per year, of which 1200 will be in Aylesbury Vale. The infrastructure to support this growth is not yet in place (roads / jobs / schools / leisure facilities etc). This is currently a major concern for BCC.
- Luton Airport is due to expand to three times its current size. A balance needs to be struck between the noise / pollution issue and the need to stimulate growth in the local economy.
- The A418 is part of the strategic route from Milton Keynes to Aylesbury. Traffic flow will grow as the two towns grow. However, the earliest possible start to the upgrading of the road would be 2008/2010.

HEATER FOR THE CHURCH ROOM - The water heater has already been installed and paid for by the Church Committee, so the VAT would not now be recoverable. **Resolved** to donate £250 towards the cost of the heater.

DRAFT BUDGET - The draft budget was discussed and agreed in principle. The Clerk will prepare a final draft to be approved at the next meeting.

PLANNING

- 05/02614/AGD Amended siting of agricultural building for storage of hay, feed, machinery and livestock relating to application number 05/02034/AGN **Resolved** to oppose this application on the grounds that it is in a poor position in the middle of open fields.
- 05/02764/ATC The Birches, Wingrave Road, Aston Abbots. Fell one Leyland Cypress. **Resolved** to make no objection.
- 05/02715/APP The Orchard, Moat Lane, Aston Abbots. Erection of two detached dwellings and alteration to access. **Resolved** to oppose this application because it would affect the character of the Conservation Area and the access is considered dangerous.

HIGHWAYS - A grant of £2500 has been received from Highways, for the installation of a new streetlight. It is proposed to put it in Moat Lane. A notice will be placed in the Chronicle, asking for the public to comment.

RECREATION GROUND

- Safety check - children's play area - up to date.
- Discuss inspection report on new and existing playground equipment - several minor repairs are needed, which will be undertaken shortly.
- Report from Recreation Ground Committee - A grant of £5000 has now been awarded from AVDC towards the new play equipment. Other grants are still awaiting decisions, but the remainder of the equipment should be able to be installed within the next few months.
- Repairs to shed - agreed to wait for further quotes for alternative forms of storage before deciding whether or not to repair the damage caused by vandals

COMMUNITY SELF-HELP PLAN - The plan would provide a means of crisis management within the community (where emergency equipment is kept / people with particular skills etc). Peter Shorrocks agreed to implement this.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL - Resolved to support the Bill. The Clerk will send the necessary forms.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - To confirm that the next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th January 2006 at 8pm in the Church Room.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG

If you answered that you are first, then you are absolutely wrong! If you overtake the second person you are second. Try not to screw up the next question - and don't take as much time as you took to answer the first question.

Second Question - If you overtake the last person, then you are ? go to page 19



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(*)Anything up to 4 sessions per week is paid for by Bucks County Council - the nursery is eligible to apply for funding for children aged 3 upwards (subject to availability). More information is available.

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DO ALL THOSE JOBS YOU'VE BEEN ASKING
HUBBY TO DO FOR AGES!

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Vic Scott's Lectures

As many of you will know Vic has been imparting his huge knowledge to a group of very privileged villagers over the past six weeks. This has been at his home on Tuesday mornings between 10.30 and 12.00 and Friday evenings between 7.00 and 8.30.

It is impossible here to even give you a précis of these lectures such is the magnitude of information, but everyone attending these group lectures has come away with their minds boggling with very interesting facts and figures punctuated with Vic and Christine's amusing stories from their travels around the countryside and indeed the world.

The lectures centred mainly around Buckinghamshire which is of greatest interest to villagers. The six lectures were entitled:-

- 1 Ecology of the Chiltern Woodlands
- 2 Introducing Fungi - A World of Magic, Myth and Mystery
- 3 Farming Wildlife and a Changing Environment
- 4 The Greensand Region of North Bucks
- 5 Old Grasslands of Buckinghamshire
- 6 Bird Migration

Vic is hopeful of holding further lectures next year. An exciting thought is that he is prepared, perhaps next spring, to venture also out into the countryside for a course of field excursions covering a wide range of wildlife including birds, butterflies and animal life in general. Such lectures to incorporate perhaps a picnic or pub lunch if further afield. April and I being basically 'Townies' will be the first names down for such a venture.



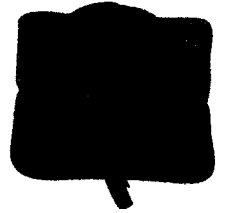
Geoff Curnow

THE POPPY APPEAL 2005

The collections in Aston Abbots amounted to **£610-04**. The area total was **£2190.70**.

Many thanks to those who gave
and to those who collected for
this worthy cause.

A Rawlings PAO



New Streetlight?

The Parish Council has recently received a grant from the County Council to fund the installation of new streetlights in the village. It was hoped to put a light along the dark footpath between the allotments and the Royal Oak. However, this has proved too costly to contemplate, even with a grant; there is no overhead electricity supply at this point, so the road would have to be dug up.

Another option is to put a new lamp in Moat Lane, approximately half way between the start of the lane and Windmill Hill Barns. This would be much cheaper to implement, but is it needed? The Parish Council would like to know what you think - do you want a new light in Moat Lane, or are there other places around the village you think more deserving? Maybe you don't want any new lights at all, or perhaps you feel there should be more.....if the Parish Council doesn't know, they can't act on your behalf!

If you have any comments or ideas, please contact the Parish Clerk, Kate Curry, on 01296 681137 or e mail her on norduck@hotmail.com

If you answered that you are second to last, then you are wrong again. Tell me how can you overtake the last person?

Third Question

Very tricky maths - must be done in your head only. Do not use paper or pencil or a calculator.

