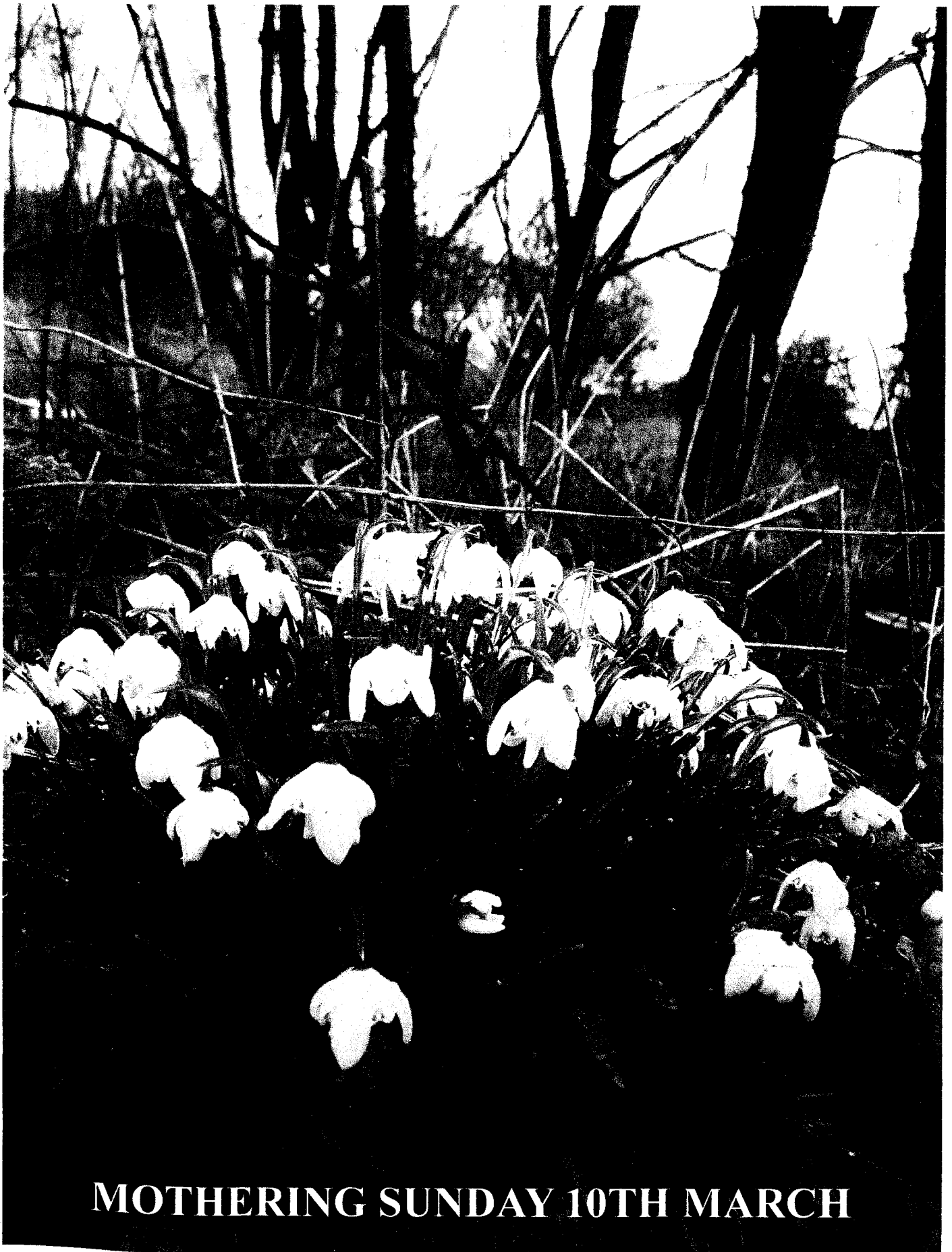


THE CHRONICLE

330

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine - March 2013



MOTHERING SUNDAY 10TH MARCH

Editorial

I'm in deep trouble - I got two Valentine cards! Someone has gone to a lot of trouble, even arranging for one to be posted in Swindon and getting my address just a little bit wrong - I'm walking on egg shells at home, pleading my innocence.

My saving grace is that our daughter Jane announced on Valentine's Day evening that she is engaged to be married. Her intended had phoned me the night before to ask me for 'permission to propose' - who said old traditions are dead.

AVDC Barn Owl Project have replaced one of the owl boxes near my ponds. It's the one that has produced one brood in 2011 and was used last year but without success. Whether the new box will be occupied this year is something I will be keeping an eye on. The old one was falling to bits and was not weather tight.

I have been editor of The Chronicle since January 2006. I had a short break in 2010 when Janice Issitt kindly took over for 6 months. This year's July edition will be my 75th and it is then that I will be handing in my notice. The hunt is on for someone to take on the role. There is no Chronicle in August so there will be a good lead in time for the new editor and I will be on hand to effect as smooth a handover as possible.

Judy and I moved to the village in 2003. I understand Phil Spooner, the previous editor, had also been in the village a short time when he took on the role. So there is some history of relative newcomers taking on the editorship. Give me a ring if you are interested and we can 'chew the cud' over a glass or two.

Easter is early this year so the deadline for the April edition is Friday 22nd March. I'm hoping Waddesdon School will be able to print our Easter edition in time.

Fingers crossed but it is possible that the lease for the Church Room may be issued shortly. There has been encouraging correspondence between the Church's solicitor and the Parochial Church Council.

Litter Blitz 10am Church Room - please help keep our village tidy! See several ads in this edition.

The snowdrops on the front cover are near my ponds. Lets hope Spring does come soon. *John*

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- VILLAGE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION
- WHAT'S on in March
- COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS
- ALLOTMENT DIARY
- ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 330

March 2013

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A note to all would be advertisers-
More than 205 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

Friday 22nd March

Please pass items to the
Editor John Hardcastle or to a
member of the Production
Team as early as possible.

Printed at Waddesdon School
and distributed free of charge
to all Households in Aston
Abbotts, our local Doctors'
Surgeries and to Wing Police
House.

Alison's Gossip Column

BIRTHDAYS

March

Wendy Bentley	2 nd
Isabel Hall	3 rd
Andy Bystra	8 th
James McManus	8 th
Paul Williams	9 th
Andrew Dutton	10 th
Sam Worrall	12 th
Sophie White	13 th
Lydia Smith	15 th
Ann Goodman	15 th
Abby Louise Bowden	16 th
Tracey Fletcher	17 th
Francesca Bean	19 th
Alex Abel Smith	19 th
Charlotte Ellis	26 th
Harry Roberts	28 th
Amber McManus	28 th
Mary Rust	28 th
Bob Bean	30 th
John Hardcastle	30 th

Alison has been poorly with flu and a chest infection - that's what you get from going to Australia and enjoying yourself. We wish her a speedy recovery and mountains of gossip for the next edition.

