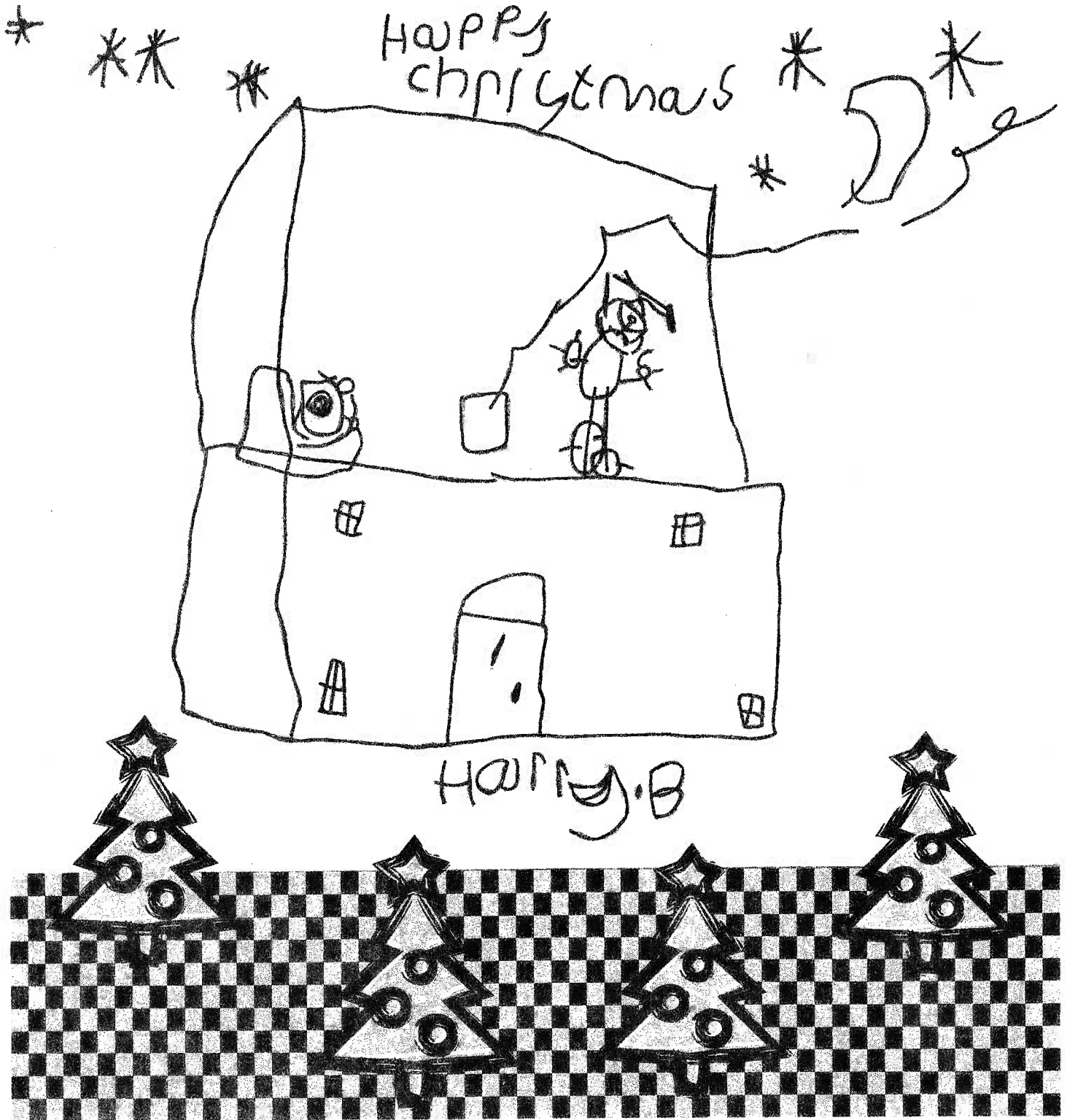


# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 262 ~ December 2006



Email : [editor@aachronicle.co.uk](mailto:editor@aachronicle.co.uk)

# Editorial

Judy and I were in Mauritius last month to celebrate the marriage of our youngest son. There were 24 attending the ceremony which took place in a wonderful setting on the edge of the ocean. A memorable occasion. Its been a while now since our family all went on the same holiday. The happy couple honeymooned 'on safari' in South Africa. Are weddings getting more elaborate? Judy and I married in a Registry Office followed by a honeymoon in a Pembrokeshire B&B. Only three more children to go!. Maybe they'll be modern and settle for a civil partnership.

We are going to see The Sound of Music. I booked tickets before the contest for a new Julie Andrews was announced - I know Judy enjoyed the film. I can't imagine though that the show will be as good as the Christmas Show being put on in the Church Room on Sunday 10th. I was very lucky to get 2 tickets for this performance. They are like gold dust.

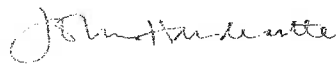
Then, just before Christmas I have organised a family outing to see Spamalot - if you are a Monty Python fan then I'm told this show is a very enjoyable occasion.

Touch wood the new gate posts on Lines Hill have survived. The speed of some cars on this stretch of road beggars belief - it might help if the speed limits in the village could be extended out to include all of Moat Lane and my stretch of road.

I am struggling to answer the question 'What would you like for Christmas?'. The older I get the more difficult I find it a question to answer. I enjoy giving presents and I do enjoy unwrapping presents - but what do I want? Good health and happiness would be perfect - I happily wish that for you all.

I would like to thank all those regular contributors to the Chronicle for their marvellous efforts during the past year, not forgetting the children who inspired this year's front pages. Please keep sending your articles and news items for the Chronicle. Many thanks also to John Whyte, Phil Corrigan and Andy Bystra and the team of distributors whose unsung efforts mean so much to the success of our Parish Magazine.

Judy and I wish all our friends in Aston Abbots a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



In This Issue

- *Countryside Diaries* by Peter Knight
- *Allotment Diary* by Peter Shorrock
- *New Crossword* by Rod Rothero
- *Title Page* many thanks to Harry Bystra (aged 4) who drew our Christmas front cover. Ed

## THE CHRONICLE

Issue 262  
December 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 £25 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines)...

...Can you afford not to be in?

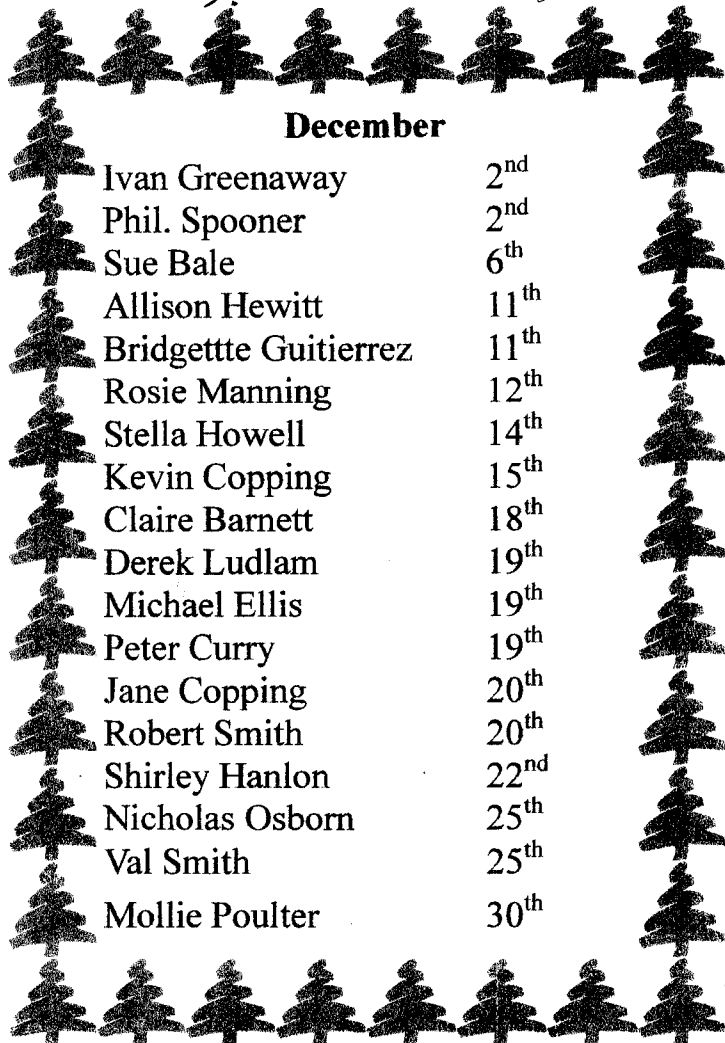
Copy date for the next issue is:

**Friday 22nd December  
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



## December

Ivan Greenaway	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Phil. Spooner	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Sue Bale	6 <sup>th</sup>
Allison Hewitt	11 <sup>th</sup>
Bridgette Guitierrez	11 <sup>th</sup>
Rosie Manning	12 <sup>th</sup>
Stella Howell	14 <sup>th</sup>
Kevin Copping	15 <sup>th</sup>
Claire Barnett	18 <sup>th</sup>
Derek Ludlam	19 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Ellis	19 <sup>th</sup>
Peter Curry	19 <sup>th</sup>
Jane Copping	20 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Smith	20 <sup>th</sup>
Shirley Hanlon	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Nicholas Osborn	25 <sup>th</sup>
Val Smith	25 <sup>th</sup>
Mollie Poulter	30 <sup>th</sup>

You may like to take advantage of a new business enterprise in the village. For a small fee, Ray Wilkinson offers to landscape the INTERIOR of your car. All you need to do is choose your plants and Ray will provide as much soil and other hard landscaping items as you require – soil can be delivered through windows or sunroofs by means of a JCB, then gently raked to the required position in your car. Patent pending. (Seriously Ray, we hope you have recovered from your 'Earth moving' experience) !!

Congratulations to the Brandon family who have a new baby in their midst. Jack was born to Karen & Rob Hunter on 28<sup>th</sup> October weighing in at a massive 9lbs 10oz.

Belated birthday Congrats to Percy Humphrys who was 80 on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Also to John Whyte who's not 80 but was 60 on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Xmas Greetings to all their friends in the village from:

Francesca & Bob Bean, Deirdre & John Whyte, Alison & Dave Lewis, Margaret & Tony Hinds, Sally & Richard Clarke, Carole & Phil Spooner and Brigitte & Juan Gutierrez.

Peter Shorrock sends good wishes to all his friends for a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

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

Nigel, Sally and Anthony Palmer wish all their friends in Aston Abbots a Merry Christmas and Very Happy New Year. As usual we will be making a charitable donation rather than sending cards.



**Andy & Rita**  
wish all their friends  
a very Happy Christmas  
and a healthy and prosperous 2007

Last edition's cockerel was hiding on page 32 Parrott Brothers - it's appropriate that this is the cockerel's (turkey) final appearance



Geoff and April Curnow  
would like to wish  
their friends  
a very Happy Christmas  
and  
a Healthy and Happy  
New Year

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**!!!!!!Starts 11<sup>th</sup> September!!!!!!**

## ***Christmas and New Year Rubbish***

**Refuse Collections over the Christmas period are as follows:-**

**Thursday 28th December will now be Saturday 30th December**

**Thursday 4th January will now be Saturday 6th January**

**Thursday 11th January will now be Friday 12th January**

'The Friends of Whitchurch Surgery would like to thank all those who supported us on the two flu jab Saturdays. £570. was raised.'

*Sheila Nuttall*

## **IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?**

An in depth discussion.



1. No known species of reindeer can fly. BUT there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer which only Santa has ever seen.
2. There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT since Santa doesn't (appear) to handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total - 378 million according to Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes there's at least one good child in each.
3. Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney etc, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about .78 miles per household, a total trip of approx 75 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding etc. This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For the purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a pokey 27.4 miles per second - a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 15 miles per hour.
4. The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized Lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison - this is four times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth. 353,000 tons travelling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecrafts re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy. Per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.
5. *Don't care what they say - I believe in Santa. Hope he calls at my house. Ed*

# ALL STAR LINE-UP

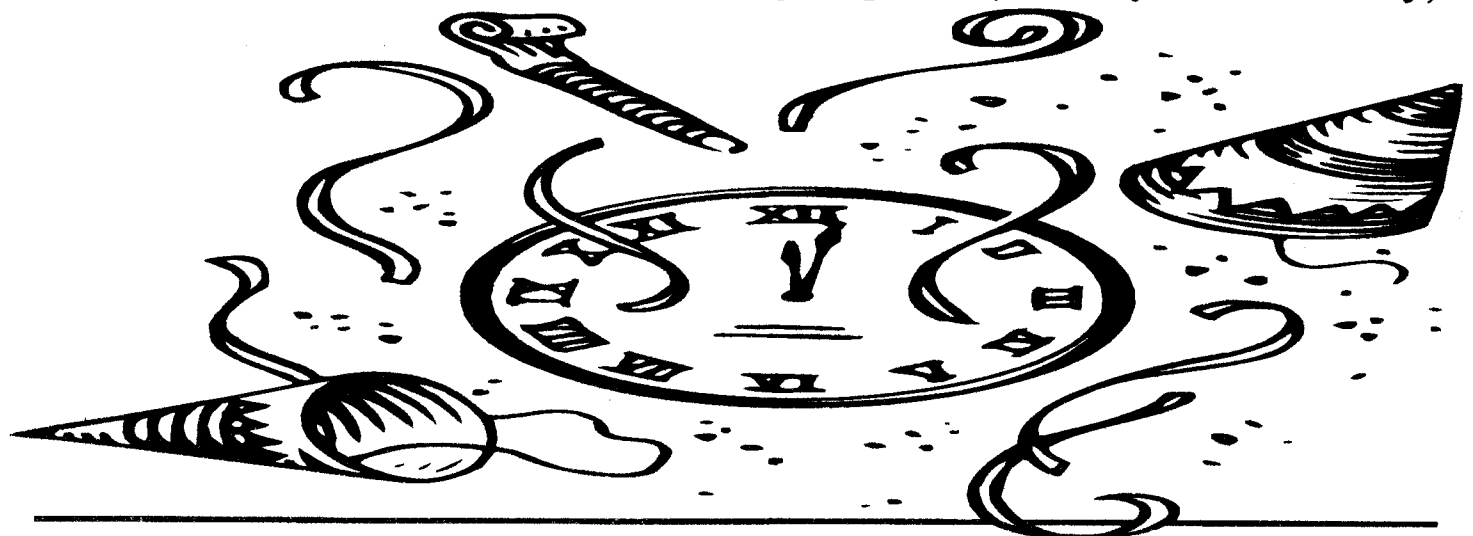
## Spectacular

Neil Chesher  
Musical Director

Dave Lewis  
Electrician

# XMAS SHOW

**ASTON ABBOTTS 10th DECEMBER - Limited Tickets Available**  
**Tickets from John Whyte 681685 - going fast (already seen on ebay)**



## Letters to the Editor

*From April Curnow*

### BONFIRE NIGHT

Great fun was had on the recreation ground on Sunday November 5th. The bonfire was lit at 6.30pm and a large crowd of people enjoyed hot dogs, mulled wine and wonderfully warming soup before the fireworks display which seemed to go on forever and was as spectacular as always.

Special thanks to all the chaps who work so hard each year to organise the setting off of the fireworks and who make this event so good. Thanks also must go to the ladies who prepared and served the refreshments.

The profit of £125 will go towards the "village celebration" on June 24th next year when we will be entertaining the Czech and Slovak Ambassadors and members their Embassies.