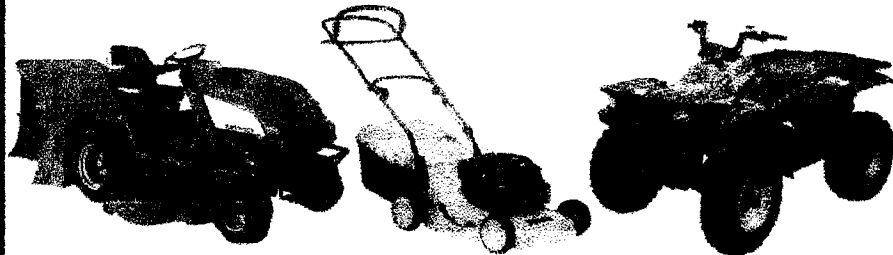
Take 1000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1000. Now add 30. Add another 1000. Now add 20. Now add another 1000. Now add 10. What is the total.

Go to page 21

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This course will consider the historical, political, economic and social development of Middle Eastern Countries. Caroline Ellwood will discuss the rise of Arab Nationalism and Islamic Fundamentalism, the conflicts which have arisen in the area and a consideration of the accuracy of the Western perception of the history of the region

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10AM TO 4PM SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY AT WINGRAVE METHODIST CHAPEL

The course will look at the history and development of preserved steam railways, trains and preservation centres. Roger Bowen, who has run many local WEA courses on steam railways, will be happy to focus the day's programme on particular interests of course participants.

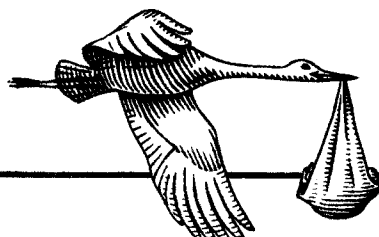
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PHOTOGRAPHY – ME AND MY CAMERA on Saturday 4 March 2006

More details in the January Communiqué

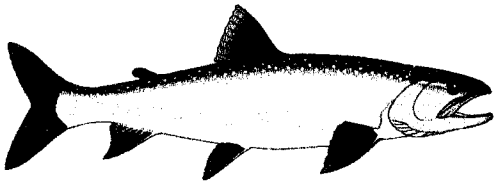


What was your answer? Did you get 5000?
Wrong again. The correct answer is 4100.
Fourth Question - answer quickly please
Mary's father has five daughters:
1. Nana 2. Nene 3. Nini 4. Nono what is the
name of his fifth daughter? go to page 25



Belated congratulations to our MP John Bercow and his wife Sally who have become proud parents for the second time with the birth of their son Freddie on Tuesday 8th November.





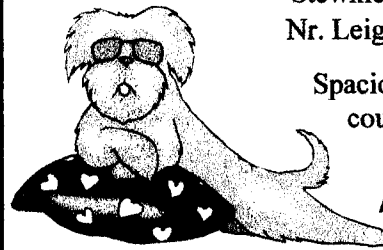
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Coffee Shop Lunch/Launch!!

When Steve said he would bring 'the shop' to the village hall on Thursday mornings, April & Rita decided they would offer coffee and biscuits for sale. During the past few months this has worked so well that Thursday mornings are becoming something of a 'social occasion' for those at home during the week. In fact, since Geoff made a sign advertising the same, even council workers who happen to be working in AA. drop in for their elevenses.

Recently Margaret Kent joined the team and this 'trio' jointly decided it might be a good idea to organise a free 'Christmas lunch' for their 'regulars' as well as to invite a few others who they thought might like to be included. There was little response to the invitations but twenty four (mostly regulars) attended what turned out to be a very pleasant lunch on the 22nd Dec.

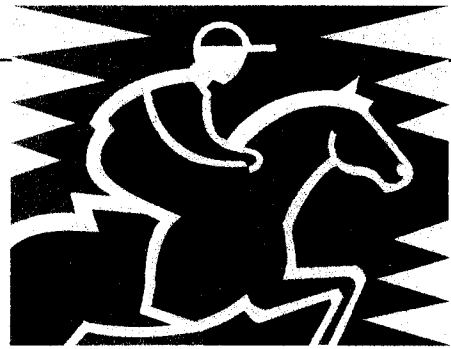
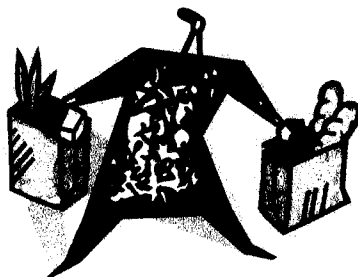
With a sherry to start with, (and while Geoff and I did the 'menial tasks!) the 'trio' served a choice of three homemade soups followed by a similar number of quite naughty 'puds'; nobody left hungry. Over coffee, April set a short quiz and the afternoon ended when all the raffle prizes had been won.

Many left saying it would be nice to do the same again next year. - No problem, providing the shop is well supported, since, without that, there would be little motivation to run the 'coffee shop'. Many thanks to the 'Coffee Shop trio' for giving us all a very pleasant lunch. A small profit was made and the intention is to use this to have another special occasion for regular customers in the future.

At present people seem to be increasingly using the shop; so much so that Steve has increased some of the services he provides. In addition to a reasonable stock of the basics such as bread, milk, eggs & bacon, there is a limited but sensible range of sweets, cakes, jams, puddings, cleaning materials etc. You can now also pay your paper bill and buy television licence and postal stamps. Steve is currently looking at the possibility of providing full Post Office services. Steve is happy to bring loads of produce along and it is up to the Aston Abbott villagers to make use of the facility so that it remains worthwhile for him. Steve will willingly bring any particular item which you may want if you just give him a ring on 01296 681696 (This number is also in the Chronicle telephone list).