Welcome to Peter and Jean Newans who will be moving to April Curnow's house.

LITTER BLITZ

Please come along to the Church Room at 10am **Saturday 23rd March** and help keep our village tidy. Sacks and pickers are provided - bring your own gloves.

VILLAGE FOOTPATH WALK - meet 2pm The Green - walk will include The Rec, Rowsham (Old Brewery) & Wingrave. *Colin Higgs*

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and lovely cards sent to me when my mother Irene died recently. Thank you to all those who were kind enough to give a donation to Mum's chosen charity 'Chiltern Dog Rescue'. Mum wanted to help rescue dogs like our Kirsty and Frankie; thank all very much.

An extra big thank you to Cath Waite and her daughter Jacqueline and Cynthia my kind neighbour; their love and support helped me get through this very difficult time. I would never have coped with out them being here for me.

Lyn Clark 8 Bricstock

VILLAGE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

see page 19 for details

St Patrick's Day / Easter

Good Samaritans Bingo
In aid of RNLI

Thursday 14th March

Aston Abbots Church Room



7.30pm start
Fun for all ages!
Refreshments £1
Pam Dixon 681626
Sondra Dickason 682249

PLAY AROUND THE PARISHES

AVDC is hosting a series of play and sports holiday activities for children in rural locations.

Each team has a variety of play equipment for children aged 4+.

please note that a team will be on the Rec on Friday 5th April between 10am - 12noon.

The event is free
more details on page 17

Aston Abbots Fete 2013

Saturday 27 July

I am co-ordinating this year's fete and will need lots of help to make it a success. So, if you are new to the village and want to get involved, please come to the first fete meeting on:

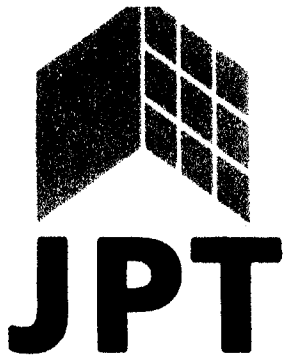
Thursday 21 March 7.30 - 9.00

At 14 Bricstock, Aston Abbots.

If you are unable to attend, but are willing to help in any way, before, during or after the day, (even if you can only spare an hour), please get in touch. If you are a regular helper and are willing to organise the same stall this year it would be very helpful if you would confirm this please. I am also looking for new organisers for the BBQ, Bric-a-Brac and Refreshments! .

Many Thanks - looking forward to seeing you all!

Deirdre Whyte Tel 681685 07980 067967
deidreawhyte@hotmail.co.uk



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor - I gather from the February Chronicle that rooks nesting in the trees around The Green are a nuisance. Surely its not just nesting rooks but all natural wild life that causes a problem and needs to be dealt with.

Moles outside Councillor Higgs home are making a serious mess AND a safety hazard on the grass next to the road. Wild foxes have been seen in the village and we villagers can no longer leave our windows open in case grandfather is attacked whilst sleeping. Bumble bees have been setting up home in blue tit boxes, anyone coming within 50 yards is risking life and limb. Jackdaws are nesting in chimneys and blackbirds are so tame that they tap on windows demanding food - whatever next? Possibly a plague of mice moving in from the rough pasture around the village OR, God forbid, an outbreak of salmonella spread by domestic fowl kept behind the Church.

Rabies is, of course, a constant threat from badgers passing TB to alpacas and then alpacas pass on the derivative disease to cats (which live wild round the village). The connection between cats, dogs and rabies is well known.

Surely it is time we felled all the trees round our village (as was so beautifully done with the big chestnut tree) and concrete over the whole area, thus keeping wildlife at bay.

Hopefully a tall light blue fence, entirely in keeping with Nash's Farm, could be erected around sensitive areas that needed extra protection and, if EU grants were available, we could consider netting the village over.

Something must be done before some of us are driven insane. *name and address supplied*

ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS

Listed below are the 'press tickets' that The Waterside Theatre have kindly made available to villagers. If you would like to enter the raffle for any of these events then contact the editor by email or a note through his door. If you are successful you will be notified two weeks before the show. It would be good if you could then write a short review for the Chronicle. *Ed*

THE MOUSETRAP	MON 8 APR 7.30PM
ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS	THU 18 APR 7.30PM
BIRDS OF A FEATHER	TUE 14 MAY 7.30PM

The Russian State Ballet of Siberia perform Coppelia at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre.

I went to see this ballet courtesy of the Chronicle, having been lucky enough to win the 'raffle' draw. We had excellent seats in the stalls and were served wine and soft drinks in the interval by a very friendly host.

Coppelia was first staged at the Grand Opera in Paris in 1870. It is apparently, the best-known comedy ballet and features both traditional ballet and national dance - the first ballet to incorporate the latter into ballet. The staging and costumes were bright and colourful and I was pleasantly surprised to find that a lot of the earlier music was familiar, which certainly added to the enjoyment of the first act.

The storyline was quite clear in the first two scenes: Boy, Franz, falls in love with girl, Swanhilda. Franz, is however, also intrigued by Coppelia who is in fact a wooden doll made by her toymaker father, Dr Coppelia. Franz and Swanhilda break into Dr Coppelia's house and unbeknown to Franz, Swanhilda switches place with Coppelia, the doll. When Dr Coppelia catches them dancing he believes that his magic has worked and Coppelia has come to life. (Think of Dick Van Dyke and Benny Hill in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang).

The second act, after the interval, was very brief and contained very little plot. Basically, a large celebration by the villagers as Franz and Swanhilda get married.

I am certainly no expert on ballet but I didn't enjoy this comedy ballet as much as more serious and traditional performances and I am not sure that I appreciated quite so much Hungarian National Dance.

Whilst there, I bumped into a friend from the village and she felt the same. Tellingly, there were many empty seats throughout the theatre. The ballet Company were also performing Swan Lake a few days later and I believe that there were few tickets left for this production, which says it all.

All in all an enjoyable evening but I wouldn't rush to see Coppelia again. *Deirdre Whyte*

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

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ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

Our book for February was Kate Curry's choice 'Terra Incognita - Travels in Antarctica' by Sara Wheeler. This the first travel book that we have read. The book recalls the visits that Sara Wheeler made to Antarctica as a journalist. She had researched her subject very thoroughly providing a deep insight into the motivation of the early explorers and the people who now live and work there. Aston Abbots is nearly mentioned as 'the small village near Aylesbury that James Clark Ross retired to'.

This is a book you can put down and pick up at will. It was a shame that the publishers chose not to include any photographs. The book provoked a lot of discussion and was generally well received.

Our book for March is Alison Lewis's choice 'The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim' by Jonathan Coe.