---

## IN THE PINK AT WINGRAVE SCHOOL

*Children at Wingrave Church of England Combined School held a Pink Day on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November in aid of cancer research.*

*Year Two children wrote about the day:*

*Paige age 6 wrote:*

On Tuesday it was Pink Day. At lunch time there were pink cakes and pink lollies. It was nice, I said "Yummy Yummy" and I just had to eat more cakes! I said "Yummy Yummy" every bite I took of a cake. They were delicious. The lollies were delicious too. We raised £500 and everyone was wearing pink. That is why we called it Pink Day.

*George age 7 wrote:*

Wingrave School had a pink day on Tuesday and we dressed up in pink and gave 50p. We bought cakes and lollies. We had a raffle after school and raised £500 for scientists to find a medicine or tablet for breast cancer. The day was a success and everyone enjoyed it.

*Ed aged 6 wrote:*

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November we held a Pink Day to help scientists to make a cure for breast cancer. At lunch we had cakes and most of the people in my class wore pink. After school we held a raffle. The school raised £500 and gave it to the scientists. I had lots of fun.

*From a Reader – name and address supplied*

I am writing to thank you for publishing the picture of Dave Lewis on the back page of last month's Chronicle. As a regular reader of your splendid magazine I have often wondered what Dave Lewis looked like as I would like to meet the gentleman himself.

Suffice it to say that, having seen last month's picture I have no difficulty in recognising the man. Last week I saw him in the New Street area of Aylesbury as I drove through – I hooted and called 'Hi Dave' but I'm afraid I got no response.

I recently visited Luton where Dave must work. What exactly he does to earn a living I have no idea but he obviously spends hours walking around Luton. No sooner had I passed him in one street when lo and behold there he was in the next. Round a corner and there was Dave. A few minutes later he appeared again with a small child clutching his hand. 'Hi Dave' – no response.

What amazes me is that he beat me to Bedford. Its been nice seeing a friendly face I thought as I motored out of Luton – obviously he doesn't recognise me in this car. When I arrived in Bedford there was Dave, waiting to cross the road at traffic lights – I stopped and let him across. 'See you in the pub tonight' I called as he walked by – '6.30 Club as usual.'

Rather sadly Dave was not in the Oak that evening – but no worries – I shall see him in Aylesbury tomorrow, grab his arm and forcibly take him for a pint.

Thank you again for publishing the picture.

---

## CALLING ALL GNOMES

The GNOMES Christmas Do is at Kate Curry's house  
Tuesday 12th December - all Gnomes invited





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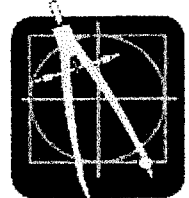
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# Burns Night

*Arrangements are in hand to hold another Burn's Night*

*on*

*Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2007*

*in*

*The Church Room*

*starting*

*7.30 for 8.00pm*

*This year we hope to have a piper and other 'entertainment'!*



*Tickets are £15.00 each (all profits to the Czech/Village fun day on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007)*

**Price includes;-**

*A welcome sherry*

*Haggis with a dram of 'the water of life'*

*Roast Lamb with selection of vegetables*

*A Scottish themed pud.*

*Cheese & biscuits*

*Coffee*

*(There will be alternatives to haggis as well as a vegetarian main course if required)*

*Wine beer port & soft drinks available*

*Please apply early since numbers will be limited!*

*Andy Bystra 681690*





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## ESTONIA - INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Estonia has been described as the new European "property hotspot". The country is receiving huge amounts of European investment; it has great economic growth, low interest rates and is politically and commercially stable. It is aiming to adopt the Euro in 12 -18 months. Its capital Tallinn has seen dramatic development and growth and with that, superb returns on property: property prices rose by 28% in 2005 and forecasts predict similar rises in 2006/7. It is safe to buy - all property is sold freehold and ownership is NEVER disputed as every sale is properly recorded at the Land Registry.

We have several new stylish apartments with river mooring in Parnu for sale off plan from £38,000. They can be yours with just a 20% deposit, the remainder payable when the project is complete in Spring 2007. You can even get a 70% mortgage.

Our own apartment in Parnu increased by over 10% in value in the first two months and we have seen high rental yields in the holiday rental market over the summer. You may be interested in investing in Parnu, but need more information and advice - we have established Parnu Property to assist people in the process; remember we have done it - have a read on our site [www.parnuproperty.com](http://www.parnuproperty.com) and give us a call if you wish to explore the possibilities.

Please contact us for further details:

Andy & Sally, 73 The Green, Aston Abbots, Bucks, HP22 4LY

Tel: 01296 682716

Mobile: 0774 295 7684

Websites: [www.lazy-dog.biz](http://www.lazy-dog.biz) and [www.parnuproperty.com](http://www.parnuproperty.com)

*From Andy Bystra*

*Rita and I dropped into The Crown at Sydenham (Nr Thame) for lunch and on showing interest in their village magazine were given a copy and came across the following article.*

### **Amusing Jottings for all ye folks what live in old houses – LIFE IN THE 1500's**

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be around the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, 'Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water'.

Houses had thatched roofs — thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived on the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying. It's raining cats and dogs.

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection.

That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, 'Dirt poor'. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a thresh hold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day

they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, I got out of 25 coffins were found to have scatch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell: thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a ...dead ringer.

You country folk have never had it so good and that's the truth... Now, whoever said history was boring. *With thanks to Gordon McLeod who wrote this in The Sydenham Newsletter.*



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## Peter Knight's Countryside Diary - November

There is perhaps, just a little more to keeping livestock than most people imagine. There is always an interaction between man and beast be it a mutual dislike of each other or a trusting relationship. I grew up amidst small farmers who all had barely 100 acres to farm and whose livelihood depended on milk productions in a small way.

My uncle farmed a mere 50 acres but 20 cows, 30 sheep, 4 pigs and 200 chickens provided an income sufficient to raise a family and provide a springboard to the tenancy of a large farm later in life.

What I have a job explaining to people nowadays is that those animals were virtually part of the family. Many farmers' wives would say 'he cares more for the cows than he does for me and the children'. We knew every cow as an individual and to an extent allowed for their individual likes and dislikes. We liked cows and yes, the cows liked us. The care shown by most farmers was amazingly deep.

I remember not so many years ago, my Uncle, not a young man, staying up all night with his hands on a young cow he thought would die – all night out on a bleak hillside in November. When I showed surprise he just muttered 'Well I couldn't leave her'.

A tough, rough farmer I know would always accompany his cows on that last sad journey they had to take to the abattoir just to be there as a comfort to them. 'They have done their best for me, it's the least I can do for them' was what he told me.

Farm animals too have particular friends within the flock or herd. On leaving College I worked on a Surrey dairy farm and here were two Ayrshire heifers that were inseparable. They had been reared together as calves, grazed together as bulling heifers (young females about to be put to calf) and were always close together as milking cows. We called them Rosemary and Doreen after two girls who sought safety from Cirencester students by being always together. A ploy which seemed to work until two brothers appeared on the 'hunting scene'.

We could not keep one of the bovine Rosemary and Doreen back at the buildings for say a Vet visit or the AI man and turn the other out to graze – she simply would not go. Keep one back and the other had to stay too.

Alex and I find we have friends among our sheep – try and separate them and one or the other will look us straight in the eye and blurt (BAA) telling us unmistakably what a stupid thing we have done.

Most of them are individuals within a flock but there are always one or two cases of 'best mates' who want to stay together.

The animals also develop an understanding and uncanny ability to communicate to the true stockman, and stockman, of course, always talk to their animals. I well remember arriving at the gate of one of our fields to find an agitated sheep waiting for me. 'What's the matter old girl?' I drove in and she ran in front and led me to where her large single lamb lay dead. She nuzzled it and made those lovely mewling noises that ewes make in private to their lambs. I'm so sorry old girl – she looked at me and pawed the lamb with her front foot. Please do something she was saying.

I had to leave the dead lamb there for three days before she would let me take it away. Three days and nights when she stood over it and guarded her lamb from attacks from foxes at night and crows during the day; and every day I went to talk to her and ask if I could have the carcass.