Please come and support the venture and indeed enjoy a very social morning.

and Geoff Curnow



Racing at Towcester

Last year, us 'old boys' (well Wilky really), feeling rather too frail to stand out on a racecourse during Winter months, made the right decision to hire a 'hospitality suite' at Towcester. So successful was it, that Tony Hinds organized this year's November 'outing' to be along the same lines. However, it rather seems that 'the word' had gone around as to how good the 2004 trip had been so that instead of a minibus Tony had to hire a sizeable coach.

£150 each seemed quite expensive at the beginning of the year but with Tony 'mugging' each of us in turn every time we went to the Oak, come 'the day', all we had to find was sufficient cash to make 'donations' to the on-course bookies.

Picking up the coach at the Oak was a big mistake for those with weak bladders. However, it's not too far to Towcester and the hospitality building does have very nice toilets!!! These newly built on-course facilities are extremely pleasant; individual hospitality suites are nicely carpeted with French windows opening onto (in our case) a third floor balcony over looking the winning post. The young (and attractive) lady detailed exclusively to look after our party, ensured we were rarely without a drink and that each of the meals five courses were discretely cleared away/served between races.

The last race having been run; over tea and scones, there was the usual 'postmortem' as to who had been the 'winners & losers'. It would be extremely unfair however of me to list them here for fear of the 'retribution' which might be wrought by 'other halves'. Suffice to say it was surprising how badly some of the so called 'experts' fared!!

Perhaps the 'saving grace' for some was that Tony had 'invested' part of our initial £150 on three races. Two out of the three (whether by luck or his good judgment) came up trumps resulting in a decent payout for each of us.

The return journey was a bit of 'a gas'!!!! Attempts by Dan Wheaton to organize a community sing song (perhaps fortunately) came to nought as all the 'old boys' had gone to sleep.

Many thanks Tony from all us 'punters' for a truly great 'boys day out' !



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THE "EGGS" FACTOR

The "Eggs" Factor Show came to Aston Abbots on Saturday 10th December. As yet the result of the telephone poll to decide the winner has not yet been announced which is probably just as well. However it seemed that the talented performers on display outshone the contestants taking part in that other programme - shown earlier on ITV.

As always we started with dinner, admirably cooked by a number of ladies from the village. Suitably replete, the audience sat back with eager anticipation to enjoy the show, kicked off with a bang by Ant Palmer, Neil Chesher and Nigel Palmer, on drums, bass guitar and keyboards respectively, performing the Surfari's 'Wipe Out'. Ant's drumming was full of variations - quite amazing and to think that he claimed to be capable of playing at twice the speed. If the Alpacas had been asleep, then they certainly weren't any longer.

As usual we enjoyed a variety of songs and comic sketches enhanced this year by even more live music. All of this was introduced by our very first female compere Liz Barlow.

Our main vocalists this year were Simon Gresswell, John Whyte, Hayley Wilkinson and mum Sharon. Hayley sang three numbers including the Dusty Springfield hit 'The Preacherman' and the Lulu hit 'Shout' and she certainly did. This was an outstanding performance which deserved a national audience. Where can I buy the CD? Sharon's 'Little Toy Train' was a sentimental song for Dean that he wasn't expecting. John gave us Bill Joel's 'Just the way you are' and the Righteous Brothers number 'You've lost that loving feeling' while Simon gave an admiral performances of Frankie Valli's 'Can't take my eyes off of you' and Van Morrison's 'Moondance'.

We enjoyed the Shadows instrumental 'Wonderful land' - 8 weeks at number 1 in the charts in 1962 with Neil on acoustic lead guitar and the Ray Charles smash hit 'What'd I say' set off the second half with Neil outing his sax this time. How many instruments can this man play? Nigel & Ant also put in a performance of the highly recognisable theme tune to the TV Film review programme hosted for years by Barry Norman.

But the Christmas Show would not be the same without its comic sketches. I for one will be very careful walking with the dogs through the Grove at night in future as I would not wish to disturb the Ghost. Dave Lewis gave us 'the rules' from a male perspective which got quite a reaction from the female members of the audience. But it can't have upset too many people as I understand that he didn't have to spend the night in the barn. John Whyte gave us part two of Mr & Mrs or was it Mr and Ms? Our first couple couldn't remember having qualified from the heats, but they were held around 15 years ago. We were not to be outdone by the BAFTA's either. This evening was a glittering spectacle and featured the inaugural Aston Abbots awards ceremony.

Forget the Oscars, the Bafta's and the Brit awards because we had the Colin's. Six lucky recipients went home clutching their prestigious well-deserved awards including both the outgoing and incoming editors of the AA Chronicle.

For me the biggest laugh of the evening came from nautical Neil and John in their Battle of Trafalgar sketch, playing Nelson and Hardy. So Health and Safety closed the Crows Nest until scaffolding was erected, the men refused to use their guns in case someone got injured and they got sued, and the rum ration was abolished due to the government clampdown on binge drinking. I'm surprised that the crew didn't demand a training day so that the old sea dogs could swap stories and prioritise objectives. 200 years on there would clearly be no hope of beating the French or the Spanish in a repeat battle.

And so to the finale. In a Xmas show first, Julia King had the entire audience on their feet line dancing, before we walked to Amarillo, finishing with the Beatles Anthem 'Hey Jude'. What a night to remember! They must have enjoyed it as no eggs were thrown. We all look forward to Astonbury 2006.

