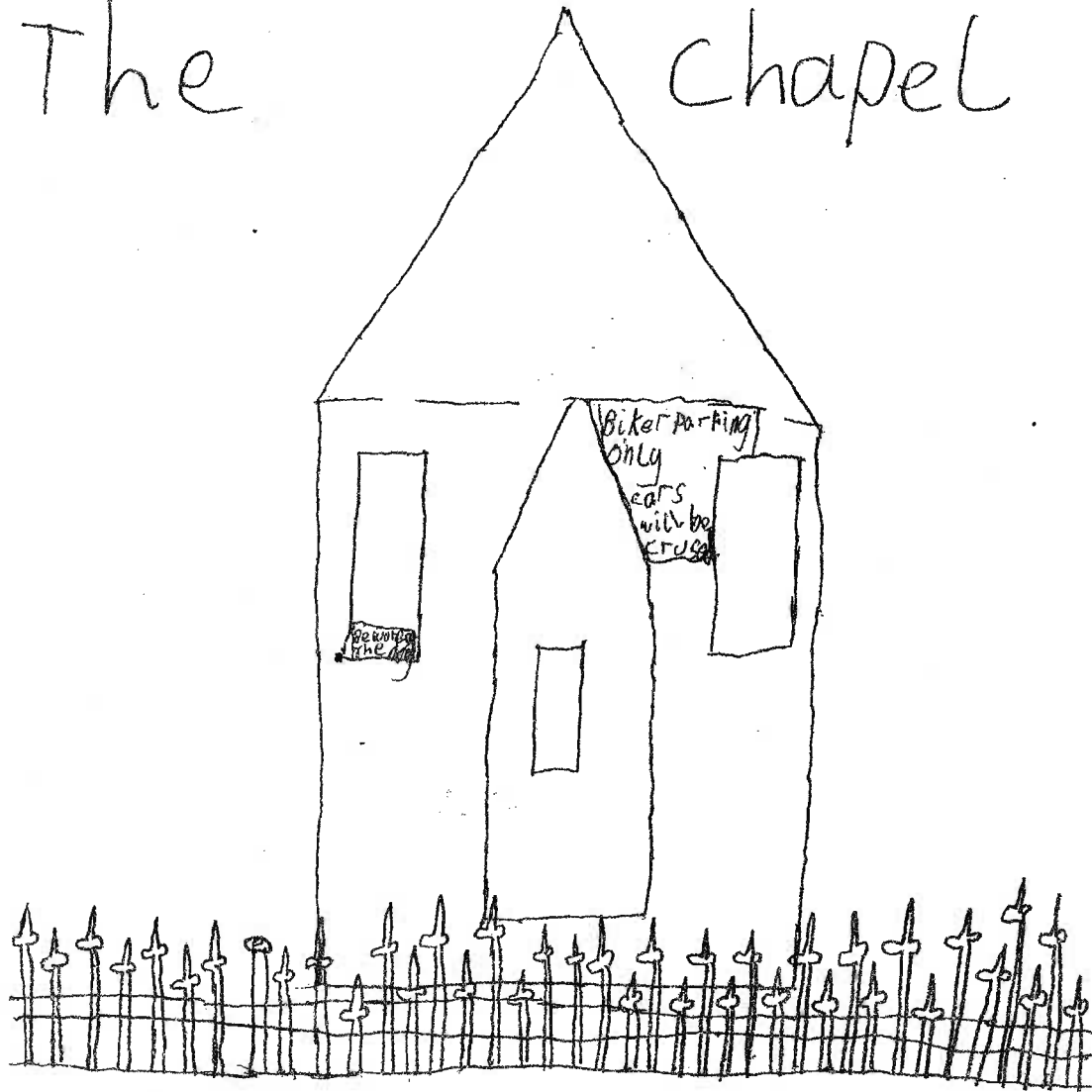


THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 259 ~ September 2006

The Chapel



MY VILLAGE

by Tom.s

Email : editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Editorial

A big thank you to Peter Knight for giving up a Sunday morning to dig out the old post and 'plant' a new one for the gate at the top of Lines Hill, which had suffered one 'direct hit' too many! Peter Curry acquired the new post and was Peter Knight's willing assistant

As many of you will know our Vicar, Bob Willmott, is retiring after 17 years of service. Through September he will be having a "Last Sunday" in each of the four parishes, ending with Wingrave on Sept 24th. Bob will be choosing the music to be played at a farewell Choral Evensong at Wingrave Parish Church on that evening at 6pm, with the Wingrave Singers. All welcome.

All being well he will conduct his last service in Aston Abbots on Sept 10th. Bob has mentioned that 'unusually' for the C of E, his successor has already been appointed. He is Derek Witchell. It is not yet known exactly when he will be taking up the post, some time in October - but Bob is sure that you will hear in plenty of time.

I know you will all join in wishing Bob and his wife Penny a happy retirement in their new home in Buckingham.

Despite the weather the Village Fete raised £1900 and I am grateful to the Fete Committee for passing on a percentage of the fund towards the cost of printing the Chronicle. Poonam Gupta worked very hard to make the Fete a success and many thanks are due to her and all the stall holders and helpers for their huge effort.

Another huge effort was Rocking the Rec. You can read in this issue the pride felt by all those who took part and that our village was able to put on such a brilliant event.

Phil Corrigan has put in much time to get our advertising on a firm footing. The rates have been increased in line with neighbouring villages (see page 36). Some of the ads in the Chronicle were out of time/not paid for and there has consequently been a small reduction in the number of pages carrying adverts.

Rain has thankfully freshened the garden and its time I gave the lawn a haircut.

John Hardcastle

In This Issue

- *Allotment Diary by Peter Shorrock*
- *Countryside Diaries by Peter Knight*
- *New Crossword by Rod Rothero*
- *Bob Willmott Retires*
- *Reports on Fete and Rocking the Rec*
- *Chicken Farm update*
- *Title Page* is eighth drawing on the theme of 'My Village' - please let me have your children's drawings for future editions. Many thanks to Tom Stefanczyk (9) who drew 'The Chapel' Ed

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 259

September

2006

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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)...

~o~

Copy date for the next issue is:

**Friday 22nd September
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

Alison's Gossip Column



September

Vannessa Worrall	3 rd
Piers Parker	4 th
Christopher Fox	6 th
Fiona Whyte	6 th
Sarah Smith	8 th
Claire Gresswell	14 th
Sally Palmer	18 th
Louise Palmer	20 th
Jane Ellis	20 th
Halisi Drysdale	22 nd
Stephen Oldfield	22 nd
Mel Smith	22 nd
Anna Picking	24 th
Alex Dutton	25 th
Liz. Hall	25 th
Lynne Maguire	26 th
Adrian Dixon	30 th

Don't forget to tell us about your birthdays, anniversaries, etc, so that we can send you a greeting in the Gossip Column

On an advert is added a cockerel - can you spot him?



Last edition's cockerel was hiding on page 24 Meadow Flowers

Whilst at Gnomes on Tuesday, did we really see two of our number exchanging kisses [that's putting it politely] with Three Czech Dignitaries!!

Get Well to my mother, Irene Lowden, who is having such a bad time at the moment, with arthritis in her back.

Get Well also to John Whyte who is recovering from an operation on his nose to correct his "steam train" breathing! [That's what Deirdre says- honest!]

Welcome home to Fiona Whyte who has been gadding about in Asia for the last six months.

From the lips of Ivan Greenaway – when it comes to alpaca mating – he goes for Sustainability!!

While the Copping family were on holiday in Portugal, their English Springer dog, Tess, went missing for 5 days before she was found. They would dearly like to know if anyone has any information as to her whereabouts from August 10th – 15th. They would also like to thank Liz Hall who found and looked after her. Tel. no. 01296 680370

Those of you who know Fran Osborn well, will know that she likes to arrive at meetings looking her best and therefore wears her rollers in the car and then removes them at the last minute! Well, now I've seen everything! I saw her in her Beemer with rollers AND yellow Marigolds! Is she a trendsetter or what!

From the National Archives where the Domesday book is now online:

In Cottesloe Hundred

The abbot himself holds ASTON ABBOTTS. It is assessed at 10 hides. There is land for 12 ploughs. In demesne [are] 6 hides, and there are 3 ploughs, and there could be 2 more. There are 7 villans with 12 bordars have 6 ploughs. There is 1 slave, [and] meadow for 3 ploughs. It is worth 101; when received 61; TRE 101. This manor belongs to the demesne of the Church of St. Alban.

This is a translation of Great Domesday Book Folio 145v

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Czech Ambassador's visit

Jan Winkler the relatively newly appointed Czech Ambassador has a great interest in history, including that of the Czech Government in exile during the second world war. It was natural therefore that he should want to come to Aston Abbotts to see for himself where Dr Benes had lived and worked during that period.

On the 22nd August, Neil Rees conducted him on a tour of our village accompanied by Petr Miller the retiring Defence Attaché (who had been so helpful to us when organising the 'Czech weekend here in 2005) and Petr's replacement Roman Krejci. They were accompanied by Kirsty, Vic & Christine Scott, Geoff Curnow, Jeff Bannister and myself. By 4.00 we were all pretty tired and thirsty so 'dropped into our house where Rita and April had prepared a very traditional English tea.

Since this was to be Petr's last visit before returning to the Czech Republic it seemed a good idea to all visit the Royal Oak for a drink. It was evident that our Czech friends enjoy English ale so one pint lead to another and eventually staying for a very nice diner generously paid for by Petre.

It so happened that it was Roman's birthday that day, and being a Tuesday, also 'Gnomes' night. One of the 'Gnomes' in our party 'let slip' about the birthday and they all came into the restaurant and 'serenaded' him with pretty robust version of 'Happy Birthday'! Great fun!

Czech event 2007

I reported in a previous issue of The Chronicle that in May this year, Wingrave invited the Czech Ambassador, his staff and veterans to celebrations held to mark the 61st anniversary of VE Day.