Our book for April, chosen by Sally Clarke, is 'The Diary of a Nobody' by George & Weedon Grossmith.

I will be distributing, at the end of April, 20 copies of Andy McNab's book 'Last Night Another Soldier...'. This is courtesy of World Book Night. Copies will be given to men in the village trusting they enjoy the novel and perhaps pass the book onto a friend.

John Hardcastle

Ladies Club

At the meeting on Thursday 21st February a delightful talk on stained glass was given by Jean and John King from Cublington. We heard how glass had even been made in medieval times and through the generations has improved until today when we have an enormous variety of patterns and colours of glass. We heard about the processes in making stained glass windows and ornaments including lampshades. It was Tiffany himself who experimented with different ways of joining the coloured pieces together without using lead. The Tiffany lampshades that we know today would be far too heavy if made with lead.

We are delighted that Jean King enjoyed her afternoon so much that she decided there and then to join the Club.

The next meeting is the Spring lunch which this year, all being well, will be held at the Rose and Crown on Thursday 21st March at 12.30pm.

Please remember folks if the title of a talk sounds good to you please come along.

April Curnow

Countryside Matters

I have never been slow to criticise the supermarkets. They are no friends to the British farmer and producer, with the possible exception of Morrison's some of the time, Waitrose most of the time and Costco nearly all of the time, their purchasing is traceable as they all buy locally in Britain. The rest of the bunch have screwed and glued the average British farmer and producer to the floor boards. They have almost destroyed the milk producers, made life very difficult for the pig farmers and poultry industry, when world feed prices were very high and meat produced at a loss, hence importing meat from countries with much lower management standards, still with their Sow Crates and Battery Hen cages. Their policy of CHEAP, CHEAP, CHEAP has forced the price of everything down so they buy when prices are down to rock bottom and all this regardless of the quality. However they still want their very healthy profit margins on top.

Now this has had a major impact on the horse meat scandal of recent weeks. If you cannot source beef for the 'value' pack and lasagne market, you are going to end up with other cheaper ingredients, i.e. horse meat, mislabelled by criminals abroad. Not the nicely bred horse steaks that grace the tables of fancy Parisian restaurants on the Champs-Élysées but those poor old knackered nags heading to slaughter houses outside Bucharest. These animals are being forced off the roads in Romania as a result of their government's traffic legislation. This low quality product, hopefully without "butte", or (buttersolergin which is administered in this country under strict license to suffering animals), that then finds its way into the food chain here. Not that the supermarket buyers are all to blame. It is strange how the EU can enforce strict hygiene regulations which prevent the WI from selling jam in second hand jars and our food police prosecute lady helpers for producing egg sandwiches and cakes for local cricket team teas, but they are unable to stop Eastern European horse meat being passed off as beef!!

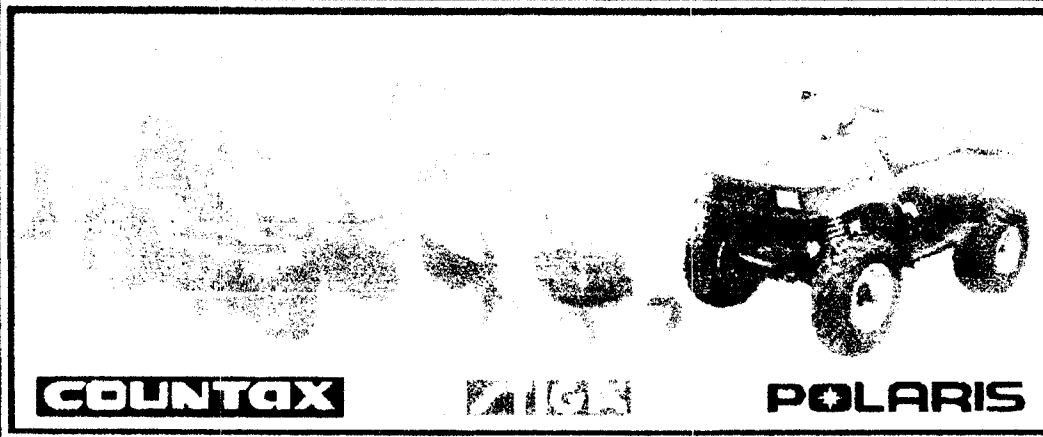
I rest my case against the stable door.

James Henderson

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IN THE METHODIST SCHOOLROOM, NUP END LANE, WINGRAVE.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME FOR A SMALL FEE OF £3
WHICH INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS AND ENTRY INTO OUR RAFFLE.

SPEAKERS FOR OUR NEXT THREE MEETINGS ARE:

6TH MARCH - Jean Young - Ikebana - the Japanese art of flower arranging
3RD APRIL - AVDC - What happens when we recycle
1ST MAY - Paul Heslop - Murderous Women

DO HOPE TO SEE SOME NEW FACES AT OUR MEETINGS - NO NEED TO BOOK JUST TURN UP

BEETLE DRIVE

Those of you who attended the last one, will be delighted to learn there will be a return of the ever popular Beetle Drive in the Church Room on :-

Friday 22nd March 2013 commencing at 7.00pm.

A supper will be included and you're invited to bring along your favourite 'tipple'. Tickets will be available from April Curnow (681459) and Andy Bystra (681690). The price is £8.00 for adults and £5.00 for children under 13. Prices includes a hot supper and lots of riotous fun!!!



A gift from Poland

Do you know a George? We have one in our company I suppose you might call him accident prone. In the corner of the IT manager's office there is a little cemetery for George's various accidents with all things technical. If we wanted to bet on who was most likely to drop their new smartphone into a puddle then he would be odds on favourite. He is a regular customer of ParkingEye who like to send us fines on a regular basis with nice photos of George's car leaving a motorway service station 2 hours and 5 minutes after entering as a result of using the "free" wi-fi connection so thoughtfully provided for travelling salesmen. It is therefore of little surprise that George's latest business trip to Poland should go slightly awry despite his best endeavours.

A week before a business trip to Poland he booked his airport parking and requested some zloty currency. He set off early one morning and successfully managed to escape the country without incident. After a successful meeting with the customer and overnight stay he set off for home. Being a thoughtful chap he decided to purchase, from a local branch of Tesco, some Polish biscuits that his colleagues back in the office are rather partial to. Arriving at the airport he was surprised to discover that his modest hand luggage of one laptop and a few clothes plus the newly purchased biscuits were deemed overweight by the airline at check in by 1.8kg and an additional payment of 238 zloty (approx £50) demanded. After emptying his pockets and carefully counting every last zloty he was found to have only 237 so the excess charge was kindly reduced by 1 and he was allowed to proceed. On returning to the car park he drove to the exit and entered the required booking reference but the barrier stayed firmly down. It transpired that he had given the registration of his recently replaced company car when booking his parking. Having finally made it back to the office he presented his biscuit gifts to his colleagues only to be advised by one that she had noticed the local Tesco store, 5 minutes from the office, now stock the same biscuits. On inspection the biscuits weighed a mere 900 grams. The biscuits are now too valuable to eat and have been sitting in state for several days. I await the duplicated parking charge!