Stupid animals, dumb animals? Anything but. They are, I suggest, only as stupid as the person who doesn't understand them and, as for dumb, they are anything but. Communicate they most certainly can and it only needs a sympathetic person who wants to learn their language for that communication to be of benefit to parties.

Years ago most Englishmen were countrymen, hard bitten maybe but an understanding of the land and of animals was second nature to them. Few people these days have instilled in them these truths certainly not the geniuses who draft our agricultural legislation. Christmas is coming. Good shepherd, caring, communication – it all sounds a bit biblical doesn't it? – but then, just possibly that is exactly what it is.



*Peter Knight*

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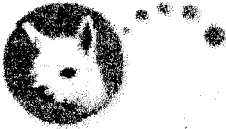
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*Livanti Alpacas, Aston Abbots - Home to Champions*



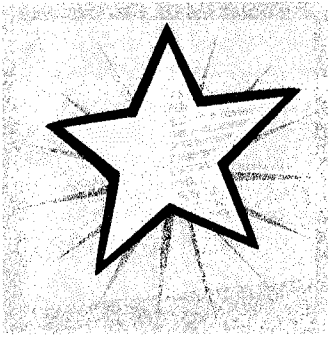
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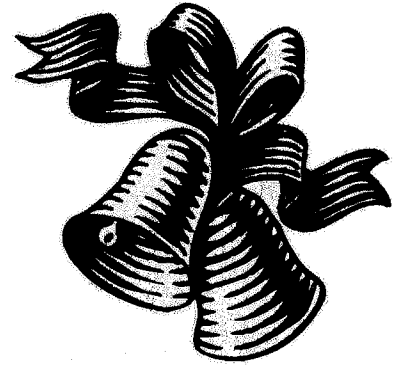
**Tel: 01296 712776**

**Mobile: 07812 070147**

**Tel: 01582 668698**



# **SHOP IN THE CHURCH ROOM**



**Every Thursday**

**10.30 - 12.00**

**Teas & Coffees**

This service to the residents of Aston Abbots is being offered by Steve of Wingrave Post Office and Stores. Teas and coffees are on sale, so why not pop along, pick up some groceries and enjoy a chat with your neighbours.



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**BUY POSTAGE STAMPS**  
**DRY CLEANING TAKEN**  
**DELICIOUS FRESHLY BAKED BREAD**

The Druids thought the mistletoe  
Would stop the meanest witches,  
Cure the most severe disease,  
Keep cradles safe from switches.

Enemies laid down their arms  
Beneath its pungent spell.  
For one whole day they could not fight,  
Though hatred fire the will.



In later centuries it served  
To force a willing kiss.  
For those reluctant on their own  
It was the door to bliss.

Today it is a symbol of  
The mystic powers of Earth,  
For when the sun's about to die  
In love we find rebirth.



## SUMMER NEEDN'T END .... JET AWAY TO THE SUN TODAY



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- 50 metres to sandy beach (5km long)
- Calm, warm sea perfect for children
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- Pedestrianised promenade
- Over 20 golf courses within 20km
- Water sports, horse riding, scuba diving etc
- Thermal spas, salt bath, culture & history

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28<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006

6<sup>th</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007

#### **High season** £ 350.00 / week (€ 550)

1<sup>st</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2007

#### **Mid season** £ 300.00 / week (€ 450)

20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2006

20<sup>th</sup> December 2006 – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007

5<sup>th</sup> April 2007 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

16<sup>th</sup> September – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007

For more information or to book call Andi or Becky Swain on 01296 670388 or visit our web site at [www.espanolvilla.com](http://www.espanolvilla.com)

# ALLOTMENT DIARY

As a result of my endeavours removing the weeds from my allotment, I now have a nettle mountain, which, if I'm lucky, may one day turn into a compost heap! I have also started putting some piles of two-year old compost on my allotment, ready to be spread, and in due course, rotavated in. As usual, I am lagging behind (perhaps I should give up being an author as well as a gardener?) – a number of allotmentees have already de-weeded their patches and spread manure on them. My son, Adam, tells me that he has acquired some old carpet for me, so that I can take a leaf out of Simon Guy's book, and put this down to try to kill off a strip of grass and weeds that I have not previously been able to tackle.



Most of the vegetables have of course been harvested: I am left with only leeks, Brussels sprouts and some cabbages – but there is of course a good stock of veggies in the freezer, as well as sacks of potatoes and strings of onions,

so that Mr. Tesco will not get my custom at his greengrocery counter for a little while yet.

I was reading an article recently which made me realise yet again how lucky we are to live in England. It was by Marina Lewycka, who, as some of you may know, wrote one of the big best-selling books of 2006, "A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian". (And which I strongly recommend). Her family, as you might guess, came from Ukraine, and she was born in a refugee camp in Kiel, Germany during World War II. They came to Britain after the war, and until recently, she had never been back. When she did, and met members of her remoter family who still lived there, she discovered that, despite the abject poverty in which most of the population lived, it was very common for people in Ukraine who lived in cities there to have a small house in the country. However, to think of the house as a Russian-style dacha or holiday home, would be a mistake: many of the houses were little more than shacks or hovels. The reason why they continued to be used was that each of them would have a parcel of land around it, and since most of the city dwellers there lived in flats, without gardens, they all cultivated every square inch of their land in the country to grow vegetables. They were basically allotments with minimum living accommodation on them.

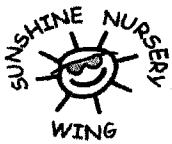
Here in Britain, people who have allotments cultivate them as a pleasure (although when one spends hours pulling up weeds, it does not always seem like it). In Ukraine these small country house gardens are a means of surviving, and making sure that one's family has enough food to eat: or to sell in the market to augment one's income. This is something to remember next time you come in, tired, and muscles aching, after a spell of digging or weeding.

*Peter Shorrock*

---

## Call a spade a spade [an extract from POSH by Michael Quinion]

Most people know that to *call a spade a spade* means that we should avoid euphemism, be straightforward, use blunt or plain language, to tell it how it is. Most also know that *spade* is a rather outmoded derogatory slang term for an African-American. Many people in the USA regard it as a racist comparison.. The oddity is that it's a mistranslation. The original was an ancient Greek proverb which might be translated as 'to call a fig a fig, a trough a trough'. This appears in Aristophanes' play *The Clouds*, dated 423BC, and the Greek writer Plutarch also used it. His word was *skaphe*, a hollow object, variously a trough, basin, bowl, or boat. When he translated Plutarch into Latin, the medieval scholar Erasmus misread it as *skapheion*, the Greek word for a digging tool. Nicholas Udall copied him when making his 1542 English version. The phrase has been in the language ever since.



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- ⊙ **Tuesdays 12.30 - 2.45** (rising 4's - preparing for school)
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- ⊙ Grants for children aged 3 years old upwards (\*)
- ⊙ Only £6.50 per session for under 3 year olds.

*To enrol a child, or for further information, please contact*

- ✉ **Sam Mock** (Nursery Manager)  
on **07931 661739** (during the above sessions)  
or **01296 334003**
- ☒ The Scout Hut, The Lands, Wing, Bucks, LU7 0ND

*Registered Charity Number 1039320*

(\*)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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## A418 Improvements

Article published in The Bucks Herald 15<sup>th</sup> November

### *Wing bypass: Decision due in New Year*

Bucks County Council has thanked all residents and interested parties who filled in more than 2000 questionnaires and wrote letters in response to the A418 wing bypass proposals.

Options for improvements to the A418 between Hulcott cross-roads and the A505 roundabout were displayed at public exhibitions at Wing Village Hall and Wingrave Community Centre and the county council and a public consultation about the scheme was held from June 7 until September 29.

The proposed 'blue route' provoked a strong reaction from residents of Mentmore and a protest group has put up posters opposing the route all around the village.

Both Mentmore Parish Council and Cheddington Parish council have voiced opposition to the proposed 'blue route' due to concerns about the increase in traffic, noise and pollution.