Plans are afoot to host a similar event in Aston Abbotts next year although it may be delayed slightly to be combined with the Czech 'Veterans Day'. The Ambassador is keen to maintain links between the Czech people and this village so has set aside Sun 24th of June 2007 for such an event.

It's early days yet but informal discussion suggests the day might be an opportunity for us to hold it as a 'village event'. It should commence with a church service followed by refreshments for our visitors. Thereafter however, it might include cricket, croquet and games for our youngsters on the rec. Catering in the evening could be accomplished by individual groups or families taking along picnics or even barbeques. We might even end the evening with 'entertainment'. If you have any views or suggestions on this event' or would like to be involved in it's organisation please contact April Curnow on 681459 or me (Andy Bystra 681690)



TREASURE HUNT ON 6th AUGUST

The day was warm and sunny and we arrived at the Church room for 2pm. Colin Higgs set us off on the hunt telling us that we would learn a lot about the village that we hadn't known before. He was so right and it was so much fun.

Some clues were cryptic, some were anagrams, some were so straightforward that we couldn't believe we had got them right. Some had a bit of a catch and took a lot of thinking about. We didn't get them all right by any means but we enjoyed the afternoon which finished with cups of tea on the green.

We were thrilled to bits to find that we had won but saddened to discover that we had been the only people to turn up. We didn't go because we had nothing to do. We had a very busy day but were able to spend a couple of hours enjoying the treasure hunt and supporting Colin in raising funds for the Church.

Colin organises many activities which in no small way have made the village an interesting place to be and all these things are advertised in advance. We do want to keep our Church open and these activities do raise a bit of money to keep it going.

Please can we have some support for the Harvest Supper which you will see the details on page 9 in the Chronicle.

April Curnow.

Open Letter to the Editor

To Peter, Adam and Piers

Having already send my condolences to you, I thought I would just share one or two anecdotes of 'my bestest every next door neighbour (s)'. If this reminiscence brings a smile to your faces for just a minute, I feel I will have achieved something.

My first recollection of Clare, shortly after Ray and I moved next door to you, was when we saw Clare wielding a pick axe in the garden (the very early stages of renovation!!). The next occasion was after Clare having k.....d, sorry broken, a couple of shovels in quick succession, I think it was Adam that decided the situation had to be addressed and the purchase of a NON-DESTRUCTABLE shovel was sought. Clare still managed to see that one off too. She was far happier cementing, repairing, tiling, anything manual, rather than housework or cooking, although in complete contrast. she was an excellent needle woman.

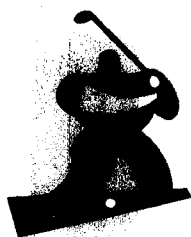
The thing that did and still brings a smile to my face was when you Peter (Clare always said he earns the money and Adam and I spend it on the Cottage), poor you, not liking to be left out (and knowing that DIY is not your forte), Clare 'allowed' you to burn off the paintwork to the dining room window; you managed to set light to the frame - oops!!

On a personal note, it is not easy to continue along life's way, but Clare would, I know be the first to give you all a blast of short sharp verbals and the music she chose 'always look on the bright side of life' sums up everything. A one off individual, who will be sadly missed by all she came in contact with.

My thoughts and love to you all.

Jackie (Coates) *Jacko and Toffee XX*

Congratulations to Nigel Palmer who captained Wingrave Bowls Club against Wingrave Golfing Society. Nigel is this years captain of the Golfing Society but on this special day, when the two teams battle for the Hanlon Trophy, he captained the Bowls Club.



If you've learned to speak fluent English, you must be a genius!! **Reasons why the English language is so hard to learn:**

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer.

An Aston Abbott senior citizen drove his brand new convertible out of an Aylesbury dealership. Taking off down the road, he floored it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left.

"Amazing!" he thought as he flew down A41, pushing the pedal to the floor even more. Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a police car behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. "I can get away from him - no problem!" thought the elderly speedster as he floored it to 100mph, then 110, then 120mph.

Suddenly, he thought, "What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!" pulled over to the side of the road and waited for them to catch him up.

Pulling in behind him, a policeman walked up to the driver's side of the car, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go." The man, looking very seriously at the policeman, said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a Herts Police Officer. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, Sir," said the copper



Aston Abbotts Fete 2006

It was a hot humid morning as the 630 club members and helpers moved at a sedate pace to set up the tables for the stall holders and April Curnow arranged then rearranged the Church Room for the teas. The hamburger and hotdog stall would have been ready at 1 o'clock, had it not been for a miscalculation in the combustion time of the charcoal; however, it was eventually persuaded to fire into action and the promised lunches of Indian and barbeque food became reality and enjoyed by all. By 2 pm, the Indian chefs were having difficulty in coping with demand with supplies nearing their critical level, but bangers and burgers continued to be served at a merry pace.

The garden's stall has become extremely popular in recent years and amateur gardeners and propagators in the village contributed to a wide variety and quantity of plants. In anticipation of continued hot weather, the amount of Pimms was doubled, and the ice cream stall holders were apprehensive that insufficient supplies had been purchased.

As the official opening time of 2 pm approached there was no sign of the our very own MP, John Bercow who was to open the Fete, but in the nick of time, at a sedate gallop he appeared from Moat Lane to give a brief opening speech with the exhortation that we all spend, spend, spend. As his parting words echoed away, the heavens opened and the rain began, and it rained continuously until the Draw was made at 4 pm.

The Great Horwood band eventually gave way in the struggle to play in the rain and decamped to the Church where they continued to entertain the large audience who had sought sanctuary from the weather. The tea room was filled with punters, but once having claimed a seat they were unwilling to move back outside into the rain.

The Morris men imbibed at the Royal Oak and were oblivious to the inclement weather and jingled on with their usual

entertaining performance, indeed they threw in a couple of extra dances to keep the spirits alive.

Perhaps the saddest thing of all was that the hundreds of books remaining on the book stall became completely water logged and had to be consigned to the waste paper bin.

At 4.30, the sun came out!

A reliable source of information in the village (a motor cycling fiend) says that this was only the second time the Fete had had rain in the last 20 years.

Although it might be expected that the proceeds would be down on previous years, the £2664 that was made is a great credit to all the stall holders for their persistence in continuing in such appalling weather and to Peter Knight who found much to amuse the crowds with his repartee. The village is indebted to Poonam who has successfully organised the last two Fetes and has been the driving force behind the introduction of Indian cuisine to this traditional English scene. We now need someone to take over the reins from her to organise next year's Fete.

The long term forecast for next year is sun and gentle breezes and, hopefully, no chicken farm to add an unwanted fragrance to the Green.

~ Dickie Dicken

Spirits remained high despite the wet weather

Fete 2006 Timetable

2.00 pm John Bercow MP opens fete

2.02 pm Rain starts

2.35 pm Rain gets really heavy

2.45 pm Rain gets really really heavy

4.10 pm Fete finishes

4.25 pm Rain stops



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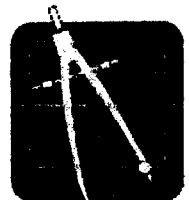
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ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE
2005 AND 2006 Village Fetes

RECEIPTS		2005	2006	EXPENDITURE		2005	2006
DRAW		£1,154.50	£752.60	Band		£115.00	£115.00
TEAS		£400.00	£253.00	Draw Licence		£18.00	£17.50
PIMMS		£313.00	£101.50	Draw Tickets		£69.92	£72.27
STALLS	Tomboia/Wine/Water	£142.40	£100.55	Draw prizes		£200.00	£200.00
	Cakes etc	£132.81	£151.69	Drinks Licence		£10.00	£21.00
	Gardens	£126.80	£213.00	Advertising		£8.00	£75.10
	Groceries	£36.17		Morris Men		£60.00	£75.00
	Bric-a-brac	£250.14	£111.15	Communications		£41.13	£81.69
	Ice Cream	£127.20	£4.41	Mr Custard		£125.00	£125.00
	Gifts	£148.90	£49.75	Flowers		£20.00	
	Books	£182.07	£114.19	Retained Profit			
	Childrens Toys	£143.00	£45.39			<u>£667.05</u>	<u>£762.56</u>
	Indian Cuisine	£454.20	£423.65				
	Crafts	£10.00	£20.00				
	Face Ptg /AA Honey	£87.50	£9.50				
	Czech Books	£12.00	£20.00				
		<u>£3,730.69</u>	<u>£2,370.38</u>				
SIDESHOWS				DISTRIBUTION			
& COMPETITIONS	Roundabouts	£30.00	£20.00	ST JAMES CHURCH		£1,439.56	£665.57
	Skittles	£61.55	£17.50	CHURCH ROOM		£369.89	£760.65
	Dog Show	£80.00	£25.00	THE CHRONICLE		£539.84	£285.24
	Lions	£25.00	£0.00	RECREATION GRD		£1,259.62	£190.16
	Traction Engine	£35.42	£0.00			<u>£3,598.91</u>	<u>£1,901.62</u>
	Coconuts	£77.30	£31.30				
DONATIONS		£225.00	£50.00				
CHURCH COLLECTING BOX		£21.00	£0.00				
Transfer from Deposit			£150.00				
		<u>£535.27</u>	<u>£293.80</u>				
GROSS PROCEEDS		<u>£4,265.96</u>	<u>£2,664.18</u>	NET PROCEEDS		<u>3,598.91</u>	<u>£1,901.62</u>

Not included in this account for 2006 is £15.50 from the garden stall - Dickie Dicken

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ALLOTMENT DIARY

When I first wrote this piece in mid-July – in the mistaken belief that there was going to be a Chronicle published in that month - I was tempted to follow tabloid journalists, and add a sub-heading, “Phew, what a scorcher!” Apart from the afternoon of the Fête, we enjoyed blue skies and hot sunshine for weeks. However, the end of July and August have seen normal service resumed, and the weather has been more what we expect of an English summer.