Thanks must be recorded to those helping behind the scenes to make the evening a great success including Dave Lewis for the electrics, Andy for making the Colin's, Francesca and all the ladies who cooked lasagne for us and forgotten man Phil Spooner who single-handedly saved us from the perils of feedback and supported the performers with great sound quality. Most of all thanks to director Neil Chesher, who last month turned down the opportunity to sail the Atlantic in order to be there. Just so you know what you missed, the first hand report I received indicated that *the temperature was hotter than the Greek Islands in July and the wind never made it above a force 8. On one day there was no wind at all and the ocean was like glass, so you would never have made it back - perhaps next year.* Without Neil the show would never have got on the road.

Nigel Palmer

I would like to echo Nigel's praise of the Show - a tremendous effort by all those who took part - a most enjoyable evening. Ed.

Your answer: Nunu?

No! Of course not - her name is Mary

To save your blushes here is the Bonus Question.

There is a mute person who wants to buy a toothbrush. By imitating the action of brushing one's teeth he successfully expresses himself to the shopkeeper and the purchase is done. Now if a blind person wishes to buy a pair of sunglasses how should he express himself? *go to page 29*

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Christingle Carol Service 18th Dec.

Full page ads. in the Chronicle, coupled with our village bell ringers toiling away for half an hour before the service, left little room for excuses not to attend. Indeed, why not be there?

Our church had been well & traditionally decorated, the Rowsham Band were there to provide music and a bit of fun and there were carols to be sung; and Hey! – It's Christmas! By the time the service had begun, most seats had been taken. Many families and their children had come along, adding to the creation of a lovely 'chatty' and warm atmosphere; very evident as soon as you walked into the church.

This friendly, conviviality remained throughout the service which was conducted by the Rev. Bob Willmott. Nothing too heavy, just Christmas readings by members of the congregation interspersed with many favourite carols.

The 'Christingles' (oranges with sweets and lighted candles)

were popular with the children (of all ages!). The Rowsham Band seems to get larger each year; this year numbering eight. Will there be enough room for the congregation next year??

Personally, I like them being there since their playing masks my total inability to sing in tune. Mind you, they caught a few of us out by playing alternative tunes to two well known carols. The adults might have found this 'interesting' but most children were just confused.

With the formal part of the service over, we left with the band playing a couple of trad. jazz numbers. I suspect most left feeling a little more 'Christmassy' than when they came in.



Aston Abbotts & Cublington Ladies Club

17 members were present for our Carol Service which this year was held in Cublington Church. We sang six carols and heard four readings read by June Brine, Shirley Ford, Carol Maurice and Daphne Rogers. The service was lead by Siv Tunicliffe. Afterwards, tea was served at June Brine's home with the Cublington members having supplied the food. Each member chose a present from a basket and the meeting ended with our Chairman, Jean Alexander thanking our Cublington members for the delicious tea.

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

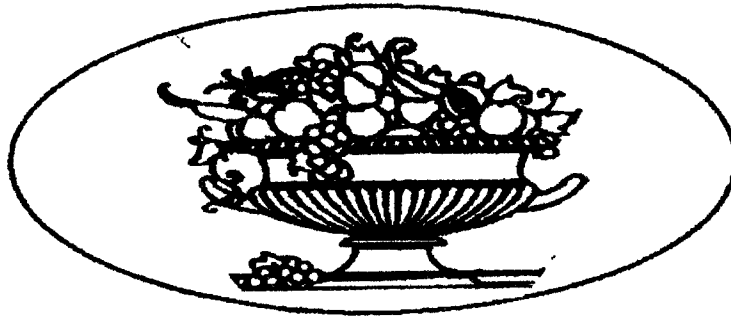
PROGRAMME 2006

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

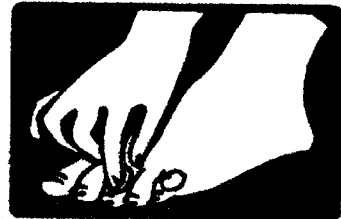
The Aston Abbotts and Cublington Ladies Club meets twice a month in the Church Room, Aston Abbotts. All ladies from Aston Abbotts and Cublington are very welcome. Please contact Shirley Ford on 681865 for more information.

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During a visit to a mental asylum, a visitor asked the director, 'What is the criterion that defines a patient to be institutionalized?'

'Well...' said the doctor, 'we fill up a bathtub, and we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him to empty the bathtub'.

'Oh, I understand,' said the visitor. 'A normal person would choose the bucket as it is larger than the spoon or the teacup'.

'Noooooo!' answered the director. 'A normal person would pull the plug'.



After the 'hysteria' of George Best's demise and funeral the following letter appeared in the Sports section of The Daily Telegraph.

SIR - Your headline 'God has one hell of a team,' relating to the banner displayed at Upton Park, reminds me of the story of the proposed football match between Heaven and Hell.

One day the Devil rang up St Peter suggesting such a match. St Peter agreed but remarked that Heaven would win easily 'because we've got all the best players'. 'Oh no!' replied the Devil. 'We will win, because we've got all the referees'.

Richard Green
Bournemouth

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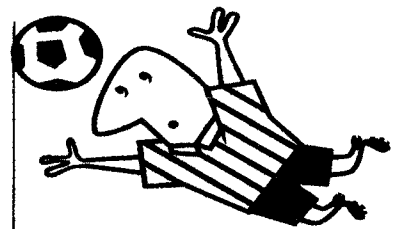
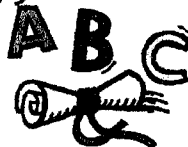
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Tommy Cooper one-liners

My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. He was pulled in by a strong currant.

I went to a really energetic 'Seafood Disco' last week....
And pulled a mussel.

Our ice cream man was found on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.

Two aerials meet on a roof, fall in love, get married. The ceremony was rubbish but the reception was brilliant.