Bucks County Council has said that, due to the large number of responses received from the public consultation and the need to investigate in more detail some of the concerns raised, the timescale for making a decision regarding the choice of route will now take longer than previously expected.

It is now anticipated that the announcement of the way forward will be made some time in the New Year.

Valerie Letheren, portfolio holder for transportation said, 'We have had very good feedback for this consultation and I would like to thank everyone who contributed.'

---

## Royal Mail postal scam.

Please be aware that around this time, especially as Xmas is fast approaching, a postal scam may land in your letter box - it has been confirmed by Royal Mail.

The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam :

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655 or ICSTIS (the premium rate service regulator) at [www.icstis.org.uk](http://www.icstis.org.uk) <<http://www.icstis.org.uk>> or your local trading standards office. This is a genuine scam and is under investigation by ICSTIS

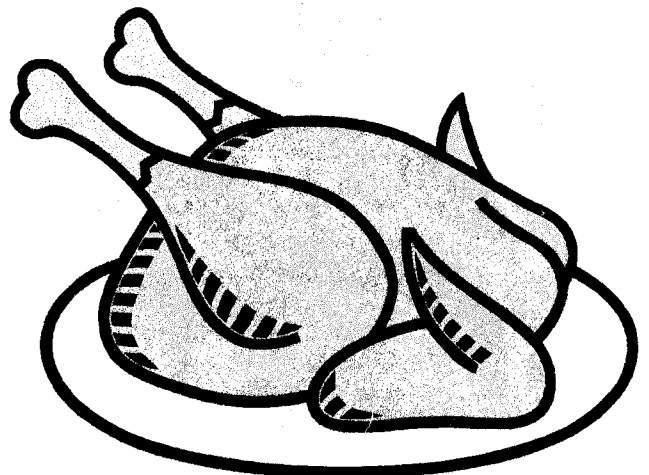
## FOWL JOKES

Why did the chicken cross the playground?

*He wanted to get to the other slide.*

Why didn't the chicken skeleton cross the road?

*Because he didn't have much guts.*



Which day of the week to chickens hate most?

*Fry-day.*

What do you get if you cross a chicken with a bell?

*A bird that has to ring its own neck.*

Why did the turkey cross the road?

*To prove he wasn't a chicken.*



# SLOE GIN

## COMPETITION AND TASTING

WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 8PM

---



### CLASS 1: NEW SLOE



This year's Sloes in gin or other spirit

---



### CLASS 2: OLD SLOE

Earlier vintage in gin or other spirit



---

### CLASS 3: HEDGEROW LIQUEUR

Tasting by entrants and others for charitable donation



### BUFFET



Want to enter?

Buy a litre of gin and drink half of it. Add about 150g (5oz) sugar. Fill up to the neck with frozen sloes or fresh sloes pricked to expose the flesh. Shake the bottle daily until the sugar dissolves and then once or twice a week until mid November when it should be left to settle.

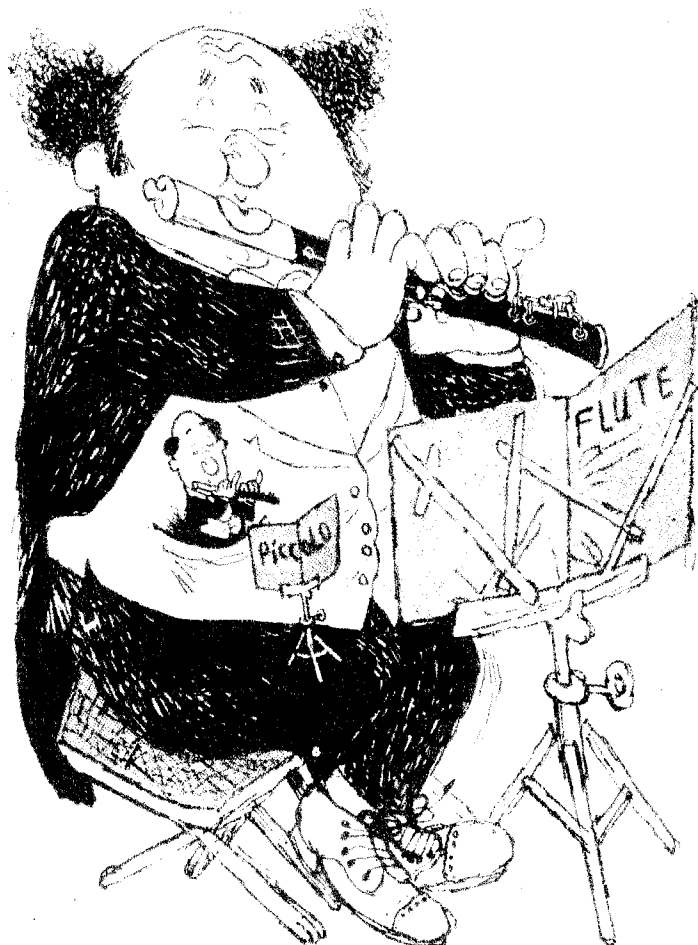
Just before the tasting decant into the final container through a funnel lined with coffee filter to remove bits.

**Forget the stress of Christmas.**  
**Come along and get in the festive spirit at the ever popular**

## ***Christingle and Carol Service***



***(The Christmas Service for all the family)***



*being held in*  
***Aston Abbotts Church***

*on the*  
***17<sup>th</sup> December***

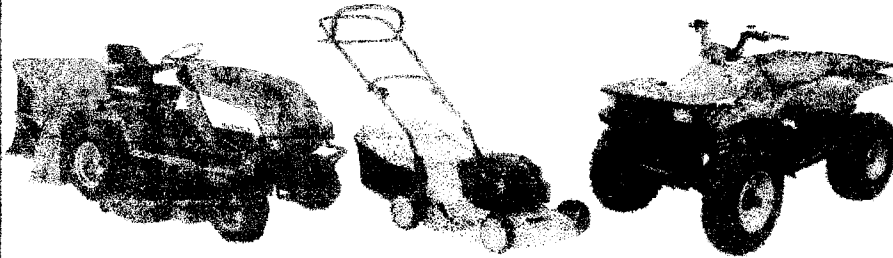
*starting*  
***3.00 pm.***

**Come and sing Carols accompanied  
by  
The Rowsham Band**

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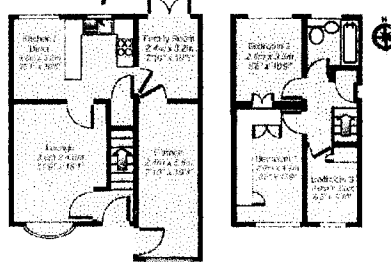
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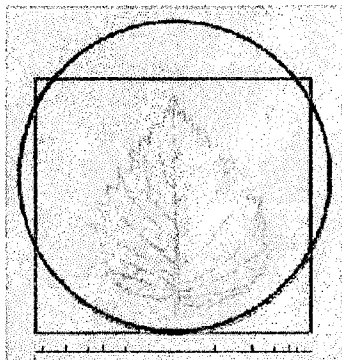
Open 7 days a week 10.30 am – 2.00 pm

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- assisting with fundraising
- dog walking
- donating blankets/towels collars/leads/money

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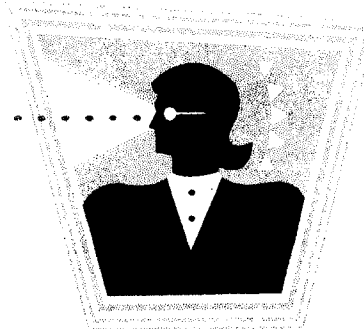
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*The Aston Abbots and Cublington Ladies Club meets twice a month in the Church Room, Aston Abbots. All ladies from Aston Abbots and Cublington are very welcome. Please contact Shirley Ford on 681865 for more information.*



## ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nov.**

15 members were present at today's AGM. Shirley Ford acted as Chairman as Joan Alexander was indisposed.