Nevertheless, the hot spell had an effect of vegetable growing. From the middle of June onwards, we have had a glut of fruit: first of all strawberries, then raspberries (as Shakespeare should have said, “*When raspberries come, they come not single spies, but in battalions*”), and then blackcurrants. I was pretty happy with my blackcurrant crop until I went over to chat to Vic while he was picking his: his were all the size of small grapes!

Courgettes seem to have thrived in the heat, and I have never known a crop like it. My courgettes, and those of everyone else to whom I have spoken, are growing and ripening faster than I can eat them – I have been picking on average two a day for the last six weeks or so, from just two plants, and they are still producing. First early potatoes – and now second early – are ready for eating; and some allotmenters have already pulled up their first crop of onions. I have also enjoyed the first carrots of the season. Sweet-corn, as you would expect, as a crop more commonly grown in hotter climates than ours, is also flourishing in this hot weather. Weeds, of course, are also doing well, but during the heat-wave, if you pulled them up, they stayed pulled up!

In the spring, Colin gave each of us allottees two pumpkin seeds, so that we could have a “largest pumpkin” competition. Not all the seeds have ger-



minated, but those that have, have done so in a big way. Some of my older readers will remember a TV series called “The Day of the Triffids”, which was based on a book by John Wyndham, about man-eating plants from outer space which start to take over the world. I am quite certain, having now grown a pumpkin plant, that Wyndham must have got his inspiration from having done the same: I have never known a plant grow so large and so fast! It is spreading over my allotment like an octopus, and despite my competitive streak and natural desire to win the contest, I am having to cut some of its limbs off, to give my other plants a chance.

Finally, I was fascinated to read recently in a Times article by Kate Muir, that owning an allotment has suddenly become very fashionable. As she nicely put it, the trend is “spreading like ground elder”. She said that at a voguish dinner party she went to recently, it became apparent that failure to own an allotment – or at least be able to discourse knowledgeably about plant diseases like club foot – meant social death. It is nice to know I am among the trend setters!

Peter Shorrocks

A man was trying to understand the nature of God and asked Him:

"God how long is a million years to you?" And God answered: "A million years is like a minute." Then the man asked: "God, how much is a million pounds to you?" And God replied: "A million pounds is like a penny." Finally the man asked: "God, could you give me a penny?"

And God said, "In a minute."

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Peter Knight's Countryside Diary - July

Because *The Chronicle* is not published in August you may have missed Peter Knight's July Diary which is published below

A friend in Wingrave recently remarked that my Countryside Writings were a little depressing – obviously I referred too often to something suffering or struggling to survive. The natural world is, of course, a battle to survive, eat or be eaten, with even the plants competing vigorously for light and food. Some win, some lose.

This remark got me thinking about the changes in the countryside I have seen around Wingrave and Aston Abbots in the 38 years I have lived here. I try not to judge if a change is 'good' or 'bad'. How can we judge? It seems a good thing that there are more barn owls in the area but more barn owls is a bad thing for mice and voles. Most things in the countryside are closely inter-connected and up for one species usually means down for another. Here are my observations.

Animals UP: deer, squirrels, badgers, mink

DOWN: hedgehogs, harvest mice, shrews, field mice, water voles, foxes

Deer numbers I find simply amazing and, as they threaten nothing, this could be described as 'good'. Squirrels are hardly persecuted these days and their numbers, I believe, have done a huge damage to the hedge-nesting population. They eat both young and eggs. Badgers are now too numerous in my opinion and are forcing the fox population into urban areas. The stupid release of mink has decimated bird life along our rivers and streams and virtually wiped out the water vole.

Birds UP: barn owls, green woodpeckers, magpies, crows, red kites, buzzards, kestrels, sparrow hawks, Canada geese, blue tits, goldcrests, collared doves.

DOWN: lapwings, partridge, linnets, yellow hammers, swallows, house martins, thrushes, sparrows, turtle doves, chaffinch.

Other than blue tits and goldcrests which have probably done well thanks to bird tables and mild winters, everything else on my up list, with the exception of geese and woodpecker is a predator. Together with the badgers destroying the ground nesting sites and the squirrels in the hedges, magpies and crows are putting impossible pressure onto many hedge-nesting birds. No wonder their numbers are going down!

Reptiles UP: newts

DOWN: frogs, toads, grass snakes

Plants UP: ragwort, dandelions, docks, cleavers

DOWN: elm trees, dog daisies

Insects UP: ants, butterflies, bumblebees

DOWN: flies in general

Now the point I am trying to make is that the countryside is thriving if you support the UP side but it's in trouble if you are on the DOWN. After all, is there ever a perfect balance? In my view, the death of all mature elm trees was a catastrophe. The rarity of lapwings, hedgehogs and water voles is a great pity and let's hope it's temporary. I rejoice in the number of deer, green woodpeckers and goldcrests. I am pleased to see more barn owls, red kites and buzzards.

Mink are a foreign killer that should be wiped out and I despair that the horse fraternity is allowing the colonization of ragwort into this area, which was once ragwort free (ragwort is a yellow flowering weed, highly poisonous to livestock). I am, of course, rather tired of hearing 'intensive agriculture' blamed for every change in the countryside – is that same intensive agriculture responsible for the exploding deer population?

I am convinced that the most important factor for diverse wild life is a diverse agriculture and a collapse of the livestock industry will bring huge changes. Every field of permanent pasture is a gold mine for wild life. What do you think? One thing worth reporting – driving from Wingrave on the Long Marston road last week, I suddenly saw a family of stoats, five or six individuals, running along the road straight towards my Land Rover. Fortunately I wasn't going very fast and they had plenty of time to make a sharp turn right and disappear into the hedgerow. A lovely sight! This sighting and the fact that a friend reported seeing a live hedgehog in his garden means things are looking UP!



Pete Knight

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Peter Knight's Countryside Diary August 13th

Living in these present times when we have to be so aware of 'Health & Safety' I feel I must start the month with a warning.

Do not read the following if you are of a nervous disposition or prone to nightmares. Readers under the age of 10 are to be encouraged as, if they can cope with Raol Dahl and Doctor Who, then they can cope with most things.

Foe me it began with an invitation – 'Do you fancy an interesting evening fishing?' – 'Not really' was my reply; you see, as a child, much as I longed to I could never catch fish. For some reason the friend I was with would land fish after fish and I would get nothing. We would change places – he would continue landing fish from my spot – I would move to his place and catch nothing. I always wanted to fish but no result inevitably led to no interest.

The only things I could catch from the river were crayfish – we would attach a piece of string to an empty bake bean tin, lower it into the water open end down stream – leave it overnight. The next day pull out the tin and 10/1 a crayfish would have made his home in there.

These were, of course, the original native crayfish – about 4 inches long and pretty harmless. The same as my father caught when he was a boy holidaying in Nuneaton – yes Nuneaton – not exactly the centre of the holidaying world. 99.9% of Leicestershire people went to Skegness for their holiday, where else? But of course Knights were different and my father was sent to an aunt in Nuneaton – where there was a canal and crayfish. Nuneaton crayfish were caught by a piece of bacon tied to a length of string – lower the bacon into the water, wait a decent interval and pull up the bacon with a crayfish attached.

So, you see, when my friend explained his invitation by saying 'We're after crayfish'. I naturally replied 'Count me in'.

Now, like most of you I had read and heard about the invading American that was now rampant in our rivers wiping out the native species and giving all underwater life a hard time. The big brash American crayfish was brought over to be farmed for the restaurant trade and like mink has escaped to cause havoc with native species in most rivers. (There's just something about Americans isn't there? – crayfish, mink, grey squirrels, Tony Blair!!). We were naturally going after American Crayfish. The chosen spot was a stream not 8' wide – a head water of the Cherwell in the Cotswold and the method of fishing was obviously the Nuneaton method – proven by time.

The bait we used was a dead rabbit, cut in half, with a

length of cord attached, the rabbit weighted with a piece of lead.

It was a beautiful evening when we arrived at the river with our rabbit, string and landing net, plus, optimistically, a large bucket for the catch. No need to be quiet, no need to be stealthy, just throw in the weighted rabbit and admire the scenery, wait 10 minutes, pull up the rabbit and nothing.

This non result happened four times and then the sun went behind a cloud and the light dimmed slightly. Pull up the rabbit and WOW! I was absolutely speechless. Four monsters attached to the bait – they couldn't be crayfish surely. They were 8-10 inches long, 2 inches wide – had a pair of huge red claws, each claw an inch wide and 2 inches long. Frankly they were huge, hideous and not a little frightening. Showing great courage my friend got a landing net under the catch and landed them – he then picked up the crayfish by the back of the head and dropped them into our bucket.

We pulled up the other baited line – 6!, back to the first line – another 6. This is crazy – in half an hour or so, we landed 30 of the hideous monsters from that one small stretch of a small stream. How many down there? How big can they get? Surely nothing else can live in there with these things about.

It was all quite amazing. If this was a genuine sample the numbers in the river Cherwell must not be thousands but millions – its all a bit like science fiction.

What did we do with them? – we boiled them up and ate them – delicious they were too – we used fencing pliers to crack the claws and could just manage to extract the meat from the tails with our fingers.

Whilst eating we fantasised about crayfish eating everything in the river and then coming out attacking sheep in the fields. Lone walkers on the Thames Path being dragged into the water by giant crayfish.

Take the idea – play with it. I leave you with one thought – I would now think twice or three times about paddling in the river.

Pete Knight



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ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 19th July 2006

PRESENT Cllrs. P. Shorrocks (Chair), D. Dicken, J. Farrands, R. Clarke, C. Higgs and Mrs. K. Curry (Clerk).
Apologies were received from Tom Manning and Margaret Hinds.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed, and there were no matters arising. No one was present from the District or County Councils or the Police.

The design for the proposed new bench on The Green was approved.

FIREWORKS – It was confirmed that the bonfire this year will be a ‘clean’ burn, with no material to be accepted from elsewhere; a notice will be put on the Rec gate to this effect, and a note in the September and October Chronicles. It may also be necessary to padlock the gate for a few weeks prior to November 5th to deter people from fly-tipping. The sum of £250 will be donated towards the cost of any fireworks bought.