Sally Palmer

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.

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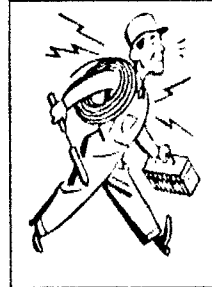
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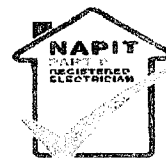
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Community News

The Czech Bus Shelter – as many will know the bus shelter on the A418 crossroads was a very kind donation by the Czech government to Aston Abbots and Wingrave and it is now in a quite bad state of repair. Funds from principally Wingrave PC and Aston Abbots PC are to be used shortly to bring this much used building back to life.

Crime Statistics – news from the Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership indicates that for the period 1st April, 2012 to end January in the main show a downward trend for our area. Burglaries 284 which is 80 less than the previous year, Theft of Vehicles 82 some 32 less than the previous year, but Theft from Vehicles was up by 34 at 620, this probably due to manufacturers making it harder to take vehicles now. Robbery was up 8 at 50, but Total Anti-Social Behaviour had virtually halved at 1674 offences – which is still a frightening statistic!!

Earlier this year a tractor stolen from a farm in Edgcott (less than 14 miles away) was found for sale in Dublin 2 days later!!!

Broadband – as you may have seen investment has started to improve this facility. The Rural Services Network has welcomed a government promise to do more to support and manage the extra costs of delivering public services in the countryside. The pledge, by local government minister Brandon Lewis, follows a campaign by the Rural Services Network for a fairer deal for rural local authorities. Hopefully the Wing 681 numbers will be high on the list!

Cheaper Heating Oil – take a look at the Community Impact Bucks website, some people in the village are already reaping this benefit.

Fun Day – particularly families with young children make sure you see the advert in this Chronicle for 5th April. Your Parish Council is putting the money towards this event, Aja Clarke is doing all the work! – well done Aja.

Bob Carvey

The Royal Oak, a personal thanks from Cora and I for the superb evening we and many of our daughter's wedding guests had at the RO the Friday before the wedding. A splendid buffet meal, beers and wine (too much for some!!) was enjoyed by all. PS: good luck with the refurb.

St George's Day
Good Samaritans Bingo
Thursday 11th April
Aston Abbots Church Room

7.30pm start
Fun for all ages!
Refreshments £1

Pam Dixon 681626
Sondra Dickason 682249



VILLAGE ORCHARD

Have you taken advantage of the early Spring sunshine yet and walked round your orchard?

If you wish you could stroll round there, but just can't, then here's a quick description of what you might have found.

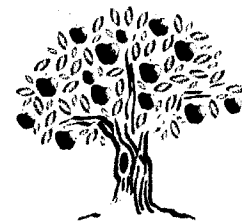
It looks wet - nothing has been damaged by the gales we had in December and some buds are beginning to swell. Snowdrops are flowering and some bulbs are pushing through - Spring is round the corner.

Looking very carefully a few primrose and cowslip plants were found looking very healthy and with small young plants round them so, with luck, they will spread gradually.

The one surprise I had was when I saw the number of mole hills that have been pushed up in the last few weeks. The place really is over (or under!) run with moles. In general I do not consider moles a pest in an orchard or a field but, as always, there comes a point when there are just too many. Maybe not too many moles but definitely too many molehills. The mole hills pose a problem because they affect the working of my grass 'topper' by both blunting the blades and preventing the machine from running on the level. So I must harrow the orchard to spread and level the hills, something I would rather not bother doing.

There are a few more trees to be planted as soon as possible and then we look forward to green shoots everywhere.

Peter Knight



RAMBLING CLUB

Our Rambling Club has been going 40 years in September. We walk the first Sunday of the month from a different venue, led by a different person. If you would like to join us contact Colin Higgs on 681343.

There is also a monthly village footpath walk the 2nd Sunday of the month. Meet at the Green 2pm.

The March Footpath Walk (Sunday 10th) will include The Green, Recreation Ground, Rowsham (Old Brewery) & Wingrave.

Colin Higgs

THE ROYAL OAK ASTON ABBOTTS

17th Century Thatched Inn

MARCH DIARY DATES

NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK, NEW EVENTS, NEW MENU

**SUNDAY MARCH 10TH IS MOTHERING SUNDAY
WE WILL BE BRINGING BACK OUR CLASSIC SUNDAY ROAST
FROM MOTHERING SUNDAY ONWARDS.**

ON THE MENU

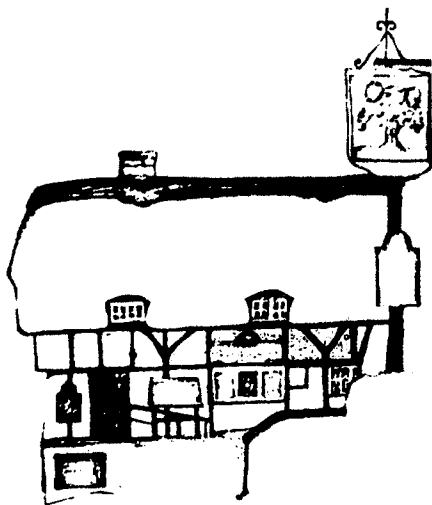
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**SATURDAY 16TH MARCH
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**SHAMUS OBLIVIION AND THE MEGADETH MORRIS MEN
COME AND ROCK AWAY ST. PATRICKS NIGHT**

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR
NEW EVENTS COMING SOON**



**DID YOU KNOW THE FIRST TIME THE
ROYAL OAK APPEARS ON A CENSUS IS
1861 WHEN JOSEPH SMITH WAS
PUBLICAN AND BUTCHER. HE WAS STILL
HERE IN THE 1871 CENSUS WITH HIS
WIFE SARAH AND TWO DAUGHTERS,
RUHAMA AND ISABELLA.**

PHONE : 01296 681 262

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

ALLOTMENT DIARY

News from the allotment being a bit thin on the ground at the moment (if you'll pardon the pun), can I start by giving you a few bits of bits of garden news, which is the next best thing. The first is very close to allotment news: last year I grew some of my potatoes not in the allotment, but in my vegetable garden. I decided to try an experiment, and to leave them in the ground until I needed them, thinking that this would stop them sprouting, and help preserve the freshness of the potatoes. I therefore only picked them at the end of February. I certainly achieved both of my desired aims, but there was one unfortunate side effect, which was that some of the tubers got affected by the spell of very cold weather we had in January, and had started turning mushy. (I recognised the symptoms, having had the same thing happen last year with some potatoes which I had stored in metal dustbins in the garage). So I think the experiment was a partial success: next year I will leave some potatoes in the ground until, say, mid December, which should avoid any serious cold spells, and prevent this problem.