The Chairman's report was read followed by the Treasurer, Programme Secretary and Social Secretaries giving their reports. All officers were thanked for their hard work, after which Club members voted the committee back into office 'en bloc'.

The business over, Mrs Rachel Mack from Cublington presented an excellent range of cards which she had bought along for members to buy.

Tea hostesses today were Christine Scott and Carol Morris. The raffle was won by Daphne Rogers

**16<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

18 members were present at today's meeting. The minutes were read and signed. After a short business meeting, Joan Alexander introduced our speaker, Mrs Sally Slade who had come along to give us a talk about furniture restoration. She was a lively, bubbly speaker with many amusing anecdotes about furniture and the people who had been a part of her life for so long. She was thanked by April Curnow.

Tea hostesses today were June Brine and Avril Bradley Davis.

The raffle was won by Beryl Shone

*Shirley Ford.*

### **This month's Events**

December 14th 'Carol Service' - Aston Abbots

January 4th Members Outing

January 15th 'The Austrian Tyrol' - slides - John Cornwall

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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)

## **SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR CHRISTMAS**

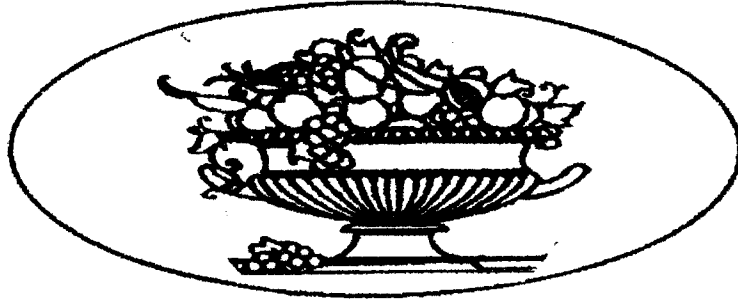
Carrots with a rich glaze made with brown sugar, plum wine and fresh ginger.

### **Ingredients:**

2 lbs carrots, trimmed, peeled and cut into rounds, 1/3 inch thick (or the equivalent amount of packaged baby carrots)  
2 Tbsp brown sugar  
1 Tbsp minced fresh ginger root  
3 Tbsp butter  
1 tsp lemon zest  
2 cups water  
Salt  
1/4 cup plum wine (or sweet sherry)  
1 Tbsp lemon juice  
2 Tbsp minced crystallized ginger

**Method:** Place carrots in large heavy saucepan, add 1 tbsp of sugar, ginger root, 1 tbsp of butter, lemon zest, water and salt to taste. Bring to boiling over medium heat. Cover and lower heat. Simmer 10 minutes, or until carrots are tender but still slightly crunchy. Drain and reserve. Place remaining butter and sugar in saucepan, place over medium heat and cook, stirring, until butter melts and dissolves the sugar. Add carrots and cook, tossing, until coated with butter and sugar. Add wine, lemon juice and crystallized ginger. Cook and toss until heated through. Serves 8

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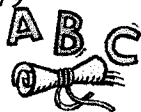


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01296 681700 - 0787 0787579

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Terri-Anne Perkins  
01296 681963



## YOGA

**WEEDON OLD SCHOOL  
THURSDAY 19.30 - 21.00**



**Come and join this small  
friendly class**

**Ring Paul Blissett on 07963 011796**

These puzzling words and shapes,  
and their positions, can be used to  
derive a word or saying:-

For example

**MEREPEAT**

Answer: Repeat after me

So see how you get on with these -  
*answers on Page 31*

**GR 12" AVE**

faredce

cotaxme

kk

cc

uu

tt

ss

**word word word word**

**insult + injury**

**no ways it ways**

R

Y

S

gesg

segg

gegs

gges

I found the answers more interesting  
than the questions. *ED*

## **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

**PETER SHORROCK (Chairman)**

Oak Farm House ~ 681260

**KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)**

2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane ~ 681137

**COLIN HIGGS**

6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

**MARGARET KENT**

6 The Green ~ 681454

**RICHARD CLARKE**

Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

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1 Norduck Cottages ~ 681182

**DICKIE DICKEN**

Norduck House ~ 688577

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**PETER COOPER**

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Quality Standard



# Hot Air?

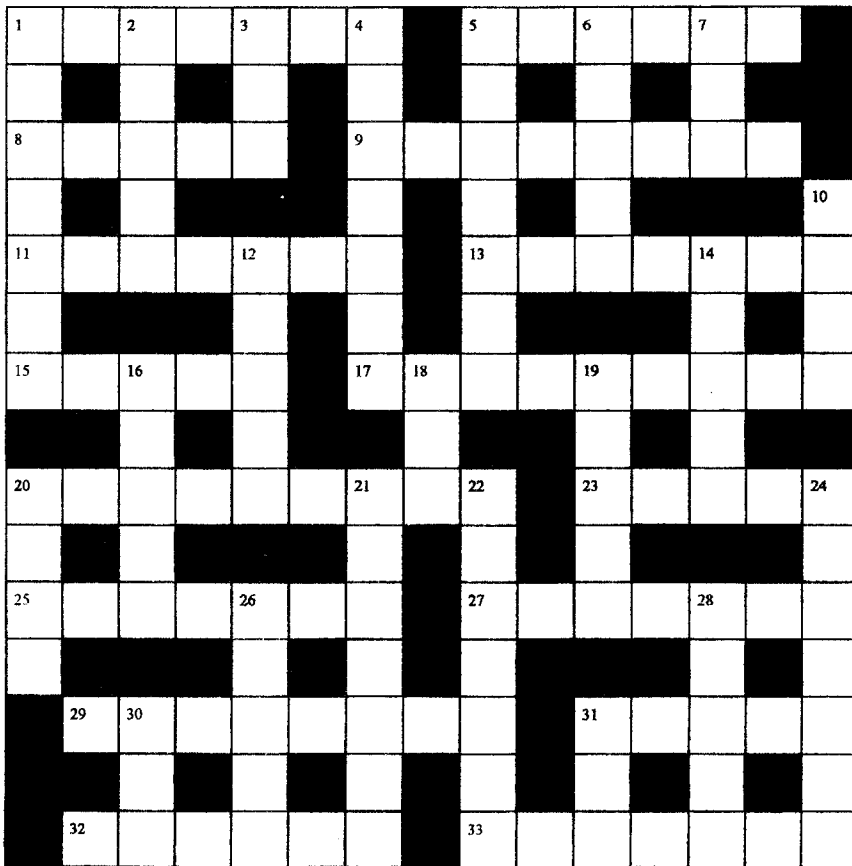


It's the only hot air balloon ride  
at Parrott & Coales

When the balloon goes up  
making the solicitors who handle  
your case feel on the ground

# The Chronicle Crossword

December 2006



## NOV SOLUTIONS

### ACROSS

- 1 Limited 5 Opaque
- 8 Genre 9 Freehold
- 11 Try it on 13 Landing
- 15 Nappy 17 Supercede
- 20 On the mend 23 Isles
- 25 Shows up 27 Chester
- 29 Good mood 31 Carla
- 32 Bounce 33 Sanctum

### DOWN

- 1 Lighten 2 Money
- 3 Tee 4 Defends
- 5 Overlap 6 Ashen
- 7 U C L 10 Ague
- 12 Thyme 14 Ideal
- 16 Patio 18 Urn
- 19 Raise 20 Ouse
- 21 Explode 22 Decodes
- 24 Sarcasm 26 Sedan
- 28 Tarot 30 Omo

## ACROSS

- 1 Rudolph has one 3-4
- 5 Brawls (6)
- 8 Wears a Red uniform (5)
- 9 Santa's helper (8)
- 11 Get to the beans (4-3)
- 13 Inert gas (7)
- 15 Deals with re-cycling (1-1-1-1-1)
- 17 Not friends (9)
- 20 Comes in December (9)
- 23 Sudden intake of breath (5)
- 25 Small children (7)
- 27 Not inside (7)
- 29 Do this in winter (4-4)
- 31 Not expensive (5)
- 32 Used with DJ (3-3)
- 33 Small lumps or swellings (7)



## DOWN

- 1 Answer (7)
- 2 Stands in the corner (5)
- 3 Plural of ovum (3)
- 4 Sent to buy (7)
- 5 Burn unsteadily (7)
- 6 Lightheaded (5)
- 7 Digit (3)
- 10 Finishes (4)
- 12 See 8 across (5)
- 14 Used to hang decorations on (5)
- 16 Sacked (5)
- 18 Put in cups (3)
- 19 Not day (5)
- 20 Christmas ---- (4)
- 21 E-mail from you to me (7)
- 22 Built from the white stuff (7)
- 24 Used to fix railway lines (7)
- 26 Give information (2-3)
- 28 My turn with the cards (1-4)
- 30 Self conceit (3)
- 31 Served with chips (3)

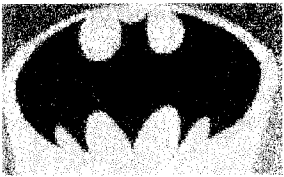


*Wishing you all a Happy Christmas  
and New Year—*

*Rod Rothero*

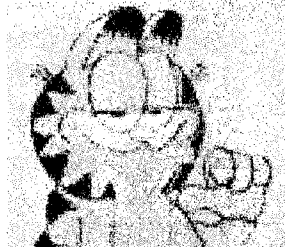


## Suzy's Murals



Make your child's  
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**WANT** to be

With a personalised  
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their bedroom wall.



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Inside	£ 80	
HALF PAGE	Inside	£ 40
QUARTER PAGE	Inside	£ 25
ONE OFFS	Full	£ 20
	Half	£15
	Quarter	£10

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these rates

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01296 688191

[corriganpc@aol.com](mailto:corriganpc@aol.com)

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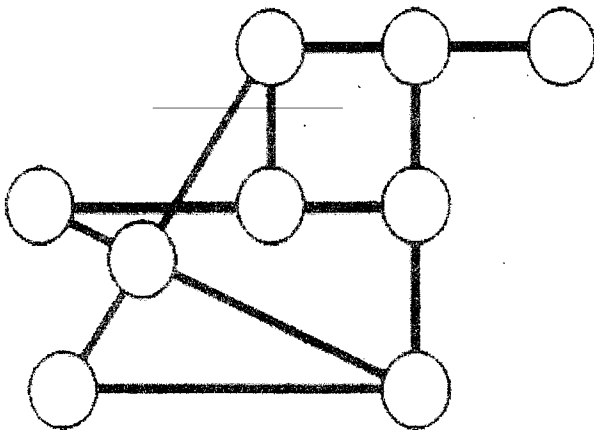
## The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	Parish Clerk	Kate Curry	681137
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrock	681260
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Police	Emergencies	999
Buses	L&S	415468	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 Derek Witchell	
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	TBA		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			

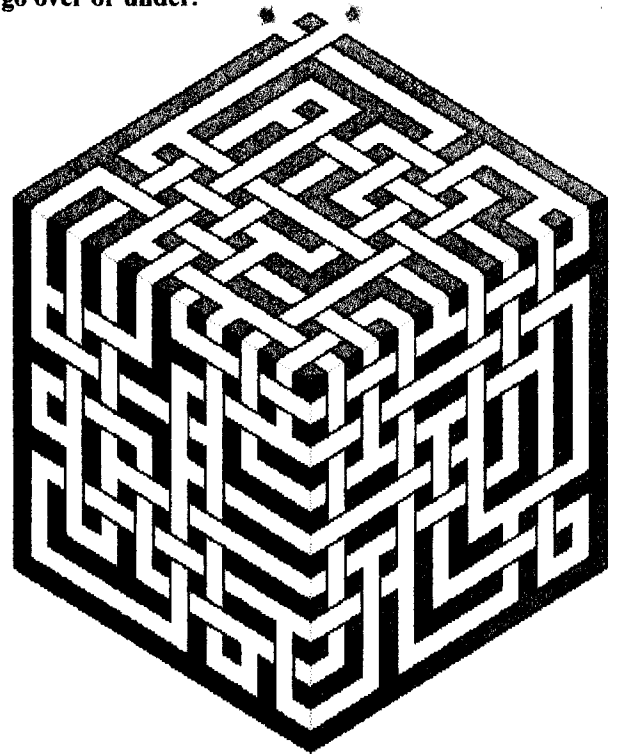
*Please let us know of any errors or omissions*

Get from arrow to arrow - you can go over or under.

You could advertise here -  
phone Phil Corrigan 01296 688191



Place the digits from 1 to 9 into the circles so that the sum of the numbers in each straight line is the same - see page 35 for solution



### ANSWERS

One foot in the grave   Red in the face   Income Tax   Too stuck up for words   Adding insult to injury  
No two ways about it   Syrup   Scrambled eggs

**Trendz**  
**Unisex hair salon**  
Call for appointment on  
**01296 681282**  
Or **07766656411**

Price list

Styling

Cut + finish.....£20.00  
Wet cut.....£15.00  
Blow dry (short hair).....£10.00  
Blow dry (long hair).....£14.00  
Basic hair up.....£20.00  
Shampoo, set + put up.....£30.00  
Shampoo + set.....£15.00

Mens

Cut + finish.....£14.00  
Wet cut.....£10.00  
Cap hi lites.....£15.00

Colour

Full head tint.....£31.00  
Regrowth tint.....£27.50  
Full head hi lites.....£40.00  
Half head hi lites....£27.50

Hair extensions

European human hair  
Half head from.....£190.00  
Full head from.....£290.00  
Above prices include one colour for a  
second colour extra....£50.00  
Re-fix.....£30.00  
Removal of hair extensions....£40.00

Manicures and pedicures

File + paint...£8.50  
Full manicure....£20.00  
Pedicure.....£25.00

Bridal services

Bridal hair .....£90.00  
Bridal make up.....£60.00  
Including trial before and on wedding  
**Call for a free consultation**

# St James Church

## Our new Vicar Licensed!

Derek Witchell was officially licensed as our new Vicar at a ceremony held in a packed Wingrave church on the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. The impressive service was conducted by the Bishop of Buckingham, the Right Reverend Alan Wilson and our own Church Wardens, Shirley Ford and Colin Higgs took part.

The service is both a legal act and an act of worship. It marks the beginning of Derek's ministry in the benefice and a new stage in the life of the parishes of Aston Abbots, Cublington, Wing and Wingrave.

After the service there was a chance to enjoy the very nice buffet provided by the 'Wingrave ladies' and chat with some of Derek's & Debbie's friends who had come along and members of other parishes in the Benefice.

## The Vicars first service at AA

Derek will conduct his first service in Aston Abbots on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December commencing 10.00am. If the service he held in Cublington was anything to go by, it will be very 'user friendly' and an altogether enjoyable experience.

Derek and his wife Debbie have already visited our Thursday morning coffee mornings on two occasions and Debbie and their daughter joined the Gnomes one evening. It seems clear that despite his many duties in the other three parishes, Aston Abbots will feature prominently on Derek's calendar!

I am sure many of you would like to extend a very warm 'Aston Abbots' welcome to him and his family, so, please come along to his first service here and show your support.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the Service.

## Evensong services in Aston Abbots

These are held on one Sunday each month in our village church and commence at 6.00pm. They are usually conducted by Colin Smart, and, with our very own Nigel Palmer playing the organ, are becoming increasingly popular. If you would like to come along to these friendly and uplifting services, please make a note that the first four in 2007 are to be held on:-

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> February 25<sup>th</sup> March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup> a bee



*"At Christmas-time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without".*

So how is the Christmas shopping going? Is it all finished? Have you resorted to vouchers this year? Or are you trying to put the whole stressful business off till the last minute?

Do you worry about what people might think of our gifts? If so then here's some advice to help you.

But first, let me introduce myself. My name is Derek Witchell and I've recently taken up the post of Priest in Charge of the parishes of Wing, Wingrave, Aston Abbots and Cublington. I'm married to Debbie and we have two grown up children, Chris and Sarah, still living with us but hopefully not still job hunting by the time you read this! You'll find us, together with Tess the dog, at the Wing vicarage on Aylesbury Road. Before moving to Wing I was a curate at Bloxham, a village just south of Banbury, and before that we all lived in Thame where I had an Architectural practice (one or two of you are living in one of my 'blots'!).

While in Thame God offered me the gift of working for Him full time. When I accepted that gift He opened the way for me to train whilst I worked, and my journey with Him has brought us to these four parishes and the wonderful people who live here and who have made us so welcome.

The thing about God's gifts is that they are always the best thing for us. He takes time to consider who we are and to choose the gift accordingly. God gave us the gift of His creation and took the chance that we'd make a mess of it. God gave us the gift of our lives and gives us the choice of what we do with it. At Christmas-time we remember that God offers us the gifts of His never-ending love and a personal relationship with Him through His son Jesus and takes the risk that we'll reject them.

And that brings me to the advice to help you with your Christmas shopping. Follow the example set by God and take time to select an appropriate gift for each person – don't swamp them with quantity, just choose one. Yes, I know we live busy lives, but selecting and giving gifts takes sacrifice and risk. God sets the example by only giving what is best to us, carefully selected. Try it! Remember that 'the best' gift may have nothing to do with expense, or even a 'thing'. It may just be a hug, or spending time together.

Debbie and I hope you will discover how liberating and enjoyable it can be giving someone 'the best' (even those we find hard to love!). And we wish you a blessed, refreshing and peaceful Christmas.

Shalom *Derek*

(if you'd like to discuss anything in this article further then please ring Derek on 682320)

# *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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# What's On In December

Wednesday 6th	C/Cllr Quinton Ings Chambers Meeting	Cublington
Thursday 7th	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Saturday 10th	Parish Communion 10am	St James Church
Wednesday 13th	Visiting Bell Ringers 10am	St James Church
Thursday 14th	Coffee Shop	Church Room
	Ladies Club	
Friday 15th	Rambling Club Xmas Dinner 6.30	Queens Head
Sunday 17th	Christingle Service 3pm	St James Church
Monday 13th	Village Freighter 12noon - 3.30pm	
Thursday 21st	Coffee/Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
	Christmas Whist Drive 7.30	Church Room
Monday 25th	Parish Communion 10am	St James Church
Christmas Day	(all very welcome)	
Tuesday 26th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green
Boxing Day	(walk off that excess)	
Monday 1st January		
New Years Day	Holiday	
2007		
Thursday 4th	Coffee Shop 10.30 - 12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
<b>BOOK THESE DATES</b>		
Sunday 24th June	British Legion/Czech Connection	
	More details of events later	
Saturday/Sunday 21/22nd July	Festival Weekend	

## Bus Service

Z&S have indicated they may introduce an early morning bus (Monday - Friday) as follows:-

Aylesbury 6.30 Wingrave 6.40 Aston Abbotts 6.45

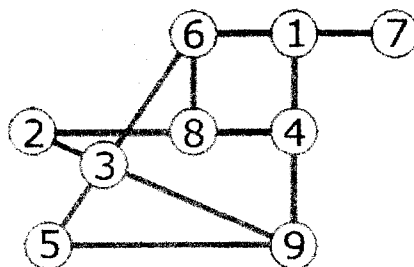
Cublington 6.55 to Leighton Buzzard Station

*Please let me know if you would use it - phone 681343 Colin Higgs*

## Classified

**FOR SALE** Upright Mahogany Piano. Makers Emmerson London.

Sold by Purrett & Co Leighton Buzzard. Price £100 call 01296 681305



## Address

Please note that all submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to John Hardcastle, Marloes, Lines Hill, Aston Abbotts, 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



630 Members are champing at the bit. The Christmas Dinner on 22nd December at The Dog House is eagerly being looked forward to. Despite it being the shortest day of the year members are intent on making it the longest night of the year. If you've not chosen your meal then you need to contact Andy Bystra pronto as a bowl of dog biscuits may be all that's now available.

# ALISON AND DAVE

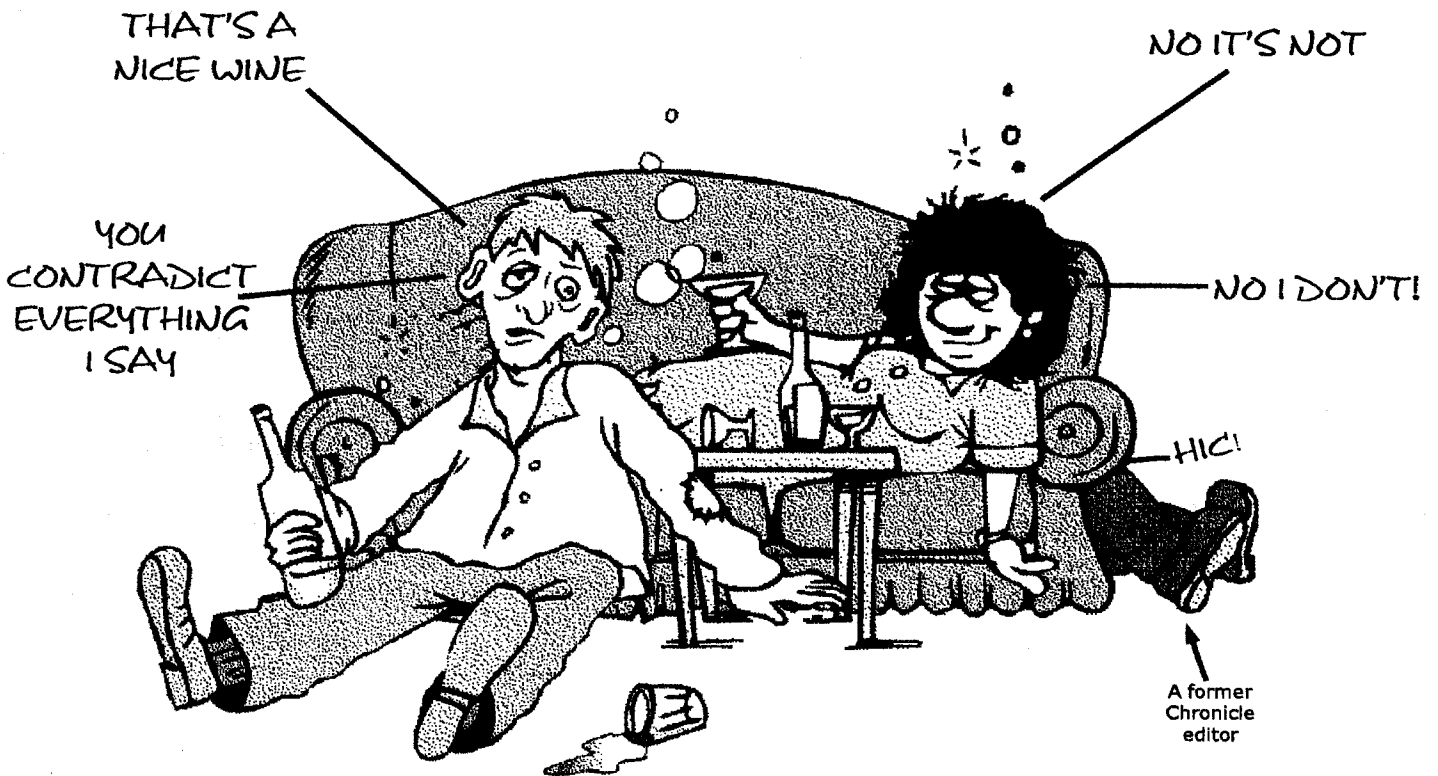
WISH ALL OF THEIR FRIENDS IN ASTON ABBOTTS

# A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

# A HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Dave and Alison Host a Pre-Xmas Wine Tasting...



**Flackwell Electronics - Purveyors of plasma screens to the gentry**