THE OLD JOKES ARE THE BEST JOKES -
more on page 37

He just opened his mouth and asked 'I need a pair of sun glasses'. That is so simple. *Ed - hope u enjoyed*

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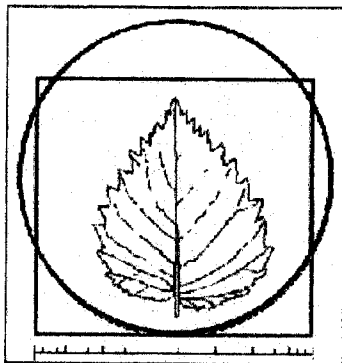


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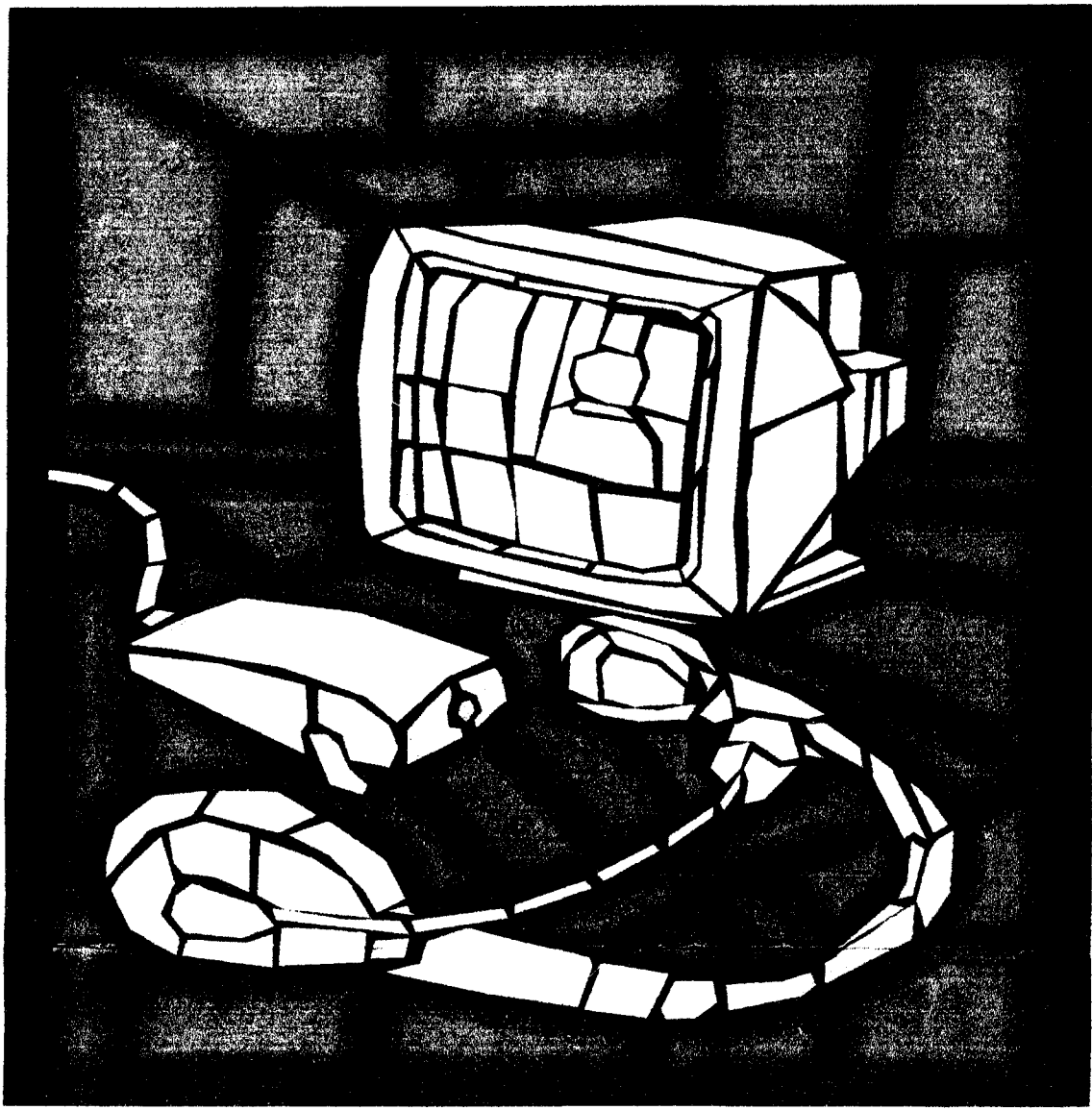
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So get out there and flex those gardening muscles! You will meet new people, swap gardening tips with other volunteers, keep fit and have fun!

All volunteer expenses related to the Gardening Project (including travel) will be paid and you will be covered under our insurance policy. Volunteers on the Gardening Project also receive support and training from a member of staff at Vale Volunteers.

If you have a few hours to spare once a week or a fortnight then get in touch with Laura on 01296 337456, or e-mail: garden@valevolunteers.org.uk.

SIX GO TO TOBAGO

Six of us went off to Tobago at the end of November –the Beans, Grenaways and the Lewis’- on a “Barlow Tour”! I thoroughly recommend Barlow Tours-door to door service and they take care of all those little worries e.g. car hire, shopping, catering, customer complaints etc. !!

We rented a colonial style villa on the Caribbean side of the island, with a large, infinity pool and jacuzzi. Fran was able to fall out of her bed and straight onto the sun lounger! Needless to say, we spent a large amount of time sitting around the pool. We were woken at 6am each morning by a cacophony of awful bird song made by the Tobagan national bird – a Chalalaca which looks like a brown chicken but flies!