PLANNING 06/01506/APP Os 3000 Cublington Road, Aston Abbots. Agricultural dwelling. The Parish Council resolved to oppose this application.

HIGHWAYS The A418 improvements were discussed – it was agreed that the Parish Council is opposed to the proposed roundabout, planned for Wingrave Crossroads. It was felt this would encourage drivers to use the village as a rat-run. Villagers will be encouraged to support this view when completing their consultation questionnaires.

RECREATION GROUND – The Recreation Ground Committee reported that all the new play equipment is now installed. Once it has been inspected final payment can be made. The Show Committee has agreed to take on maintenance of the shed on the Rec for the time being, though the Parish Council will continue to insure it. Quotes will be sought for repairs to the fence by the entrance to the Rec.

ACCOUNTS It was resolved to approve the addition of Peter Shorrocks to the list of cheque signatories, and the opening of a new deposit bank account for the purpose of depositing the S106 money from the Bull and Butcher development until it is spent.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th September at 8pm in the Church Room.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

November 5th – Bonfire Night

Please note that NO material can be accepted for the bonfire on the Recreation Ground this year. Anyone seen dumping rubbish in the area will be reported for fly-tipping. *The Parish Council.*

The Parish Council feels that the proposed roundabout at Wingrave Crossroads will not be good for the village as it will encourage people to use local roads as a rat run.

They would like to encourage other people to support that view, and to respond to the consultation by returning their questionnaires with comments against the roundabout.



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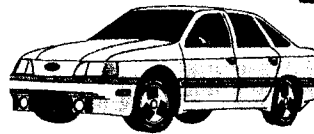
(*)Anything up to 4 sessions per week is paid for by Bucks County Council - the nursery is eligible to apply for funding for children aged 3 upwards (subject to availability). More information is available.



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Chicken Egg Production Units - Norduck Farm

No, the chicken farm has not gone away, but there have been one or two developments. As reported previously, we consider that Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) acted unlawfully in granting permission for the chicken farm and because our protests have fallen on deaf ears our last ditch means of objecting is to bring AVDC to Court for a judicial review. Our legal team has therefore now lodged the proceedings with the Court and we anticipate that a judge will study these during the next month. The outcome of his deliberations will determine whether or not our case has sufficient merit to be argued in the High Court; this would probably be held in December.

The applicant for the chicken farm, Mr Selwyn Williams, has submitted a further proposal to accommodate 12,000 chickens in the existing barn (see letter printed below). In the opinion of our lawyer the proposals as they stand would be unlawful and AVDC has wrongly advised him to the effect that planning permission for the proposals is not required. The key issues that militate against permission are that the barn has not been used for housing livestock for over 15 years, it is within 400m of private dwellings, an Environmental Impact Assessment screening opinion is necessary and the problems of bio security have been avoided. We await a reply from AVDC and Selwyn Williams. And so it continues!!!

Printed below is the letter/ 'Information Note' issued by Kinsale Agriculture on 17th August

NORDUCK FARM INFORMATION NOTE 17 AUGUST 2006

The Aston Abbots Residents' Association have indicated an intention to challenge AVDC's issue of a planning application 05/00258/APP on 25 May 2006. That judicial review is going to take some time to resolve. Consequently, and with a view to producing revenue from the site, it is necessary to introduce a short term interim measure.

We therefore intend to utilise the assets of the existing large barn to house up to 12,000 organic birds.

In addition to this we have recently acquired a mobile home which we intend to install on site in the very near future for the use of the manager.

The barn is approximately 53m long x 45m wide, built some 25 - 30 years ago as a dairy unit. The building is thus an established livestock unit and planning permission for these proposals is not required. We have checked that position with the planning department of AVDC.

We will convert part of the barn into two self contained livestock units holding a total of 12,000 birds on two levels following the construction of a mezzanine floor. The footprint of the conversion, which will be at the east end of the building, will equate to an area 44m long x 9.2m wide. The bird areas will be equipped with similar equipment to that described for the proposed new buildings of the 'development' and managed in accordance with the protocols outlined in the OMS.

Access to range for the birds on the ground floor will be via popholes constructed in the east facing gable of the main barn to the land area allocated to poultry house one of the 'development'. The birds from the upper bird area will have access to allocated for poultry house three ranging out of the north facing side of the main building through Freemason's Wood. Ideally we would like to install an overhead gantry across our farm track but with the likelihood of strong opposition from the residents in the old farm house and converted farm buildings we would no doubt need to submit a further planning application. We have therefore decided to bring birds to ground level via ramps at the side of the main building.

A gated enclosure will be constructed across the farm track with keypad activation to allow residents to access their properties throughout daylight hours. The gate would be open to residents when the poultry are indoors.

The integrity of the public footpaths and bridleway will be maintained.

We are under no doubt whatsoever that our original plan for the site would have had zero impact on the residents, however it does appear that this compromise is necessary pending delays brought about by the Court case.

We will nevertheless endeavour to make every effort to ensure that the environmental impact, of these interim measures, to the residents is kept to a minimum. It should however be said that with the overall level of activity in and around the barn, together with gated access, there will inevitably be some disruption to our neighbours living in the old farm house and barn conversion.

We will however endeavour to keep such disruption to a minimum. We will not, of course, be bound by the requirements of the Section 106 Agreement in respect of these works.

Building work will start in September 2006. Buildings will be completed and birds stocked from November onwards.

Kinsale Agriculture 17 August 2006

A young boy of four was going into hospital to have his tonsils removed. He told his playmate I'll be gone for a while I have to have surgery. On the day he was admitted his mother asked Dr. could you please circumcise him while he is asleep.

The Doctor agreed. The boy woke up and was very sore down there for several days.

After about a week he got to see his playmate again. The playmate informed him that he was also going to have to have his tonsils out soon. He asked him to tell him about the surgery.

The little boy replied 'all I can tell you is your tonsils ain't where you think they are.'

WHY GOD CREATED CHILDREN (AND IN THE PROCESS GRANDCHILDREN)

To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or students... here is something to make you chuckle.

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was "DON'T!" "Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit." God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve..we have forbidden fruit!"

"No Way!"

"Yes way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" said God.

"Why?"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!"

God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants.

A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was ticked!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" God asked.

Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!" "Did too!" "DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own.

Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

BUT THERE IS REASSURANCE IN THE STORY!

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself.

If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
4. Children seldom misquote you.
In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY:

Be nice to your kids.
They will choose your nursing home one day.

AND FINALLY:

**IF YOU ! HAVE A LOT OF TENSION
AND YOU GET A HEADACHE,
DO WHAT IT SAYS
ON THE ASPIRIN BOTTLE:**

**"TAKE TWO ASPIRIN"
AND "KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN"!!!!**



Valerie Osborn was given this poem by her 'best friend' Stella Hickman. The poem was written by Stella's cousin Tom Brookman.

THE VILLAGE STORE



I am looking at a picture of an old-time village store.
I can smell the streaky bacon and the sawdust on the floor,
The hand-cut pats of butter and the wire-cut lumps of cheese,
The brass scales shining brightly and the obvious need to please.
That wonderland of crowded shelves that met our youthful gaze,
Has 'service' lost its meaning in these modern high-powered days?

The bentwood chair to sit on for ladies with the 'screws',
The bottles wrapped discreetly for those who liked to booze.
Biscuit tins and sweet jars that filled our childhood dreams:
Barley sugar, ginger snaps, milk gums and custard creams.
Those huge mysterious canisters with gilded numbers on,
No doubt museum-pieces now the village store has gone.

Eiffel Tower and Spratts and Frys that now are just a name,
Others like MacFarlane-Lang that still remain the same.
Scrubbing brushes, sponges and cubes of Reckitt's blue,
Sausages from Harris, cooked meat and ox-tongue too.
Marmalade in stoneware jars - collect the golliwogs!
Bird seed for the parrot and biscuits for the dogs.

Cards of corn removers and Carters Liver Pills,
Ipecacuanha wine to cure you of all ills.
Sticky dangling flypapers stretching from the ceiling,
Cardboard signs and cut-outs, bright-coloured and appealing.
All these delights come flooding back from that old village store,
An image that is fadeless though the substance is no more.

Tours of Aston Abbotts

In case some of you have seen groups of people traipsing around the village, I thought I would explain that I have recently conducted 2 'Czech heritage evening walking local history tours' of Aston Abbotts. Last autumn I gave some talks about President Benes of Czechoslovakia in exile at Aston Abbotts and 2 local societies requested tours of the village. On Thursday 25th May I took a group of about 20 people from the Aylesbury Society with their leader Roger King. On Wednesday 21st June I took a group of about 40 people from the Historical Association (Buckinghamshire Branch) with their leader Roger Bettridge. Interestingly each group was joined by 2 or 3 local Czech people who had heard or been told about it.

On each occasion we started at the Royal Oak. We walked to the former Bull & Butcher and to the Green where the people saw the new lime tree planted by the Czech Ambassador last year. We then walked down Moat Lane to see the view over Aylesbury and up Norduck Drive to see the Nissen huts where President Benes's Czechoslovak bodyguards lived. We took the footpath through the field back the Green and onto the Church. In the churchyard we viewed the roses from the Czech village of Lidice, and the tomb of the Antarctic explorer Sir James Clark Ross. Each tour finished at the Royal Oak to practice the noble Czech tradition of beer drinking.

On both walks people commented on what a lovely and interesting village Aston Abbotts is. I can only apologise if I am letting the secret out a bit.

I am very grateful to Jeff Bannister for letting us see the Nissen huts.