The second bit of garden news is the curious case of the chaffinch in the early morning. Practically every day for the last three or four weeks, between about 8.00 and 9.00 am, I have been disturbed by a continual tapping at the window by the front door. At first I wondered what on earth it was: but I now know that it is a cock chaffinch which perches on the rose bush near the window, and then keeps flying up and pecking rapidly on the window. Why it does this I do not know: but my guess is that the bird is seeing its reflection in the window, and keeps attacking it, to try to drive what it thinks is a rival male chaffinch away. (I have consulted my bird books, and while none mentions this behaviour specifically, they do mention the fact that chaffinches are territorial, and incline to be aggressive in the mating season).

Next, I turn to my poor lawn. A few months ago I mentioned that part of the lawn was being spoiled by badgers visiting the garden at night, and scraping the surface away while searching for worms. The next thing that happened was that a mole began tunnelling under the far end of the lawn, gradually moving towards the centre. At one time I had more than a dozen large molehills. We decided that we had to do something, and Adam inserted a couple of mole traps in the molehills. Unfortunately, his Labrador, Zilla, was with him when he was doing it; and either because she thought she would help, or because she could smell the moles, she dug and scabbled furiously in a number of the molehills – so that I now have several large craters where some of the molehills were, as well as the remaining molehills. Finally, Adam acquired a new, second-hand, and very large boat. There was no room to turn the trailer carrying the boat and move it on our drive, so that he drove the car with the boat in its trailer on to the lawn. All went well until he left the car and trailer stationary, and later went out to reverse the boat to the position he wanted it – whereupon he found that the weight of the boat had made the wheels of the trailer sink into the lawn, and the attempt to move it made the driving wheels of his car whizz found without getting any purchase, making two more holes in the unfortunate lawn! (As well as the dents where the trailer wheels were, and no doubt new dents which it is causing in its present location). I now only await some pieces of meteorite landing on the lawn to make my cup of happiness run over!

The only other piece of vegetable related news is that I am still digging up artichokes from my garden. Unlike potatoes, they do not seem to be affected by cold weather, and nothing much appears to eat them. (Unlike carrots: yet again this year my crop was decimated by carrot-fly. I am at a loss to know how to keep it away – it even attacks the supposed carrot-fly resistant varieties like Resistafly and Flyaway. If any of my readers knows the answer, I shall be very glad to hear from him or her).

Peter Shorrocks

Aylesbury Festival Choir are performing Rossini's Petite Messe Solonelle on 20th April at 7pm in the Methodist Church, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury.

The choir will be joined by four accomplished soloists and accompanied by harmonium and piano. Come and enjoy an evening of wonderful music in a welcoming venue.

For more information and ticket prices, please contact Barbara Venables - 01296 489988

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Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Summary of Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 27th February 2013

Present: - Cllrs. C Higgs (Chair), R Clarke, J Perkins, Mrs K Curry, Mrs J Hardcastle, B Carvey, P Bruton (Clerk), and one member of the Public.

Apologies: Received from County Cllr Mrs N Glover and District Cllr P Cooper.

The Clerk reported the issue of overgrown hedgerows in the village had been referred to County Councillor N Glover who had advised the Clerk should report such instances to Bucks CC and she would provide a contact email for future reference.

We had received a note from A Muskett Ltd regarding an increase of £20 per annum to our annual street maintenance contract and it was RESOLVED to accept the quotation. A note had been received from AVDC regarding grants for lunch clubs and the papers were passed to Cllr Higgs to see if this was appropriate for the Thursday coffee mornings. It was AGREED to continue with our contribution of £20 to the Buckinghamshire Playing Fields Association. .

Annual Parish Meeting: The Clerk advised that the Annual Parish meeting was scheduled for the 8th May 2013 and Councillors felt it was an important meeting that gave residents an opportunity to have their say about the direction the village takes. In particular the allocation of any Fete profits was decided at the meeting. An Agenda would be circulated and a note prepared by the Clerk for the Chronicle. It was anticipated we could use the meeting for the launch of our Village Plan.

Village Plan – Cllr Perkins reported that a very productive meeting had managed to complete a proof read of the Plan and the amendments were now being incorporated into the latest version. He was contacting Sarah Allwood to get her final thoughts and we should then be in a position to meet the target date of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Wingrave Crossroads Bus Shelter – We had received a note from the Clerk at Wingrave and a revised quote for the improvements and repair was circulated. After discussion it was RESOLVED to contribute up to £200

PA System: Cllr Perkins reported that Aylesbury Vale Housing Association were kindly donating a PA system that we would make available for village events and that he was prepared to take responsibility for it's safe keeping. The Clerk would ensure any insurance requirements were met.

LAF Meeting – Cllrs Curry and Clarke reported they had attended the recent meeting of the LAF and the main topic had been the development of Luton Airport and that the plans indicated that by 2031 they were targeting an increase of 75% in passengers handled and 40% increase in flights – the main concern was over the impact on the road infrastructure required to support the increased traffic flow given that no major works were included in the plans, particularly in respect of the A418. It was also noted that the police were promoting a product to protect machinery and equipment, up to 500 were available free to farmers, called Selecta DNA, to try to deter and reduce the amount of metal thefts in the area.

Annual Safety Check – A meeting had been arranged with our Safety consultants in March and it was anticipated that an arborist would carry out a survey of the trees in areas the Council is responsible for.

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th April 2013 at 7:30pm in the Church Room.

I'm not a farmer but the police were very pleased to let me have a Selecta DNA kit - its a solution of microscopic granules that you can spread on any item you think is attractive to a thief - from tractors to TV's and computers. The granules are unique for each batch. It means you might recover your belongings - best to be secure in the first place I suppose. Contact Paula Boston at Wing police station. *Ed*

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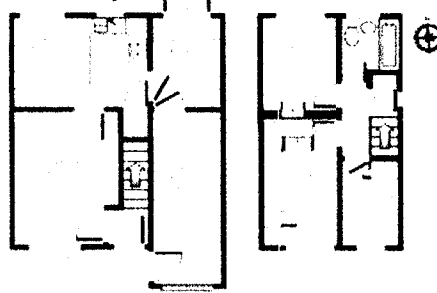
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WINGRAVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
6 NATIONS RUGBY

In Wingrave Community Centre on a big screen
Bar Open, Food, Great atmosphere – share the games
with other fans.