Tobago is a small island – 116 sq. miles and is a 20 minute air trip from Trinidad. It has the oldest protected rainforest in the western hemisphere and is best known for its friendly people, pristine beaches, coral reefs, marine life and birds. Temperatures are always in the 80s but it does have a lot of rain. Fortunately for us, it mainly rained at night.

We all loved the island. We liked the laid back attitude, the empty beaches, the fresh fish, especially lobster, the Rum Punches, the pot-holed roads, and petrol at 30p a litre! Fran and I particularly loved the American style washing machine and tumble dryer!!

Thank you Liz for forcing us to go to the Caribbean in November!

Alison Lewis





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CLERGY COMMENT

At New Year we tend to be torn between looking back at the past and looking forward to the future. Some people will heave a sigh of relief at the end of a year that started out with such promise, that has instead turned out to have been filled with sadness, with frustration, with disappointment. Others will remember 2005 as a year that treated them very well. For them it was filled with fun and laughter and happiness.

A few years ago, people were busy burying "time-capsules". Containers of bits and pieces that they hoped might be "discovered" in the future – it was a Millennium thing, if you remember. Things that future generations might find and wonder at the way we lived.

Whilst that may have been a specific act, I suspect that we are constantly filing away odds and ends of memories. But the question is: "What do we really want to keep and remember, and what would we rather not hold in our memories?"

Of course, we shall probably start by keeping the things that we think were important to us. Yet, the things that we thought of little importance, may prove to those who come after us to be far more significant. "Why did you keep lots of stuff about trivial things, and throw away all the good stuff about almost everything else?"

Other people see things from a different perspective. And if we knew what those coming

after us would think important, then we should be able to preserve a better selection of material for them.

But looking back is only one part of our New Year exercise. We are presented with a fresh diary. New dates waiting for us to fill with new experiences and new opportunities. New Year is always an exciting time as we think about the endless possibilities that lie ahead of us.

It is a time for making plans. It is a time for looking forward. We may have some idea of the things that will or might happen to us in the coming Year – but no matter how well we organise things for ourselves, there will inevitably be some surprises along the way. We do not know what is around the corner waiting to jump out at us when we are least prepared for it. All that we can hope is that we shall find within ourselves the resources to cope with whatever life throws at us.

There is a verse somewhere in the Bible that says that God never tests us above our capacity – and with the test always provides us with a solution. We need to face those challenges and discover those solutions if we are to grow.

May 2006 be a very good Year for you and yours.

Bob Willmott



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A new book called "The Czech Connection - The Czechoslovak Government in Exile in London and Buckinghamshire during the Second World War" compiled by Neil Rees is now for sale.

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 Aston Abbots 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>

Neil's Trip to Canada

I was recently sent on business to Toronto in Ontario, Canada. Whilst there I made contact with some Aston Abbott people.

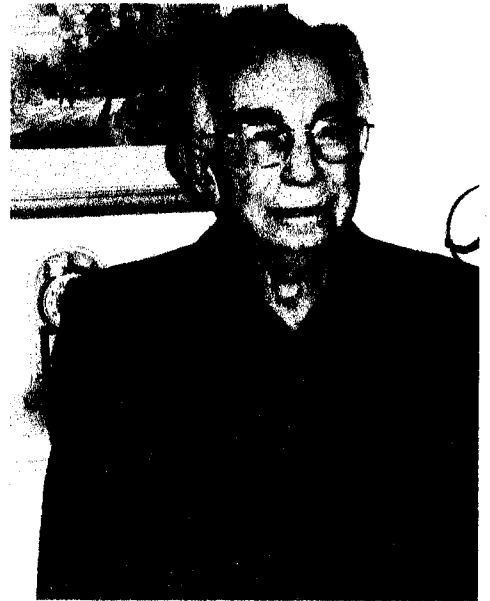
I visited Prue Bonham, Victor Scott's cousin, at their home in Ontario. Prue Bonham grew up in Aston Abbotts and she has lived in Canada now for about 30 years, now living in Grand Bend on the banks of Lake Huron, which is a lovely peaceful location.

I also met up with some Czech veterans in Toronto.

I met Mr Tibor Gregor who was a Czechoslovak soldier based in England during the war. He told me about being sent for 3 weeks to Aston Abbotts to guard President Benes with a group of about 30 men from his unit in Warwickshire. He said they lived in tents. He remembered that when he was in Aston Abbotts it was during the time that it was Czechoslovak National Day on 28th October, and they made a big party with entertainment, that President Benes came along to. During communism he escaped to Canada and is now involved in the Rotary Club. Mr Gregor had some photos of when he was at Aston Abbotts. He is the third man on the right in the picture. below.

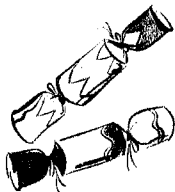
I also met Colonel Wolfe who had also been a Czechoslovak soldier, who had also been sent for 3 weeks to Aston Abbotts on presidential guard duty with about 12 other men from his unit in Warwickshire. He remembered his time in Aston Abbotts as an idyllic time, living in the nissen huts. He said it was a peaceful and calm place, but not a lot happened, so they used to spend most evenings in the pubs in Aylesbury. He especially remembered the Bull's Head pub in Market Square. He escaped to Canada during communism and lives in Hamilton near Toronto.

Neil Rees



Cracking Answers

A boxing ring
Put them in gravy boats
To check his balance



Ed is desperate for printable jokes -

Anonymity can be arranged for a small bribe.



Pub Jokes - Cooper One-liners

A jump lead walks into a bar.

The barman says 'I'll serve you, but don't start anything'.

A sandwich walks into a bar.