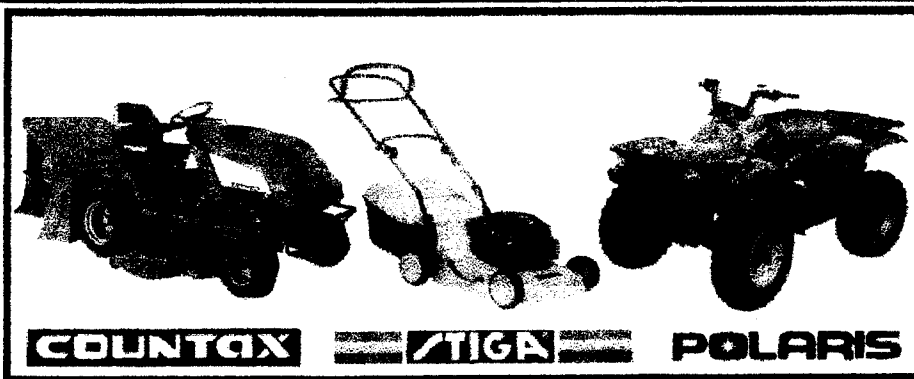
Many thanks to Victor Scott for joining the groups and telling his tales of President Benes. Many thanks also to the Royal Oak for use of their car park.

Neil Rees

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A SOGGY DOGGY SHOW



As soon as the clock struck 2.pm on Fete day, as the dogs and handlers gathered for the show, it began to rain, a few claps of thunder were thrown in for good measure and as the entrants sheltered beneath

a tree we decided to proceed with great haste.

At least it was warm rain I suppose, but dogs do not like the intense heat nor thunderstorms and their unfortunate owners were getting very damp. The entire show took about ten minutes

and I regret to say, I have little recollection of who won what as it was all a bit chaotic and the entry sheets with winners names disintegrated in the rain! For some reason Emma's bitch Numpty won Most Handsome Dog, though she did go on to win a place in Prettiest Bitch eventually! Other classes were, Dog with The Waggiest Tail, Scruffiest Dog, Best child handler and Best Puppy. A gorgeous golden retriever puppy won Best in Show. It was a great shame about the weather, as Lynne Manning had put a lot of effort into organising the show, just as she did last year, but thank you Lynne your efforts were much appreciated and surely next year the sun will shine again?!

Carol Spooner

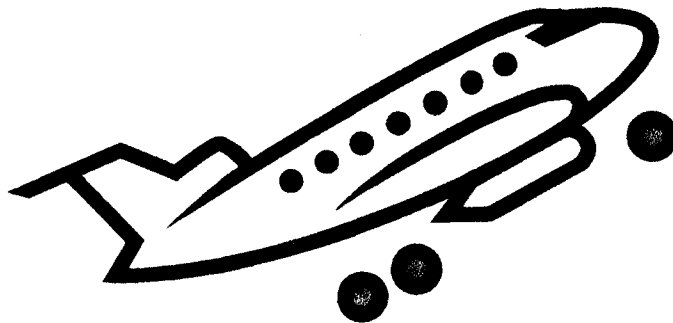
LUTON AIRPORT & AIRCRAFT NOISE

It would be difficult to fail to notice the increase in aircraft noise since May when the new flightpath came into effect. If aircraft noise is bothering you, you have a right to complain about it.

When an aircraft seems particularly low, close or noisy, note the date and time; if possible, estimate the plane's altitude. Then phone 01582-395382 (24 hrs), fax 01582-395500 or e-mail noise@ltn.aero. The best method is probably e-mail.

They are obliged to investigate your complaint and report back to you. If enough people complain often enough, maybe the Airport authorities will take notice. If we do nothing, no changes will ever be made.

Amanda Miscampbell
(Secretary, PAVAN)
Long Meadow
22 Mill Road
Slapton
Leighton Buzzard
Beds
LU7 9BT



The Computer Swallowed Grandma

The computer swallowed grandma.

Yes, honestly its true.
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have 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 'Inbox,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy,' 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me!

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas who have been fearless and learned to use the computer..... They are the greatest!!!

We do not stop playing because we grow old;
We grow old because we stop playing.
Never Be The First To Get Old!



WINGRAVE C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who collected vouchers for the school over the past year.

Orders for the following have been placed:

Sainsbury's (3,818) - a variety of sports equipment

Nestlé (640) - an assortment of reference and fiction books

Tesco (19,560) - two digital cameras

Please keep collecting Persil stars, Nestlé box tops and LBO Target Stamps.

Sondra Dickason and Caroline Daniels, on behalf of Wingrave School

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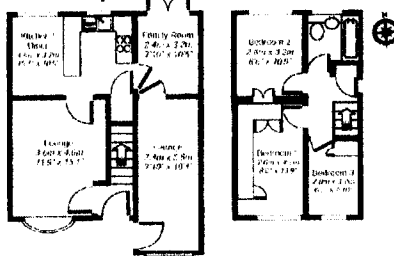
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Astonbury 5 (Rocking the Rec)



On the sun drenched evening of 15 July when Bob Bean announced "Welcome to Rocking the Rec" and Neil Nigel and Ant launched into a medley of Shadows hits to open the show it's fair to say that I relaxed and took a long drink of wine, not the first of the day some would say, and certainly not the last.

It was with great relief that the efforts of nearly 5 months work by a band of tireless volunteers had come to fruition, when I had been volunteered in my absence in Portugal to help arrange this I certainly had no idea of the time and effort it would take, the effort especially over the last three days was colossal.

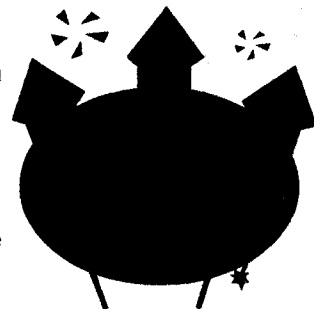
All those months earlier it seemed quite simple when Neil announced "I've sold the Boat let puts a show on at the Rec" So what do we need, a stage, some performers, lots of equipment, an audience and all the legal boring things needed to stage anything these days. What followed was months of begging and borrowing I don't think we resorted to stealing, and countless meetings in the Royal Oak during which the techies (Dave Lewis & Phil Spooner) would sit in the corner and mumble about amps and watts and power drop off, John Whyte would plead with us not to spend too much and Neil Cheshier would strut around saying "I need an audience I need an audience".

Somehow with three days to go it all seemed to be coming together, the stage had arrived, and everything seemed to be working we had had some very generous donations of equipment. On Friday after all the kit had been packed away only to have to be erected again the following day, the days events were being discussed, in the Oak where else, when Dave Lewis announced ***** the toilets haven't arrived. The day finally

arrived as did the toilets thankfully. As early 10 hours before the start people were erecting their gazebos and staking their pitches for the evening, it seemed that Neil would have his audience. Preparations carried on almost until the show started; there was a danger that Rod Rothero would still be painting the backdrops when the first chords were struck.

As said earlier Neil, Nigel and Ant started the show followed by a host of familiar and not so familiar performers, some village favourites Lynne Manning, Brigitte Brandon and Donna Rotherham all sang to great acclaim, the first half of the show being closed by the Vitae Drum circle who played an energetic twenty minute set. The Chunkees opened the second half followed by some more familiar faces and then the In Reverence Gospel Choir who certainly got the audience moving, followed by a very passable impression of Jim Morrison from John Whyte, then a great set from Simon Gresswell and his band which led into the ensemble finale, I didn't think the stage could hold so many people. A fantastic firework display ended the event courtesy of Lol Hinds.

That was it, all over, all that work by all those people over in just three and a half hours, was it worth it, without a doubt yes. This was a great village project and visitors from outside the village are amazed that a village of our size can put on event like this;



so well done Aston Abbots!

Without sounding like an Oscar speech there are a lot of people to be thanked, many have been mentioned in the above text, but thanks again to all of them, all who pitched in on the day and everybody who attended for making it such a success, and while it was great to see some new faces from the village it would have been better to have seen more new and familiar faces. A special thanks to Liz & Ivan for letting us use their electricity. Daniel Smith for looking after the parking and show lights and our sponsors Shillingford Scaffolding for the stage, Friars Square Shopping Centre, RGC Garden Machinery Aston Abbots Plumbing for their financial donations.

Finally will there be an Astonbury 6? I suggest you buy Neil a malt whiskey when you next see him and raise the question, - but first the Christmas Show!

Phil Corrigan

See next page for second photograph

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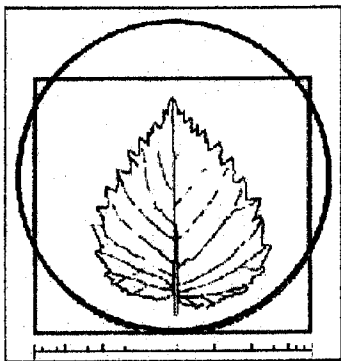
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Phil Spooner driving the sound desk



Dave Lewis reports 'On the Technical Side'

Many months of planning had gone into the preparation of this year's Astonbury event. Many evenings in the Royal Oak Arguing / Discussing the extent of what could be achieved with the modest equipment that the village had acquired over the years. Eventually it was decided that YES we could stage the event by borrowing most of the public address equipment. Phil Spooner managed to scrounge an excellent mixing desk and Phil Corrigan, through many business contacts managed to acquire some excellent audio equipment and lighting, he also acquired much cabling and other things including fire extinguishers. It appears that he can obtain almost anything just ask!

The Stage. Staging was going to be an issue, many suggestions came forward, and then Andy Shillingford mentioned that his brother Martin ran a scaffolding company. I contacted Martin and he agreed to meet me to discuss our requirements. I thought I was being a bit adventurous but Martin agreed to provide a stage and erect it.

Other trips followed to explore possibilities of scrounging sound equipment.

In no time at all the Wednesday before lift off was upon us and it was time for stage erection. Shillingford Scaffolding arrived with Martin and his crew and they assembled a magnificent stage that exceeded our expectations, Thank you again Martin.

The Thursday and Friday were spent putting all the components into place. This also meant running 2 large electricity feeds from Liz & Ivan's in Nashes Farm, they were away on holiday so did not notice how much electricity we stole. Rod Rotheroe spent hours making & painting the backdrops & generally helping where ever he could Thank You Rod. Indeed Thanks go to all who helped throughout those last three days you all know who you are and we probably would not have been ready without you.