DATE	MATCH	DOORS OPEN	KICKOFF
Saturday March 16th	Wales vs England	16:30	17:00

More information : David Harnett, Tony Lambourne, Tony Horne

Wingrave CE Combined School

As Spring slowly unfolds the school is about to undergo some major building works; replacing the roof and upgrading the insulation, farceurs and guttering. The work is planned to start on the 29th April and last for fourteen weeks. All of the contractors will be working closely with the school to keep any inconvenience to the school and its neighbours to a minimum. Deliveries will generally be made outside school hours; before 8am and after 4pm and the main aces will be the entrance off of Winslow Road. I hope that you we will all be able to work together to ensure the smooth completion of this project but if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me via the School office (tel: 01296 681436, email: office@wingrave.bucks.sch.uk)

As a School we have been thinking about how we can capture our values in a short sentence which will have a clear meaning for all our stakeholders, support the children's learning and demonstrate what we want to achieve. **'At Wingrave we show we care, show respect and do our best.'**

'Show you care...' By showing that we care we demonstrate love and compassion.

'...show respect...' By showing respect we demonstrate forgiveness and inclusiveness.

'...and do your best.' By doing our best we demonstrate commitment and courage.

To keep up to date with School life and see the children learning please do not forget to visit the School website which is regularly updated with news, activities and photographs: -www.wingrave.bucks.sch.uk

Best wishes *Val Britnell* Headteacher

PLAY AROUND THE PARISHES

in Aston Abbotts on Friday April 5th 2013 10am - 12pm

Come and take part in a morning of FREE kids activities run by ADVC.

Taking part on the Recreation Ground weather permitting or in the Church Hall if weather is wet!

There will be a variety of play equipment for children aged 4+ including soft play, giant games, play-dough, large construction sets, assorted sports equipment and a bouncy castle (weather permitting).

They will also provide craft activities, face painting and much more.

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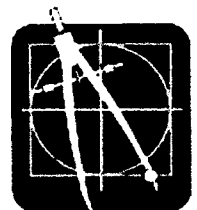
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Aston Abbots Sunflower Competition

Come to the Vic Scott Memorial Orchard
on Friday 29th March (Good Friday) at 11am.

Fill a pot with compost, plant your seeds and take them home to grow yourself. We'll come and measure your sunflower later in the summer when there will be lots of prizes for the tallest, biggest flowers!



Open to all ages – special prizes for kids.

Don't worry if you can't make it on Good Friday to pot your seeds... just give us a call and you can pop in anytime near Easter to get started. You'll need to start the sunflower inside on a sunny windowsill and plant it outside after about 4-6 weeks in a sunny position where the flower can be supported. The seeds are Russian Giant sunflowers, which can grow to about 3m (10ft.)

Simon and Wendy's little seed company, which will have a display on the day, have donated all pots, seeds and prizes.

Simon and Wendy. Tel: 681926

vegetable seeds - flower seeds - seed organiser

Make your veg patch the envy of your neighbour and make your garden bloom with the colours of summer! Now's the time and here are some fantastic seed collections to get you started.

Flower Collection:

Echinacea - Pink Parasol
Foxglove - Candy Mountain
Lupin - Tutti Frutti
Verbena - Bonariensis
Californian Poppy - Sun Shades
Papaver - Blackcurrant Fizz
Sweet Pea - Fragrantissima
Rudbeckia - Cherry Brandy
Nasturtium - Milkmaid
Centaurea - Blue Diadem
Eschscholzia - Jelly Beans
Sunflower - Helianthus Russian Giant
Cosmos Sulphureus - Brightness Mixed
Amberboa - Muricata

£15

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Carrot - Flyaway F1
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Climbing French Bean - Cobra
Sweetcorn - Tender and Sweet F1
Spinach - Medania
Onion - Marco F1
Courgette - Defender F1n

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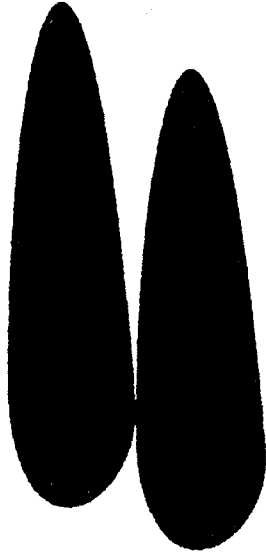
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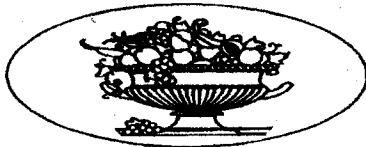
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The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

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630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
AVDC	Switchboard	585858
Baby& Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
	Sondra Dickason	681649
Book Club	John Hardcastle	688070
Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
Buses	L & S	415468
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763
Church Room Hire	Tracy Hinds	688479
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 1264056
Bucks County Council	Switchboard	395000
County Councillor	Netta Glover	688357
Dial-A-Ride		330088
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250
Doctor	(emergency out of hours)	331511
Fete Coordinator	TBA	
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865
Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240
Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
Mobile Library	Buckingham	01280 813229
NHS Direct	24 hr Advice Line	0845 4647
Parish Clerk	Paul Bruton	682322
Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrocks	681260
Police	Emergencies	999 or 112
Police	Non-Emergency	0845 8505505
Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 5165165
Ramblers Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Rector	Rev Philip Derbyshire	01525 240287
Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Royal British Legion	Alan Jones	682366
Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Paul Weston	681127
Wingrave Post Office	PO Only	682964
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please advise of any errors or omissions

The neighbourhood policing team works on issues identified by local residents and businesses.

To contact them call

101

This is a non-emergency number. Alternatively, email them on: WingNorthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Following the discovery of King Richard's skeleton in a Leicester car park, archaeologists are now digging up the nearby supermarket car park to look for the remains of his horse.

St James's Church

electoral roll - apply now

Regular churchgoers will know that the church has an "electoral roll" - a register of Church of England parish residents, or non-residents who come to worship here. Those on the roll have the right to raise matters, attend and vote at the annual meeting and to elect representatives to the parochial church council and the deanery synod.

Every six years everyone already on the roll needs to re-apply; new names can be added only once a year. It's time to do this now.

If you are over 16 (or will turn 16 in the next 12 months), a baptized member of the Church of England and live in the parish, or live outside the parish but attend St James's, do please consider registering. Forms are available in the back of the church or from Caroline Lane, carolinelane@btinternet.com, tel. 681373 - please return to 2 Church Row or any of the current PCC members (see list in the Chronicle) by Easter Sunday 31 March.

(The annual meeting of the PCC is on 17 April.)