The barman says 'Sorry we don't serve food here'.

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

A man walks into a bar with a roll of tarmac under his arm and says

'Pint please and one for the road'.

Two cannibals are eating a clown.

One says to the other 'Does this taste funny to you?'

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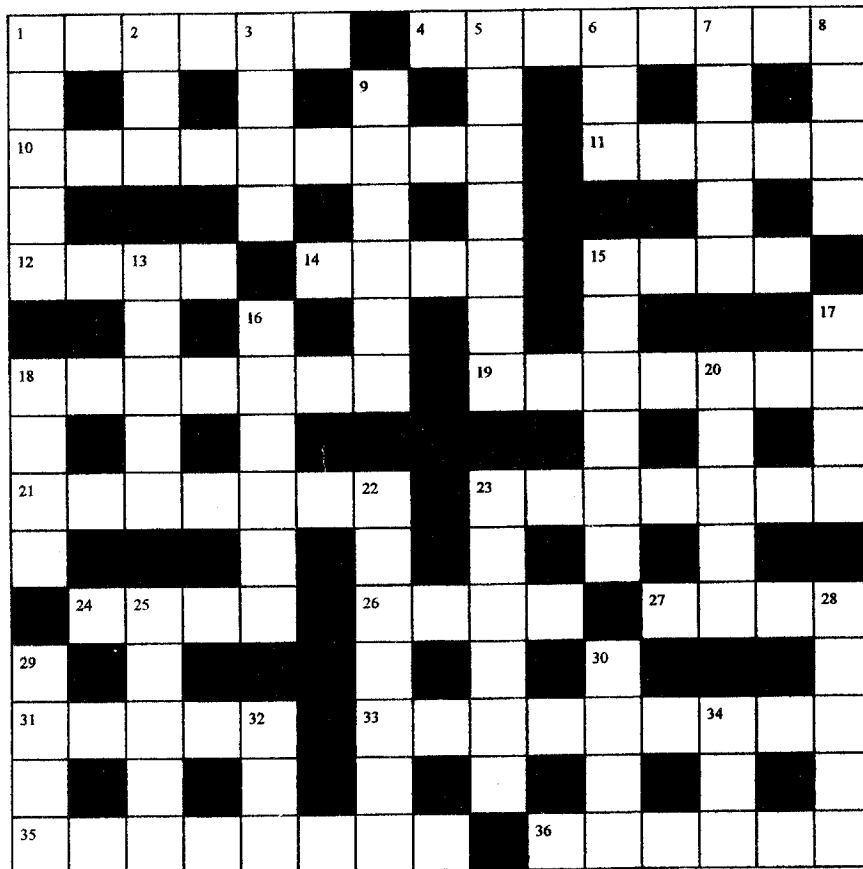
Rates are as follows:

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

January 2006



December Solutions

ACROSS 1 IPA 4 shed
7 up 9 bra 10 lesson
12 rio 13 crave 14 ate
15 as 16 boa 17 emu
19 at 20 pewter 22 RMT
24 aged 25 senior 30 SS
32 ballast 34 etna 35 ma
36 LPs 38 pa 40 poems
41 transvaal 45 icy 46 ie
47 devote 48 Christmas

DOWN 1 ibis 2 pro
3 AA 4 strata 5 elvers
6 deem 7 USA 8 potato
11 net 12 raja 13 cow
16 bed 18 urn 20 pen
23 mistletoe 26 examples
27 reissue 28 GB
29 llama 30 septic
31 starch 33 am
37 pm 39 Isis 42 Ayr
43 vet 44 Ada

DIAGONAL 9 and 21
Bob Willmott

ACROSS

- 1 Looking forward to it (6)
- 4 Chronicle is one (8)
- 10 Remembering (9)
- 11 Large bags (5)
- 12 Unit of length (4)
- 14 Lager at pub (4)
- 15 This month has 31 (4)
- 18 This month (7)
- 19 Savoury cheese dish (7)
- 21 In partnership (7)
- 23 Touched (7)
- 24 Mark left by wound (4)
- 26 - - - - of mouth (4)
- 27 Advance on your wages (1-3)
- 31 Darkness (5)
- 33 Raising of spirits (9)
- 35 Hand over (4-2-2)
- 36 Help with aches (6)

DOWN

- 1 Wander off (5)
- 2 Not AA (1-1-1)
- 3 No effect (4)
- 5 Having angles (7)
- 6 Donkey (3)
- 7 Skin irritation (5)
- 8 Opposite of West (4)
- 9 False shirt front (6)
- 13 American farm (5)
- 15 Bold (6)
- 16 Work hard (6)
- 17 Speak to you soon (abbr) (4)
- 18 Man's name (4)
- 20 Planted for Spring (5)
- 22 Comes from sawing wood (7)
- 23 Not quite (6)
- 25 Annoyed (5)
- 28 Start (5)
- 29 Hole in hedge (1-3)
- 30 Fuzzy hair (4)
- 32 Cows' make it (3)
- 34 - - - Amin (3)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

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St James Church

CHURCH SERVICES

	WING	WINGRAVE	ASTON A.	CUBLINGTON
1 Jan <i>Naming of Jesus</i>	At Wingrave 10.0	10.0 Parish Communion (All 4 parishes)	At Wingrave 10.0	At Wingrave 10.0
8 <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	10.0 Family Service Communion 18.0 Evensong	8.0 Communion 10.0 People's Praise (Lay)	10.0 Parish Communion	10.0 Parish Communion
15 <i>Epiphany 2</i>	8.0 Communion (Extension) 10.0 Parish Praise (Lay)	<i>Methodist Covenant</i>	At Cubl 10.0	10.0 Family Communion
22 <i>Epiphany 3</i>	10.0 Parish Communion	10.0 Parish Communion	18.0 Evensong (Lay)	At Wing 10.0
29 <i>Presentation of Christ</i>	At Aston 10.0	At Aston 10.0	10.0 Parish Communion (All 4 parishes)	At Aston 10.0
5 Feb <i>4 before Lent</i>	8.0 Communion 10.0 Parish Communion	10.0 Parish Communion	10.0 Parish Communion	10.0 Family Service (Lay)