Friday evening and rehearsals were being run through, it was now that Phil Spooner and I discovered that the sound system was barely coping and many other technical difficulties were emerging.

Then at 5.30pm a good friend of mine Jerry Judd arrived in a large silver van that he hijacked from where he worked, it was full of some of the largest loudspeakers I have seen together with two enormous amplifiers to drive them. Phil Spooner and I agreed that we would need the whole of Saturday morning to replace the audio system with the new kit. I was awarded the task of telling Neil and the other Artists that we must not be disturbed until after lunch, Thanks guys for your understanding, I was very nervous of how things were going and I knew you did not want to hear about what could not be achieved at this late stage.

Lunch time and we were up and running Jerry's sound system provided by

Martin Audio of High Wycombe was magnificent, so much sound with no distortion. Afternoon rehearsals continued and Phil Spooner was by now locked to the sound desk mixer, every artist had different microphones and sound settings and Phil methodically noted all the differences and provided us with a perfectly mixed sound arena.

I spent the last few hours tweaking the lights and illuminating the toilets.

T minus 30 minutes.

I ran around checking all the last minute details and was surprised that all was in order and countdown could continue.

Everyone was in place Phil Spooner at the sound desk, Daniel Smith on the lights & smoke machine, Comperes, Alison, Polish Andy & Bob Bean waiting with bated breath & Neil looking relaxed in the misplaced confidence that the technical team knew what they were doing.

Eventually Bob Bean opened with Ladies & Gentlemen welcome to Astonbury 5 Rocking the Rec.

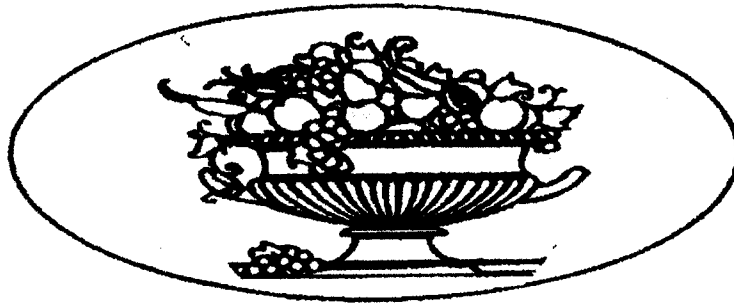
I spoke to many of the audience during the evening and everyone agreed what a great performance everyone gave.

Aston Abbots, A very small village that managed a very big production.

Well done everybody, all the artist's and all of the helpers, all of the sponsors both financial and with equipment.

I feel proud to have been part of it all.

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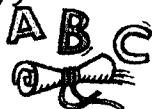
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PCSO Recruitment Campaign

Thames Valley Police launched a huge campaign on 14th August to recruit more than 500 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to support the roll out of Neighbourhood Policing across Thames Valley. They are looking for confident, level-headed team players with a mature and positive outlook on life. A good PCSO is able to communicate and empathise with people from different backgrounds in a range of situations and is approachable and able to focus on the needs of the community.

PCSO CASE STUDY - PCSO Paula Boston

PCSO Paula Boston works in Wing, near Aylesbury, and is the Thames Valley Police PCSO of the Year 2006.

"I've always enjoyed jobs which involve working with people - in the past I've been licensee and have worked in restaurants - and when I saw the publicity for the PCSO role I was interested straight away.

"Doing something more community based and spending every day out and about with a real cross section of people is giving me the ability to make a difference. The community have been fantastic; they have welcomed me and have been supportive of me and my role.

"As a PCSO, my greatest power is communication. It is so important that I'm able to build relationships with a wide range of people - the public, colleagues and also other services like the council and the youth service. These relationships give me the ability to make changes by building partnerships.

"Getting to know the community helps you discover the issues and get involved in solving them. Here in Wing we had a few anti social behaviour issues. We got a community meeting together and managed to sort the problem out - the probation service assisted with removing graffiti and we are all getting together to campaign for a games area for the young people.

"If you are a people person and you want to make a difference, it is a fantastic job. You have the full support of everyone within Thames Valley Police and, after a few months, you have the whole community working alongside you too."

There are vacancies across all of the Aylesbury and Buckingham Police Area. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a PCSO for Thames Valley Police ask them to contact the national recruitment line on **0845 600 0925** for an application pack or log on to www.rewardingrole.co.uk for more information about the role.



Law of Mechanical Repair: After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.

Law of the Workshop: Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

Law of the Telephone: When you dial a wrong number you never get a busy signal.

Law of the Alibi: If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tyre, the very next morning you will have a flat tyre on the way to work.

Variation Law: If you change traffic lanes, the one you were in will start to move faster than the one you are in now.

Bath Theorem: When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

Law of Close Encounters: The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Law of the Result: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Biomechanics: The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

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2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane ~ 681137

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6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

MARGARET KENT

6 The Green ~ 681454

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Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

JACKIE FARRANDS

1 Norduck Cottages ~ 681182

DICKIE DICKEN

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TOM MANNING

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

District Councillor

PETER COOPER

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham ~ 681250

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Never Argue with a Woman

One morning the husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, and reads her book. Along comes a Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, "Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?" "Reading a book," she replies, (thinking, "Isn't that obvious?"). "You're in a Restricted Fishing Area," he informs her. "I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading." "Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up." "If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman. "But I haven't even touched you," says the game warden. "That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment." "Have a nice day ma'am," and he left.



Are you a dab hand with a roller and brush?



Older people in Aylesbury
Vale need you!!!

Volunteer Decorators needed to help with a
brand new project!

The Vale Volunteers Decorating Project aims
to provide a basic interior decorating service
to older and disabled people across
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A fresh lick of paint can really lift someone's
spirits. If you have time to spare one day a
week or a fortnight we
would like to hear from
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Contact:

The Project Co-ordinator
Vale Volunteers

Tel: 01296 337456

Email: gardening@valevolunteers.org.uk



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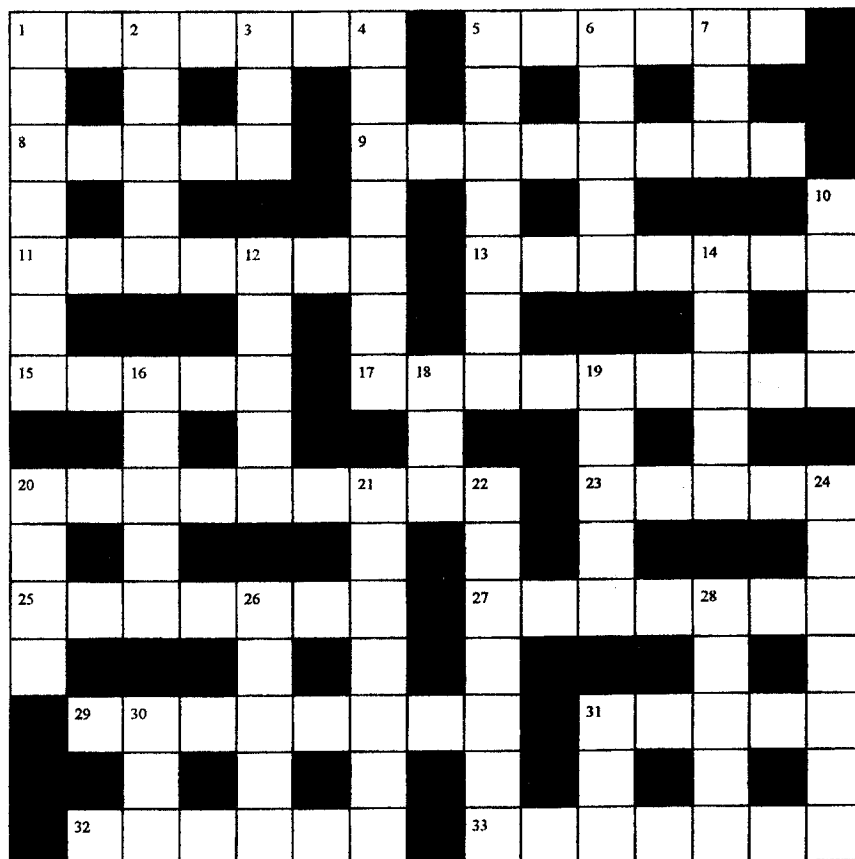
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The Chronicle Crossword

SEPTEMBER 2006



July Solutions

ACROSS

- 1 Answer 4 Carry off
 10 Terrified 11 Gloat
 12 Nose 14 Ciao 15 Seen
 18 Abbots 19 Deviate
 21 Derange 23 Annuity
 24 Used 26 Test 27 Anon
 31 Preen 33 Anecdotes
 35 Suns rays 36 Mainly

DOWN

- 1 Aston 2 Sir 3 Edit
 5 Android 6 Rug
 7 Ozone 8 Fete 9 Limits
 13 Sober 15 Saving
 16 Stoned 17 Rely
 18 Aide 20 Align
 22 Estuary 23 Answer
 25 Stern 28 Nosey

ACROSS

- 1 Needed on a long walk (7)
 5 Prosper (6)
 8 Large group of people (5)
 9 Permitted (8)
 11 Capital of Kenya (7)
 13 Dishonourable (7)
 15 Loud Shouts (5)
 17 Angry (9)
 20 Large dog (5-4)
 23 Not straight (5)
 25 Rice dish (7)
 27 Perfumed (7)
 29 Start (8)
 31 Type of brooch (5)
 32 Not open (6)
 33 The Big Apple (3-4)

DOWN

- 1 Eastender (7)
 2 Type of large radish (5)
 3 Not subtract (3)
 4 African language (7)
 5 Added up (7)
 6 Tree with Red berries (5)
 7 Coq au — (3)
 10 High temperature (4)
 12 Beginning (5)
 14 Opposite of White (5)
 16 Yorkshire city (5)
 18 Lives in a convent (3)
 19 Fruit of the vine (5)
 20 Hindu teacher (4)
 21 Decorated item (7)
 22 Oriental (7)
 24 Marriage (7)
 26 Large heavy books (5)
 28 Musical speed (5)
 30 Night bird (3)
 31 Crows call (3)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

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CLERGY COMMENT

After having the privilege for the last thirty years of being able to write a page each month for various village magazines, this may probably be my final page.

Knowing that those pages were to be read by real, ordinary people, I tried to make them fairly varied and (hopefully) not too religious and "holy". But I did try (sometimes quite hard) to let a little bit of God show through.

If there was an underlying message, it is simply this: that God loves us just as we are. It doesn't matter that sometimes we screw things up. God goes on loving us. When we are feeling on one of life's highs – God is there with us, sharing our joy. When we want the ground to open up and swallow us because things seem so awful, God is still there with us, loving us when we don't love ourselves and willing us to pick ourselves up and to carry on with our lives.

None of us are saints – and I am told that saints can be terribly difficult to live with! We may at times get on people's nerves – but usually it is not because we are being saintly!

Unfortunately we often think that we are not good enough for God to love. The Church sometimes gives the impression that it is only there for those who can manage to keep their lives under control – who can understand all the long words and quaint and curious customs and costumes.

The trouble is that we spend all our time trying to work out our relationships with God and each other. There are times when we do not seem to be speaking the same language. There are times when we do things that are misinterpreted and misunderstood. One minute we think that we are working for a common goal – and then we discover that someone has moved the goal posts – or is trying to move us in a different direction. It is no different in our day to day existence than in the church.

Yet when we give ourselves the opportunity to take a step back from confrontation, we discover that deep down we do still get on with each other. Fundamentally, despite all our angst, despite all our tantrums, all our funny little ways – people are good, our world is good, and yes, God (however we want to picture him) is good too.

Maybe we struggle sometimes with the God bit – but even in our worst moments we know that there is a "source of goodness" that is not just in our imagination. I never was very good with words – even after all these attempts – but I still believe that our attempts to love and support each other are an attempt to reflect the love and support that we receive from God (the source of goodness).

Bob Willmott

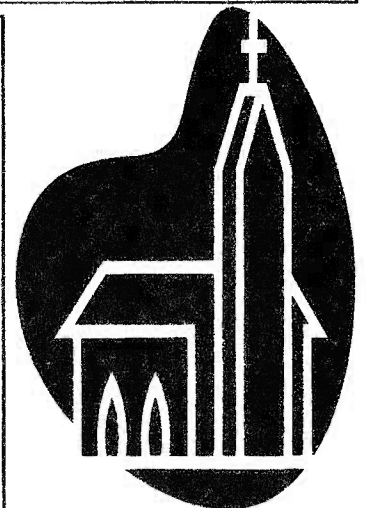
Parochial Church Council

Rev Bob Willmott 681623	Gordon Kemp 681763
Shirley Ford 681865	Ann Goodman 681763
Andrew Ford 681865	Colin Higgs 681343
Andy Bystra 681690	April Curnow 681459

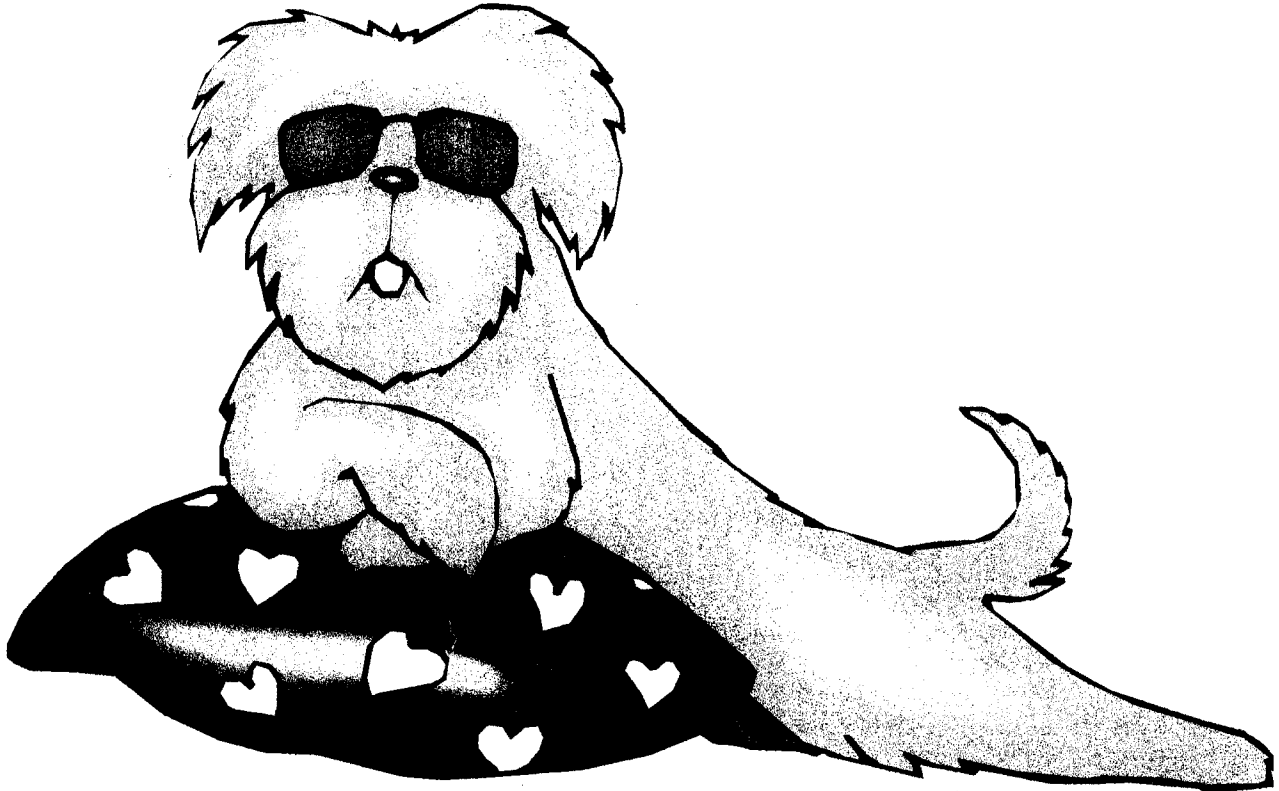
The Churchwardens and Members of the PCC wish to thank the Festival Committee for their share of the Fete proceeds which goes towards the Church expenses.

Evensong Services

are as follows
Sept 24th
(Harvest Festival
& supper)
Oct.22nd
following
(Concert and
refreshment)



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Bob Willmott's retirement as vicar of this Parish

As announced in the last edition of the Chronicle, Bob Willmott is to retire this month (September). Bob became our Priest in Charge seventeen years ago following on from John Heffer. He has always been on hand for baptisms, weddings and funerals in the village and has conducted them with great sincerity. Bob didn't seem to find time to be involved much with the village outside of his Church duties and to some appeared almost shy. However, he was well aware of village activities and has always been willing to listen to ideas and offer advice. His rather 'laid back' and often humorous approach meant that his style of service usually matched the needs of the moment.

Many changes have happened within the Church during the time he has been with us.

Several years ago, in addition to responsibilities for Aston Abbots, Cublington & Wingrave Bob had to assimilate the parish of Wing into his workload. This reorganisation went quite smoothly, in no small part due to his hard work and organisational

skills, but of course involved him in a lot of additional work and he had to spread himself even more thinly over a developing Benefice.

Church attendance in Aston Abbots was probably at it's lowest by this time (typically five or six!) but these have slowly and steadily increased to nearer fourteen or sixteen now. This has been due to Bob's encouragement and the introduction of some very 'user friendly' lay lead services. Particularly popular are monthly Evensong Services at which Nigel Palmer often plays the organ.

Bob's talents have not been restricted to solely religious duties. He has impressed many of us with his practical skills and in particular he has drawn deeply on his earlier engineering background to prove himself a dab hand at repairing our sometimes temperamental church clock. Perhaps we will have to call him back the next time it stops!!

Anyway, I'm sure all in Aston Abbots would like to wish Bob a very happy and long retirement.



Our new Vicar

Following the announcement that our Vicar would be retiring in September, three candidates for his replacement were interviewed. They were all very good but the successful candidate was Derek Witchell. He takes up his duties some time in October and both he and his wife will be moving into the vicarage in Wing shortly.

There is likely to be a 'welcoming' Service so that Derek can get to meet his parishioners some time towards the end of Oct. or early Nov. Details will be announced in the next Chronicle and it is hoped there will be a good attendance to ensure he is given a warm 'Aston Abbots' welcome.



Aston Abbots 'Hell's Angels'

Our first outing as a group involved something like seven riders, (a pretty eclectic bunch) riding an assortment of bikes ranging from 'pocket rockets' through large and noisy cruisers to near vintage machinery. The idea was to drive the long way round (via Buckingham and Bicester) to Postcombe near Thame. The attraction of this destination is a pub called The Rose of England where bikers meet on a Sunday to enjoy each other's company and a great full English breakfast.

It was not such good start for our second 'ride out' last month. There were to be ten of us but three riders coming to join us had a problem when one of their number dropped her bike and ended up in hospital. Dangerous stuff this biking! Particularly as she hadn't even driven off her drive!

Back in 'Aston' a flat battery on Sally's brand new bike

(women shouldn't be allowed near anything mechanical) prevented it from starting and jump-starting meant the engine couldn't be switched off for quite some time leaving Sally in 'the hot seat' (literally she said!). Another turned up with no fuel so we all had to go in the opposite direction than we wanted to go to find petrol. Eventually however, we set off through beautiful country lanes and villages on a somewhat torturous but pretty route to the other side of Towcester. It was clear as we had breakfast at Jacks Hill café that not all were impressed with the route and wanted to go home on faster roads. A couple of us continued north, through Canons Ashby, Brackly and home. Another enjoyable Sunday ride.



The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	Parish Clerk	Kate Curry	681137
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrocks	681260
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Police	Emergencies	999
Buses	Arriva	468730 or 423445	Police	Non-emergency	0845 8 505 505
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763	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	640507	Toddlers Group	Claire Greswell	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)	682964
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865	Wingrave Post Office	(Stores)	681696
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave School	Office	681436
Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838			
Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229			
NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Line	0845 46 47			

Please let us know of any errors or omissions

CHURCH ROOM BOOKINGS

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

Rates are as follows:

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

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

Scenario: You are driving in a car at a constant speed.

On your left side is a valley and on your right side is a fire engine travelling at the same speed as you.

In front of you is a galloping pig which is the same size as your car and you cannot overtake it. Behind you is a helicopter flying at ground level. Both the giant pig and the helicopter are also travelling at the same speed as you.

What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

Answer: Get off the Children's Merry-Go-Round.

THE CHRONICLE

Advertising rates per annum

FULL PAGE	Back	£100
	Inside	£ 80
HALF PAGE	Inside	£ 40
	Quarter Page	£ 25
ONE OFFS	Full	£ 20
	Half	£15
	Quarter	£10

Seasonal and short term ads are also accepted at these rates

Send copy and cheque payable to

'The Chronicle' to

Phil Corrigan

5, Nash's Farm, Aston Abbotts, Bucks

01296 688191

corriganpc@aol.com

St James Church

CHURCH SERVICES

	<u>Wing</u>	<u>Wingrave</u>	<u>Aston Ab-</u> <u>botts</u>	<u>Cublington</u>
<u>Sunday 3</u> <u>Sep</u> <u>Trinity</u> <u>12</u>	<u>8.0 Com-</u> <u>munion</u> <u>10 Parish</u> <u>Communion</u>	<u>At Aston Ab-</u> <u>botts 10.0</u>	<u>10 am Par-</u> <u>ish Commu-</u> <u>ion</u>	<u>10 am Fam-</u> <u>ily Service</u>
<u>Sunday</u> <u>10</u> <u>Trinity</u> <u>13</u>	<u>10 am Fam-</u> <u>ily Commu-</u> <u>ion</u> <u>6 pm Even-</u>	<u>8 am Com-</u> <u>munion</u> <u>10 am Peo-</u> <u>ple's Praise</u>	<u>10 am Par-</u> <u>ish Commu-</u> <u>ion</u>	<u>10 am Parish</u> <u>Communion</u>
<u>Sunday</u> <u>17</u> <u>Trinity</u>	<u>8.0 (Ext)</u> <u>Communion</u> <u>10 am Par-</u>	<u>10 am Par-</u> <u>ish Commu-</u> <u>ion</u>	<u>At Cubling-</u> <u>ton 10.0</u>	<u>10 am Fam-</u> <u>ily Commu-</u> <u>ion</u>
<u>Sunday</u> <u>24</u> <u>Trinity</u>	<u>10.0 am Har-</u> <u>vest Festival</u> <u>Eucharist</u>	<u>10 am Parish</u> <u>Communion</u>	<u>6.0 Even-</u> <u>song</u> <u>(Harvest)</u>	<u>At Wing 10.0</u>
<u>Sunday 1</u> <u>Oct</u>	<u>8.0 Com-</u> <u>munion (Ext)</u> <u>10 am Par-</u> <u>ish</u>	<u>10 am Har-</u> <u>vest Festival</u>	<u>At Wing 10.0</u>	<u>10 am Har-</u> <u>vest Festival</u>

DUTY SIDESMAN
3/9 Mr G Kemp
10/9 Mr A Bystra
17/9 No Service
24/9 Church Wardens

FLOWER ROTA
2/3 Sept. Mrs Goodman
9/10 Mrs S Ford
16/17 No Service
23/24 Harvest
30/1 Oct Harvest

MOWING ROTA
9th Sept Gordon Kemp
23 Andy Bystra
7 Oct Ray Wilkinson



SUNDAY READINGS

3 Sep	Trinity 12	James 1.17-27;	Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23
10	Trinity 13	James 2.1-19,14-17;	Mark 7.24-37
17	Trinity 14	James 3.1-12;	Mark 8.27-38
24	Trinity 15	James 3.13-4.3,7-8;	Mark 9.30-37
1 Oct	Trinity 16	James 5.13-20;	Mark 9.38-50

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM	30 July	Finlay & Pippa Jordan at Wingrave
MARRIAGE	29 July	Ian Challis & Kelly Daniels at Wingrave
	5 Aug	Aled Lloyd-Jones & Amanda Bignell
FUNERAL	2 Aug	Doris Charles at Wingrave
	4 Aug	Skaidrite Sutton at Aston Abbots & Amersham

Aylesbury and Bucks Pest Control by MSC Ltd

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‘Don’t get stung this summer’ by unwanted guests

Wasps, Mice, Rats, Squirrels, Crows,
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Call Jim on

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or Email on jim@mtsfc.co.uk

What's On In September

Friday 1st September	Refuse Collection (not Thursday)	
Sunday 3rd	Rambling Club meet 2pm	Stockgrove
Monday 4th	Coach departs for Whitby 8.45am	Bull & Butcher
Wednesday 6th	Parish Council Meeting 8pm	Church Room
Thursday 7th	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
Sunday 10th	Tudor Fayre Charter Day	Aylesbury Town Centre
Monday 11th	PCC Meeting 8pm	Church Room
Thursday 14th	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Sunday 17th	Four Church Quiz Start at Wing/Cublington or Aston Abbots to Wingrave for tea. Entry Fee £2.00	
Thursday 21st	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
Sunday 24th	Rambling Club Meet at the Green 2pm	
	Harvest Evensong 6pm followed by supper (Tickets from PCC Members)	Church Room
Thursday 28th	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room

There is now an additional bus daily from Aylesbury at 2.45 calling at Wingrave, Aston Abbots and Cublington

Saturday 9th September FREE 12noon - 5pm

Discover the lost village of Quarrendon

Free Shuttle Bus Aylesbury Station 12noon - 4pm

(There is no public parking at the site)

Meet Lady Lee & Thomas her peasant

Listen to Elizabethan songs in the ruins of the church

See an archaeological survey in progress

Handle real 500 year old pottery

There will be stalls and facilities at the drop-off point but the site itself is a pleasant 20 minute stroll through fields over rough grass, so wear suitable footwear

Classified

FULL LIVERY available for 1 horse/pony at private yard in Aston Abbots - very competitive rates.

Phone 01296 681182

TO RENT 3 bed semi detached house in Aston Abbots, garden, central heating - £795 pcm. Call Sally or Andy 01296 682716

FOR SALE Tefal Electric Steamer 3 tier, ultra compact stackable baskets, 9 litre capacity, 60min. Timer. Used 3 times, cost £30, £15 - also Kenwood Chef Food Processor with various attachments £15 ono

phone 01296 681544

Address

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

Email submissions to:

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

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

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle. Phone us on 01296 688191 or email editor@aachronicle.co.uk

630 Club

The Tug of War Team is undefeated

In future all visitors to the Oak will need to bring a countersigned permission in triplicate.

APPLICATION FOR A NIGHT OUT WITH THE 630 CLUB

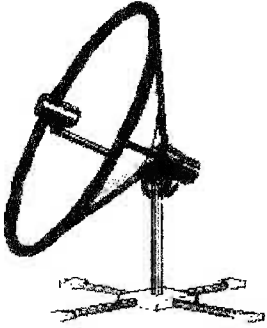


I acknowledge my position in life. I know who wears the trousers in our relationship, and I agree it's not me. I promise to abide by your rules & regulations. I understand that this is going to cost me a fortune in chocolates & flowers. You reserve the right to obtain and use my credit cards whenever you wish to do so. I hereby promise to take you on an unlimited shopping spree, should I not return home by the approved time. On my way home, I will not pick a fight with any stranger, nor shall I conduct in depth discussions with the said entity. Upon my return home, I promise not to urinate anywhere other than in the toilet. In addition, I will refrain from waking you up, breathing my vile breath in your face, and attempting to breed like a (drunken) rabbit.

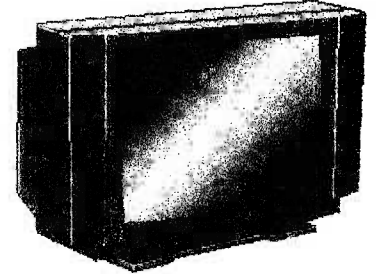
I declare that to the best of my knowledge (of which I have none compared to my **BETTER** half), you are always right.

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

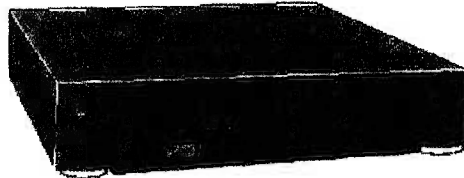


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HERO DAVE SAVES 'GOD'

This story begins and ends with a miracle.

The first miracle happened on the morning after Astonbury when musical director Neil went back to the scene of his triumph and was humbled by the words 'NEIL IS GOD' emblazoned across the stage in 'fiery letters of gold'.

Neil, being a modest and unassuming chap, made scant reference to his newly

bestowed deity in the days that followed. Therefore it came as a bit of a surprise that whilst on a short holiday in Portugal, intoxicated by nothing more than his own glory and the adulation of his followers, he decided to demonstrate his new found divinity by walking on water.

We of the Astonbury organising committee and the fans of the Christmas

cabaret would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Dave Lewis for extracting Neil from the swimming pool so quickly. If it had not been for Dave's miraculous rescue, Aston Abbotts would have been deprived of the guru behind some of the best entertainment events ever staged in any little village... anywhere. Tragedy was averted. Well done Dave - we salute you.

Flackwell Electronics - Purveyors of plasma screens to anybody who thinks they have a right to one - just help yourself - don't worry about it - you're misunderstood - you must have had a deprived childhood - it's not your fault - YOU are the victim - it's no problem - you can all have one - just pop round, bang on the window, and ask for 'de Judge'.