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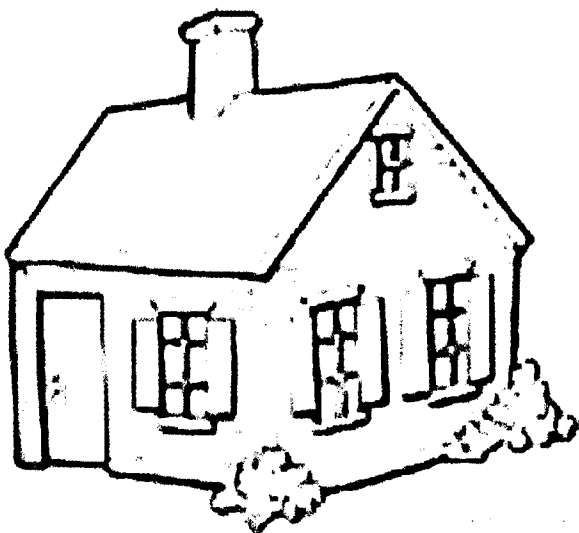
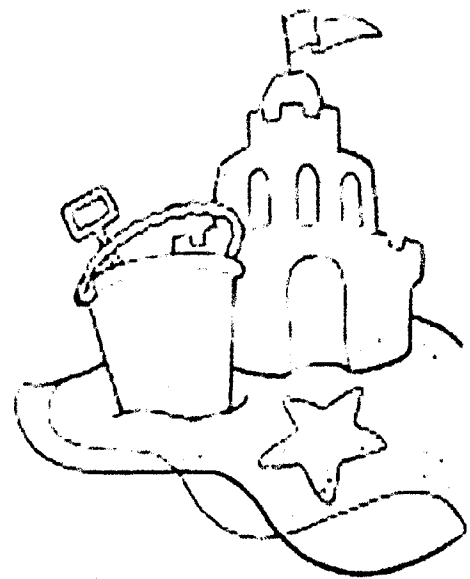
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St James Church

March 3rd	6pm Evensong	Rev. Derek Witchell
March 10th	4pm Mothering Sunday Tea and Service	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
March 17th	10am Communion	Rev. Derek Witchell
March 24th	10.30am Palm Sunday Communion	Rev. Roger Hale
March 31st	10.30am Easter Sunday Communion	Archdeacon Rev. Karen Gorham

Afternoon tea will be served in the Church Room at 4pm on Mothering Sunday before the Church service.

CHURCH DUTIES

	<i>Cleaners</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
2nd Feb	Colin & Caroline L	No flowers
9th	Ann & Gordon	No flowers
16th	Andrew & Shirley	No flowers
23rd	Anita & April	No flowers
30th	Colin	Easter

The Rev. Karen Gorham, who is the Archdeacon of Buckingham, is coming to take our service on Easter Sunday at 10.30am.

Karen has recently returned after a sabbatical when she visited South Africa where she attended a conference and went on safari; later with a friend she drove 2200 miles around New Zealand. She has also walked the Ridgeway National Trail. This was Karen's first sabbatical after 17 years in ordained ministry.

Dear all,

It is a year since the Cottesloe Benefice Team came into being on 1st March 2012. It was a pretty trauma-free birth with only the usual falterings one would expect in such circumstances: 'mother and baby are doing well' ('mother' being God --- topic for discussion?).

The main object of the Team is not a bureaucratic one but to witness to the loving purposes of God in Jesus Christ although structure is needed to make it work.

As well as this change we've witnessed huge international change over the past twelve months. The Arab Spring, the continuing (now triple dip---sounds chocolatey) recession and the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury and the shock resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

The all pervasive media and social networking sites make us aware instantly of so much --- our prayer lives could get completely clogged if we're not careful. I don't remember which politician it was who said, "keep it simple stupid " but he was undoubtedly right. We do often confuse situations through unnecessary detail and as a result don't always hear what is being said to us. Whilst proclaiming what we believe we also need to really listen to those of other positions so we can come to an informed outcome.

So I pray you have a fruitful Lent and a joyful Easter. God Bless,

Philip

There is a beautiful soul working in the US Postal Service 'dead letter office'. The article below was sent to the editor by Fred Poole with the note 'it might be for inclusion in the Chronicle?'. See what you think.

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognise her. I told her that I thought we could so, and she dictated these words:

Dear God, Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I'm happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her. Love, Meredith

The letter was put in an envelope, with a picture of Abbey & Meredith, addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letterbox at the post office.

A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed 'To Meredith'. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith, Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognised her right away. Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I'm sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by. Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love. Love, God

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(plus metered electricity - a returnable deposit of
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Please note that an additional hour over and above the period
of the event must be booked to cover setting up and clearing
away.

Weddings and Christenings -
a fixed charge of £50.

Please contact Tracy Hinds on
688479 if you wish to book

The Chronicle

Advertising rates per issue

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One Offs	Full	£20
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	Quarter	£10

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'The Chronicle'

to Phil Corrigan,

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01296 688191

corriganpc@aol.com

LITTER BLITZ

Saturday 10am

23rd March

meet outside Church Room

KEEP ASTON ABBOTTS TIDY!

sacks and pickers provided - bring your own gloves

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Shorrocks (Chairman)
Oak Farm House - 681260

Paul Bruton (Parish Clerk)
51 The Green - 682322

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)
6 Wingrave Road - 681343

Richard Clarke
Maplewood, The Green - 681007

Judy Hardcastle
Marloes, Lines Hill - 688070

Kate Curry
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane - 681137

James Perkins (co-opted) - 07882 980415

Bob Carvey
12 The Green - 681053

District Councillor
Peter Cooper
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham - 681250

County Councillor
Netta Glover - 688357

Parochial Church Council

Rev. Philip Derbyshire 01525 240287

Caroline Abel Smith 681001 - Churchwarden

April Curnow 681459 - Churchwarden

Colin Higgs 681343 - Deputy Churchwarden

Shirley Ford 681865

Andy Bystra 681690

Ann Goodman 681763

Anita Parker 681325

Gordon Kemp 681763

Caroline Lane 681373 - Secretary

David Gray 07935414495 - Treasurer

100 Club Winners for February

Mr C Higgs

Mr T Loader



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Trendz



LOVE IS IN THE AIR HERE AT TRENDZ AND WE ARE GEARING UP FOR THE WEDDING SEASON WITH EVEN MORE ADDITIONS TO OUR BRIDAL PACKAGE.

We know that you and your family and friends will all want to look their best for the photos on the greatest and most memorable day of your life. Don't leave anything to chance, come to us for a professional and reliable service. We are now taking bookings for this year and can spruce up everyone, not just the Bride but the Mothers, Bridesmaids and even the Groom.

Come in for a chat with us and have a look at all the treatments we have on offer: Hair, make-up, nails, tans, eyebrow trims, eyelash extensions we can do the lot. However much, or little, help you need we will spend time with you discussing the hairstyles which suit you and yours to complete the look that you are trying to achieve for the day.

If you are the lucky person, or you know someone who is getting married this year be sure to consult with us. We pride ourselves on being affordable too so we can tailor make a package so that every attention to detail is considered. You may even want to consider buying a voucher from us as a wedding present, what a unique gift, better than a toaster and one which will last for generations to come as they look at the photographs of your big day.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK COM/TRENDZ.ROWSHAM

Hooray. It's Spring!