SUNDAY READINGS

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
15	Epiphany 2	Revelation 5.1-10;	John 1.43-51
22	Epiphany 3	Revelation 19.6-10;	John 2.1-11
29	Presentation	Hebrews 2.14-18;	Luke 2.22-40
5 Feb	4 before Lent	1 Corinthians 9.16-23;	Mark 1.29-39

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

4 th Dec	Thomas Keane at Cublington
11 th Dec	Jamie Holland-Smith at Cublington

FUNERALS

30 th Nov	Mary Higgs at Aston Abbots
14 th Dec	Beatrice Newland at Wingrave
19 th	Joan Goldney 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	John Hardcastle	688070	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 Mout	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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nimue



fake Bake

What's On In January

Thursday 5th	Coffee and Shop	Church room 10.30 - 12
	Whist drive	Church room 7.30pm
Monday 9th	Parochial Church Council Meeting 8pm	
Wednesday 11th	Parish Council Meeting	Church Room 8pm
Thursday 12th	Coffee and Shop	Church Room 10.30 - 12
	Bingo	Church Room 7.30pm
Saturday 14th	Ramblers Club New Year Party Link House Great Brickhill 8pm	
Sunday 15th	Ramblers Club Members Meet at Tiddenfoot 2pm	
Thursday 19th	Coffee and Shop	Church Room 10.30 - 12
	Ladies Club	Church Room 2.15pm
	Whist drive	Church Room 7.30pm
Saturday 21st	Allotment Rent - please pay at Church Room 10.30 - 12 noon	
Sunday 22nd	Village Footpath Walk. Meet at the Green 2pm	
Sunday 22nd	Evensong	St James Church 6pm
Sunday 5th February	Rambling Club Members Meet at Calverton 2pm	

BOOK THESE DATES

Saturday/Sunday 22nd/23rd July Village Festival Weekend

Monday 5th - Monday 12th September Whitby Week *still 2x Twin 1x Single Room vacant. Book with Colin*

CHURCH SIDESMAN

8th Mr G Kemp
15th (Service Cublington)
22nd Mr A Bystra
29th Mr A Ford

CHURCH FLOWERS

7/8th Mrs A Goodman
14/15th
21/22nd Mrs Loader
28/29th Mr C Higgs

New Address

Please note that all future submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to John Hardcastle, Marloes, Lines Hill, Aston Abbotts, Bucks. HP22 4NG

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.

More Cracking Jokes

Mrs Smithers, you have acute appendicitis

I came here to be treated, not admired Doctor!

Waiter, your thumb is my soup.

Don't worry, sir, it's not hot.

Why did the teacher switch on the lights?

Because the class was so dim.

What do you call an ill highwayman?

Sick Turpin

Where your Christmas crackers more up market than mine?

Please let me know.. Ed

Classified

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

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



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

630 Club

Words of wisdom never spoken by a member of the 630 Club

There was a girl knocking on my hotel door all night last night. I finally had to get up and let her out - Dave Lewis

Ed - no it wasn't, it was Henry Youngman

If you do a job too well, you will get stuck with it - Phil Spooner

Ed - no it wasn't, it was Slous

'Shake me up, Judy' - John Hardcastle

Ed - no it wasn't, it was Smallweed in Bleak House

on the other hand I suppose it should be me. Ed

Page 23 for hot
Racing Tips



DOGHOUSE

Revelations

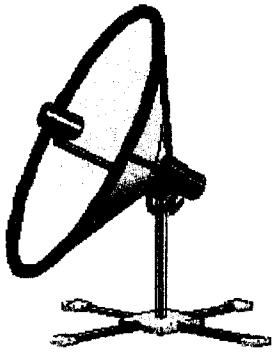
Page 7 -
Spooner tells
it how it was.

Next month it
will be page 3

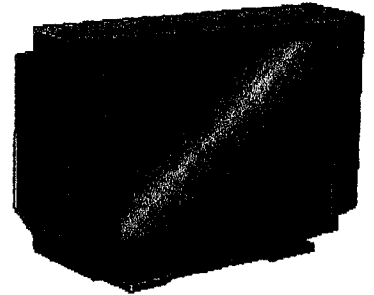


FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

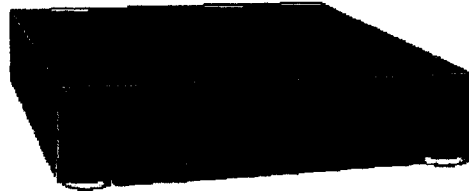


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Where is Dirty Harry?

Reward Offered for information on the whereabouts of

Mr Dirty Harry

last seen in a fine stand-up performance on stage at the Aston Abbotts Christmas Show. After John Whyte got him to wave at the audience, his whereabouts have become a mystery. One lady had a firm grip on him for a while, and a beaming Gnome is rumoured to have sat on him. Has he been kidnapped in retaliation for the yellow tie ransom demand? It's not like Dirty Harry to limp around getting lost - after all, he's a hard man with a good head on him. We believe that at least one audience member tried to woo him away, but just got shafted.

Anybody with information on the whereabouts of Dirty Harry should contact Alison, who is desperately worried about her special friend and wants him back.

R

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D