After the recent cold weather, March brings the start of Spring, lighter evenings and a whole host of celebrations and events for your entertainment. Make sure you book your tables early and we look forward to seeing you very soon at The Unicorn.

What's on this March

Live Music - Friday March 8th

Sunday 10th - Mothering Sunday
Bookings now being taken

Tuesday 12th - Live Folk Music

Thursday 14th - The Ultimate Elvis
tribute night

Sunday 17th - St Patricks Day

Tuesday 19th - TUGS vs The Pilgrim
Golf match @ Buckingham

Friday 29th Good Friday - Bank Holiday
Dinner with Jazz

Sunday 31st Easter Sunday

2013 SIX NATIONS

Saturday 9 March
1430: Scotland v Wales
1700: Ireland v France

Sunday 10 March
1500: England v Italy

all matches
in the Bar shown
Pie & Pint for €10

Saturday 16 March
1430: Italy v Ireland
1700: Wales v England
2000: France v Scotland



THE UNICORN at Cublington

Aylesbury Vale Pub of the Year 2012-13

PLUS enjoy these Unicorn Regulars:

Shop open for milk, butter and other essentials. Pre-orders required for freshly prepared produce.

Coffee & Homemade cake
Every morning from 10.30am

Afternoon Teas Please preorder served between 3 and 5pm

Monday Night is Quiz night
The Unicorn Quiz 8pm - 10pm
Why not bring a team?

Saturday Brunch-
Start the weekend with the newspapers and a Full English served 10am - 11am

Sundays
Best of British Roasts
12pm - 3pm Booking strongly advised

Bar Snacks
available throughout the day!

Hold your business meetings
in our Club Room
FREE WiFi internet access!
Ask for details

Open for food Sunday evenings from
6.30pm - 8.30pm.



Celebrate
Mothering Sunday
Sunday 10th March



01296 681261

Booking always advisable!

Follow us on **facebook**

@the_unicorn_pub

The Unicorn, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 0LQ
Please see web site for full event details www.theunicornpub.co.uk

What's On in MARCH

Sunday 3rd	Rambling Club 2pm Evensong 6pm	Woburn St James Church
Tuesday 5th	AV Transport Users Meet 2pm	County Hall
Thursday 7th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room
Sunday 10th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green
Tuesday 12th	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Thursday 14th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room
Thursday 21st	Coffee Shop 10-12noon Ladies Club Spring Lunch Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room Church Room
Friday 22nd	Beetle Drive 7.00pm	Church Room
Saturday 23rd	Litter Blitz 10am	Church Room
Sunday 24th	Palm Sunday	
Friday 29th	Good Friday Hot X Buns	
Saturday 30th	Clocks Go On 1 hour BST	
Sunday 31st	Easter Day Communion 10.30am	St James Church
Monday 1st April	Easter Monday Bank Holiday	

Address

Please note that all submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to
John Hardcastle
Marloes, Lines Hill
01296 688070

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

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle

Phone us on 01296 688191
 or email

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

BOOK THESE DATES

Friday 22nd March	Beetle Drive
Saturday 23rd March	Litter Blitz
Friday 17th May	Quiz Evening
Saturday 27 & 28th July	Festival Weekend

FOR SALE White and brass, double headboard £10.
 Call 01296 682249

FOR SALE

Two large display cabinets, coffee table, nest of tables and audio unit all in light oak. Five years old but well cared for so really as new. Teak dining table which seats six comfortably and ten when extended with ten dining chairs not as new but also well cared for.

Kenwood Chef mixer, deep fat fryer and bread maker all in excellent condition. If anything interests you please ring 681459 and come and have a look. Any reasonable offer accepted.

FOR COLLECTION Toshiba DVD player Sharp microwave cooker Clothes airing rack Free standing clothes rail Video/dvd storage cabinets in light wood Nest of 3 light wood tables Donation of your choice to go to the Church. Ring 681544.

Baby sitters/dog sitters available. Reliable 14 year olds available to look after either children, babies or dogs!
 Contact Ellie and Tom Farrands - 681182.

4 acre field to rent in Aston Abbotts
 with stables and tack room.
 Please contact Jackie 681182 for more details.

630 Club - meets every Saturday in the Royal Oak at 6.30 pm. New members very welcome. Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.
GNOMES (Girls Night Out Men Excluded Sorry) meet, usually in the Royal Oak, every Tuesday 8 pm onwards - all Ladies very welcome - GNOMES specialises in intelligent conversation over a glass of something.

MOBILE LIBRARY

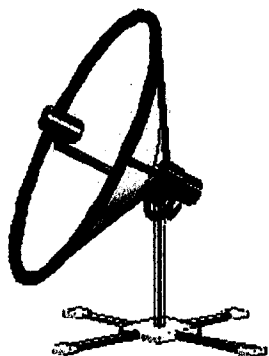
March
 The Green 10.30am

LITTER BLITZ

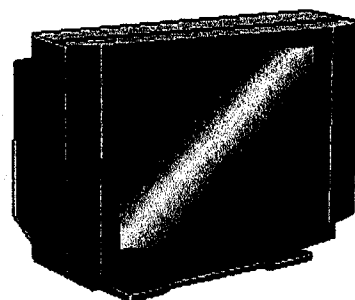
Saturday 10am 23rd March
 meet outside Church Room
KEEP ASTON ABBOTTS TIDY!

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DAVE DOES IT!

Yes - it really happened! in a stunning bit of theatre, the like of which hasn't been seen since Tommy Cooper played Macbeth, our very own Dave Lewis actually sawed a woman in half.

The amazing feat took place at the Aston Abbots cabaret in late February and was witnessed by the Irish Jesus, important local dignitaries, and John Whyte.

After being spurned by his selected victim guest Dave chose a member of the audience at random, selecting a 7 foot 6 inch tall beautiful woman who reluctantly stepped in to fill the coffin.

Those of you who could not be present upon this momentous occasion can experience the sheer horror of the moment on YouTube at http://youtu.be/ldUbt_U9gpM

At the time of going to press Mr Lewis refused to comment upon rumours that at next year's cabaret he will attempt to emulate David Copperfield's famous stunt by sawing himself in two.



FOR SALE

Flackwell Electronics have the following surplus items available for immediate sale :

- One large black plywood coffin, comes conveniently separated into two halves for easy transportation.
- One petrol chainsaw - good condition but a poor starter
- One plastic sack of assorted body parts

MISSING PERSON PLEA

Mr K Copping is seeking information regarding the whereabouts of his wife. She was last seen on the night of the Aston Abbots Cabaret. He told The Chronicle that it is, "very quiet without her".

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY